

Statement of Accounts 2023/24



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Written statements to the accounts

Ribble Valley

Foreword by the Section 151 Officer



I am pleased to introduce the statement of accounts for the 2023/24 financial year.

The financial statements set out both the single entity accounts for Lancashire County Council and the consolidated group position, incorporating its subsidiary Lancashire County Developments Limited. The accounts for the Lancashire County Pension Fund are also included, for which Lancashire County Council is the administering authority.

The year has once again showcased the talents of our incredible workforce in delivering services for the residents of Lancashire. For example, our carers and the officers from our fantastic Shared Lives Services achieved the highest Care Quality Commission rating of 'Outstanding'. They provide vital support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Achievements have also been obtained in national recognition for our domestic abuse support reflecting our strong and innovative approach to delivering our responsibilities in a supportive and compassionate way.

Our flood risk management team have been recognised for the vital work they do to ensure developers use more environmentally friendly, sustainable drainage systems to tackle flooding.

Preston Western Distributor

Our major new road scheme, known as the Preston Western Distributor, opened to the public in July 2023. This project is a landmark achievement for the county council and includes three new roads, which connect key parts of the city. The scheme links parts of Preston and the Fylde with a new Junction Two on the M55.

The scheme aims to reduce congestion, making it quicker and easier for people to travel around the area. This crucial project will help to unlock new opportunities to grow our economy in Preston, the Fylde and across our county.

Performance

Performance against our key performance indicators is regularly reviewed by our Strategy, Policy and Performance Board. The Board makes sure we fully understand the underlying issues and have mitigating actions in place to address performance challenges to ensure we are achieving our aims.

Many of our performance indicators have been on track all year. Of particular note is the number of children we are able to keep safe in their own homes, children securing their first choice school and the take up of free early education places. All of these are important determinants in optimising the life chances of young people. These factors are further boosted by the Lancashire skills hub as well as the growing activity and engagements with our libraries, all of which maintain that skills focus and emphasis on life-long learning.

However, the numbers of children missing education and the attainment of disadvantaged children are areas where we have improvement plans in place and continue to work with our partners to identify and implement best practice.

Devolution

In November 2023, the Government announced it would be willing to enter into a devolution deal with Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council.

After a period of consultation, the findings will be considered before the final proposal is submitted to Government for Parliamentary approval later in 2024.

The deal will transfer new money and powers from central Government to a newly created Combined County Authority, allowing it to tackle key local priorities.

Outlook for the future

Whilst we are in a position of relative financial strength due to our continuing effective financial management over recent years, the financial outlook remains challenging.

Like all councils we continue to innovate and embrace opportunities around AI, digital services, devolution, and much more. We're also focused on building a talented, inclusive workforce, investing in skills and connectivity, and driving the sustainability agenda. Making us more impactful and better able to focus on those person-centred engagements, particularly with those most in need of our support and guidance.

As part of this, we're getting ready to publish our 'productivity plan', a new requirement announced as part of the most recent financial settlement for local councils. The plans are designed to spread good practice across the sector. They will allow us to showcase our good practice and those areas where we are market leading, but we can learn from other councils too.

We look forward to showing how we're using smarter processes, good management of our assets, a motivated, inclusive workforce, and working with our partners to deliver better services in Lancashire.

Mark Wynn

Section 151 Officer

The county of Lancashire

The county of Lancashire lies in the northwest of England. It is bordered by Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Yorkshire with a coastline to the Irish Sea.

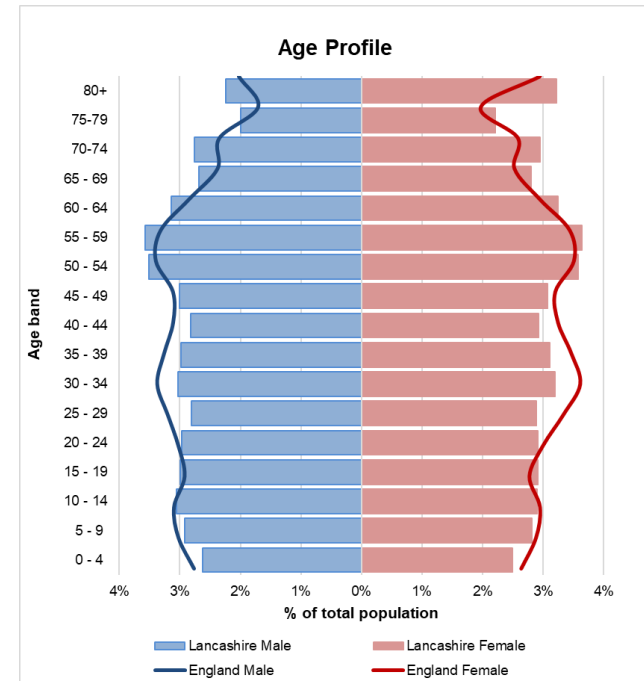
Lancashire contrasts a network of densely populated urban centres set within countryside of outstanding natural beauty. At £32 billion, it is one of the largest economies in the north of England, with around 45,000 businesses.

Lancashire has a diverse heritage and a track record of innovation and productivity with manufacturing still retaining a key presence, providing around one eighth of total employment. Lancashire is home to the world's fourth largest aerospace cluster, as well as core strengths and capabilities in advanced manufacturing, energy, digital and health innovation.

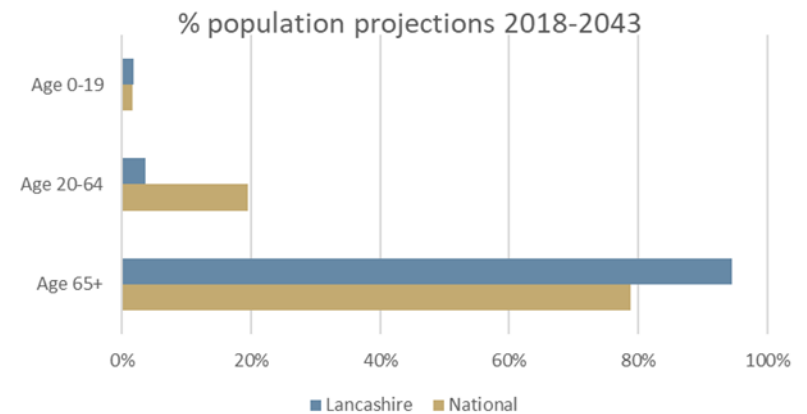
Demographic profile of Lancashire

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimate for Lancashire in 2022 showed that there were 1,253,154 people living in the county. The population is projected to increase to 1.3 million by 2043, with significant increases forecast in the age over 65 population.

The profile of the population is an important determinant of the demand for services provided by the council, such as the need for adult and children's social care. The age profile chart highlights some challenges with a forecast lower proportion of working age adults relative to an increasing older population. This highlights the importance of our economic development activity to attract working age people into Lancashire.



ONS mid-2021 population estimates



2018-based subnational principal population projections for local authorities

About Lancashire County Council

Lancashire County Council is the fourth largest council in the UK covering a geographic area of 2,894km². It provides services to residents of the 12 district areas of Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Wyre.

Its responsibilities include:

- Schools and education;
- Adult and children's social care;
- Highways and transport;
- Registration of births and deaths;
- Public health;
- Waste and minerals management;
- Libraries and heritage; and
- Economic development.

Our vision

"Here at Lancashire County Council we are helping you to make Lancashire the best place to live, work, visit and prosper."

Our Vision for Lancashire forms part of the county council's planning and performance framework. It sets out our priorities in an open and transparent way.

We want Lancashire to be the county people choose to create a home, raise their children, develop a career and grow old in. We are committed to developing and celebrating our diverse communities, heritage and landscape to create a strong sense of place we can all be proud of.

Our vision is focused around five objectives, which we set out on the following pages.



Lancashire will be the place to live

Lancashire is a county of diverse communities.

It is a place where people are valued and will feel able to have their say. It will be a county where housing meets the needs of all ages, where people are safe and feel safe, surrounded by clean, green spaces where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and be happy.

It will be a county where:

- Children of all abilities do well in our first class schools, colleges and universities, gaining skills for life
- People have good housing
- People live healthier lives for longer
- People can travel on good quality, reliable public transport
- People get on well together and are connected to their local community
- Our most vulnerable people are protected and supported
- People make use of technology to access services, support and information



Lancashire will be the place to work

Lancashire will be a county that supports a flexible and inclusive labour market, where skills development is championed and where talented individuals choose to live and work.

It will be a county where:

- We support people of all ages and abilities to learn and develop their skills
- Significant new, good job opportunities are created
- We support and encourage business investment, innovation and growth
- We aim to increase the earning power of our residents and communities
- We build and develop effective infrastructure and transport links



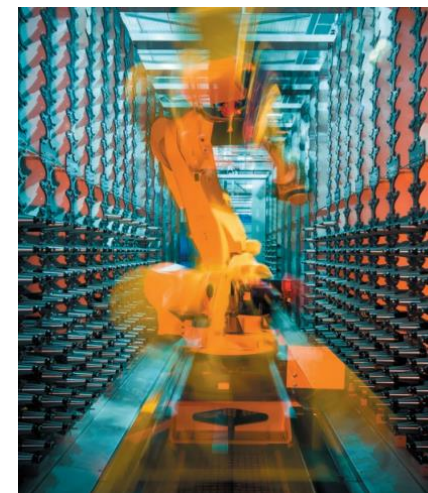
Lancashire will be the place to prosper

Lancashire will be a county that promotes strong economic growth in both urban and rural economies.

It will be a county that actively boosts productivity and prosperity for everyone.

It will be a county where:

- We invest in industry, and promote innovation to secure Lancashire's growth potential
- Businesses are supported to start up, to thrive and to grow
- We build on the strengths and resilience of local industry
- Our residents, businesses and places are enabled to be more productive
- We promote Lancashire as a national and globally connected destination and a well performing place to do business



Lancashire will be the place to visit

Lancashire is a beautiful county with a wealth of culture.

From green fields and rolling hills to coastal towns and country villages – Lancashire really does have it all as a place for people to enjoy.

It will be a county where:

- We celebrate our beautiful, clean landscapes
- We encourage the visitor economy and the opportunities for growth
- People enjoy our culture and heritage, diverse communities and local attractions
- We promote our wonderful sporting attractions and hidden gems



Lancashire will be the place where everyone acts responsibly

The county council will work closely with our partners to enable people in Lancashire to develop and thrive.

We will listen to the needs of people and work with our partners and communities to empower them to meet their own needs. We will help people to look after themselves and help them to provide care and support to their families, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

It will be a county where:

- We will equip our most vulnerable people with the support and skills they need to do more for themselves
- We commission, procure and provide services that provide maximum benefit to Lancashire residents
- We recruit and retain a workforce that meets service needs
- We prevent waste and use money wisely
- We learn from others



Our corporate priorities



DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES

- Provide services that are effective, efficient and appropriate to local circumstances.
- Improve services by changing the way we do things.
- Help people and families live healthier lifestyles and enjoy a better quality of life.



CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE

- Protect, safeguard, support and enable the most vulnerable residents in our society.
- Challenge and reduce areas of inequality and provide opportunity for all.
- Ensure children of all abilities do well in our schools and colleges, gaining important skills and expertise for life.



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Lead on environmental improvement schemes and renewable energy initiatives.
- Work with businesses and communities on flood prevention, decarbonisation projects and climate change resilience.
- Promote more recycling and better waste management.



SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

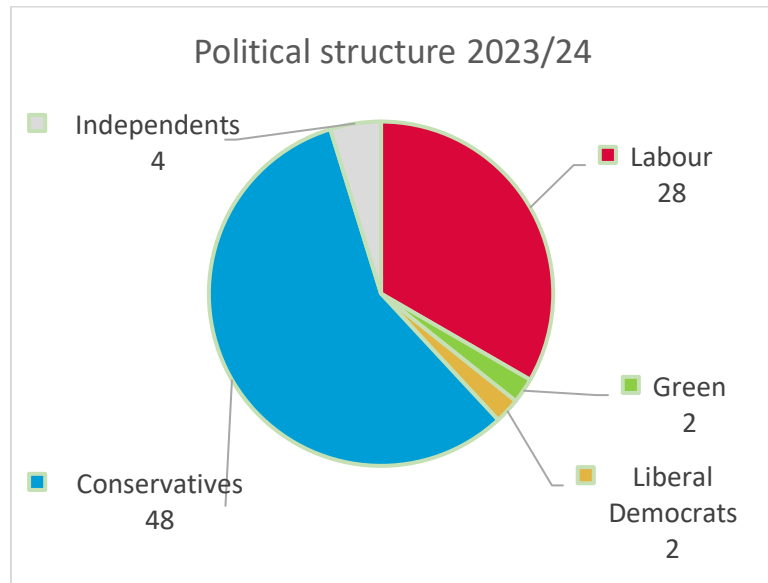
- Develop and build effective infrastructure and transport networks, to help people and businesses connect and grow.
- Secure inward investment, to boost and level up the county.
- Invest in skills and innovation, to secure economic growth and maximise Lancashire's potential.

Our governance structure

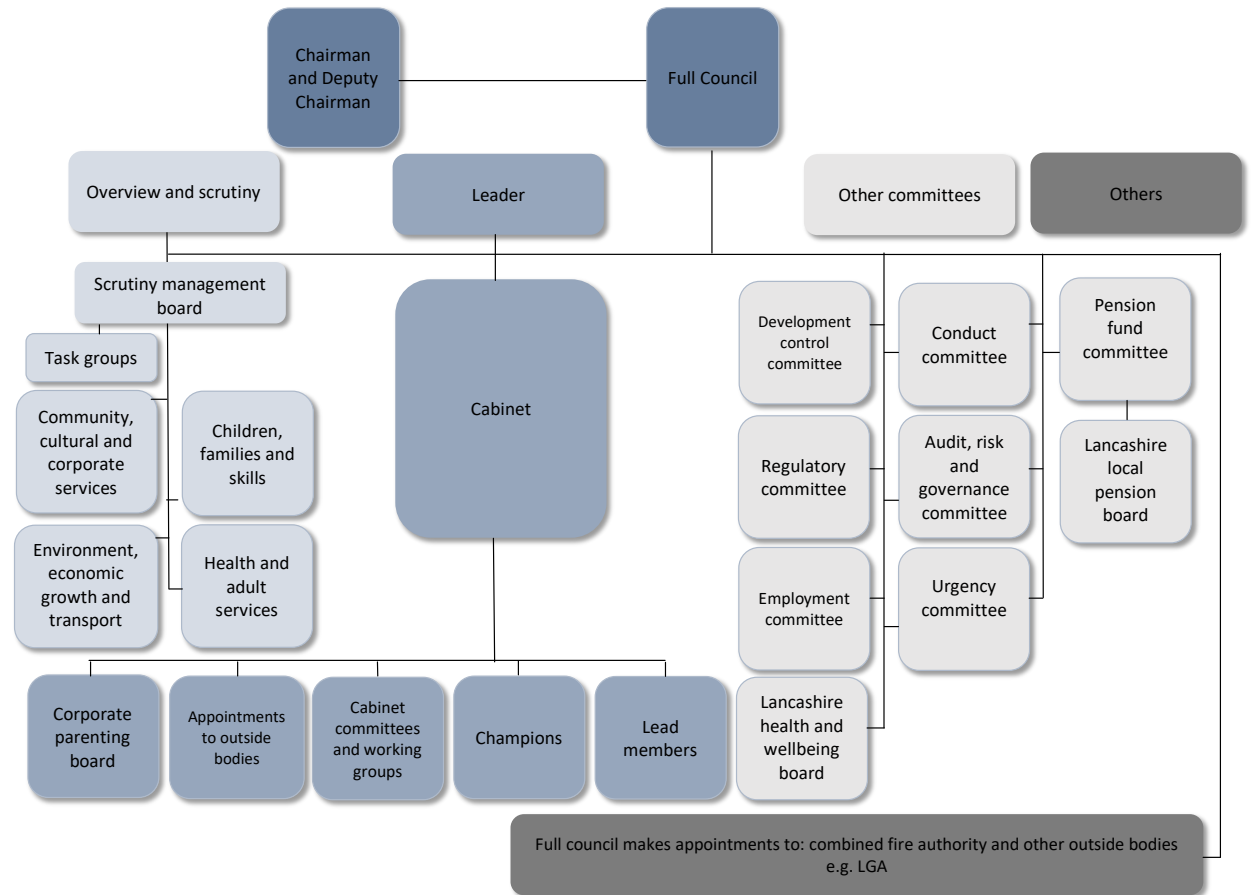
There are 84 county councillors elected to cover all the electoral divisions in the 12 Lancashire district areas. County councillors represent their communities in the council's decision-making processes.

Council meetings are broadcast live on our website as part of our ambition to bring decision-making closer to the public.

The chart below shows the political structure of the council as at 31 March 2024.



The political management structure of the council is shown below.

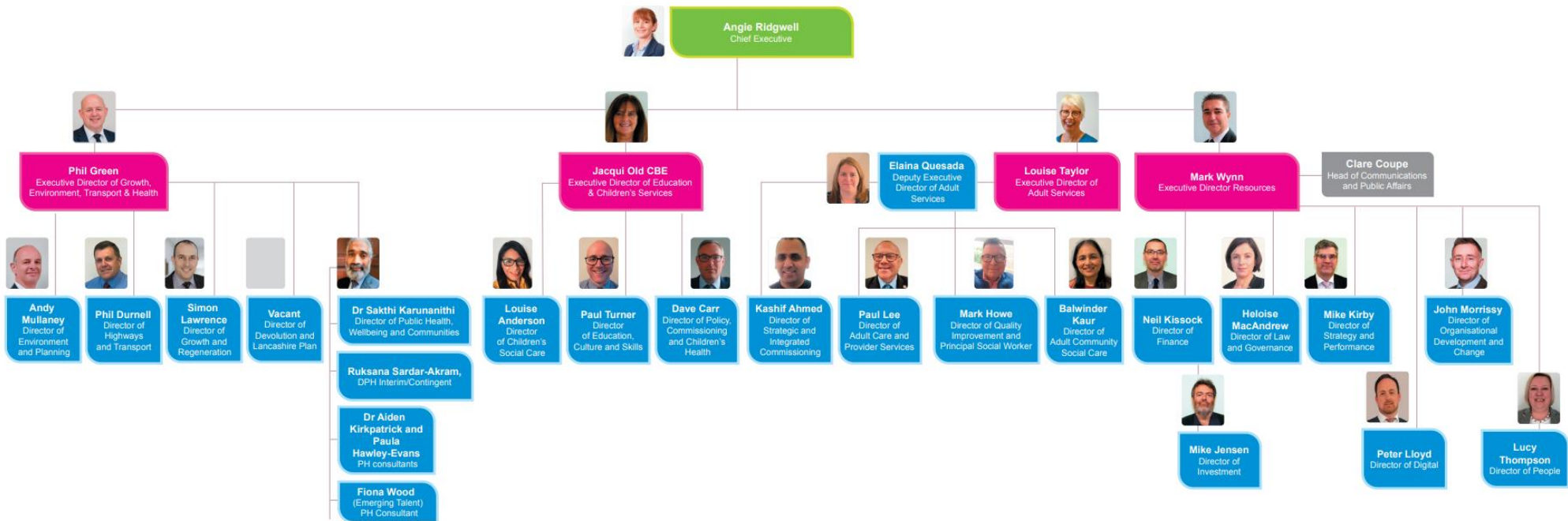


Further details of the council's governance arrangements are provided in the Annual Governance Statement.

Our staff

The council is managed by the Chief Executive together with four executive directors. They are accountable to the county councillors who determine policy and agree spending priorities. The council is supported by administrative, professional, technical and operational employees whose role is to advise the council on all aspects of its functions and to put into effect decisions, which are taken in order to provide services to the public. The council has responsibilities spanning public health, social care, the economy and the environment and employs over 13,200 people in full time and part time contracts with around a further 29,200 people employed in schools.

The council's management structure on 31 March 2024 is shown below.



Our performance

The corporate performance report provides information on the progress we have made towards achieving our four key priorities: delivering better services, caring for the vulnerable, protecting the environment, and supporting economic growth. The full performance report can be found on our website at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk> and is summarised in this section.



Key	
✓	Achieving the target/expected level of performance
!	Slightly below desired level
✗	Requires improvement

Target	Good Is	As of Date	Metric Name	Latest Value	RAG Status
Quartile 2 - 98.5-99.0	High	2024/25 Prov	% of parents who get one of three preferred school places (Primary)	99.1	✓
Quartile 2 - 94.8-96.7	High	2024/25 Prov	% of parents who get one of three preferred school places (Secondary)	97.0	✓
2023/24 85%	High	2024 a Autumn Term	% of 2 year old children eligible for free funded education	95.4	✓
2023/24 85%	High	2024 a Autumn Term	% of 3 and 4 year old children eligible for free funded education	101.2	✓
<700	Low	2023/24 Q4	Number of children in Lancashire, not on roll and not receiving suitable education	1,169.0	✗
5000000	High	2023/24 Q4	Number of visits to libraries and Number of e-downloads (annual cumulative indicator)	5,474,069.0	✓
51.7% Annual target (2023/24)	High	2023/24 Q4	NHS Health Checks undertaken (proportion of eligible population per quarter) %	64.1	✓
National 95%	High	2023/24 Q4	PH 0-19: Infants who received a 6–8-week review by the time they turned 8 weeks %	89.0	!
TBC	Low	2023/24 Q4	Number of Complaints upheld by the Ombudsman	12.0	!
2023/24 10 days	Low	2023/24 Q4	VIP correspondance answered in timescales average (days)	15.0	!

Target	Good Is	As of Date	Metric Name	Latest Value	RAG Status
10	High	2023/24 Q4	Condition and maintenance score	8.60	!
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Safety carriageway defects repaired within 4 hours (emergency) %	94.30	✓
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Safety carriageway defects repaired within 2 working days (urgent) %	66.67	✗
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Safety carriageway defects repaired within 5 working days (non-urgent) %	81.53	!
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Safety carriageway defects repaired within 10 working days (non-urgent) %	73.35	✗
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Safety carriageway defects repaired within 20 working days (non-urgent) %	86.92	!
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Non-Traffic Management (NTM) lamp-out faults repaired within 5 working days %	99.49	✓
90% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	Annual 2023/24	Traffic Management (TM) lamp-out faults repaired within 20 working days %	97.75	✓
88.75% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	2023/24 Q4	% of calls presented to the Customer Access Service answered	93.98	✓



CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE

Target	Good Is	As of Date	Metric Name	Latest Value	RAG Status
90	High	2023/24 Q4	The percentage of adult social care providers rated good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission	87.6	!
90	High	2023/24 Q4	Safeguarding timeliness – section 42 decision within 2 days of concern raised	99.9	✓
72.6	High	2023/24 Q4	Percentage of people with long-term support needs receiving community-based packages of support	70.8	!
1265	Low	2023/24 Q4	Number of Initial assessments, Reassessments and Occupational Therapy assessments waiting over 28 days	1561.0	✗
77.6	High	2023/24 Q4	Proportion of Registered carers receiving formal support from the County Council (via carers direct payments)	92.0	✓
90	High	2023/24 Q3	Percentage of Care Act eligible people hospital discharged into own home (or potentially 'to usual place of residence')	92.4	✓
80	High	2023/24 Q4	Proportion of completed Annual Reviews in rolling 12 months	35.6	✗
5.3	Low	2023/24 Q4	Children becoming looked after (Rate and Number)	5.0	✓
71	High	2023/24 Q4	Long term stability of placements for children looked after	71.3	✓
2022-23 36	High	2022/23 a Revised	Disadvantaged Pupils Average Attainment 8 Score at Key Stage 4	32.4	✗
52%	High	2023/24 Q4	% of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training	49.6	!
Above national average	High	2023/24 Q3	Substance Misuse and Alcohol: Proportion of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months: alcohol %	39.3	!
Above national average	High	2023/24 Q3	Substance Misuse and Alcohol: Proportion of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months: opiates %	4.9	!



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Target	Good Is	As of Date	Metric Name	Latest Value	RAG Status
60% Quarterly (2022/23)	High	2023/24 Q4	% of Waste Re-used, Recycled or Composted at Household Waste Recycling Centres (Excluding Inert Waste)	60.10	✓
7.5	High	2023/24 Q4	Sustainable travel index	6.70	✓
Target year 5 2024/25 is 2.88%	Low	2023/24 Q1	Condition of A road % Red	2.10	✓
Target year 5 2024/25 is 3.73%	Low	2023/24 Q1	Condition of B road % Red	3.30	✓
Target year 5 2024/25 is 6.02%	Low	2023/24 Q1	Condition of C road % Red	5.20	✓
Year on year reduction	Low	2021-22	Gross tonnes of Carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)	43,203.00	✓
120 sites (10% of all BHSs) surveyed, and management advice provided starting from 2023/24	High	2023/24 Q4	Number of Biological Heritage Sites (BHSs) surveyed with management advice provided	120.00	✓
An improving trend in the % of AQMAs with air quality within compliance limits	High	2023/24 Q2	% of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) with air quality within compliance limits.	84.00	✓



Target	Good Is	As of Date	Metric Name	Latest Value	RAG Status
2022/23 65%	High	2022/23	% Good Level of Development at Early Years Foundation Stage	64.4	!
2022/23 59%	High	2022/23 b Revised	% Expected Standard in Reading, Writing & Maths at Key Stage 2	59.0	✓
2022/23 47	High	2022/23 2 Revised	Pupils Average Attainment 8 Score at Key Stage 4	45.0	!
2023/24 95.5%	High	2023/24 Q4	% of Young People in Employment Education or Training	94.4	!
Above 80%	High	2023/24 Q4	Strategic Development and Infrastructure Programme performance (including multi-district regeneration programmes) (% RAG rating)	74.6	!
5.5 by end of Summer Term 2024	High	2023/24 Q4	% Gatsby benchmark achieved by Lancashire Careers Hub (Skills)	6.6	✓

Our risk management

In delivering our services, we are faced with a range of risks, which can threaten the quality and availability of the services we provide. The corporate risk and opportunity register is reported quarterly to Cabinet and the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee. Some of the most significant of these risks are highlighted below:

Risk description	Possible consequences	Mitigating actions
Financial sustainability	Services become unsustainable and we cannot fulfil our statutory duties resulting in an adverse impact on clients/residents.	The council has an appropriate level of reserves available to manage the financial risks it is facing to 2026/27. However, additional savings will be required to bring the council to a financially sustainable position.
Workforce recruitment and retention	Unable to attract and recruit candidates and retain staff leading to an inability to deliver services.	<p>People strategy developed which gives a coherent and cohesive direction of travel for the business in terms of attraction, recruitment, retention, and development with associated metrics.</p> <p>A new People Services operating model to commence with key priorities established and including a talent acquisition function.</p> <p>Review of contingent workforce being refreshed to identify required staffing levels and skills and recruitment process to be redesigned and benchmarked against emerging and best practice.</p> <p>Leadership and management performance framework agreed and ready for roll out.</p>
Customer centric service delivery	Not be sufficiently radical or innovative to transform services at the required pace to achieve the scale of change needed over the short to medium term.	Revised change governance put in place through the Change and Digital Board monthly meetings and Priority Change portfolio agreed by Executive Management Team.

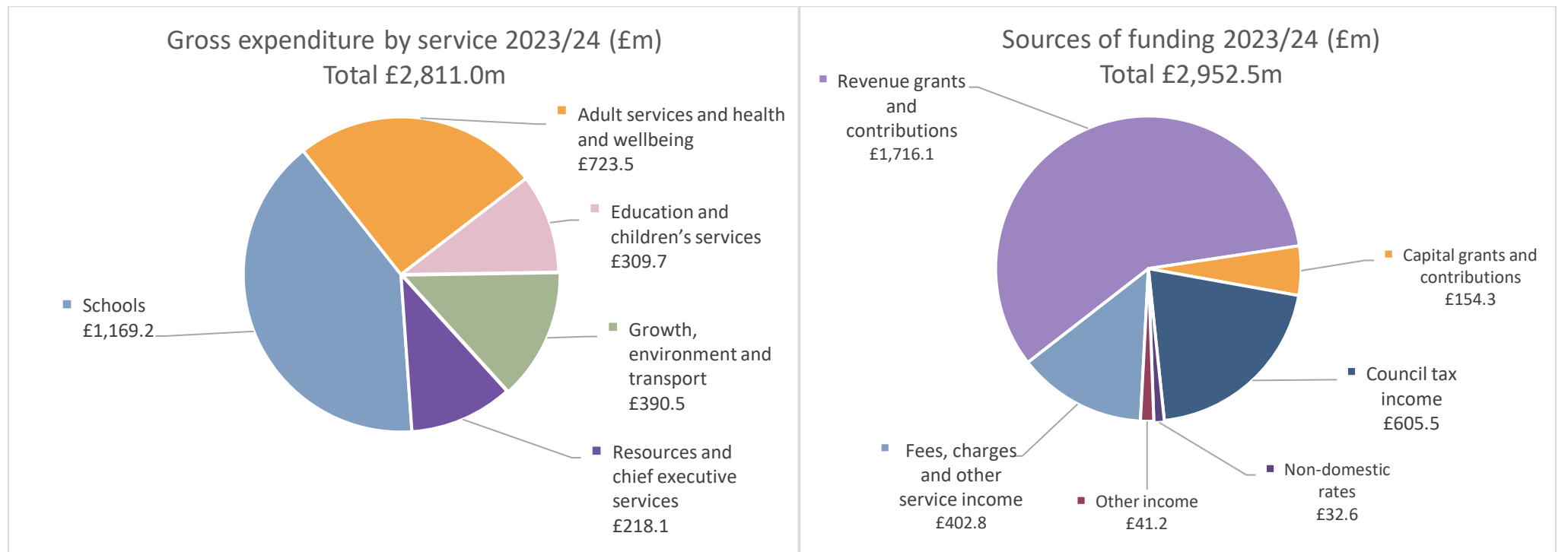
Our financial performance

Revenue summary

The council receives funding from three main sources:

- Government grants
- Council tax
- Business rates

The council also generates income from fees and charges for services it provides. The charts illustrate the funding received and how it was spent on services.



Revenue outturn

In February 2023, the council approved a net revenue budget of £1,039.046 million. The revenue budget shows the annual cost of delivering against the council's duties and responsibilities to the community, many of which are given to the council under statute.

The following table shows what Lancashire County Council actually spent compared to the planned spending for the year. The difference between the two is shown in the (under)/overspend column. The negative figures are those where spend is less than planned and the positive figures are where spend is more than planned.

Service	Approved budget	Outturn	(Under)/overspend
	£m	£m	£m
Adult services and health and wellbeing	449.477	449.534	0.057
Education and children's services	250.414	254.353	3.939
Growth, environment and transport	167.947	177.176	9.229
Resources and chief executive services	171.208	163.203	(8.005)
Sub total	1,039.046	1,044.266	5.220
Schools	0	11.133	11.133
Total	1,039.046	1,055.399	16.353

The reported overspend (excluding schools) is 0.50% of the 2023/24 budget and includes a mixture of variances across services. The most significant area of overspending was on transport services for children between home and school, mainly for children with special educational needs. This was in part mitigated by some planned use of the council's reserves.

Schools spending in 2023/24 has increased compared to previous years with continuing price and salary pressure. Particularly relating to support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The impact of this being to decrease the ring-fenced schools reserve by £11.133 million.

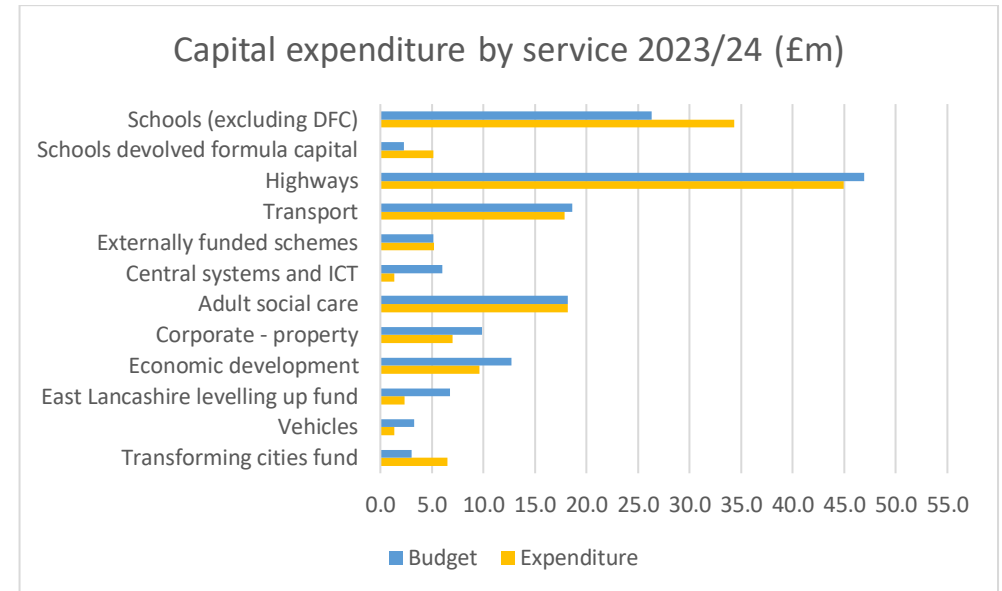
The outturn position is reconciled to the figures shown in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement in Note 4 - expenditure and funding analysis.

Capital investment programme

In February 2023, the council approved an initial capital budget of £239.859 million for 2023/24. The final capital programme for the year following review and subsequent investment decisions totalled £159.134 million, and included:

- Enhancements and improvements to schools and buildings the council delivers services from including residential care homes;
- Upgrading of carriageways, street lighting and improvements to road junctions;
- Investment in the council's ICT infrastructure to support corporate priorities;
- Investment in improvements to transport networks;
- Delivery of the awarded transforming cities programme;
- Support for schemes to deliver economic growth in the county.

The total spend on capital works in 2023/24 was £153.838 million which represents 96.7% of the budgeted programme.

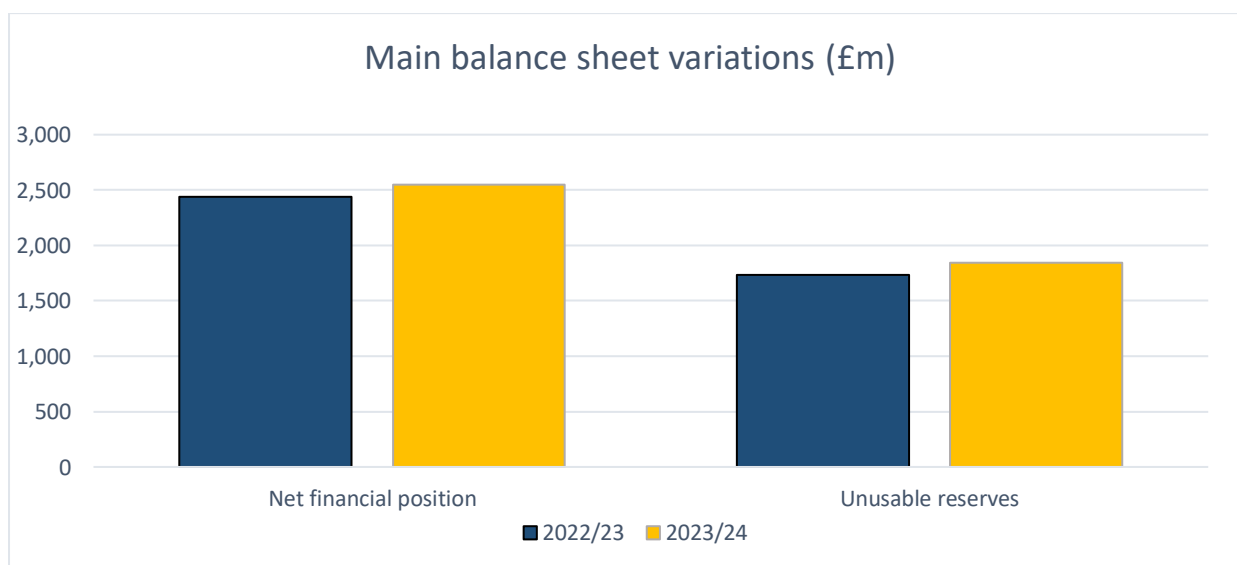


	Revised budget £m	Expenditure £m	Variation £m
Schools (excluding DFC)	26.340	34.310	7.970
Schools devolved formula capital	2.309	5.145	2.836
Highways	46.952	44.941	(2.011)
Transport	18.638	17.876	(0.762)
Externally funded schemes	5.109	5.216	0.107
Central systems and ICT	6.012	1.367	(4.645)
Adult social care	18.173	18.173	0
Corporate – property	9.835	6.990	(2.845)
Economic development	12.684	9.597	(3.087)
East Lancs Levelling Up Fund	6.783	2.373	(4.410)
Vehicles	3.299	1.323	(1.976)
Transforming Cities	3.000	6.527	3.527
Total expenditure	159.134	153.838	(5.296)

Assets and liabilities

The balance sheet summarises the council's financial position at the year-end and reports the assets, liabilities and reserves of the council which show what the council owns and how much it owes. The net assets of the council have increased by £108.8 million from £2,472.3 million at 31 March 2023 to £2,581.1 million at 31 March 2024, with the main balance sheet variations shown in the following chart:

Summary financial position	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
What we own (assets)	4,348.4	4,449.0	100.6
What we owe (liabilities)	(1,911.0)	(1,900.5)	10.5
Net financial position (assets less liabilities)	2,437.4	2,548.5	111.1
The net financial position is held in reserves as follows:			
General reserves available to the council (usable)	(704.6)	(707.5)	(2.9)
Other reserves held for statutory or specific purposes (unusable)	(1,732.8)	(1,841.0)	(108.2)
Total reserves	(2,437.4)	(2,548.5)	(111.1)



The most significant movements on the balance sheet relates to increases in property, plant and equipment valuations and short term debtors partly offset by some reduction in investments. The net effect is reflected in the unusable reserves.

Pension fund asset/liability

The council has adopted an accounting approach of recognising the actuarial asset ceiling for the local government pensions. However there is a current year net liability of £104.8 million (£110.0 liability as at 31 March 2023) for the teachers' pensions and unfunded benefit obligations. A prior year adjustment to derecognise a £690.9 million asset is detailed in Note 41 to the accounting statements. This is in line with current consensus in interpreting International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19.

Actuarial valuations are carried out every three years. The last actuarial valuation of the Lancashire County Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2022 by an independent firm of actuaries. The pension figures are revised annually based on updated assumptions.

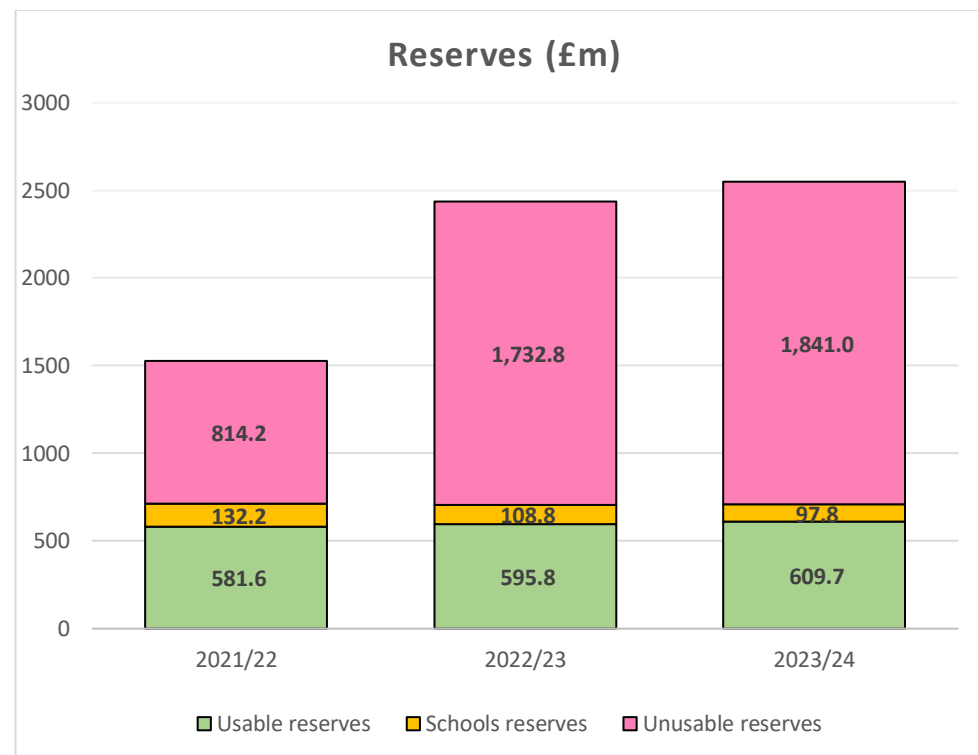
The financial assumptions depend on AA-rated corporate bond yields at the accounting date which increased significantly, and in addition to a decrease in assumed Consumer Price Index inflation (CPI) the combined effect has significantly decreased pension liabilities to the extent that there is currently no pension liability shown in the accounts.

Further details of the pension liability and assets are set out in the technical annex section of these financial statements.

Reserves

The reserves on the balance sheet represent the council's net worth and are split into usable reserves and unusable reserves.

The following chart shows the balance of reserves over the last three years. Usable reserves are shown in green, unusable reserves are shown in red and reserves belonging to schools are shown in orange.



Usable reserves

Usable reserves are those reserves that can be spent on future services and include general reserves as well as those earmarked for specific purposes.

Unusable reserves

The council also holds a number of unusable reserves, which arise as a result of statutory or accounting adjustments and cannot be used for expenditure on services. These include unrealised gains and losses, particularly in relation to the revaluation of property, and adjustment accounts, which absorb the timing difference between the outcome of applying accounting practice and the amounts required to be charged to the financial statements under statute. The adjustments are described in more detail in the following section - 'explanation of the accounting statements'.

The following accounts normally represent the most significant movements in unusable reserves and are explained further in Note 30:

- Revaluation reserve;
- Pensions reserve;
- Capital adjustment account.

The movement in unusable reserves is largely due to changes in the revaluations.

Financial sustainability

The council has to plan for the long term to ensure that it can continue to deliver its services in future years and be able to deal with any unexpected events. As a result, it is important that our financial standing (or sustainability) is robust.

Lancashire County Council has a fully developed medium term financial strategy covering a period of three years, which includes looking at risks and future demands on services.

The biggest medium-term financial risks identified are:

- Population growth and age profile – this is likely to lead to increased service demand.
- Schools balances – we have funding pressures due to government education grants being less than expenditure.
- Safeguarding the financial position of the council – the council looks at ways to improve efficiency through delivering services in different ways. These plans should remain on track.

Raising debt to finance council investment

The council has a borrowing requirement arising from current and past years' capital programmes. This is met by a mixture of long and short term borrowing, the balance of which can vary year on year depending upon maturities and market conditions. Decisions made on borrowing will also affect cash available for investments. Councils can borrow to invest in property or other infrastructure that supports the delivery of services, but they must ensure that they can pay this amount back.

The council sets out its approach to borrowing and investment in its annual treasury management strategy, and this is monitored throughout the year by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, with advice from external specialists as appropriate.

Financial interests in other organisations

The group accounts show the full extent of the county council's economic activities by reflecting the county council's involvement with its group companies. Inclusion in the Lancashire County Council group is dependent upon the extent of the county council's interest and control over the entity. Where an entity is considered to be below materiality levels, it is not included in the group accounts.

Type	Number
Subsidiaries	6
Associates	2
Joint ventures	2

In 2023/24, the group accounts include the county council's interest in Lancashire County Developments Limited, which is an economic development agency for the county. Lancashire County Developments Limited is the holding company in the group structure, the subsidiary company is Lancashire County Developments (Property) Limited.

The financial position of the council is as follows with the inclusion of Lancashire County Developments Limited:

Summary financial position	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
What we own (assets)	4,428.6	4,533.1	104.5
What we owe (liabilities)	(1,917.5)	(1,910.0)	7.5
Net financial position (assets less liabilities)	2,511.1	2,623.1	112.0
The net financial position is held in reserves as follows:			
General reserves available to the council (usable)	(704.6)	(707.5)	(2.9)
Other reserves held for statutory or specific purposes (unusable)	(1,732.8)	(1,841.0)	(108.2)
Subsidiary reserves	(73.7)	(74.6)	(0.9)
Total reserves	(2,511.1)	(2,623.1)	(112.0)

Explanation of the accounting statements

The statement of accounts has a key part to play in accountability to taxpayers and other stakeholders as to how public money is used. It provides information on:

- The cost of the council's services for the year;
- How the services were funded;
- The council's assets and liabilities at the year end.

Local authority accounts are complex due to the need to produce financial statements that address both an accounting framework and a legislative framework. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) set out how items should be presented in the statement of accounts, however, these are mainly designed for the private sector so are adapted for local government.

In addition, the government makes statutory requirements, which are specific rules that local authorities must follow when they prepare their accounts, which limit the amounts that can be charged to council taxpayers.

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement

The comprehensive income and expenditure statement reflects the cost of providing the council's services in line with accounting practices.

The comprehensive income and expenditure statement has two sections: The top section reflects the full cost of providing services under International Financial Reporting Standards and shows whether the council's operations resulted in a surplus or deficit.

The bottom section 'other comprehensive income and expenditure' includes details of the gains or losses in the measurement of the assets and liabilities of the council which arise as a result of changes in market valuations, interest rates or changes in measurement assumptions in relation to pension assets and liabilities.

Movement in reserves statement

The movement in reserves statement shows the movement from the start to the end of the year on the different reserves held by the council, analysed into usable and unusable reserves. The usable reserves show the resources currently available to spend on services.

As local authorities are tax-raising bodies, they are subject to specific rules as to how tax rates are to be set in relation to the income and expenditure of the council. As outlined above, the comprehensive income and expenditure statement shows the cost of providing services in line with International Financial Reporting Standards; however, the amounts chargeable to council tax are limited by statutory requirements. The movement in reserves statement includes details of the income and expenditure that is recognised under accounting rules but then removed from the accounts by legislation to give the amount of expenditure that has been funded by the local taxpayer.

The statutory adjustments largely relate to arrangements for funding capital expenditure or the timing with which some items, for example pension costs, are charged to council tax. Further details of the adjustments are shown in Note 13 – adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.

Balance sheet

The balance sheet summarises the council's financial position at the year-end and shows the assets, liabilities and reserves of the council. The council's net assets, represents the value of assets the council would hold after settling all its liabilities, which is balanced by the various reserves of the council.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement shows the reason for changes in the council's cash balances during the year, and whether that change is due to operating activities, financing activities or new investment.

Notes to the financial statements

Expenditure and funding analysis

The expenditure and funding analysis shown in Note 4 reconciles the outturn position reported to management with the movement in reserves statement and the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The other notes to the accounts provide further detail on material items within the core financial statements.

Group accounts

The group accounts show the full extent of the council's economic activities by reflecting the council's involvement with its group companies.

Pension fund accounts

The pension fund accounts provide a summary of pension fund performance over the year and the net assets of the pension fund at the end of the year.

Annual governance statement

The annual governance statement sets out the governance structures of the council and its key internal controls.

This statement defines the responsibilities of the council and the Chief Financial Officer in respect of the council's financial affairs.

The council's responsibilities

The council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. In this council, that officer is the Executive Director Resources;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- Approve the statement of accounts.

The Section 151 Officer's responsibilities

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the council's statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Section 151 Officer has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;

- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the local authority Code.

The Section 151 Officer has also:

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

Certification of accounts

These financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the council at the reporting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024. They were authorised for issue by the Section 151 Officer on 31 May 2024 (reapproved on 27 January 2025) and do not reflect any events occurring after this date.

Mark Wynn

Mark Wynn
Section 151 Officer
27 January 2025

Financial statements



Morecambe Bay

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement

2022/23				2023/24		
Gross expenditure	Gross income restated	Net expenditure restated		Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
791.3	(356.5)	434.8	Adult services and health and wellbeing ¹	723.5	(381.7)	341.8
321.9	(84.8)	237.1	Education and children's services ¹	309.7	(61.3)	248.4
267.4	(75.2)	192.2	Growth, environment and transport	390.5	(182.6)	207.9
159.4	(55.8)	103.6	Resources and chief executive services ²	218.1	(67.9)	150.2
1,132.7	(1,065.0)	67.7	Schools	1,169.2	(1,125.5)	43.7
2,672.7	(1,637.3)	1,035.4	Cost of services ¹	2,811.0	(1,819.0)	992.0
103.6	(16.8)	86.8	Other operating income and expenditure (Note 5)	60.2	(8.3)	51.9
77.8	(42.6)	35.2	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 6)	33.4	(32.9)	0.5
0	(1,002.0)	(1,002.0)	Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure (Note 7) ¹	0.0	(1,092.3)	(1,092.3)
2,854.1	(2,698.7)	155.4	(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services ¹	2,904.6	(2,952.5)	(47.9)
		(111.1)	(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 30)			(214.6)
		(1,135.9)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit pension liability/(asset) (Note 30) ³			122.0
		182.2	(Surplus)/deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income			29.4
		(1,064.8)	Other comprehensive (income) and expenditure ³			(63.2)
		(909.4)	Total comprehensive (income) and expenditure ³			(111.1)

¹ A non ringfenced grant for £57.1m has been adjusted in 2022/23, consequently both Adult services and health and wellbeing and Education and children's services gross income has been restated.

² Chief executive services have been merged in this statement with Resources.

³ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise the pension asset with the consequent adjustment to the re-measurement of the net defined benefit pension asset.

The adjustments are shown in detail in Note 41 – Prior period adjustments.

Movement in reserves statement

2023/24

	General fund / earmarked reserves	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves (Note 30)	Unusable reserves (Note 30)	Total reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2023	(518.2)	(21.1)	(165.3)	(704.6)	(1,732.8)	(2,437.4)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>						
Total comprehensive income and expenditure (Note 4)	(48.0)	0.1	0.0	(47.9)	(63.2)	(111.1)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 13)	80.2	(3.3)	(31.9)	45.0	(45.0)	0
(Increase)/decrease in year	32.2	(3.2)	(31.9)	(2.9)	(108.2)	(111.1)
Balance at 31 March 2024	(486.0)	(24.3)	(197.2)	(707.5)	(1,841.0)	(2,548.5)

2022/23

	General fund / earmarked reserves	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves (Note 30)	Unusable reserves (Note 30) restated	Total reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2022	(563.2)	(10.3)	(140.3)	(713.8)	(814.2)	(1,528.0)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2022/23</u>						
Total comprehensive income and expenditure (Note 4) ¹	155.4	0	0	155.4	(1,064.8)	(909.4)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 13)	(110.4)	(10.8)	(25.0)	(146.2)	146.2	0
(Increase)/decrease in year ¹	45.0	(10.8)	(25.0)	9.2	(918.6)	(909.4)
Balance at 31 March 2023 ¹	(518.2)	(21.1)	(165.3)	(704.6)	(1,732.8)	(2,437.4)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise the pension asset with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves. The adjustments are shown in detail in Note 41 – Prior period adjustments.

31 March 2023 restated		Note	31 March 2024
£m			£m
3,288.8	Property, plant and equipment	17	3,490.0
28.7	Heritage assets	19	28.7
24.4	Intangible assets		21.7
413.5	Long term investments	25	277.9
37.7	Long term debtors	20	35.9
3,793.1	Long term assets¹		3,854.2
125.8	Short term investments	25	82.2
4.0	Inventories		4.5
277.6	Short term debtors	21	398.3
27.1	Payments in advance	21	41.3
120.8	Cash and cash equivalents	22	68.5
555.3	Current assets		594.8
(310.4)	Short term borrowing	25	(661.0)
(339.2)	Short term creditors	23	(340.1)
(82.6)	Receipts in advance	23	(92.2)
(9.7)	Short term provisions	24	(9.8)
(27.2)	Other current liabilities	26	(8.2)
(769.1)	Current liabilities		(1,111.3)
(41.2)	Long term provisions	24	(48.2)
(870.8)	Long term borrowing	25	(524.6)
(1.3)	Long term creditors	25	(1.3)
(228.6)	Other long term liabilities ¹	27	(215.1)
(1,141.9)	Long term liabilities¹		(789.2)
2,437.4	Net assets¹		2,548.5
(704.6)	Usable reserves	30	(707.5)
(1,732.8)	Unusable reserves ¹	30	(1,841.0)
(2,437.4)	Total reserves¹		(2,548.5)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise the pension asset with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves. The adjustments are shown in detail in Note 41 – Prior period adjustments.

Cash flow statement

2022/23 restated		Note	2023/24
£m			£m
(155.4)	Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services		47.9
297.8	Adjustments to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	31	(146.7)
(130.8)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities ¹	31	(161.9)
11.6	Net cash flows from operating activities ¹		(260.7)
(0.8)	Investing activities ¹	32	214.1
(54.2)	Financing activities	33	(5.7)
(43.4)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash or cash equivalents ¹		(52.3)
164.2	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		120.8
120.8	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22	68.5

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted for a re-categorisation of those investments that are cash and cash equivalent. The adjustments are shown in detail in Note 41 – Prior period adjustments.

Explanatory notes to the financial statements



Norman Castle at Clitheroe

Note 1 - Accounting standards issued, but not yet adopted

The council is required to disclose the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued on or before 1 January but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code). The 2024/25 Code will introduce the following amendments:

IAS 1 Presentation of financial statements

Amendments to IAS 1 regarding non-current liabilities with covenants provide additional guidance on the disclosures in the accounts.

IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows and IFRS 7 Financial Instruments

The IASB has issued 'Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7)' to add disclosure requirements that ask entities to provide qualitative and quantitative information about supplier finance arrangements.

These amendments are not anticipated to have a significant impact on the council's accounts.

IFRS 16 Leases

IFRS 16 Leases will replace IAS 17 Leases and IFRIC 4 Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease and other interpretations. The local authority code board CIPFA LASAAC has confirmed that local authorities will need to implement IFRS 16 Leases from 1 April 2024.

IFRS 16 *Leases* will lead to a substantial change in accounting practice for lessees, the current distinction between finance and operating leases will be removed. Instead, lessees are required to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases i.e., the lessee will recognise a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the leased asset; and a lease liability representing the lessee's obligation to make lease payments for the asset.

Lessees will have a single accounting model for all leases with two exemptions:

- Low-value assets
- Short term leases (lease term of 12 months or less)

Lessor accounting however remains largely unchanged from IAS 17 and the distinction between operating and finance leases is retained.

Work has been undertaken to identify current leases and arrangements containing a lease held on 1 April 2024, which will become assets and liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position at this date. The council has reviewed all existing arrangements and is progressing the implementation of IFRS 16 in a timely manner.

The transition to IFRS 16 will be completed in accordance with para. C5 (b) of the Standard, applying IFRS 16 requirements retrospectively recognising the cumulative effects at the date of initial application. The council will apply IFRS 16 to new leases only therefore and will transfer its existing leases under the old standard as its opening position of whether existing arrangements contain a lease. As the council currently holds no material operating leases there is expected to be no material impact of applying IFRS 16 in 2024-25.

Note 2 - Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the accounting policies, the council 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:

Funding

There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty around future levels of funding for local government. The council's medium term financial strategy assesses the on-going pressures from reduced funding and increased demand for services, which are mitigated by further savings and use of reserves. The council is of the view that this uncertainty is not sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the council might be impaired as a result of the need to dispose of assets at less than their current value.

Private finance initiative (PFI)

The council is deemed to control the services provided under the private finance initiative (PFI) agreements and also to control the residual value of the properties at the end of the agreements. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangement and the buildings have been recognised as property, plant and equipment on the council's balance sheet. The buildings have been valued at £213.5 million as at 31 March 2024 (31 March 2023: £205.0 million).

School assets

In assessing the most appropriate accounting treatment for balances and transactions in relation to schools, the council has considered the circumstances of each of the categories of school, such as ownership, control and access to economic benefits and service potential. Further details are included in Note 18.

The property, plant and equipment balance includes properties valued at £867.6 million, which are not owned by the council. These are principally voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and foundation schools for which the trustees have legal ownership rights. It is the council's policy to include these school assets on the balance sheet as the council benefits from using these properties in terms of delivery of service and meets the costs of service provision. These assets are retained on the balance sheet of the council to fairly reflect the value of assets used in providing the service.

Interests in companies and other entities

The council conducts activities through a variety of undertakings, either through ultimate control of, or in partnership with, other organisations. An assessment of all of the council's interests has been carried out to determine whether a group relationship between the council and other entities exists on the grounds of control and significant influence.

The council's relationships with other entities can be found within the related parties note (Note 35).

Group accounts have been produced to reflect Lancashire County Council's relationship with Lancashire County Developments Limited. Other owned

General notes to the financial statements

companies have been excluded from the group accounts on the basis that they are not considered material.

The omission of these companies from the group accounts is not considered to affect the ability of a user of the accounts to determine the financial position and performance of the council, or its exposure to risk.

In general, there is a low level of financial risk to the council from its involvement with group members: for example, many group members are companies limited by guarantee, where the council's liability is limited to £1. There is a very low level of involvement from group members in delivering the council's statutory or core services.

General notes to the financial statements

Note 3 - Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

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

The items in the council's balance sheet at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Consequence if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, plant and equipment valuations	<p>The council's internal valuers provide valuations as at 31 March based on a 3-year rolling programme of valuations. The valuations are undertaken by qualified valuers in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) professional standards using recognised measurement techniques.</p> <p>The value of the property, plant and equipment is dependent upon professional judgement based on information available at the time of valuation.</p>	<p>Valuations are compiled by an expert using recognised measurement techniques and based on professional guidance. The underlying data is considered to be reliable and the scope to use judgement and change assumptions limited.</p> <p>The balance of assets not revalued in year are reviewed by applying local movement in prices and appropriate cost indices to ensure that the value of the council's assets are not materially misstated at the balance sheet date.</p> <p>A variation of 10% in the value of the council's land and buildings would be approximately £217.0 million.</p> <p>A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in a reduction to the revaluation reserve and / or a loss charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.</p> <p>An increase in estimated valuations would result in the reversal of any negative revaluations previously charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and / or increases to the revaluation reserve and / or gains charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.</p>

General notes to the financial statements

<p>Fair value measurement</p>	<p>When the fair values of surplus assets and financial instruments cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date; • For level 3 inputs, valuations based on most recent valuations adjusted to current valuation by the use of indexation and impairment review. <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions used could affect the fair value of the council's assets and liabilities.</p>	<p>The fair values of financial instruments are measured using Level 2 inputs, namely using quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date. Additional information is provided in the financial instruments disclosure notes section.</p> <p>The group investment properties are valued using level 3 inputs. Further information is provided in the group accounts section.</p> <p>All valuations are undertaken by expert valuers in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards.</p>
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Item	Uncertainties	Consequence if actual results differ from assumptions
<p>Pensions liability/asset</p>	<p>The net liability/asset to pay pensions is calculated every three years with annual updates in the intervening years. A firm of consulting actuaries (Mercer) is engaged to provide the council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Changes to these underlying assumptions can result in significant variances in the calculated liability/asset. The assumptions and complex judgements applied include 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.</p> <p>The combined effect of an increase in the discount rate assumption from last year and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation remaining the same has meant there continues to be an accounting surplus.</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension amount of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would reduce the value of the net pension amount by approximately £276.1 million; • a 0.25% increase in assumed earnings inflation would increase the value of the net pension amount by approximately £21.9 million; • an increase of one year in assumed life expectancy would increase the net pension amount by approximately £89.3 million.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 4 - Expenditure and funding analysis

The expenditure and funding analysis reconciles the cost of providing services in line with proper accounting practices included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement with the statutorily defined amounts chargeable to council taxpayers as shown in the movement in reserves statement. Proper accounting practices measure the resources that have been generated and consumed in the year, including the use of property (depreciation) and the value of pension benefits earned by the employees. Statutory provisions determine how much of the council's expenditure needs to be met from council tax each year.

Expenditure and funding analysis - 2023/24

	Outturn position as reported to management	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the general fund *	Net expenditure chargeable to the general fund	Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis *	Net expenditure comprehensive income and expenditure statement
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult services, health and wellbeing	449.5	(110.0)	339.5	2.3	341.8
Education and children's services	254.4	(10.1)	244.3	4.1	248.4
Growth, environment and transport	177.2	(5.0)	172.2	35.7	207.9
Resources and chief executive services	163.2	(38.1)	125.1	25.1	150.2
Schools	11.1	(0.1)	11.0	32.7	43.7
Net cost of services	1,055.4	(163.3)	892.1	99.9	992.0
Other income and expenditure	(1,039.0)	179.2	(859.8)	(180.1)	(1,039.9)
(Surplus)/deficit	16.4	15.9	32.2	(80.2)	(47.9)
Opening general fund balance at 1 April			(518.2)		
(Surplus)/deficit			32.2		
Closing general fund balance at 31 March			(486.0)		

* Further details on the adjustments are shown in the following tables.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Expenditure and funding analysis - 2022/23 restated

	Outturn position as reported to management	Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the general fund *	Net expenditure chargeable to the general fund	Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis *	Net expenditure comprehensive income and expenditure statement
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult services, health and wellbeing ¹	413.7	(5.1)	408.6	26.2	434.8
Education and children's services ¹	241.3	(26.1)	215.2	21.9	237.1
Growth, environment and transport	160.5	(12.2)	148.3	43.9	192.2
Resources	151.7	(48.7)	103.0	3.1	106.1
Chief executive services	(18.3)	15.8	(2.5)	0	(2.5)
Schools	18.0	(0.4)	17.6	50.1	67.7
Net cost of services	966.9	(76.7)	890.2	145.2	1,035.4
Other income and expenditure ¹	(948.1)	102.9	(845.2)	(34.8)	(880.0)
(Surplus)/deficit	18.8	26.2	45.0	110.4	155.4
Opening general fund balance at 1 April			(563.2)		
(Surplus)/deficit			45.0		
Closing general fund balance at 31 March			(518.2)		

* Further details on the adjustments are shown in the following tables.

¹ Adult social care government grant was reclassified as ringfenced.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Adjustments to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the general fund

These adjustments relate to items that are included within departmental budgets but excluded from the cost of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement e.g. levies, reserve transactions, finance and investment income and expenditure.

2022/23 restated				2023/24		
Adjustments relating to other income and expenditure	Adjustments relating to transfers to and from reserves	Total adjustments		Adjustments relating to other income and expenditure	Adjustments relating to transfers to and from reserves	Total adjustments
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
(41.6)	36.5	(5.1)	Adult services, health and wellbeing ¹	(75.9)	(34.1)	(110.0)
(17.0)	(9.1)	(26.1)	Education and children's services ¹	(19.3)	9.2	(10.1)
(1.1)	(11.1)	(12.2)	Growth, environment and transport	(2.0)	(3.0)	(5.0)
(4.5)	(28.4)	(32.9)	Resources and chief executive services	(36.4)	(1.7)	(38.1)
0	(0.4)	(0.4)	Schools	0	(0.1)	(0.1)
(64.2)	(12.5)	(76.7)	Net cost of services	(133.6)	(29.7)	(163.3)
64.3	38.6	102.9	Other income and expenditure ¹	133.6	45.6	179.2
0.1	26.1	26.2	(Surplus)/deficit	0	15.9	15.9

¹ Adult social care government grant was reclassified as ringfenced.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Notes to the expenditure and funding analysis

The adjustments between the funding and accounting basis shown are analysed further in the following tables.

Adjustments for capital purposes

This column adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

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

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

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

Net change for the pensions adjustments

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

For services - this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Other statutory adjustments

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

For financing and investment income and expenditure - the 'other differences' column recognises adjustments to the general fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

For services - this represents the change in accrued employee benefits such as annual leave.

The charge under *taxation and non-specific grant income* represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and non-domestic rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis - 2023/24

	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other statutory differences	Total statutory adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult services and health and wellbeing	1.1	0.5	0.7	2.3
Education and children's services	3.5	0.7	(0.1)	4.1
Growth, environment and transport	35.4	0.3	0.0	35.7
Resources and chief executive services	24.6	0.4	0.1	25.1
Schools	46.5	1.0	(14.8)	32.7
Net cost of services	111.1	2.9	(14.1)	99.9
Other income and expenditure from the expenditure and funding analysis	(142.4)	(37.3)	(0.4)	(180.1)
Difference between general fund surplus or deficit and comprehensive income and expenditure statement surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(31.3)	(34.4)	(14.5)	(80.2)

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Adjustments between the funding and accounting basis - 2022/23

	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other statutory differences	Total statutory adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult services, health and wellbeing	0.3	26.6	(0.7)	26.2
Education and children's services	6.2	16.4	(0.7)	21.9
Growth, environment and transport	30.5	13.7	(0.3)	43.9
Resources and chief executive services	25.0	(21.5)	(0.4)	3.1
Schools	20.4	31.6	(1.9)	50.1
Net cost of services	82.4	66.8	(4.0)	145.2
Other income and expenditure from the expenditure and funding analysis	(60.2)	29.2	(3.8)	(34.8)
Difference between general fund surplus or deficit and comprehensive income and expenditure statement surplus or deficit on the provision of services	22.2	96.0	(7.8)	110.4

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Expenditure and income analysed by nature

The council's expenditure and income are analysed as follows:

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
940.3	Employee expenses (excluding voluntary aided schools)	941.7
269.7	Employee expenses for voluntary aided schools	270.9
1,403.6	Other service expenses	1,521.8
59.1	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	76.3
48.6	Interest payments	70.7
1.1	Precepts and levies	1.2
29.2	Net pension interest costs	(37.3)
102.5	Loss on disposal of non-current assets	59.3
2,854.1	Total expenditure	2,904.6
(342.7)	Fees, charges and other service income	(402.8)
(42.6)	Interest and investment income	(32.9)
(567.1)	Income from council tax precept	(605.5)
(34.8)	Income from business rates precept	(32.6)
(1,694.7)	Government grants and contributions	(1,870.4)
(16.8)	Gain on disposal of non-current assets	(8.3)
(2,698.7)	Total income	(2,952.5)
155.4	(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(47.9)

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 5 - Other operating income and expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1.1	Levies for flood defences and inshore fisheries and conservation authorities	1.2
10.8	(Gain) or loss on disposal of non-current assets	(1.5)
74.9	Loss on transfer of schools to academy status	52.2
86.8	Total	51.9

Note 6 - Financing and investment income and expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
34.3	Interest payable and other similar charges	56.2
13.0	Interest payable on PFI unitary payments	13.1
1.3	Impairment of financial instruments	1.4
29.2	Net interest of the net defined benefit liability	(37.3)
(42.6)	Interest receivable and similar income	(32.9)
35.2	Total	0.5

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 7 - Taxation and non-specific grant income

The council credited the following to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
(286.2)	Non-ringfenced Government grants ¹	(299.9)
(113.9)	Capital grants and contributions	(154.3)
(400.1)	Total non-specific grant income	(454.2)
(567.1)	Council tax income	(605.5)
(34.8)	Non-domestic rates income	(32.6)
(1,002.0)	Total	(1,092.3)

¹ Adult social care government grant was reclassified as ringfenced.

Non-ringfenced government grants

The non-ringfenced Government grants and capital grants are analysed further in the following tables.

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
(34.7)	Revenue support grant	(38.2)
(158.1)	Top-up grant (business rates retention scheme)	(162.2)
(27.2)	S31 grant	(40.8)
(47.1)	Improved better care	(47.1)
(2.5)	New homes bonus	(1.5)
(16.6)	Other	(10.1)
(286.2)	Total ¹	(299.9)

¹ Adult social care government grant was reclassified as ringfenced.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Capital grants and contributions

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(41.5)	Department for transport	(52.5)
(46.5)	Department of education	(60.6)
(17.1)	Department for levelling up, housing and communities	(20.6)
(3.4)	Other government grants	(8.3)
0	Department of health and social care	(0.1)
(5.4)	Other contributions	(12.2)
(113.9)	Total	(154.3)

Note 8 - Grant income and contributions credited to cost of services

In addition to the non-ringfenced grants, a number of service specific or ringfenced grants were credited to the cost of services as detailed below.

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
(911.1)	Dedicated schools grant	(946.6)
(45.7)	Pupil premium grant	(47.5)
(152.3)	Other Government grants	(176.5)
(21.9)	PFI grant	(21.9)
(72.2)	Public health grant	(74.8)
(1.1)	Other grants	(0.6)
(0.8)	Teachers' pension employer contribution grant	(0.1)
(57.1)	Adult social care ¹	(94.6)
(20.3)	Other contributions	(44.3)
(12.1)	Covid-19 grants	(9.2)
(1,294.6)	Total	(1,416.2)

¹ Adult social care government grant was reclassified as ringfenced.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Covid-19 grants

The government has provided a number of financial support packages in response to the Covid-19 pandemic including additional funding to support the cost of services or offset income loss. As the council has some administrative control over the use or distribution of the grant funding, the transactions are reflected in the council's financial statements.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(1.1)	Community discharge grant (COVID)	0
(0.2)	Wellbeing for education return grant	0
(0.1)	National tutoring programme academic mentors	0
(6.0)	Recovery Premium funding	(7.7)
(4.0)	School-led tutoring grant	(1.5)
(0.4)	(COVID-19) mass testing funding for schools and colleges	0
(0.2)	Kickstart Scheme grant	0
(0.1)	Coronavirus (COVID 19) workforce fund	0
(12.1)	Total	(9.2)

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 9 - Dedicated schools grant

	Central expenditure	Individual schools' budget	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Final DSG for 2023/24 before academy recoupment			(1,214.8)
Academy figure recouped for 2023/24			268.3
Total DSG after academy recoupment for 2023/24			(946.6)
Brought forward from 2022/23			(25.8)
Carry forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			25.8
Agreed initial budgeted distribution for 2023/24	(153.6)	(793.0)	(946.6)
In-year adjustments	0	(2.0)	(2.0)
Final budget distribution for 2023/24	(153.6)	(795.0)	(948.6)
Actual central expenditure relating to DSG	168.5		168.5
Actual ISB deployed to schools		789.5	789.5
Local authority contribution for 2023/24	(2.0)	0	(2.0)
In-year carry forward to 2024/25	12.9	(5.5)	7.4
Carry forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			(25.8)
Carry forward to 2024/25			(18.4)

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2017. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

The table details how the DSG has been utilised.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 10 - Officers' remuneration

The remuneration of senior employees, defined as those holding statutory posts or those reporting directly to the Head of Paid Service is set out below.

2023/24

Post holder	Notes	Salary, fees and allowances	Benefits in kind	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£
Chief Executive - A Ridgwell	1	236,637	-	-	236,637
Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing - L Taylor	2	174,798	-	27,628	202,426
Executive Director for Education and Children's Services - J Old		173,423	-	27,404	200,827
Executive Director of Resources (S151) - M Wynn		168,475	-	25,531	194,006
Executive Director of Growth, Environment and Transport		149,288	-	23,470	172,758
Director of Public Health		139,854	-	18,867	158,721
Director of Law and Governance		108,057	-	16,749	124,806
Director of Investment – M Jensen		166,542	-	26,282	192,824

Notes

1 There are no pension contributions due to pension scheme opt out.

2 From December 2022, the post of Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing became shared director of both Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (LSC ICB) and Lancashire County Council's Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing. The LSC ICB are paying 80% of the costs.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

2022/23 restated

Post holder	Notes	Salary, fees and allowances	Benefits in kind	Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£
Chief Executive (S151) - A Ridgwell	1	227,845	0	0	227,845
Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing - L Taylor	2	154,505	0	24,698	179,203
Executive Director of Education and Children's Services - E Grant	3	98,141	0	0	98,141
Executive Director of Education and Children's Services - J Old	3	83,572	0	13,757	97,329
Executive Director of Resources	4	0	0	0	0
Executive Director of Growth, Environment and Transport		139,137	0	22,752	161,889
Director of Finance	5	30,050	2,273	5,109	37,432
Director of Strategy and Performance	6	36,360	3,424	6,181	45,965
Director of Corporate Services		111,956	7,992	18,255	138,203
Director of Public Health		134,828	0	18,626	153,454
Head of Service Communications	7	20,694	0	3,518	24,212
Director of Investment – M Jensen	8	161,516	0	26,557	188,073

Notes

1 The Chief Executive (S151) held the post of Chief Executive and Director of Resources until a new Interim Executive Director of Resources was appointed on 14 July 2022.

2 From December 2022, the post of Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing became shared director of both Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (LSC ICB) and Lancashire County Council's Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing. The LSC ICB are paying 80% of the costs.

3 The Executive Director for Education and Children's Services, Edwina Grant OBE left the council on 4 October 2022 and was replaced by Jacqui Old CBE who commenced in the role on 1 October 2022.

4 The Executive Director of Resources was seconded from Cheshire West and Chester Council to the council on 8 November 2022 and became permanent on 1 April 2023. The council paid £55,766 to Cheshire West and Chester Council for the secondment. Additional cover was undertaken from 14 July 2022 until 28 February 2023. The council paid £142,643 to Tile Hill Interim & Executive Limited for this service.

5 The Director of Finance reported to the Chief Executive (S151) until 13 July 2022 and therefore only the remuneration until that date is shown in the table.

6 The Director of Strategy and Performance reported to the Chief Executive (S151) until 13 July 2022 and therefore only the remuneration until that date is shown in the table.

7 The Head of Communications reported to the Chief Executive (S151) until 13 July 2022 and therefore only the remuneration until that date is shown in the table.

8 Newly included.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

The number of other employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions, exceeded £50,000 during the year is set out in the following table.

Remuneration Banding £	2023/24				2022/23 restated			
	LCC non-schools staff ¹	Schools ²	Total	Redundancies	LCC non-schools staff ¹	Schools ²	Total	Redundancies
50,000 to 54,999	361	675	1,036	0	310	526	836	1
55,000 to 59,999	160	340	500	0	74	311	385	1
60,000 to 64,999	50	243	293	0	47	223	270	0
65,000 to 69,999	51	177	228	0	36	150	186	0
70,000 to 74,999	31	117	148	0	25	104	129	0
75,000 to 79,999	16	57	73	0	25	48	73	1
80,000 to 84,999	19	46	65	0	6	26	32	0
85,000 to 89,999	2	19	21	0	1	23	24	0
90,000 to 94,999	1	15	16	0	0	5	5	0
95,000 to 99,999	2	14	16	0	2	13	15	0
100,000 to 104,999	2	11	13	0	1	4	5	0
105,000 to 109,999	2	4	6	0	3	3	6	0
110,000 to 114,999	2	2	4	0	2	3	5	0
115,000 to 119,999	3	2	5	0	0	1	1	0
120,000 to 124,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
125,000 to 129,999	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
135,000 to 139,999	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
145,000 to 149,999	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	704	1,723	2,427	0	533	1,440	1,973	3

¹ This table excludes staff in senior officer positions. If officers have held senior positions during the period, this element of their remuneration will be included in the Senior Officers note.

² School leadership salaries are regulated by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions document. As Governing Bodies of maintained schools are responsible for appointing leadership staff and for annual performance related pay increases information at an authority level is unavailable.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Exit packages

Banding (£)	No. compulsory redundancies		No. other agreed departures		Total number		Total cost £000 *	
	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
0 to 20,000	3	32	101	232	104	264	915	1,230
20,001 to 40,000	0	4	5	13	5	17	121	428
40,001 to 60,000	0	7	1	1	1	8	42	372
60,001 to 150,000	0	1	1	0	1	1	135	74
Total	3	44	108	246	111	290	1,213	2,104

* In some cases, this reflects an estimate as at 31 March and may not be the actual amount paid.

When a council employee's contract is terminated, there are a number of costs that the council can incur. The total cost in this table includes;

- **Enhanced pension benefits**
This is a payment to compensate the pension fund for both the employer and employee contributions that will not be received due to the early payment of benefits. It occurs where the employee is able to immediately receive any benefits they have built up on the pension fund. The payment is calculated by an independent actuary and is not made to the individual.
- **Redundancy payments**
These are received by the employee and are calculated in line with the relevant policies agreed by the council.

During the year the council terminated the contracts of a number of employees, incurring liabilities of £1.2 million (2022/23: £2.1 million). Of the £1.2 million, £0.2 million is enhanced pension benefits and £1.0 million is payable to the employees. The table shows the number of exit packages and total cost to the council per band.

Notes supporting the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

Note 11 - Members' allowances

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
1,439.9	Allowances payable to Members	1,702.8
49.1	Expenses payable to Members	34.6
1,489.0	Total	1,737.4

Note 12 - Fees payable to auditors

The council incurred the following fees relating to external audit.

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
103.1	Fees incurred with regard to external audit services provided by Grant Thornton	331.5
8.5	Fees incurred for certification work undertaken by Grant Thornton	12.5
10.0	Fees payable in respect of other services provided by Grant Thornton	10.0
53.0	Fees payable in respect of additional prior year statutory audit work	184.9
174.6	Total	538.9

Notes supporting the movement in reserves statement

Note 13 - Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments made to the comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the council in the year, in accordance with proper accounting practice, to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. Further information is provided in Note 30, which details the movements in reserves.

Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations - 2023/24

	Usable reserves				Unusable reserves
	General fund balance	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adjustments to the revenue resources					
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pensions costs (transferred to or from the pensions reserve)	34.4			34.4	(34.4)
Financial instruments (transferred to the financial instruments adjustments account)	2.8			2.8	(2.8)
Council tax and NDR (transferred to or from the collection fund)	(2.5)			(2.5)	2.5
Holiday pay (transferred to the accumulated absences adjustment account)	14.2			14.2	(14.2)
Reversal of entries included in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in relation to capital expenditure (funded by application of capital grants unapplied from previous years)	(89.4)		46.2	(43.2)	43.2
Total adjustments to revenue resources	(40.5)	0.0	46.2	5.7	(5.7)
Adjustments between revenue and capital resources					
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	8.3	(8.3)		0.0	0.0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	39.3			39.3	(39.3)
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new revenue expenditure	(5.0)	5.0		0.0	0.0
Total adjustments between revenue and capital resources	42.6	(3.3)	0.0	39.3	(39.3)
Adjustments to capital resources					
Capital grants received not used in year	78.1		(78.1)	0.0	0.0
Total adjustments to capital resources	78.1	0.0	(78.1)	0.0	0.0
Total adjustments	80.2	(3.3)	(31.9)	45.0	(45.0)

Notes supporting the movement in reserves statement

Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations - 2022/23

	Usable reserves				Unusable reserves
	General fund balance	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adjustments to the revenue resources					
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:					
Pensions costs (transferred to or from the pensions reserve)	(96.0)	0	0	(96.0)	96.0
Financial instruments (transferred to the financial instruments adjustments account)	3.1	0	0	3.1	(3.1)
Council tax and NDR (transferred to or from the collection fund)	0.7	0	0	0.7	(0.7)
Holiday pay (transferred to the accumulated absences adjustment account)	4.0	0	0	4.0	(4.0)
Reversal of entries included in the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in relation to capital expenditure (charged to the capital adjustment account)	(129.0)	0	37.0	(92.0)	92.0
Total adjustments to revenue resources	(217.2)	0	37.0	(180.2)	180.2
Adjustments between revenue and capital resources					
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	16.8	(16.8)	0	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	34.0	0	0	34.0	(34.0)
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new revenue expenditure	(6.0)	6.0	0	0	0
Total adjustments between revenue and capital resources	44.8	(10.8)	0	34.0	(34.0)
Adjustments to capital resources					
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	62.0	0	(62.0)	0	0
Total adjustments to capital resources	62.0	0	(62.0)	0	0
Total adjustments	(110.4)	(10.8)	(25.0)	(146.2)	146.2

Notes supporting the movement in reserves statement

Note 14 - Transfers to and from earmarked reserves

	Balance at 31 March 2022	Transfers out 2022/23	Transfers in 2022/23	Balance at 31 March 2023	Transfers out 2023/24	Transfers in 2023/24	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General fund	(23.4)	0.0	0.0	(23.4)	0.0	0.0	(23.4)
Reserves held to deliver corporate priorities							
Strategic investment reserve	(4.2)	3.7	0.0	(0.5)	0.1	0.0	(0.4)
Reserves held to deliver organisational change							
Downsizing reserve	(5.5)	0.1	0.0	(5.4)	1.4	0.0	(4.0)
Risk management reserve	(4.4)	1.2	(0.1)	(3.3)	0.4	0.0	(2.9)
Transitional reserve	(215.7)	63.2	(14.2)	(166.7)	23.8	(38.2)	(181.1)
School reserves							
Individual school reserves	(95.4)	27.6	(8.4)	(76.2)	16.0	(9.6)	(69.8)
Other school reserves	(31.6)	2.2	(3.2)	(32.6)	10.3	(5.7)	(28.0)
Centrally managed schools maintenance reserve	(5.2)	5.2	(9.5)	(9.5)	9.5	(8.4)	(8.4)
Reserves held to meet service priorities							
Treasury management reserve	(36.3)	0.0	0.0	(36.3)	15.7	0.0	(20.6)
Business rates volatility	(5.0)	0.0	0.0	(5.0)	0.0	0.0	(5.0)
Directorate reserves	(135.2)	35.4	(57.8)	(157.6)	47.3	(30.1)	(140.4)
Election reserve	(1.3)	0.0	(0.4)	(1.7)	0.1	(0.4)	(2.0)
Total earmarked reserves	(563.2)	138.6	(93.6)	(518.2)	124.6	(92.4)	(486.0)

Notes supporting the movement in reserves statement

Reserves held to deliver corporate priorities

Strategic investment reserve

This reserve is held to support investment in areas such as economic development and also supports delivery of priorities within the corporate strategy.

Reserves held to deliver organisational change

Downsizing reserve

This reserve is set aside to support the council as it continues to deliver its agreed savings and develops its strategy to reduce costs over the next four years.

Risk management reserve

This reserve is intended to help the council manage risks to funding and service delivery going forward.

Transitional reserve

This reserve is primarily in place to support forecast funding shortfalls in future year budgets as outlined in the medium term financial strategy. The reserve also contains funding to support service transformation as agreed by Cabinet.

Schools' reserves

Under the Education Reform Act, schools are given most of their budgets to control. If a school does not spend its entire budget, the council holds it as a reserve for them to use in the future. This reserve cannot be used for any other purpose.

Reserves held to meet service priorities

These earmarked reserves consist of amounts carried forward for specifically agreed projects within departments. Some of these reserves are not only the funds of the county council and could relate to partners.

Note 15 - Capital expenditure and capital financing

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1,142.2	Opening capital financing requirement	1,154.0
	Capital investment	
103.3	Property, plant and equipment	117.6
12.0	Intangible assets	1.5
23.3	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	34.8
138.6	Total capital investment	153.9
	Sources of finance	
0	Capital receipts	0
(88.9)	Government grants and other contributions	(122.7)
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
(3.9)	Direct revenue contributions	(4.7)
(6.8)	Write down of PFI liability	(7.6)
(27.2)	Minimum revenue provision (MRP) for debt repayment	(31.7)
1,154.0	Closing capital financing requirement	1,141.2
	Explanation of movement in year	
18.6	Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	(5.3)
(6.8)	Write down of PFI liability	(7.6)
11.8	Total movement	(12.9)

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown together with the resources that have been used to finance it.

This statement incorporates details of the movements in the capital financing requirement. This is a measure of the capital expenditure historically incurred by the council to be financed in future years by charges to revenue.

Note 16 - Capital contractual commitments

At 31 March 2024, the council had not entered into any contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2024/25 or future years. (2022/23: £nil)

Note 17 - Property, plant and equipment

Movements in the property, plant and equipment valuations are detailed in the following tables:

	Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	Assets under construction	Surplus assets	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Carried at historical cost	0.8	73.8	1.4	0	76.0
Valued at current value as at:					
31 March 2024	2,130.8	0	0	22.3	2,153.1
31 March 2023	91.6	0	0	0	91.6
31 March 2022	23.2	0	0	3.1	26.3
31 March 2021	15.2	0	0	0	15.2
Total cost or valuation	2,261.6	73.8	1.4	25.4	2,286.2

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Property, plant and equipment - movements in 2023/24

	Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture, equipment	Assets under construction	Surplus assets	Total	PFI assets included in property
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2023	2,119.8	71.1	13.1	23.9	2,227.9	207.6
Additions	27.5	2.7	5.6	3.5	39.3	0.4
De-recognition – disposals	(59.5)	0	0	(1.6)	(61.1)	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	150.4	0	0	1.3	151.7	(7.5)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	4.9	0	0	(0.5)	4.4	7.9
Assets reclassified	18.5	0	(17.3)	(1.2)	0	0
At 31 March 2024	2,261.6	73.8	1.4	25.4	2,362.2	208.4
At 1 April 2023	(30.0)	(45.5)	0	(0.3)	(75.8)	(2.6)
Depreciation charge	(46.0)	(5.2)	0	(0.1)	(51.3)	(4.6)
Depreciation written out to revaluation reserve	62.7	0	0	0.2	62.9	3.3
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on provision of services	4.1	0	0	0	4.1	1.2
De-recognition	2.0	0	0	0	2.0	0
Reclassification	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2024	(7.2)	(50.7)	0	(0.2)	(58.1)	(2.7)
Net book value at 1 April 2023	2,089.8	25.6	13.1	23.6	2,152.1	205.0
Net book value at 31 March 2024	2,254.4	23.1	1.4	25.2	2,304.1	205.7

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Property, plant and equipment - movements in 2022/23

	Land and buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture, equipment	Assets under construction	Surplus assets	Total	PFI assets included in property
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2022	2,161.8	67.6	13.9	27.0	2,270.3	175.2
Additions	20.9	3.4	10.8	0.8	35.9	2.6
De-recognition – disposals	(146.0)	0	0	(7.3)	(153.3)	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the revaluation reserve	59.4	0	0	1.5	60.9	12.4
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	16.1	0	0	(2.0)	14.1	10.7
Assets reclassified	7.6	0.1	(11.6)	3.9	0	6.7
At 31 March 2023	2,119.8	71.1	13.1	23.9	2,227.9	207.6
At 1 April 2022	(98.1)	(38.9)	0	(0.3)	(137.3)	(2.5)
Depreciation charge	(45.7)	(6.6)	0	(0.2)	(52.5)	(4.1)
Depreciation written out to revaluation reserve	50.0	0	0	0.2	50.2	2.4
Depreciation written out to the surplus/deficit on provision of services	13.0	0	0	0	13.0	1.6
De-recognition	50.7	0	0	0.1	50.8	0
Reclassification	0.1	0	0	(0.1)	0	0
At 31 March 2023	(30.0)	(45.5)	0	(0.3)	(75.8)	(2.6)
Net book value at 1 April 2022	2,063.7	28.7	13.9	26.7	2,133.0	172.7
Net book value at 31 March 2023	2,089.8	25.6	13.1	23.6	2,152.1	205.0

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
1,136.7	Infrastructure assets	1,185.8
2,152.1	Other property, plant and equipment assets	2,304.2
3,288.8	Total property, plant and equipment assets	3,490.0

Infrastructure assets movements on balances

In accordance with the Temporary Relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
1,098.1	Net book value at 1 April	1,136.7
67.4	Additions	78.2
(28.8)	Depreciation	(29.1)
1,136.7	Net book value at 31 March	1,185.8

Note 18 - School assets

Schools included on the council's balance sheet

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Number of schools	Value of land and buildings		Number of schools	Value of land and buildings
	£m			£m
242	852.4	Community schools	234	863.8
10	134.5	Foundation schools	13	181.3
243	605.8	Voluntary aided schools	233	661.8
49	98.8	Voluntary controlled schools	49	111.0
544	1,691.5	Total	529	1,817.9
13	205.0	Schools subject to PFI contracts	13	205.7

The table shows the number and values associated with each type of school included within the council's balance sheet.

During the year 15 schools chose to take up academy status. These are detailed in Note 38.

The council has 13 schools subject to PFI contracts, the buildings for which are shown on the council's balance sheet together with the related liability.

Note 19 - Heritage assets

	Paintings and furniture	Other museum artefacts	Manuscripts and books	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost or valuation				
At 31 March 2024	3.0	11.1	14.6	28.7
At 31 March 2023	3.0	11.1	14.6	28.7

Heritage assets are those non-current assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture.

Paintings, furniture and other artefacts

The museum service contains around 140,000 items, which cover a variety of artefacts relevant to Lancashire's heritage including pictures, furniture, toys, medals and archaeological objects.

Manuscripts and books

Lancashire also holds a libraries special collection that consists of publications held for their historical and cultural importance.

Collections and their records can be accessed in a number of ways from virtual access to physical examination of items on display in exhibitions. For any items held in store, a mutually convenient appointment is needed to view them.

Note 20 - Long term debtors

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
12.0	Transferred Debt ¹	11.4
25.7	Finance Lease Debtor ²	24.5
37.7	Total	35.9

¹ Transferred debt is managed for other authorities as a result of various local government reorganisations, which is being repaid over time.

² Finance lease debtor is a long term debtor due to the council from Blackpool Council in respect of the new borrowing raised to pay off the PFI liability with Lancashire County Council as the lessor (Note 29).

Note 21 - Short term debtors and payments in advance

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
37.8	Council tax	39.7
0.7	Non-domestic rates	0.7
21.1	Other receivables	33.7
227.5	Trade receivables	335.2
(9.5)	Less impairment allowance	(11.0)
277.6	Total	398.3

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
27.1	Payments in advance	41.3
27.1	Total	41.3

Note 22 - Cash and cash equivalents

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
1.3	Cash held by the council	0.4
45.9	Bank current accounts	43.0
73.6	Short term deposits under 3 months	25.1
120.8	Total	68.5

Note 23 - Short term creditors and receipts in advance

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(241.8)	Trade payables	(246.7)
(41.5)	Council tax	(44.7)
(1.4)	Non-domestic rates	(0.3)
(54.5)	Other payables	(48.4)
(339.2)	Total	(340.1)

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(11.8)	Receipts in advance	(13.0)
(3.1)	Government grants receipts in advance (revenue)	(3.8)
(67.7)	Government grants receipts in advance (capital)	(75.4)
(82.6)	Total	(92.2)

Note 24 – Provisions

Funds are set aside to provide for specific expenses for which the exact cost and timing are still uncertain.

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Additional provision made	Spending met from the provision	Unused amounts reversed	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Insurance provision	(36.3)	(12.3)	5.6	0.3	(42.7)
MMI provision	(2.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(2.8)
Other long term provisions	(2.1)	(0.5)	0.0	0.0	(2.6)
Total long term provisions	(41.2)	(12.8)	5.6	0.3	(48.1)
Business rates appeals	(4.8)	(4.4)	0.0	4.8	(4.4)
Early retirement	0	(0.7)	0.0	0.0	(0.7)
Other short term provisions	(4.9)	(0.2)	0.0	0.3	(4.8)
Total short term provisions	(9.7)	(5.3)	0.0	5.1	(9.9)
Total provisions	(50.9)	(18.1)	5.6	5.4	(58.0)

Insurance provision

Funds are set aside to cover liability claims in respect of employer's liability, public liability or buildings insurance, which are below the insurance excess and the self-insured limits.

Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)

Provision in respect of MMI for costs due to be paid under the Scheme of Arrangement for managing the outstanding liabilities resulting from claims being made.

Business rates appeals

This provision accounts for the 9% share of the business rates appeals impact estimated by the 12 Lancashire Districts.

Early retirement provision

This provision is for future voluntary redundancy costs.

Other provisions

All other provisions are individually insignificant.

Note 25 - Financial instruments

A financial instrument is a contract, which creates a financial asset for one party and a financial liability for another party. Non-exchange transactions such as those relating to taxes and government grants do not give rise to financial instruments. The term covers both financial assets such as bank deposits, investments and loans by the council and amounts receivable and financial liabilities including amounts borrowed by the council and amounts payable. Financial instruments are classified based on the council's business model for holding the instrument and their cash flow characteristics.

Full disclosure notes in respect of financial instruments are provided in the technical annex.

The disclosures include:

- Gains and losses on financial instruments;
- Fair value of assets and liabilities;
- The nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments.

Financial assets

Financial assets should be classified and measured at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised in the profit and loss as they arise (FVPL), unless specific criteria are met for classifying and measuring the asset at either amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The financial assets at fair value through profit and loss relate to LOBO (lender, option, borrower, option) loan investments with other local authorities. Further information is included in the forward contract agreement section of the technical annex.

Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, and the council's business model is to collect those cash flows) comprising:

- Cash in hand;
- Bank current account;
- Loans to other local authorities;
- Loans to companies;
- Lease receivables, and
- Trade receivables for goods and services provided.

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Fair value through other comprehensive income (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, and the council's business model is to both collect those cash flows and sell the instrument; and equity investments that the council has elected into this category). These assets are measured and carried at fair value with gains and losses due to changes in fair value charged to the financial instruments revaluation reserve until the asset is disposed of and the gain or loss is charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

These assets comprise bonds issued by banks, building societies and the UK government.

Financial assets held at amortised cost are shown net of a loss allowance reflecting the statistical likelihood that the borrower or debtor will be unable to meet their contractual commitments to the council.

31 March 2023			Category	31 March 2024		
Long term	Short term	Total		Long term	Short term	Total
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
19.5	5.1	24.6	Amortised cost	9.2	10.2	19.4
394.0	49.7	443.7	Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	268.7	0.0	268.7
0	71.0	71.0	Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	0.0	72.0	72.0
413.5	125.8	539.3	Total investments	277.9	82.2	360.1
0	120.8	120.8	Cash and cash equivalents	0.0	68.5	68.5
25.7	199.9	225.6	Debtors #	24.5	314.4	338.9
439.2	446.5	885.7	Total financial assets	302.4	465.1	767.5
<i># The debtors figure stated is lower than the debtors shown on the balance sheet because it excludes the following amounts which do not meet the definition of a financial asset – payments in advance and non-exchange transactions</i>						
12.0	77.7	89.7	<i>Debtors which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument</i>	11.4	83.9	95.3
37.7	277.6	315.3	<i>Balance sheet total</i>	35.9	398.3	434.2

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Financial liabilities

The majority of the council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprise:

- Short term loans from other local authorities;
- Long term loans from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities;
- Private finance initiative contracts;
- Trade payables for goods and services received.

The financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss relate to the UK government bonds that the council is committed to purchase at a future date. Further information is included in the forward contract agreement section of the technical annex.

The financial liabilities disclosed in the balance sheet are analysed across the following categories:

31 March 2023			Category	31 March 2024		
Long term	Short term	Total		Long term	Short term	Total
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
(870.8)	(310.4)	(1,181.2)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(524.6)	(661.0)	(1,185.6)
0	(19.6)	(19.6)	Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	0	0
(1.3)	(277.9)	(279.2)	Creditors #	(1.3)	(272.0)	(273.3)
(118.6)	(7.6)	(126.2)	Other financial liabilities (PFI) at amortised cost	(110.3)	(8.2)	(118.5)
(990.7)	(615.5)	(1,606.2)	Total financial liabilities	(636.2)	(941.2)	(1,577.4)
<i># The creditors figure stated is lower than the creditors shown on the balance sheet because it excludes the following amounts which do not meet the definition of a financial liability – receipts in advance and non-exchange transactions</i>						
0	(61.3)	(61.3)	<i>Creditors which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument</i>	0	(68.1)	(68.1)
(1.3)	(339.2)	(340.5)	<i>Balance sheet total</i>	(1.3)	(340.1)	(341.4)

Note 26 – Other current liabilities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(7.6)	PFI Liability	(8.2)
(19.6)	Short positions in investments	0
(27.2)	Total	(8.2)

Note 27 – Other long term liabilities

31 March 2023 restated		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(110.0)	Pension liability ¹	(104.8)
(118.6)	PFI liability	(110.3)
(228.6)	Total ¹	(215.1)

¹ The figures have been adjusted in derecognising a pension asset

Note 28 - Private finance initiative (PFI)

The council has the following PFI contracts:

Fleetwood High School

The council signed a PFI contract with Fleetwood PPP Limited in 2001 to build and service a new single site school. The arrangement runs from September 2002 to August 2027.

Building schools for the future (BSF)

As part of wave 1 of the BSF scheme, secondary schools in Burnley and part of Pendle have been rebuilt in four separate phases under contract with Catalyst Education (Lancashire) Limited. Each delivers a school building (or a number of school buildings) and the provision of on-going services including grounds maintenance, caretaking and building maintenance.

The contractor took on the obligations to construct the schools and to maintain them in a minimum acceptable condition. At the end of the contract period, the buildings will revert to the council for nil consideration. The significant risks that the council is exposed to under these PFI schemes are changes in inflation and changes in demand for the services. There is provision within the agreements for the termination of the contracts, under certain conditions, either by the council or by the contractor. This may be in the form of voluntary termination by the council, termination by the contractor on council default, or termination by the council on contractor default.

Compensation payments are payable upon termination and the calculation of these is determined in the contracts.

For each contract, the council makes an agreed payment each year, which is increased by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet the agreed availability and performance standards in any year but is otherwise fixed. An estimate of 3.52% is made for future inflation within the model.

Each school is made available for use in the following priority order:

- (i) provision of education services;
- (ii) community use, and
- (iii) third party use.

The contractor may enter into arrangements for third party use, subject to satisfying criteria laid out in the contract, and may be entitled to charge for such use. An income sharing arrangement is in place regarding any income received for third party use.

The assets used to provide services at the schools are recognised on the council's balance sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the property, plant and equipment balance in Note 17.

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Fleetwood High School

	Payment for services	Repayment of liability	Interest charges	Total payments due
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Payment in 2024/25	0.3	1.0	0.8	2.1
Payment within 2 to 5 years	1.5	2.2	1.5	5.2
Total	1.8	3.2	2.3	7.3

The tables show payments due to be made under the PFI contracts. The payments can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability or performance standards.

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

Building schools for the future (BSF)

	Payment for services	Repayment of liability	Interest charges	Total payments due
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Payment in 2024/25	15.3	7.2	11.7	34.2
Payment within 2 to 5 years	68.6	35.2	39.9	143.7
Payment within 6 to 10 years	90.4	62.0	35.4	187.8
Payment within 11 to 15 years	9.4	11.0	4.6	25.0
Total	183.7	115.4	91.6	390.7

Outstanding PFI liability

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(133.0)	Balance outstanding at start of year	(126.2)
6.8	Payments during the year	7.7
(126.2)	Balance outstanding at year end	(118.5)

Note 29 - Leases

Council as lessor – finance leases

Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments)

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
1.2	Current	1.2
25.7	Non-current	24.5
10.2	Unearned finance income	9.1
37.1	Gross investment in the finance lease	34.9

Lancashire County Council has recognised a finance lease debtor for the borrowing raised on behalf of Blackpool Council to settle the PFI liability in respect of the waste PFI scheme. The assets underpinning the finance lease are the land and buildings comprising the waste plants.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Gross investment	Minimum lease payments		Gross investment	Minimum lease payments
£m	£m		£m	£m
2.2	1.2	Not later than one year	2.2	1.2
9.0	5.3	Later than one year and not later than 5 years	9.0	5.5
25.9	20.4	Later than 5 years	23.7	19.0
37.1	26.9	Total	34.9	25.7

The council has a gross investment in the lease, made up of minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee, and finance income earned by the council whilst the debtor remains outstanding.

Note 30 - Reserves

Usable reserves

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(23.4)	General fund	(23.4)
(386.0)	Earmarked reserves	(364.8)
(108.8)	School reserves	(97.8)
(518.2)	Total earmarked reserves	(486.0)
(165.3)	Capital grants unapplied reserve	(197.2)
(21.1)	Capital receipts reserve	(24.3)
(704.6)	Total usable reserves	(707.5)

Unusable reserves

31 March 2023 restated		31 March 2024
£m		£m
38.2	Financial instruments adjustment account	35.3
283.9	Financial instruments revaluation reserve	313.3
(1,104.7)	Revaluation reserve	(1,260.0)
(1,083.2)	Capital adjustment account	(1,138.6)
110.0	Pensions reserve ¹	197.6
(1.4)	Collection fund adjustment account	1.1
24.4	Accumulated absences adjustment account	10.3
(1,732.8)	Total ¹	(1,841.0)

¹ Derecognition of pension asset in 2022/23 with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves.

Financial instruments adjustment account

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
41.3	Balance at 1 April	38.2
(3.1)	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against general fund balance	(2.9)
38.2	Balance at 31 March	35.3

The financial instruments adjustment account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

Financial instruments revaluation reserve

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
101.7	Balance at 1 April	283.9
(0.4)	Amounts recycled to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(1.1)
182.6	Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	30.5
283.9	Balance at 31 March	313.3

The financial instruments revaluation reserve contains the gains or losses arising from changes in the value of investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Notes supporting the balance sheet

Revaluation reserve

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(1,075.4)	Balance at 1 April	(1,104.7)
(206.4)	Upward revaluation of assets	(253.7)
95.3	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	39.1
(111.1)	(Surplus) or deficit on the revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(214.6)
23.7	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	24.5
58.1	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	34.8
81.8	Amount written off to the capital adjustment account	59.3
(1,104.7)	Balance at 31 March	(1,260.0)

The revaluation reserve contains the gains made by the council arising from increases in the value of its property, plant and equipment and intangible assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

The revaluation reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the capital adjustment account.

Capital adjustment account

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(1,059.5)	Balance at 1 April	(1,083.2)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	
81.3	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	80.4
(27.1)	Revaluation losses/(gains) on property, plant and equipment including assets held for sale	(8.5)
4.9	Amortisation of intangible assets	4.2
23.3	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	34.8
102.5	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	59.3
(6.8)	Write down of PFI liability	(7.7)
(81.8)	Adjusting amount written out of the revaluation reserve	(59.3)
(963.2)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(980.0)
	Capital financing applied in the year	
(63.9)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(90.3)
(25.0)	Application of capital grants to capital financing from the capital grants unapplied account	(31.9)
0	Application of capital receipts to capital financing from the capital receipts reserve	0
(27.2)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the general fund	(31.7)
(3.9)	Capital expenditure charged against the general fund	(4.7)
(120.0)		(158.6)
(1,083.2)	Balance at 31 March	(1,138.6)

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 council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction or enhancement.

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on property, plant and equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains.

Pensions reserve

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
1,149.9	Balance at 1 April	110.0
(1,135.9)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset) ¹	122.0
183.2	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the surplus on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	59.2
(87.2)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(93.6)
110.0	Balance at 31 March ¹	197.6

¹ Derecognition of pension asset in 2022/23 with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves.

The pensions reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The council accounts for post-employment benefits in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed, as the council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pay any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

The debit balance on the pensions reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

Accumulated absences adjustment account

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
28.4	Balance at 1 April	24.4
(28.4)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(24.4)
24.4	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	10.3
(4.0)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(14.1)
24.4	Balance at 31 March	10.3

The accumulated absences adjustment account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the general fund balance from accruing for annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the general fund balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

Note 31 - Cash flows from operating activities

The net surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement has been subject to the following adjustments in order to arrive at the net cash flows from operating activities:

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(39.6)	Interest received	(29.6)
43.6	Interest paid	55.6

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

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
81.3	Depreciation	80.4
(27.1)	Impairment and downward/(upward) valuations	(8.4)
4.9	Amortisation of intangible assets	4.2
(11.2)	Increase/(decrease) in impairment for bad debts	(9.5)
123.5	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	27.4
(99.9)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(127.6)
0.3	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(0.6)
137.8	Movement in pension liability	(176.0)
102.5	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	59.3
(14.3)	Other non-cash items charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	4.1
297.8	Total	(146.7)

Notes supporting the cash flow statement

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

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
(0.1)	Proceeds from short term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries) ¹	0.4
(16.8)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(8.3)
(113.9)	Capital grants credited to the surplus on the provision of services	(154.0)
(130.8)	Total ¹	(161.9)

¹ Re-categorisation of cash and cash equivalent in 2022/23.

Note 32 - Cash flows from investing activities

2022/23 restated		2023/24
£m		£m
(115.3)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(119.1)
(271.8)	Purchase of short term and long term investments ¹	(171.9)
16.8	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	8.3
253.6	Proceeds from the sale of short term and long term investments ¹	326.8
115.9	Other capital grants and receipts from investing activities	170.0
0.8	Net cash flows from investing activities ¹	214.1

¹ Re-categorisation of cash and cash equivalent in 2022/23.

Notes supporting the cash flow statement

Note 33 - Cash flows from financing activities

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1,036.6	Cash receipts from short term and long term borrowing	1,144.9
(0.6)	Appropriate to/from Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2.5
(1,065.2)	Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(1,146.6)
(18.2)	Other payments for financing activities	1.2
(6.8)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance sheet PFI contracts	(7.7)
(54.2)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(5.7)

Note 34 - Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

	1 April 2023	Financing cash flows		Non-cash changes	31 March 2024
		Acquisitions	Repayments		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Long term borrowing	870.8	340.5	-325.2	-361.5	524.6
Short term borrowing *	310.4	804.4	-821.4	367.5	660.9
PFI liabilities *	126.2	0.0	-7.7	0.0	118.5
Total	1,307.4	1,144.9	-1,154.3	6.00	1,304.0

	1 April 2022	Financing cash flows		Non-cash changes	31 March 2023
		Acquisitions	Repayments		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Long term borrowing	881.0	197.6	(199.5)	(8.3)	870.8
Short term borrowing *	325.1	839.0	(865.7)	12.0	310.4
PFI liabilities *	133.0	0	(6.8)	0	126.2
Total	1,339.1	1,036.6	(1,072.0)	3.7	1,307.4

* The short term element of PFI liabilities is shown within PFI liabilities rather than short term borrowing.

Note 35 - Related party transactions

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

Central government

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the council, as it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties (e.g. council tax). Grant income from government departments is shown in Note 8.

Other public bodies (subject to common control by central government)

The council's material transactions with other public bodies relate primarily to precepts received from other local councils, the summary of which is shown in Note 7 - Taxation and Non Specific Grants.

The council is the host to pooled budget arrangements with several Clinical Commissioning Groups, for the Better Care Fund and for Learning Disabilities. Transactions and balances for both funds are detailed in Note 36.

Chief officers

Officers are appointed by the council to boards or committees of various organisations to act on behalf of the council in their official capacities. All officers are required to declare any relevant interests and those of their family members.

For 2023/24 there were related party transactions totalling £70,627,299 with the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board (LSCICB), in which chief officers have declared an interest.

Members

Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. Members are also appointed by the council to boards or committees of various organisations to act on behalf of the council in their official capacities. The total of Members' allowances paid is shown in Note 11. Details of Members' interests are recorded in a formal Register of Interest, which is open to public inspection.

For 2023/24 there were related party transactions totalling £1,232,677 to 25 organisations, in which Members have declared interests. Whilst these transactions are not material in amount for the county council, they are potentially material for the related parties.

Nature of Relationship	Number of companies/entities	£
Member of management	2	545,359
Other	2	304,011
Chair/Vice Chair/Trustee	13	285,325
Director	4	63,273
Chief Operating Officer	1	30,106
Governor	1	3,623
Honorary Patron	1	700
President	1	280

Lancashire County Pension Fund

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
8.2	Payments made during the year to Lancashire County Pension Fund	0.9
(1.0)	Income received during the year from Lancashire County Pension Fund	(1.1)
0.8	Amounts owed at the year end from Lancashire County Pension Fund	1.0
(10.5)	Amounts owed at the year end to Lancashire County Pension Fund	0

The Lancashire County Pension Fund is administered by Lancashire County Council.

The council incurred costs of £1.1 million in relation to the administration of the fund. This includes a proportion of relevant officers' salaries in respect of time allocated to pension and investment issues. The council was subsequently reimbursed by the fund for these expenses.

The council is also the single largest employer of the pension fund members and contributed £209.1 million to the fund in 2023/24.

Of the £209.1m the council made an early payment of contributions for the 3-year period starting 1st April 2023 totalling £140.7m, of which, £46.9m relates to 2023/24.

Part of the pension fund cash holdings are invested on the money markets by the treasury management operations of Lancashire County Council.

The council's Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation and sign off of the Lancashire County Pension Fund accounts. For this service, the pension fund is recharged an element (2%) of the Chief Executive's salary.

Other notes to the financial statements

Cheshire West and Chester Council

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.1	Payments made during the year to Cheshire West and Chester Council	0

The council paid Cheshire West and Chester Council for the provision of key management personnel.

Tile Hill Interim and Executive Limited

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.1	Payments made during the year to Tile Hill Interim and Executive Limited	0

The council paid Tile Hill Interim and Executive Limited for the provision of key management personnel.

Penna plc

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.0	Payments made during the year to Penna PLC	0.7

The council paid Penna plc for the provision of key management personnel.

Other notes to the financial statements

Interests in companies and other entities

Lancashire County Council conducts activities through a variety of undertakings, either through ultimate control of or in partnership with other organisations. The interests are detailed in the table below:

Company	Interest	Relationship
Lancashire County Developments Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Lancashire Renewables Limited	87.5%	Subsidiary
Marketing Lancashire Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited	33%	Joint venture (Dormant company)
Active Lancashire Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Local Pensions Partnership Limited	50%	Joint venture
Lancashire Partnership Against Crime Limited	25%	Associate
Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited	25%	Associate
Lancashire UDF Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Lancashire UDF - SPV2 Limited	100%	Subsidiary

Inclusion in the Lancashire County Council Group is dependent upon the extent of the council's interest and control, joint control or significant influence over the entity. Where the value of the interest is considered immaterial, the company is not consolidated in the group accounts.

The transactions of Lancashire County Developments Limited are included within the council's group accounts.

Details of transactions with the companies are shown in the following tables.

Other notes to the financial statements

Lancashire Renewables Limited

Lancashire Renewables Limited is a subsidiary of Lancashire County Council and manages the two strategic waste management facilities at Leyland and Thornton.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
30.7	Payments made during the year to Lancashire Renewables Limited	36.6
(7.8)	Income received during the year from Lancashire Renewables Limited	(4.7)
0.3	Amounts owed at the year end from Lancashire Renewables Limited	(1.3)
(1.2)	Amounts owed at the year end to Lancashire Renewables Limited	1.1
0.3	Payments made in advance to Lancashire Renewables Limited	0

Marketing Lancashire Limited

Marketing Lancashire Limited is a destination management organisation for Lancashire. Its aims include growing the visitor economy and developing the destination as a place to visit, work and invest in.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.6	Payments made during the year to Marketing Lancashire Limited	0.7

Active Lancashire Limited

Active Lancashire Limited is a county sport partnership and charity operating in the Lancashire and South Cumbria public health regions.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.1	Payments made during the year to Active Lancashire Limited	0.1

Other notes to the financial statements

Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited

Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited is a partnership between SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside and Community Futures. The Fund distributes grants support to community and environmental projects in Lancashire.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.1	Payments made during the year to Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited	0.1

Local Pensions Partnership Limited

Lancashire County Council entered into a joint venture with the London Pensions Fund Authority for the pooling of the executive functions of the two organisations together with the investment assets of the two funds. Lancashire Pensions Partnership operates the two pension funds under legal agreements with the administering authorities in line with the strategies and policies agreed by the relevant governing bodies. In the case of the Lancashire County Pension Fund, the Pension Fund Committee.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.2	Payments made during the year to Local Pensions Partnership Limited	0.2

Other notes to the financial statements

Lancashire County Developments Limited

Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) is an economic development agency for the County. It is classed as a subsidiary of the county council.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.7	Payments made during the year to LCDL	0.7
(3.9)	Income received during the year from LCDL	(4.3)
2.1	Amounts owed at the year end from LCDL	0.3
(0.2)	Amounts owed at the year end to LCDL	(0.1)

Note 36 - Pooled budgets

Better care fund

2022/23		2023/24
£m	Funding provided to the pooled budget	£m
(16.7)	Lancashire County Council (Disabled facilities grant)	(18.2)
(33.0)	NHS East Lancashire CCG	0
(17.0)	NHS Greater Preston CCG	0
(14.9)	NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG	0
(16.3)	NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG	0
(12.3)	NHS Morecambe Bay CCG	0
(9.5)	NHS West Lancashire CCG	0
0	NHS Integrated Care Board	(117.7)
(119.7)	Total	(135.9)
	Expenditure met from the pooled budget	
20.0	Lancashire County Council (Social care)	44.1
26.7	NHS East Lancashire CCG	0
13.7	NHS Greater Preston CCG	0
12.4	NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG	0
12.8	NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG	0
9.9	NHS Morecambe Bay CCG	0
7.5	NHS West Lancashire CCG	0
0	NHS Integrated Care Board	73.6
16.7	Lancashire County Council (Disabled facilities grant)	18.2
119.7	Total	135.9
0	Net surplus/(deficit) arising on the pooled budget during the year	0

Highlighted as a key element of public service reform, the better care fund (BCF) has a primary aim to drive closer integration and improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers. The fund is a partnership arrangement whereby integrated care system and the council contribute an agreed level of resource into a single pooled budget that is then used to commission or deliver health and social care services.

The BCF plan sets out the council and its partners' vision to deliver an integrated health and social care system to reduce the demand on acute hospital and care home provision in favour of sustainable integrated neighbourhood health and social care. The regulations require that one of the partners is nominated as the host of the pooled budget and this body is then responsible for the budget's overall accounts and audit. It has been agreed that Lancashire County Council will act as the host for the BCF agreement in Lancashire.

Other notes to the financial statements

Pooled budget for learning disabilities

2022/23		2023/24
£m	Funding provided to the pooled budget	£m
(113.7)	Lancashire County Council	(113.7)
(9.3)	NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board	(9.3)
(0.5)	Other	(0.3)
(123.5)	Total	(123.3)
	Expenditure met from the pooled budget	
152.8	Lancashire County Council	167.1
12.6	NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board	13.7
165.4	Total	180.8
41.9	Net (surplus)/deficit arising on the pooled budget during the year	57.5
38.6	Council share of the net (surplus)/deficit	53.1

The council is the host partner of the pooled funds in respect of learning disability services and the better care fund. The arrangements are made in accordance with Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and allows budgets to be pooled between authorities and health and social care organisations.

The council has a pooled budget arrangement with the Lancashire integrated care system for the provision of support for people with learning disabilities. Any surplus or deficit is shared between the partners to the pool. The pooled budget is hosted by Lancashire County Council on behalf of the partners in line with the agreement.

ICs are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and pay for health and care services to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area.

Each integrated care system has two statutory elements, an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Note 37 – Agency services

Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership

The council acts as accountable body for the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and processes transactions through its financial ledger using the council's procedures and processes as set out in the LEP assurance framework. The LEP is a collaboration of leaders from local businesses, universities and local councils, who direct economic growth and drive job creation. The council has no entitlement to retain any funds or interest generated from funds or to direct the use of these funds.

Where the council is merely an agent for the expenditure, these transactions are not reflected within the council's accounts. However, where the council is the project sponsor for a scheme then expenditure incurred will be recognised within the council's financial statements.

Income

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(44.1)	City deal *	(28.4)
0	Getting building fund	0
(1.1)	LEP core activity funding	(0.4)
(1.6)	LEP additional projects	(2.7)
(0.3)	Growth hub	(0.3)
(47.1)	Total income	(31.8)

* The City deal total includes contributions of £3.8 million from Lancashire County Council in 2023/24. (2022/23: £3.8 million)

Expenditure

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1.1	Growth deal	2.2
44.1	City deal	28.4
13.7	Get building fund	6.6
0.9	LEP core activity funding	1.5
1.6	LEP additional projects	3.2
0.3	Growth hub	0.3
61.7	Total expenditure	42.2

In 2023/24, expenditure totalling £24.3 million was spent on LCC schemes. (2022/23: £43.7 million)

Growing places

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1.8	Payments out	2.7
(2.2)	Repayments	(1.3)
(0.1)	Loan interest	(0.2)
(0.5)	Total	1.2

Reserves

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(44.4)	Balance at 1 April	(30.4)
(47.1)	Income	(31.8)
61.7	Expenditure	42.2
(0.5)	Growing places	1.2
(0.1)	Employment liabilities	0
0	Transfer of reserves	1.7
(30.4)	Balance at 31 March	(17.1)

Note 38 – Significant items of income and expense

Transfers to academy status

When a maintained school converts to academy status, the school's buildings held on the council's balance sheet are treated as a disposal. The carrying value of the asset is written off to financing and investment income and expenditure in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account.

During the year, 15 schools transferred to academy status. The value of the disposals totalled £52.2 million.

School	Value
	£m
Knuzden St Oswalds CE PS	2.5
St John Southworth RC PS Nelson	2.0
Appley Bridge All Saints CE PS	1.9
Longridge High School Maths and Computing College	9.1
Skelm Bishop Martin CE PS	2.5
Holy Trinity RC PS Brierfield	1.6
Accrington St Annes and St Josephs RC PS	2.2
Wellfield Business and Enterprise College	4.6
St Mary's RC PS Burnley	2.7
Upholland HS Specialist Music Maths and Computer College	9.6
Christ The King Catholic Maths and Computing College	5.7
Longridge Barnacre Road PS	2.6
Hesketh With Becconsall All Saints CE PS	1.9
St Josephs Catholic PS Barnoldswick	1.5
Gillibrand PS	1.8
Total	52.2

Note 39 – Events after the reporting period

The statement of accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Executive on 31 May 2024. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

Transfers to academy status

Balshaw Lane Community Primary School converted to academy status on 1 April 2024. Wheatley Lane Methodist Voluntary Aided Primary School converted to academy status on 1 April 2024. St William's Catholic Primary School, Pilling converted to academy status on 1 April 2024. Leyland Methodist Junior School converted to academy status on 1 April 2024. Leyland Methodist Infant School converted to academy status on 1 April 2024. Their values included in the balance sheet at 31 March 2024 are shown below.

School	Value
	£m
Balshaw Lane Community Primary School	5.1
Wheatley Lane Methodist Voluntary Aided Primary School	1.6
St William's Catholic Primary School, Pilling	1.4
Leyland Methodist Junior School	2.6
Leyland Methodist Infant School	2.3
Total	13.0

Note 40 – Significant accounting policies

General principles

Basis of preparation

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the county council to prepare an annual statement of accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices, mainly the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis, under the assumption that the county council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future. The accounting convention adopted is principally historical cost modified for the valuation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

Events after the reporting period

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the statement of accounts is authorised for issue.

Where an event occurring after the balance sheet date provides evidence of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date, the amounts recognised in the statement of accounts are adjusted.

Where an event that occurs after the balance sheet date is indicative of conditions that arose after the balance sheet date, the amounts recognised in the statement of accounts are not adjusted, but where this would have a material effect, it is disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the statement of accounts.

Group accounts

The county council has a material interest in a subsidiary company, which has been consolidated into the county council's group accounts on a line-by-line basis, after eliminating intra-group transactions.

An entity could be material but still not consolidated if all of its business is with the county council and eliminated on consolidation – i.e. the consolidation would mean that the group accounts are not materially different to the single entity accounts.

Pooled budgets

The county council is the host partner of the pooled funds in respect of learning disability services, Better Care Fund and integrated home response and falls lifting service. The arrangements are made in accordance with Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and allows budgets to be pooled between authorities and health and social care organisations.

The arrangements are accounted for as joint operations and, therefore, the county council accounts for its share of the funds' assets, liabilities, expenditure and income.

Other notes to the financial statements

Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies, estimates and errors

Prior period adjustments are made where there are material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error.

Where a change to accounting policies 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.

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.

Accounting policies for income

Recognition of income

Income is accounted for in the financial year in which the activity it relates to takes place, which may not be the same year in which cash payments are received. This means that revenue from the sale of goods or the provision of services is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations of the contract.

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

Where income has been recognised but cash has not been received, a debtor for the relevant amount is recorded in the balance sheet.

Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Council tax and non-domestic rates income

Both council tax and non-domestic rates are collected by the 12 Lancashire district councils (billing authorities) on behalf of the county council.

The council tax and non-domestic rates income is accounted for on an accruals basis and included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement within taxation and non-specific grant income. However, the amount to be reflected in the general fund is determined by regulation, therefore, there is an adjustment for the difference between the accrued income and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the general fund made through the movement in reserves statement and the collection fund adjustment account.

The year-end balance sheet includes the council's share of debtors (arrears and collection fund surpluses), creditors (prepayments, overpayments and collection fund deficits) and provisions (non-domestic rates appeals). Lancashire has a non-domestic rates pool which was established on 1 April 2016. It comprises the county council and most but not all of the local

authorities in Lancashire, with Ribble Valley Borough Council designated as lead authority. Lancashire County Council will receive 10% of the overall retained levy with each district within the pool retaining 90% of their levy. In the Lancashire non-domestic rates pool each council bears its own risk and takes its own reward under the pool agreement.

The net retained levy for the county council is shown within non-domestic rates retention income in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Government grants and other contributions

Government grants, third party contributions and donations are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that the county council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and the grants or contributions will be received.

Revenue grants are recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement when the conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied.

At the end of the year if any grant monies are unspent, this is transferred to an earmarked reserve. When the grant is applied, an amount equal to the expenditure is transferred back from the earmarked reserve to the general fund.

Where conditions attached to the grants or contributions have not been met, monies received to date are carried in the balance sheet as receipts in advance and credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement when the conditions are satisfied.

Capital grants are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement when any relevant conditions have been satisfied. This income is then 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.

Where grant conditions have not been satisfied then the monies received are carried in the balance sheet as receipts in advance.

Accounting policies for costs

Recognition of expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for in the financial year in which the activity it relates to takes place, not simply when cash payments are made.

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.

Other notes to the financial statements

Interest payable on borrowings is accounted for as 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 expenditure has been recognised but cash has not been paid, a creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the balance sheet.

Charges to revenue for non-current assets

Services are charged with the following amounts to record the cost of holding property, plant and equipment during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service, where there are no accumulated gains in the revaluation reserve against which the losses can be written off.

Employee benefits

Employee benefits payable during employment

Short term employee benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave and expenses are paid on a monthly basis and charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is charged to the surplus or deficit on

the provision of services, but then reversed out through the movement in reserves statement to the accumulated absences adjustment account.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the county council 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 respective service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, at the earlier of when the county council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the county council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, regulations require the general fund to be charged with the amount payable to the pension fund rather than the amount calculated under accounting standards. Adjustments are made in the movement in reserves statement to transfer the accounting standards based entries to the pension reserve and replace these with the amount payable to the pension fund.

Post-employment benefits

Employees of the county council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- Teachers' pension scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE);
- Local government pension scheme administered by Lancashire County Council and the Local Pensions Partnership;

Other notes to the financial statements

- NHS pension scheme administered by NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

Each scheme provides defined benefits to members e.g. retirement lump sums and pensions, earned whilst employees are working for the county council.

The county council recognises the cost of post-employment benefits in the cost of services when they are earned by employees, although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire.

Statutory provisions require the general fund to be charged with the amount payable by the county council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to accounting standards. The real cost of post-employment benefits is reversed out of the general fund via the movement in reserves statement and replaced with the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners.

The balance on the pensions reserve 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.

The arrangements for the teachers' scheme and NHS scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified to the county council. The schemes are accounted for as if they were a defined contributions scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the balance sheet. The education and public health service revenue accounts are charged with the employer's contributions payable to teachers' and NHS pensions respectively.

Local government pension scheme

The liabilities of the Lancashire County Pension Fund attributable to the county council are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method (i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates and projected earnings for current employees.)

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices using a discount rate.

The assets of the local government pension fund attributable to the county council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:

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

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

Service costs:

Current service cost is the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year and is allocated in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to the services for which the employees worked.

Past service cost is the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned

Other notes to the financial statements

in earlier years this is charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability:

The expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid, offset by the interest on assets; which is the interest on assets held at the start of the year and cash flows occurring during the period. The result is debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Re-measurements:

These comprise the return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest) and actuarial gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are the changes in the net pension liability, which arise because actuaries have updated their assumptions.

Re-measurements are charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure.

Contributions paid to the Lancashire County Pension Fund:

Cash paid as employer's contribution to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

Discretionary benefits

The county council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and

accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Long term contracts

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

Overheads and support services

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

Private finance initiative (PFI)

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide services passes to the PFI contractor. As the county council is deemed to control the services that are provided under the PFI schemes, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the county council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the county council carries the assets used under the contracts on the balance sheet as part of property, plant and equipment.

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

Other notes to the financial statements

Non-current assets related to these contracts and recognised on the balance sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the county council.

The county council makes agreed payments each year to the operators, increased in line with inflation where stated in the contract and similarly reduced if performance falls below minimum standards in any year.

The charge made up of the cost of services received during the year, which is charged to the relevant service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and a charge for the property, which is split between:

- The interest charge on the outstanding liability, debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement;
- The contingent rent, debited to the financing and investment income line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement;
- The payment towards the outstanding liability which is applied to write down the balance sheet liability;
- Lifecycle replacement costs (split between revenue and capital costs). Revenue lifecycle costs are debited to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Capital lifecycle costs are posted to the balance sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to property, plant and equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

Provisions, contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Provisions

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, in the year the county council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Contingent assets

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

Contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Other notes to the financial statements

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities arise where either:

- a possible obligation has arisen from past events, whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the county council.
- a present obligation may arise from past events, but it is not recognised because either it is not probable that the outflow of resources will be required or, the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute

Capital expenditure incurred during the year that does not create an asset of the county council is charged to the relevant service in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement but funded from capital sources.

An adjustment is made in the movement in reserves statement from the general fund to the capital adjustment account to reverse out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

Value added tax (VAT)

The comprehensive income and expenditure account excludes amounts relating to VAT and will be included as an expense, only if it is not

recoverable from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

Accounting policies for assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature or are available for recall in 3 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.

Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts and form an integral part of the council's cash management strategy.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised on the balance sheet when the county council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument. For financial assets this is based on the transaction date for both recognitions and derecognitions.

Except for financial assets carried at fair value, all other financial liabilities and financial assets represented by investments, borrowing, cash, debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost.

Other notes to the financial statements

Financial assets

Financial assets are classified based on the business model for holding the financial assets and their expected cash flow characteristics.

Financial assets are classified into one of three categories:

Financial assets measured at amortised cost

Where the county council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows, the financial assets are classified as amortised cost.

The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

They are initially measured at purchase price and 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 financial assets held by the county council, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal receivable plus accrued interest. Interest credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

There is no recognition of gains or losses on fair value until reclassification or de-recognition of the asset. Any gains or losses that arise on the de-

recognition of the asset are charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The county council also holds investments with the objective of collecting contractual cash flows and selling assets in order to meet long term investment requirements while ensuring the county council is not subject to a high degree of credit risk. These assets are measured and carried at fair value. Interest is recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on the same basis as for amortised cost financial assets, as described above.

All gains or losses due to changes in the fair value of the assets (both realised and unrealised) are charged to the other comprehensive income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and balanced by an entry in the financial instruments revaluation reserve.

Any gains or losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the financial instruments revaluation reserve.

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit of loss (FVPL)

These assets are measured and carried at fair value.

Other notes to the financial statements

All gains and losses due to changes in fair value are charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as they arise.

Where a number of identical assets, e.g. bonds, are held but the cost differs on de-recognition the gain or loss will be determined by the principal of first in/first out. There will be an exception to this where there is a clearly linked transaction.

Expected credit loss model

The county council recognises expected credit losses on its financial assets held at amortised cost or FVOCI, (subject to materiality) either on a 12-month or lifetime basis.

Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

Lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the county council.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially recognised on the balance sheet at fair value and carried at 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 amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. Interest charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, in the year of repurchase or settlement. Where premiums and discounts are charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, regulations allow the impact on the general fund balance to be spread over future years.

The reconciliation of amounts charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to the net charge required against the general fund balance is managed by a transfer to or from the financial instruments adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement.

Highways network infrastructure

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

Other notes to the financial statements

Recognition

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

Measurement

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

Property, plant and equipment

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the council 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 a revenue expense when it is incurred.

Property, plant and equipment is recognised where the initial cost or value exceeds £10,000.

Measurement

Assets are initially recognised at cost, comprising:

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

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 and expenditure line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

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:

Category	Measurement basis
Community assets and assets under construction	Depreciated historical cost
Surplus assets and investment properties	Fair value – highest and best
Operational property, plant and equipment	Current value - existing use value

Other notes to the financial statements

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

For non-property assets, principally furniture and equipment, which have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Assets are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end but as a minimum every three years.

Valuations are undertaken internally by Lancashire County Council's estates service with valuations for specialist operational properties undertaken by external professional valuers.

Valuations are provided as at 1 April and are undertaken by qualified valuers in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) professional standards using recognised measurement techniques. Assets which are valued using the depreciated replacement cost methodology are updated based on cost prices at 31 March.

Revaluation gains and losses

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the revaluation reserve to recognise unrealised gains, unless the gain reverses a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written

down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).

- Where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the capital adjustment account.

Depreciation

Depreciation is an accounting estimate used to charge the cost of an asset to services over its useful economic life.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

Category	Period over which assets are depreciated
Carriageways	20-50 years
Footways and cycle tracks	40-50 years
Structures (e.g. bridges)	120 years
Street lighting	40 years
Street furniture	20-50 years
Buildings	5-50 years
Vehicles, plant and equipment	10 years unless the life of the asset is considered to be less
IT equipment	7-10 years

Depreciation is not charged on land, community or heritage assets, as they do not have a determinable finite useful life. Assets under construction are not depreciated until they are available for use. Assets held for sale and

Other notes to the financial statements

investment properties are revalued every year and therefore depreciation is not charged on these assets.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis meaning that the asset's value reduces equally each year over its life.

Depreciation is charged from the month of acquisition until the month of disposal.

Depreciation is generally charged on buildings as a single asset. However, where an asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the overall cost of the asset, and the lifetime of the component is significantly shorter than that of the asset, the major component is depreciated separately.

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

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for the same way as revaluation losses.

Minimum revenue provision

The county council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual charge to revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement, which is calculated on a prudent basis determined in accordance with statutory guidance. This contribution is known as the minimum revenue provision (MRP). Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are replaced by the MRP in the earmarked reserves balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement, for the difference between the two.

Non-current assets held for sale

Where it is highly probable that property assets will be disposed of within the next 12 months the asset is reclassified as assets held for sale. 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. In this case the carrying amount is adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as held for sale.
- Their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Other notes to the financial statements

Disposal of assets

When an asset is disposed of, the carrying amount of the asset in the balance sheet is written off to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposal are credited to the same line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account.

The net loss or gain on disposal is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of property, plant and equipment is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the general fund in the movement in reserves statement and posted to the capital adjustment account (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the capital receipts reserve.

Capital receipts can only be used to fund new capital investment or, be set aside to reduce the council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). However, the flexible use of capital receipts allows revenue expenditure to be funded from capital receipts where it generates ongoing revenue savings or transforms service delivery to reduce costs.

Where a part of the highways network is replaced, an adaptation provided in a separate update to the Code assumes that from the introduction of the IFRS based Code when parts of an asset are replaced or restored the carrying amount of the derecognised part will be zero because parts of infrastructure assets are rarely replaced before the part has been fully consumed.

Heritage assets

Heritage assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The collection has an indeterminate life and is subject to appropriate conservation measures, therefore, depreciation is not charged on heritage assets.

The valuation of the county council's heritage assets has included a degree of estimation. With respect to the museum's collection, those assets considered to have a value of £50,000 or over have been identified and valued as separate items. The rest of the collection involves a large quantity of small value items for which is not considered economic to value each item separately. Therefore, a sample of items was valued by the museums staff. The resulting value was then used to give an estimated value of the whole collection. It is considered that the result provides a fair reflection of the value of the county council's holding.

The county council has a detailed acquisitions and disposal policy, further information on which can be obtained from the county council. Disposals will not be made with the principal aim of generating funds.

Investment property

Investment properties are those assets that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. They are not used for service delivery.

Other notes to the financial statements

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value. Investment properties are not depreciated, and an annual valuation programme ensures that they are held at highest and best use value at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on revaluation and disposal are charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Rental income is credited to the financing and investment income line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the general fund. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the general fund in the movement in reserves statement and posted to the capital adjustment account.

Fair value measurement

The county council measures some of its assets such as surplus assets, investment properties and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either, in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The county council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or

liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

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

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

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

Leases

Leases are classed as finance leases, where the terms of the lease transfer the majority of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where the county council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the balance sheet as a disposal and replaced by a long term debtor in the balance sheet at an amount equal to the net investment in the lease. Finance income in respect of these debtors is recognised at a constant rate of return on the net investment outstanding in respect of that finance lease.

Other notes to the financial statements

Reserves

The county council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or, to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement.

When expenditure is incurred which is to be financed from an earmarked reserve, the expenditure is charged to the appropriate service revenue account in that year. An equal amount is transferred from the reserve to the general fund in the movement in reserves statement.

Certain reserves are held for technical accounting purposes in respect of non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the county council. These reserves are explained in the relevant notes.

Schools

The balance of control for local authority maintained schools, foundation, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools are all deemed to lie with the council, therefore schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the council's financial statements as if they were transactions of the council.

Schools' non-current assets (school buildings and playing fields) are recognised on the balance sheet where the council directly owns the assets,

where the council holds the balance of control of the assets or, where the school or the school governing body own the assets or have had rights to use the assets transferred to them.

Some voluntary aided and controlled schools are owned by trustees. However, these schools are included within the council's property, plant and equipment as the council receives the benefit from using the properties in terms of delivery of services and also meets the costs of service provision.

Capital expenditure on schools is added to the balances for those schools as reported in the property, plant and equipment note.

School assets are derecognised in full on the date that a school transfers to academy status.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement based on amounts due from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. DSG is allocated to budgets delegated to individual schools and centrally retained council budgets. Expenditure from delegated schools and centrally retained budgets is charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement under education and children's services.

Other notes to the financial statements

Note 41 – Prior period adjustments

The 2022/23 comparator figures have been adjusted to derecognise a pension asset of £690.9m and reclassify a ringfenced grant of £57.1m within cost of services. Note 10 has also been adjusted for a senior officer previously omitted. An adjustment for purchase/proceeds of cash and cash equivalents shown in note 32 has had a minor impact on the prior year cashflow statement.

Adjustments to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement

	Gross income original 2022/23	Net expenditure original 2022/23	Gross income adjustment	Net expenditure adjustment	Gross income restated 2022/23	Net expenditure restated 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult services and health and wellbeing	(316.5)	474.8	(40.0)	(40.0)	(356.5)	434.8
Education and children's services	(67.7)	254.2	(17.1)	(17.1)	(84.8)	237.1
Growth, environment and transport	(75.2)	192.2	0	0	(75.2)	192.2
Resources and chief executive services	(55.8)	103.6	0	0	(55.8)	103.6
Schools	(1,065.0)	67.7	0	0	(1,065.0)	67.7
Cost of services	(1,580.2)	1092.5	(57.1)	(57.1)	(1,637.3)	1,035.4
Other operating income and expenditure (Note 5)	(16.8)	86.8	0	0	(16.8)	86.8
Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 6)	(42.6)	35.2	0	0	(42.6)	35.2
Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure (Note 7)	(1,059.1)	(1,059.1)	57.1	57.1	(1,002.0)	(1,002.0)
(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	(2,698.7)	155.4	0	0	(2,698.7)	155.4
(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 30)		(111.1)		0		(111.1)
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit pension liability/(asset) (Note 30)		(1,861.7)		725.8		(1,135.9)
(Surplus)/deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income		182.2		0		182.2
Other comprehensive (income) and expenditure		(1,790.6)		725.8		(1,064.8)
Total comprehensive (income) and expenditure		(1,635.2)		725.8		(909.4)

Other notes to the financial statements

Adjustments to the movement in reserves statement

	Unusable reserves original 2022/23	Pension adjustment	Unusable reserves restated 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2022	(814.2)	0	(814.2)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2022/23</u>			
Total comprehensive income and expenditure (Note 5)	(1,790.6)	725.8	(1,064.8)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 14)	146.2	0	146.2
(Increase)/decrease in year	(1,644.4)	725.8	(918.6)
Balance at 31 March 2023	(2,458.6)	725.8	(1,732.8)

Adjustments to the balance sheet

	Balance original 2022/23	Pension adjustment	Balance restated 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Pension fund asset	690.9	(690.9)	0
Long term assets	4,484.0	(690.9)	3,793.1
Other long term liabilities	(193.7)	(34.9)	(228.6)
Long term liabilities	(1,107.0)	(34.9)	(1,141.9)
Net assets	3,163.2	(725.8)	2,437.4
Usable reserves	(704.6)	0	(704.6)
Unusable reserves	(2,458.6)	725.8	(1,732.8)
Total reserves	(3,163.2)	725.8	(2,437.4)

Other notes to the financial statements

Adjustments to the cash flow statement

	Balance original 2022/23	Balance adjustment	Balance restated 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	(155.4)	0	(155.4)
Adjustments to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	297.8	0	297.8
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus/deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(131.8)	1.0	(130.8)
Net cash flows from operating activities	10.6	1.0	11.6
Investing activities	0.2	(1.0)	(0.8)
Financing activities	(54.2)	0	(54.2)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash or cash equivalents	(43.4)	0	(43.4)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	164.2	0	164.2
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	120.8	0	120.8

The following explanatory notes to the accounts have been restated as a result of the prior period adjustments:

- Note 7 - Taxation and non-specific grant income
- Note 8 - Grant income and contributions credited to cost of services
- Note 10 – Officers' remuneration
- Note 27 – Other long term liabilities
- Note 30 – Reserves
- Note 31 - Cash flows from operating activities
- Note 32 - Cash flows from investing activities
- Note 46 - Transactions relating to retirement benefits
- Note 47 - Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits
- Group comprehensive income and expenditure statement
- Group movement in reserves statement
- Group balance sheet
- Group cash flow statement

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of pink blossoms dominates the right side of the frame. The ground is covered in a thick layer of fallen pink petals, creating a soft, textured path that curves through the scene. In the background, a well-maintained green lawn stretches out, dotted with other trees and a small white structure. The overall atmosphere is serene and beautiful, capturing the peak of spring.

Technical annex

Avenham and Miller Park, Preston

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Note 42 - Income, expense, gains and losses on financial instruments

2023/24

The gains and losses on financial instruments recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are shown in the following table:

	Financial liabilities		Financial assets			Total
	Amortised cost	Fair value through profit and loss	Amortised cost	Fair value through other comprehensive income	Fair value through profit and loss	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Interest expense	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7
Loss on de-recognition	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.1
Impairment losses	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
Fees paid	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Interest payable and similar charges	67.2	0.0	1.4	2.1	0.0	70.7
Interest income	0.0	0.0	(6.2)	(19.3)	(0.8)	(26.3)
(Increases)/decreases in fair value	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.9)	(0.9)
Gain on de-recognition	0.0	(1.1)	0.0	(4.5)	0.0	(5.6)
Interest and investment income	0.0	(1.1)	(6.2)	(23.8)	(1.7)	(32.8)
Net impact on the surplus or deficit on provision of services	67.2	(1.1)	(4.8)	(21.7)	(1.7)	37.9
Amounts recycled to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	0.0	0.0	0.0	(1.1)	0.0	(1.1)
Loss on revaluation	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.5	0.0	30.5
Impact on other comprehensive income	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.4	0.0	29.4
Net (gain)/loss for the year	67.2	(1.1)	(4.8)	7.7	(1.7)	67.3

Financial instruments disclosure notes

2022/23

The gains and losses on financial instruments recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are shown in the following table:

	Financial liabilities		Financial assets			Total
	Amortised cost	Fair value through profit and loss	Amortised cost	Fair value through other comprehensive income	Fair value through profit and loss	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Interest expense	46.8	0	0	0	0	46.8
Loss on de-recognition	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.2
Impairment losses	0	0	1.3	0	0	1.3
Fees paid	0.3	0	0	0	0	0.3
Interest payable and similar charges	47.1	0	1.3	0.2	0	48.6
Interest income	0	0	(7.1)	(15.9)	(0.8)	(23.8)
(Increases)/decreases in fair value	0	(12.8)	0	0	9.3	(3.5)
Gain on de-recognition	0	(14.1)	0	(0.9)	(0.3)	(15.3)
Interest and investment income	0	(26.9)	(7.1)	(16.8)	8.2	(42.6)
Net impact on the surplus or deficit on provision of services	47.1	(26.9)	(5.8)	(16.6)	8.2	6.0
Amounts recycled to the surplus/deficit on the provision of services	0	0	0	(0.4)	0	(0.4)
Loss on revaluation	0	0	0	182.6	0	182.6
Impact on other comprehensive income	0	0	0	182.2	0	182.2
Net (gain)/loss for the year	47.1	(26.9)	(5.8)	165.6	8.2	188.2

Note 43 - Fair value of financial assets and liabilities

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the balance sheet at fair value. For most assets, the fair value is taken from the market price. The fair values of other instruments have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The fair values of other long term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities and of PFI scheme liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- The fair value of short term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

Fair values are shown in the following table, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy.

Level 1	Fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices
Level 2	Fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments
Level 3	Fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness

Allowances for impairment have been calculated for assets held at amortised cost by applying a forward looking 'expected loss' impairment model that focuses on the risk that a loan will default rather than whether a loss has been incurred.

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Fair value of financial assets

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Balance sheet value	Fair value	Fair value level		Fair value level	Balance sheet value	Fair value
£m	£m				£m	£m
			Financial assets held at fair value through other comprehensive income			
394.0	394.0	1	Corporate, covered and government bonds	1	268.6	268.6
			Financial assets held at fair value through profit and loss			
53.0	53.0	1	Corporate bonds	1	54.8	54.8
18.0	18.0	2	LOBO loan investment	2	17.2	17.2
71.0	71.0		Total		72.0	72.0
			Financial assets held at amortised cost			
2.2	2.0	2	Local authority bonds	2	2.1	2.1
10.2	9.9	2	Long term bank deposits	2	0	0
25.7	23.1	2	Lease receivables	2	24.5	22.7
7.1	6.6	2	Long term loans to companies	2	7.1	6.9
45.2	41.6		Subtotal		33.7	31.6
510.2	506.6		Total		374.4	372.2
375.5			Assets for which fair value is not disclosed #		393.1	
885.7			Total financial assets		767.5	
25.7			Long term debtors		24.5	
413.5			Long term investments		277.9	
199.9			Short term debtors		314.4	
125.8			Short term investments		82.2	
120.8			Cash and cash equivalents		68.5	
885.7			Total financial assets		767.5	

Financial instruments disclosure notes

#The fair value of short term financial assets including trade receivables is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

The fair value of financial assets held at amortised cost is slightly lower than their balance sheet carrying amount due to interest rate on similar investments differing from initial investment date.

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Fair value of financial liabilities

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Balance sheet value	Fair value	Fair value level		Fair value level	Balance sheet value	Fair value
£m	£m				£m	£m
				Financial liabilities held at amortised cost		
(269.6)	(212.0)	2	Long term PWLB loans	2	(259.6)	(205.2)
(1.3)	(0.9)	2	Long term creditors	2	(1.3)	(1.0)
(593.1)	(457.7)	2	Long term loans	2	(241.6)	(112.7)
(8.2)	(7.5)	2	Other long term loans	2	(23.5)	(23.2)
(118.6)	(137.0)	2	PFI liabilities	2	(110.3)	(129.0)
(990.8)	(815.1)		Total financial liabilities held at amortised cost		(636.3)	(471.1)
			Financial liabilities held at fair value through profit and loss			
(19.6)	(19.6)	1	Short term liabilities for short investments	1	0	0
(19.6)	(19.6)		Total financial liabilities held at fair value through profit and loss		0	0
(595.8)			Liabilities for which fair value is not disclosed #		(941.1)	
(1,606.2)	(834.7)		Total financial liabilities		(1,577.4)	(471.1)
(277.9)			Short term creditors		(272.0)	
(310.4)			Short term borrowings		(661.0)	
(27.2)			Other current liabilities		(8.2)	
(1.3)			Long term creditors		(1.3)	
(870.8)			Long term borrowing		(524.6)	
(118.6)			Other long term liabilities		(110.3)	
(1,606.2)			Total financial liabilities		(1,577.4)	

The fair value of short term financial liabilities including trade payables is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount

The fair value of financial liabilities held at amortised cost is lower than their balance sheet carrying amount due to the interest rate on similar liabilities differing from initial investment date on some loans.

Note 44 - Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

The council has adopted CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and has set treasury management indicators to control key financial instrument risks.

The council's risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central finance team, under policies approved by the council in the annual Treasury Management Strategy.

The strategy also imposes a maximum sum and duration that the council can invest in an institution. This is dependent upon the quality of credit rating and in 2023/24 the investment portfolio has maintained a very high AA credit rating.

A main principle of the credit risk strategy was to invest mainly in UK government bonds along with corporate bonds with a high credit rating.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the council.

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

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with an institution unless it meets identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by the three main credit rating agencies.

Credit risk – treasury investments

The table below summarises the credit risk exposures of the council's treasury investment portfolio by credit rating:

31 March 2023		Credit rating	31 March 2024	
Long term	Short term		Long term	Short term
£m	£m		£m	£m
201.8	78.7	AAA	104.3	30.0
139.2	47.1	AA	103.1	24.8
0	0	A	2.1	27.2
65.2	0	BAA1	61.2	0.0
406.2	125.8	Total	270.7	82.0
7.1	0	Credit rating not applicable	7.1	0
413.3	125.8	Total investments	277.8	82.0
0.2	0	Accrued interest excluded	0.0	0.2
413.5	125.8	Total investments	277.8	82.2

The maximum single commercial exposure is to UKTI 0 ½ 03/22/2073 at £69 million, which is lower than individual counterparty limit of £500 million for cash deposits. Overall the portfolio is diversified by the use of 25 counterparties.

In the context of credit risk, non-statutory debtors are treated as financial instruments. The council manages aged debt within the agreed policy. Loss allowances on treasury investments have been calculated on the 12 month expected credit loss model by reference to historic default data published by credit rating agencies, multiplied by 86% to adjust for current and forecast economic conditions. A two-year delay in cash flows is assumed to arise in the event of default. For local government and central government investments these have been excluded for this loss allowance calculation. There are minimal non-material credit losses of less than £0.1 million due as at 31 March 2024. Most of the investments held were not below Moody's AA2 level except for the EDF bonds showing as BAA1.

Financial instruments disclosure notes

In 2023/24 there are no treasury investments that have suffered a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition.

Credit risk: trade receivables

The impairment allowance on trade debtors has been calculated using the lifetime credit losses basis. The impairment allowance loss on other financial assets has been calculated based on the expected 12-month credit loss, however, there have been minimal losses at 31 March.

	Trade debtors	Total
	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2023	(9.5)	(9.5)
Impairment allowance for trade debtors	(1.4)	(1.4)
Balance at 31 March 2024	(10.9)	(10.9)

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the danger that the council will have insufficient funds in its bank account to make the payments necessary to meet its financial obligations.

The council has a comprehensive cash flow management system, which seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board and access to the investment portfolio, which is also considered to be liquid. There is no significant risk that the council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The discounted values reflect the current financial liabilities and liquid assets as at 31 March. These include both interest accrued and principal outstanding at the year end. Financial liabilities exclude any statutory creditors. The liquid financial assets represent treasury investments that can be sold at short notice.

Discounted values – 2023/24

	Under 1 year	Maturing in 1-2 years	Maturing in 3-5 years	Maturing in 6-10 years	Maturing in more than 10 years	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowings	(661.0)	(28.8)	(28.0)	(66.2)	(401.6)	(1,185.6)
PFI liabilities	(8.2)	(8.5)	(28.9)	(62.0)	(10.9)	(118.5)
Creditors and other liabilities	(272.0)	0.0	0.0	(1.3)	0.0	(273.3)
Short-term liabilities for short investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total financial liabilities	(941.2)	(37.3)	(56.9)	(129.5)	(412.5)	(1,577.4)
Liquidity financial assets	35.3	70.6	88.2	2.1	181.9	378.1
Net liquidity risk	(905.9)	33.3	31.3	(127.4)	(230.6)	(1,199.3)

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Discounted values – 2022/23

	Under 1 year	Maturing in 1-2 years	Maturing in 3-5 years	Maturing in 6-10 years	Maturing in more than 10 years	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowings	(310.3)	(354.9)	(29.8)	(56.2)	(430.0)	(1,181.2)
PFI liabilities	(7.7)	(35.1)	(60.8)	(22.6)	0	(126.2)
Creditors and other liabilities	(277.9)	0	0	(1.3)	0	(279.2)
Short-term liabilities for short investments	0	0	0	0	(19.6)	(19.6)
Total financial liabilities	(595.9)	(390.0)	(90.6)	(80.1)	(449.6)	(1,606.2)
Liquidity financial assets	128.9	58.5	189.5	18.9	210.3	606.1
Net liquidity risk	(467.0)	(331.5)	98.9	(61.2)	(239.3)	(1,000.1)

The undiscounted values reflect the financial liabilities and liquid assets as at 31 March. These include all interest and principal repayments until maturity.

Undiscounted values – 2023/24

	Under 1 year	Maturing in 1-2 years	Maturing in 3-5 years	Maturing in 6-10 years	Maturing in more than 10 years	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowings	(691.9)	(35.4)	(65.5)	(119.7)	(626.8)	(1,539.3)
PFI liabilities	(18.6)	(18.3)	(53.2)	(84.1)	(12.0)	(186.2)
Creditors and other liabilities	(272.0)	0.0	0.0	(1.3)	0.0	(273.3)
Short-term liabilities for short investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total financial liabilities	(982.5)	(53.7)	(118.7)	(205.1)	(638.8)	(1,998.8)
Liquidity financial assets	38.0	82.2	111.5	24.1	632.3	888.1
Net liquidity risk	(944.5)	28.5	(7.2)	(181.0)	(6.5)	(1,110.7)

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Undiscounted values – 2022/23

	Under 1 year	Maturing in 1-2 years	Maturing in 3-5 years	Maturing in 6-10 years	Maturing in more than 10 years	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowings	(331.7)	(387.1)	(67.7)	(113.6)	(665.4)	(1,565.5)
PFI liabilities	(18.8)	(18.6)	(53.7)	(88.4)	(25.6)	(205.1)
Creditors and other liabilities	(277.9)	0	0	(1.3)	0	(279.2)
Short-term liabilities for short investments	(0.7)	(0.7)	(2.1)	(3.5)	(44.7)	(51.7)
Total financial liabilities	(629.1)	(406.4)	(123.5)	(206.8)	(735.7)	(2,101.5)
Liquidity financial assets	146.7	72.0	221.2	46.8	621.9	1,108.6
Net liquidity risk	(482.4)	(334.4)	97.7	(160.0)	(113.8)	(992.9)

Market risk

Market risk is the possibility that financial loss might arise as a result of changes in interest rates and stock movements.

The council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movement in interest rates have a complex impact on the council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

Borrowing at variable rates	The interest expense charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise
Borrowing at fixed rates	The fair value of the liabilities will fall
Investments at variable rates	The interest income credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services will rise
Investments at fixed rates	The fair value of the investments will fall

Investments measured at amortised cost and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments measured at fair value will be reflected in other comprehensive income or the surplus or deficit on the provision of services as appropriate.

There is a significant level of short term borrowing which needs to be regularly refinanced as part of the strategy to benefit from low short term interest rates. This gives rise to some interest rate risk, although this is

mitigated by the ability of the council to switch from short term to long term borrowing should the UK enter a period of rising interest rates, as the expectation is that this would be a protracted period rather than a single event.

As part of a balanced portfolio, the interest rate risk is further mitigated by two factors:

- Maturing and available for sale short term investments, which could be used to pay down debt, should it become cost effective to do so.
- Long term loans of over £481 million with both the Public Works Loans Board and UK bond issuance, with maturity dates beyond 31 March 2028 with guaranteed interest rates.

The council's strategy takes advantage of market conditions whilst managing interest rate risk. The treasury management team proactively reviews interest rate exposure and the results feed into the annual budget cycle allowing any adverse changes to be accommodated.

Financial instruments disclosure notes

The effect if interest rates were 1% higher with all other variables held constant

The following table attempts to quantify the interest rate risk. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be the same but with movements reversed.

The table illustrates the sensitivity inherent in the current portfolio to an interest rate rise.

	2023/24
	£m
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	4.4
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(0.3)
Decrease in fair value of traded investments	3.7
Decrease in fair value of borrowings held for trading	-
Impact on surplus on the provision of services	7.8
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate other comprehensive income investment assets	41.4
Impact on other comprehensive income and expenditure	49.2
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate loans and investments	2.1
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings	(49.9)

Financial instruments disclosure notes

Information on the overall borrowing amounts held on the balance sheet along with the interest rates and maturity information is as follows:

	Borrowing at 31 March 2024	Contractual rates 2023/24	Average rate paid 2023/24	Years to maturity at 31 March 2024
	£m	%	%	
Long term borrowing				
Fixed rate funding:				
Public works loan board	(259.6)	1.57 to 4.55	3.435	Over 1 year to 45 years
Long term bonds	(241.6)	1.625	1.625	36 years
Other long term loans	(22.0)	3.8 to 5.25	4.557	Over 1 year to 8 years
Total fixed rate funding	(523.2)			
Variable rate funding:				
Salix funding	(1.4)	0.0		
Total long term borrowing	(524.6)			
Short term borrowing				
Fixed rate funding:				
Public works loan board	(10.0)	4.500	4.500	Less than 1 year
Other market loans	(189.0)	3.75 to 5.95	4.840	Less than 1 year
Accrued interest	(10.9)			
Total fixed rate funding	(209.9)			
Variable rate funding:				
Shared investment scheme	(26.4)	5.00 to 5.25	4.947	Less than 1 year
Long term bonds	(351.6)	5.991	5.697	Less than 1 year
Salix funding	(1.8)	0.0	0.000	Less than 1 year
Other variable funding	(71.3)	5.00 to 5.34	0.050	Less than 1 year
Total variable funding	(451.1)			
Total short term borrowing	(661.0)			
Total borrowing	(1,185.6)			

Note 45 - Forward contract agreement

In 2019/20 the council entered into a forward contract agreement in which it agreed to purchase £90 million of UK government bonds at a future time for a sale price of £150.2 million, to mitigate market risk relating to local authority loans made to other local authorities. During 2021/22 the council sold five out of these six local authority loans and also purchased £50 million of the UK government bonds to offset these sales. In 2022/23 a further £20 million of UK government bonds was purchased to rebalance this hedge arrangement. At 31 March 2023 the fair values represented in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement recognised an overall gain of £6.7 million. In April 2023, the remaining £20 million of UK government bonds was purchased therefore just leaving one local authority loan made to other local authorities.

At 31 March 2024 the fair value represented in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement recognised an overall loss of £0.9 million. This related to a LOBO loan investment with another local authority and were valued at 31 March 2024, using the Bermudian SWAP basis, in accordance with industry standards. This methodology resulted in a decrease on the balance sheet values for this asset.

	Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	Impact on comprehensive income and expenditure statement
	£m	£m	£m
Fair value adjustment	0	0.9	0.9

Defined benefit pension schemes

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

The council's principal pension arrangement for its employees is the Lancashire County Pension Fund, which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension arrangement for local authorities and related employers and is governed by statute (principally now the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 as amended).

The Lancashire County Pension Fund is a multi-employer arrangement, under which each employer is responsible for the pension costs, liabilities and funding risks relating to its own employees and former employees. Each employer's contributions to the fund are calculated in accordance with the LGPS regulations. The regulations require an actuarial valuation to be carried out every three years and require the contributions to be set with a view to targeting the fund's solvency. The detailed provisions are set out in the fund's funding strategy statement.

The council also participates in some other defined benefit pension arrangements, governed under statute, but these other schemes are unfunded.

These other arrangements relate to:

Teachers

The council's costs in relation to this arrangement are set by central government as a percentage of contributing members' pay. The related funding risks are borne by central government. The council is, however, responsible for paying some additional pensions to retired teachers that were awarded at the point of retirement.

Health workers

The council's costs in relation to this scheme are set by central government as a percentage of contributing members' pay. The related funding risks are borne by central government.

NEST pension scheme

The council's costs in relation to this scheme are set by central government as a percentage of contributing members' pay. The related funding risks are borne by central government.

Governance and risk management

The liability associated with the council's pension arrangements is material to the council. The details in relation to each arrangement, including the relevant provisions for governance and risk management, are set out below.

Lancashire County Pension Fund

The fund is overseen by the Lancashire Pension Fund Committee, which reports directly to Full Council. The Head of Fund is designated as the officer responsible for the management of the Fund. The Pension Fund Committee

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

comprises twelve county councillors and seven voting co-optees representing the further and higher education sectors, the Lancashire borough, district and city councils, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Blackpool Council and trade unions. The Investment Panel provides professional expert advice and makes recommendations to the Committee in relation to investment strategy. The Panel comprises the Head of Fund as Chair and two independent advisers.

Full details of the responsibilities of the panel and committee are published in the Investment Strategy Statement.

Risks and investment strategy

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

Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The objective of the fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and keep market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk). The fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification. The selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the fund to ensure it is within limits specified in the fund investment strategy.

Interest rate risk

The fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risks that the fair value of future cash flow of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the investment panel and its investment advisors.

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value cash flow of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The fund's currency risk is routinely monitored by its investment advisors in accordance with the risk management strategy.

Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the fund to incur financial loss. The selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimise the credit risk that may occur through the

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the fund's credit criteria. The fund has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any class of financial institution.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The fund therefore takes steps to ensure that there are adequate cash resources to meet its commitments, and the fund has immediate access to its cash holdings.

Other risks

Actions taken by the government, or changes to legislation, could result in stronger local pension funding standards, which could materially affect the council's cash flow.

Amendments, curtailments and settlements

The provisions of the fund were amended with effect from 1 April 2014. For service up to 31 March 2014, benefits were based on salaries when members leave the scheme, whereas for service after that date benefits are based on career average salary.

Curtailments shown in the accounting figures relate to the cost of providing retirement benefits for members who retire early, to the extent that provision has not already been made for the relevant defined benefit obligations.

Settlements shown in the accounting figures relate to the admission of new employers into the fund, and who take on part of the council's assets and liabilities as a result of employing members who have accrued benefits with the council.

Schemes for teachers and transferred NHS staff

Governance

These arrangements are managed centrally by government departments/agencies, and there is no material involvement for the council.

Funding the liabilities

Contributions to the arrangements are set by the government for teachers and NHS staff pension schemes, having taken advice from the government actuary, no liability is reflected in the council's balance sheet. The exception to this is the additional pensions to retired teachers which were awarded at the point of retirement, and for which the council is responsible. Only this additional pension to retired teachers' part of the liability, which directly falls to the council, is recognised within the council's balance sheet and these liabilities are shown under teachers' pension scheme figures within the following tables. The weighted average duration of these particular liabilities is 9 years, measured on the actuarial assumptions used for IAS19 purposes.

Investment risk

There are no investment risks in relation to these arrangements, given their unfunded nature. The greatest single risk is that the government could change the funding standards relating to them, which could increase the council's contributions to them.

Note 46 - Transactions relating to retirement benefits

The council recognises the costs of post-employment/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 benefits is reversed out of the general fund via the movement in reserves statement.

The following transactions have been made in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and the movement in reserves statement during the year:

- In 2023/24 £83.7 million was paid to the Department for Education for teachers' pension costs. This represents 25.5% of teachers' pensionable pay (2022/23 £80.7 million and 25.3%).
- In 2023/24, the council paid £0.1 million to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits representing 16% of pensionable pay (2022/23: £0.2 million and 18%).
- The council is also responsible for all discretionary pension payments awarded to teachers, together with related increases. In 2023/24,

these amounted to £7.5 million, representing 2.3% of pensionable pay (2022/23: £7.3 million and 2.3%).

In addition to the recognised gains and losses included in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, a re-measurement of the net defined liability loss of £122.0 million (2022/23: £1,170.8 million gain) was included. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is a £1,862.5 million gain.

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Transactions relating to retirement benefits

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Teachers' Pension Scheme	
	2023/24	2022/23 restated	2023/24	2022/23
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Comprehensive income and expenditure statement				
Cost of services				
Current service cost	93.2	192.2	0	0
Past service cost	0	0	0	0
(Gain)/loss from settlements and curtailments	0.1	0.6	0	0
Administration expenses	3.1	2.9	0	0
Financing and investment income and expenditure				
Net Interest expense	(40.8)	26.5	3.5	2.6
Total post-employment benefit charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	55.7	222.3	3.5	2.6
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability:				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amounts included in net interest expense)	(158.7)	(18.9)	0	0
Experience (gains)/losses on liabilities	31.1	440.3	3.7	7.4
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(59.4)	(2,141.4)	0	(21.1)
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(50.0)	(122.2)	(1.2)	(5.8)
Impact of asset ceiling ¹	356.5	725.8	0	0
Total re-measurement recognised in other comprehensive income ¹	119.5	(1,116.4)	2.5	(19.5)
Total post-employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement ¹	175.2	(894.1)	6.0	(16.9)
Movement in reserves statement				
Reversal of net charges made to the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	55.7	222.3	3.5	2.6
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year				
Employers' contributions payable to the scheme (excluding early payments)	84.7	77.2	8.9	10.0

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise a pension asset

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Note 47 - Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits

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

2022/23			2023/24	
Local government pension scheme restated	Teachers' pension scheme		Local government pension scheme	Teachers' pension scheme
£m	£m		£m	£m
4,429.2	0	Fair value of plan assets	4,875.7	0
(3,738.3)	(75.1)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(3,826.1)	(72.2)
(725.8)	0	Impact of asset ceiling ¹	(1,082.2)	0
(34.9)	(75.1)	Net asset/(liability) arising from defined benefit obligation ¹	(32.6)	(72.2)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise a pension asset

Reconciliation of the movements in fair value of the scheme assets

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
4,310.9	Opening balance as at 1 April	4,429.2
18.9	Re-measurement (assets)	158.7
121.0	Interest on plan assets	217.7
(2.9)	Admin expenses	(3.1)
77.2	Employer contributions (including early payments)	177.4
29.9	Contributions from scheme participants	31.7
(125.8)	Benefits/transfers paid	(135.9)
4,429.2	Closing balance as at 31 March	4,875.7

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities

2022/23			2023/24	
Funded liabilities	Unfunded liabilities ¹		Funded liabilities	Unfunded liabilities ¹
£m	£m		£m	£m
5,272.3	141.7	Opening balance as at 1 April	3,703.4	110.0
190.3	0	Current service cost	93.3	0
146.3	3.8	Interest on pension liabilities	175.3	5.1
29.9	0	Contributions from scheme participants	31.7	0
(121.9)	(13.9)	Benefits/transfers paid	(132.4)	(12.4)
0.6	0	Curtailment cost	0	0
Re-measurement gains and (losses):				
364.3	14.8	- Experience gains/(losses) on liabilities	30.8	4.0
(2,178.4)	(30.6)	- Actuarial gains/(losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	(59.2)	(0.2)
0	(5.8)	- Actuarial gains/(losses) arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(49.4)	(1.7)
3,703.4	110.0	Closing balance as at 31 March	3,793.5	104.8

¹ The Unfunded Liabilities include benefits relating to both the LGPS and Teachers' Pension Scheme

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

31 March 2023	Asset category	Quoted in active markets (Y/N)	31 March 2024
£m			£m
	Equities:		
5.2	Financials	Y	5.4
	Bonds:		
0	UK corporate	N	0
9.1	Overseas corporate	N	3.9
	Property:		
0.8	Offices	N	0.9
32.0	Industrial/warehouse	N	25.4
8.9	Shops	N	16.3
25.0	Multi let commercial building	N	20.0
	Alternatives:		
76.7	UK private equity	N	79.0
294.5	Overseas private equity	N	288.2
689.0	Infrastructure	N	737.4
642.7	Credit funds	N	721.1
63.8	Pooled fixed income	N	188.3
389.9	Indirect property funds	N	387.7
46.9	UK pooled equity	N	14.8
2,109.5	Overseas pooled equity funds	N	2,297.1
	Cash:		
35.2	Cash accounts	N	90.2
0	Net current assets/(liabilities)	N	0
4,429.2	Total assets		4,875.7

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates and salary levels. Both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and County Council Fund liabilities have been assessed by Mercer, an independent firm of actuaries. The estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary are shown in the following table.

2022/23		2023/24
Mortality assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
21.5 years	Male	22.4 years
23.8 years	Female	25.3 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
22.8 years	Male	21.1 years
25.6 years	Female	23.5 years
Financial assumptions		
2.7%	Rate of CPI inflation	2.7%
4.2%	Rate of increase in salaries	4.2%
2.8%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.8%
4.8%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.9%

Post-employment benefit disclosure notes

Sensitivity analysis

There is a risk that changes in the assumptions (e.g. life expectancy, price inflation and discount rate) could increase the defined benefit obligation and/or the liabilities for actuarial valuation purposes. Other assumptions used to value the defined benefit obligation are also uncertain, although their effect is less material. The sensitivity analysis indicates the change in the defined benefit obligation for changes in the key assumptions.

	Impact on the net defined benefit liability	Projected service cost for next year	Projected net interest cost for next year
	£m	£m	£m
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase by 0.5%)	(276.1)	(12.7)	(20.2)
Rate of inflation (increase by 0.25%)	146.0	7.0	7.2
Rate of increase in pay growth (increase by 0.25%)	21.9	0.0	1.2
1 year increase in life expectancy	89.3	2.3	4.5
Change in investment returns (increase by 1%)	(49.8)	0.0	(2.4)
Change in investment returns (decrease by 1%)	49.8	0.0	2.4

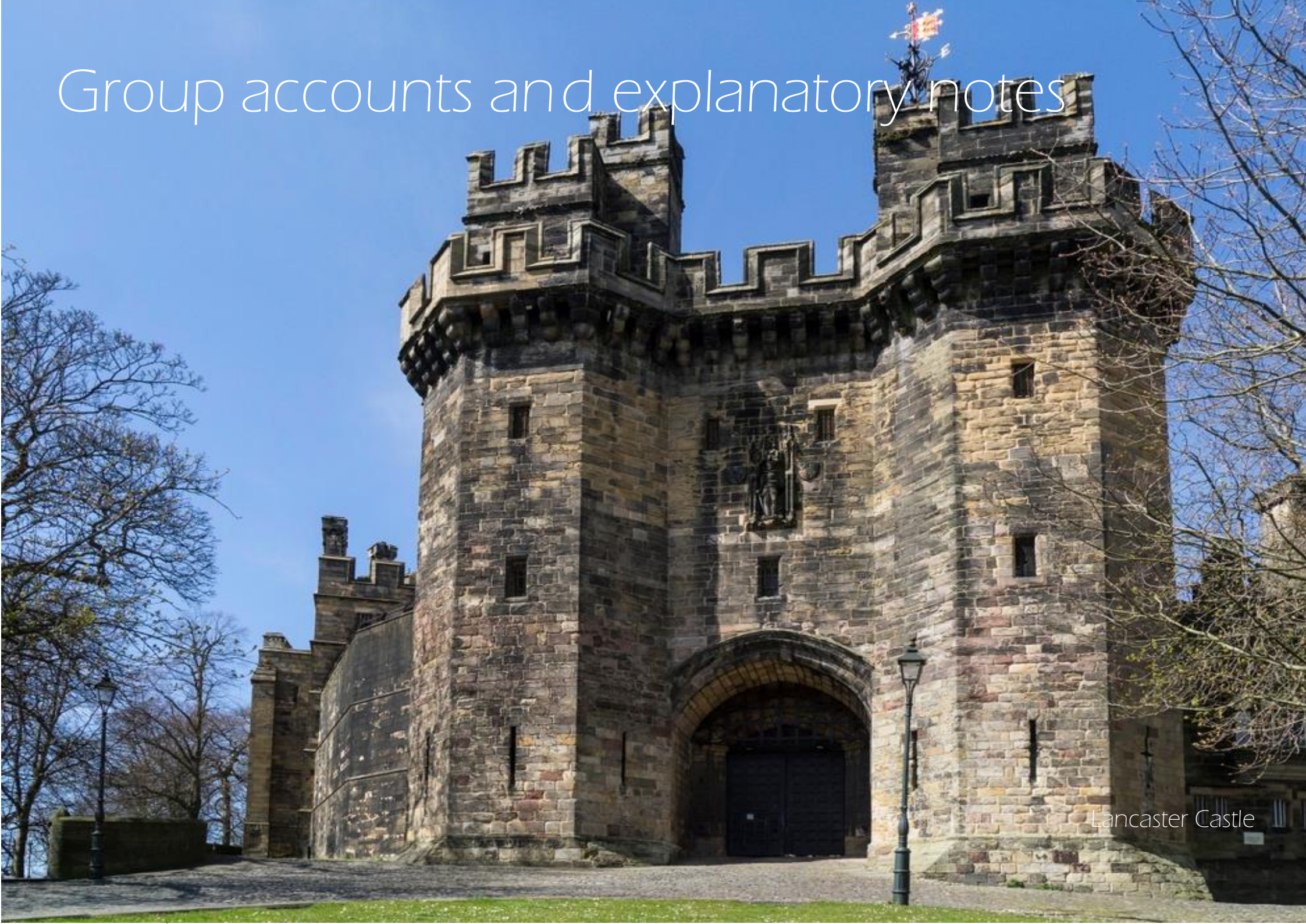
Note 48 - Impact on the council's cash flows

Actuarial valuations are required to be carried out every three years. The last actuarial valuation of the Lancashire County Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2022 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.

On 21 April 2023, the Council took advantage of the option provided by the pension fund to make a one off upfront payment to cover its future service and deficit recovery payments for the three years 2023/24 to 2025/26. The value of the payment totalled £140.7 million and has the purpose of generating a cash saving to the council.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Lancashire County Pension Fund in addition to the upfront payment above are £72.5 million.

Group accounts and explanatory notes



Lancaster Castle

Introduction

Lancashire County Council has chosen to conduct activities through a variety of undertakings, either through ultimate control of or in partnership with other organisations. These are classified into the categories of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates.

The CIPFA Code of Practice requires that where an authority has material financial interests and a significant level of control over one or more entities, it should prepare group accounts. The aim of these statements is to give an overall picture of the council's financial activities and the resources employed in carrying out those activities.

Inclusion in the Lancashire County Council Group is dependent upon the extent of the council's interest and control over the entity. Where an entity is considered immaterial, it is not included in the group accounts. Details of the council's relationships with other entities are detailed in the notes supporting the group accounts.

Group comprehensive income and expenditure statement

2022/23				2023/24		
Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure		Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net expenditure
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m
791.3	(316.5)	474.8	Adult services and health and wellbeing	723.5	(381.7)	341.8
321.9	(67.7)	254.2	Education and children's services	309.7	(61.3)	248.4
269.8	(77.9)	191.9	Growth, environment and transport	393.2	(185.8)	207.4
159.4	(55.8)	103.6	Resources and chief executive services	218.1	(67.9)	150.2
1,132.7	(1,065.0)	67.7	Schools	1,169.2	(1,125.5)	43.7
2,675.1	(1,582.9)	1,092.2	Cost of services	2,813.7	(1,822.2)	991.5
103.6	(14.4)	89.2	Other operating income and expenditure	60.2	(8.3)	51.9
77.6	(34.7)	42.9	Financing and investment income and expenditure	33.1	(33.4)	(0.3)
0	(1,059.1)	(1,059.1)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	0.0	(1,092.3)	(1,092.3)
2,856.3	(2,691.1)	165.2	(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	2,907.0	(2,956.2)	(49.2)
(3.6)	0	(3.6)	Taxation on profit on ordinary activities (Note 6)	0.3	0	0.3
2,852.7	(2,691.1)	161.6	Group (surplus)/deficit	2,907.3	(2,956.2)	(48.9)
		(111.1)	(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(214.6)
		(1,135.9)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability/(asset) ¹			122.0
		182.2	(Surplus)/deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income			29.4
		(1,064.8)	Other comprehensive income and expenditure ¹			(63.2)
		(903.2)	Total comprehensive income and expenditure ¹			(112.1)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise the pension asset with the consequent adjustment to the re-measurement of the net defined benefit pension asset. The adjustments are shown in detail in Note 41 – Prior period adjustments.

Group movement in reserves statement

2023/24

	General fund / earmarked reserves	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total reserves of the council	Reserves of subsidiaries	Total reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2023	(518.2)	(21.1)	(165.3)	(704.6)	(1,732.8)	(2,437.4)	(73.7)	(2,511.1)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>								
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	(48.0)	0	0	(48.0)	(63.2)	(111.2)	(0.9)	(112.1)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	80.2	(3.3)	(31.9)	45.0	(45.0)	0	0	0
Adjustments between the group accounts and the authority accounts	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1
(Increase)/decrease in year	32.2	(3.2)	(31.9)	(2.9)	(108.2)	(111.1)	(0.9)	(112.0)
Balance at 31 March 2024	(486.0)	(24.3)	(197.2)	(707.5)	(1,841.0)	(2,548.5)	(74.6)	(2,623.1)

2022/23 ¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise a pension asset with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves.

	General fund / earmarked reserves	Capital receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable reserves	Total reserves of the council	Reserves of subsidiaries	Total reserves
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2022	(563.2)	(10.3)	(140.3)	(713.8)	(814.2)	(1,528.0)	(79.9)	(1,607.9)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2022/23</u>								
Total comprehensive income and expenditure ¹	155.4	0	0	155.4	(1,064.8)	(909.4)	6.2	(903.2)
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(110.4)	(10.8)	(25.0)	(146.2)	146.2	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in year ¹	45.0	(10.8)	(25.0)	9.2	(918.6)	(909.4)	6.2	(903.2)
Balance at 31 March 2023 ¹	(518.2)	(21.1)	(165.3)	(704.6)	(1,732.8)	(2,437.4)	(73.7)	(2,511.1)

Group balance sheet

31 March 2023		Note	31 March 2024
£m			£m
3,288.9	Property, plant and equipment		3,490.0
28.7	Heritage assets		28.7
83.9	Investment properties	8	84.7
24.4	Intangible assets		21.7
408.9	Long term investments		274.2
37.7	Long term debtors		35.9
3,872.5	Long term assets ¹		3,935.2
127.0	Short term investments		83.5
3.8	Inventories		4.5
276.8	Short term debtors		399.5
27.6	Payments in advance		41.8
120.9	Cash and cash equivalents		68.5
556.1	Current assets		597.9
(303.9)	Short term borrowing		(658.8)
(340.2)	Short term creditors		(340.3)
(86.0)	Receipts in advance		(94.6)
(10.1)	Short term provisions		(10.4)
(27.2)	Other current liabilities		(8.2)
(767.4)	Current liabilities		(1,112.2)
(41.2)	Long term provisions		(48.2)
(8.2)	Deferred tax liability	9	(8.6)
(870.8)	Long term borrowing		(524.6)
(1.3)	Other long term creditors		(1.3)
(228.6)	Other long term liabilities ¹		(215.1)
(1,150.1)	Long term liabilities ¹		(797.8)
2,511.1	Net assets ¹		2,623.1
(704.6)	Usable reserves	10	(707.5)
(1,732.8)	Unusable reserves ¹		(1,841.0)
(73.7)	Subsidiary reserves	10	(74.6)
(2,511.1)	Total reserves ¹		(2,623.1)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted to derecognise the LCC pension asset with the consequent reduction of unusable reserves.

Group cash flow statement

2022/23		Note	2023/24
£m			£m
(161.6)	Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services		48.9
309.7	Adjustments to net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements	11	(145.8)
(130.8)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities ¹	11	(161.9)
17.3	Net cash flows from operating activities ¹		(258.8)
(6.1)	Investing activities ¹	12	212.5
(54.5)	Financing activities	13	(6.1)
(43.3)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash or cash equivalents ¹		(52.4)
164.2	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		120.9
120.9	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		68.5

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been adjusted for a re-categorisation of those investments that are cash and cash equivalent.

Note 1 - General notes to the financial statements

Where figures in the group accounts differ materially from the council's accounts, the relevant explanatory notes have been prepared on a consolidated basis.

Note 2 - Group accounting policies

The accounting policies of the council's subsidiary company have been aligned with the council's accounting policies.

The subsidiary of Lancashire County Developments (Property) Limited is consolidated into the group accounts of Lancashire County Developments Limited.

Lancashire County Developments Limited has been consolidated using the acquisition accounting basis. This is a full, line-by-line consolidation of the financial transactions and balances of the council and Lancashire County Developments Limited. 100% of all balances and transactions are consolidated, with the minority interest recognised as an unusable reserve in the group

balance sheet. To avoid overstating the figures within the group financial statements, all inter-group transactions and balances between the council and Lancashire County Developments Limited have been eliminated.

Lancashire County Developments Limited has the same reporting date as the council. Year-end accounts to 31 March 2024 have been used for consolidation.

Note 3 - Entities not consolidated

Details of the council's relationships with other entities are outlined below:

An entity could be material but still not consolidated (if all of its business is with the council and eliminated on consolidation) – i.e. the consolidation would mean that the group accounts are not materially different to the single entity accounts.

Company	Interest	Relationship
Lancashire Renewables Limited	87.5%	Subsidiary
Marketing Lancashire Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited	33%	Joint venture (Dormant company)
Active Lancashire Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Local Pensions Partnership Limited	50%	Joint venture
Lancashire Partnership Against Crime Limited	25%	Associate
Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited	25%	Associate
Lancashire UDF Limited	100%	Subsidiary
Lancashire UDF - SPV2 Limited	100%	Subsidiary

Note 4 - Entities consolidated

Lancashire County Developments Limited has been consolidated into the council's group accounts.

Lancashire County Developments Limited

Company registration number: 01624144

Lancashire County Developments Limited is a company under the control of Lancashire County Council within the meaning of Part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) is an economic development agency for the County. It is a company limited by guarantee and has no issued share capital. The liability of members is limited to £1. The council controls 80% of the members' voting rights, with the other two members of the company (Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Council) having 10% of voting rights each. It is classed as a subsidiary of the county council.

County Councillors have been appointed as directors on the board. The council's interest in LCDL is based on its contributions to the company's capital funding reserve, loans to the company and rights to appoint members of the company. As a limited company, LCDL must use its profits and income to further its business objectives.

Lancashire County Developments Limited is the holding company in the group structure, the subsidiary company is Lancashire County Developments

(Property) Limited which owns and manages two commercial estates in Lancashire.

Note 5 - Group fees payable to auditors

2022/23		2023/24
£000		£000
	Fees in respect of Lancashire County Council	
103.1	Fees incurred with regard to external audit services provided by Grant Thornton	331.5
8.5	Fees incurred for certification work undertaken by Grant Thornton	12.5
10.0	Fees payable in respect of other services provided by Grant Thornton	10.0
53.0	Fees payable in respect of additional prior year statutory audit work	184.9
174.6	Total fees for Lancashire County Council	538.9
	Fees in respect of Lancashire County Developments Limited	
30.2	Fees incurred with regard to external audit services provided by Beever and Struthers	29.3
4.0	Fees payable in respect of other services provided by Beever and Struthers during the year	25.2
34.2	Total fees for Lancashire County Developments Limited	54.5
208.8	Total	593.4

Note 6 - Group taxation

Taxation expenses are only applicable to subsidiary companies of Lancashire County Council.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0	Deferred tax: origination and reversal of timing differences	0.1
(3.5)	Capital gains	0.2
(3.5)	Total deferred tax	0.3
(3.5)	Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	0.3

Note 7 - Group transfers to and from earmarked reserves

	Balance at 31 March 2022	Transfers out 2022/23	Transfers in 2022/23	Balance at 31 March 2023	Transfers out 2023/24	Transfers in 2023/24	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total earmarked reserves of the council	(563.2)	138.6	(93.6)	(518.2)	124.6	(92.4)	(486.0)
Capital funding reserve	(15.7)	0.2	0	(15.5)	-	-	(15.5)
Profit and loss account	(22.5)	2.2	(1.1)	(21.4)	(0.9)	-	(22.3)
Total revenue and capital reserves of the subsidiary	(38.2)	2.4	(1.1)	(36.9)	(0.9)	-	(37.8)
Total reserves	(601.4)	141.0	(94.7)	(555.1)	123.7	(92.4)	(523.8)

Note 8 – Group investment properties

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(4.8)	Rental Income from investment property	(5.6)
2.1	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	2.1
(2.7)	Total	(3.5)

The items of income and expense shown in the table have been accounted for in the financing and investment income and expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
86.2	Balance as at 1 April	83.9
6.3	Additions	0
(1.0)	Disposals	0
(7.6)	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	0.8
83.9	Balance as at 31 March	84.7

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

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

Notes supporting the group accounts

Valuation process for investment properties

The fair value of the investment property is revalued annually as at 31 March.

The 2023/24 commercial unit valuations have been undertaken in accordance with the appropriate sections of the current edition of the RICS Valuation — Global Standards, which incorporate the International Valuation Standards and the RICS UK national supplement (RICS Red Book).

Basis of valuation

The fair value of the properties has been primarily derived using comparable recent market transactions on arm's length terms.

Where the market approach is used, properties are valued by reference to market-based evidence using observed prices for recent market transactions for comparable properties. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to market price information to reflect differences in the legal, economic or physical characteristics of the property being valued. These include significant unobservable adjustments to reflect differences in the nature, condition and location of the property, tenure and encumbrances.

Where an income approach, or market approach with significant unobservable adjustment has been used, valuations are predominately based on unobservable inputs and accordingly are categorised as level 3 within the fair value hierarchy.

Fair value hierarchy

Details of the council's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy are as follows.

31 March 2023			Property type	31 March 2024		
Balance sheet value	Fair value	Fair value level		Fair value level	Balance sheet value	Fair value
£m	£m				£m	£m
83.9	83.9	3	Commercial units	3	84.7	84.7
83.9	83.9		Total		84.7	84.7

Notes supporting the group accounts

Fair value measurement of investment properties using significant unobservable inputs – level 3

Details of the valuation techniques and significant unobservable inputs used in determining the fair value measurement of investment property classified within level 3 are set out in the following table together with a narrative description of the sensitivity of the fair value measurement to changes in unobservable inputs.

Site	Fair value at 31 March 2024 £m	Valuation technique	Unobservable inputs	%
Lancashire business park	71.5	Market rent	Net initial yield	6.36
			Reversionary yield	9.03
			Nominal equivalent yield	7.94
			True equivalent yield	8.31
White Cross business park	13.15	Market rent	Net initial yield	8.09
			Reversionary yield	11.97
			Nominal equivalent yield	10.48
			True equivalent yield	11.13

Significant changes in rental income and rent growth; vacancy levels or discount rate would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value. All other factors being equal, a higher equivalent yield or discount rate would lead to a decrease in the valuation of an asset while an increase in the current or estimated future rental stream would have the effect of increasing the capital value and vice versa.

Note 9 - Deferred taxation

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(11.8)	Balance as at 1 April	(8.3)
3.5	Charge for the year	(0.3)
(8.3)	Balance as at 31 March	(8.6)

Taxation expenses are only applicable to subsidiary company of Lancashire County Council. The deferred taxation balance consists of accelerated capital allowances.

Note 10 - Group reserves

The total usable reserves are shown in the table below:

31 March 2023 restated		31 March 2024
£m		£m
(23.4)	General fund	(23.4)
(386.0)	Earmarked reserves	(364.8)
(108.8)	School reserves	(97.8)
(518.2)	Total earmarked reserves of the council	(486.0)
(165.3)	Capital grants unapplied reserve	(197.2)
(21.1)	Usable capital receipts	(24.3)
(704.6)	Total usable reserves of the council	(707.5)
(37.0)	Reserves of the subsidiary ¹	(37.5)
(741.6)	Total usable reserves of the group ¹	(745.0)

¹ The 2022/23 figures have been corrected.

Note 11 - Group cash flows from operating activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(39.3)	Interest received	(29.3)
43.4	Interest paid	55.3

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

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
81.3	Depreciation	80.4
(27.1)	Impairment and downward/(upward) valuations	(8.4)
4.9	Amortisation of intangible assets	4.2
(11.1)	Increase/(decrease) in provision for bad debts	(9.3)
126.4	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	24.8
(99.1)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(127.8)
0.3	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(0.6)
137.8	Movement in pension liability	(176.0)
102.5	Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	59.3
(6.2)	Other non-cash items charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	7.6
309.7	Total	(145.8)

Notes supporting the group accounts

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

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(0.1)	Proceeds from short term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries) ¹	0.4
(16.8)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(8.3)
(113.9)	Capital grants credited to the (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(154.0)
(130.8)	Total ¹	(161.9)

¹ Re-categorisation of cash and cash equivalent in 2022/23.

Note 12 - Group cash flows from investing activities

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
(115.3)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(119.1)
(278.6)	Purchase of short term and long term investments ¹	(175.0)
18.1	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	9.5
253.6	Proceeds from the sale of short term and long term investments ¹	326.8
116.1	Other capital grants and receipts from investing activities	170.3
(6.1)	Net cash flows from investing activities ¹	212.5

¹ Re-categorisation of cash and cash equivalent in 2022/23.

Note 13 - Group cash flows from financing activities

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1,036.3	Cash receipts from short term and long term borrowing	1,144.6
(0.6)	Appropriate to/from collection fund adjustment account	2.5
(1,065.2)	Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(1,146.6)
(18.2)	Other receipts from financing activities	1.2
(6.8)	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance sheet PFI contracts	(7.8)
(54.5)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(6.1)

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes



St Annes Beach Huts, Lytham St. Annes

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Lancashire County Pension Fund

Fund account for year ended 31 March 2024

2022/23		Note	2023/24
£m	Dealing with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund		£m
172.5	Contributions	6	412.0
17.8	Transfers in from other pension funds	7	25.4
190.3	Additions from dealings with members		437.4
(314.5)	Benefits	8	(361.3)
(18.9)	Payments to and on account of leavers	9	(22.3)
(333.4)	Withdrawals from dealing with members		(383.6)
(143.1)	Net contributions (withdrawals) from dealings with members		53.8
(116.8)	Management expenses	10	(117.9)
(259.9)	Net withdrawals including fund management expenses		(64.1)
	Returns on investments		
184.7	Investment income	11	193.1
210.9	Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the value of investments	13	770.5
395.6	Net return on investments		963.6
135.7	Net increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year		899.5
10,711.5	Opening net assets of the scheme		10,847.2
10,847.2	Closing net assets of the scheme		11,746.7

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Net assets statement as at 31 March 2024

31 March 2023		Note	31 March 2024
£m			£m
10,786.9	Investment assets	13	11,659.1
45.9	Cash deposits	13	70.3
10,832.8	Total net investments		11,729.4
19.8	Current assets	19	23.0
(5.4)	Current liabilities	20	(5.7)
10,847.2	Net assets of the fund available to fund benefits at the end of the reporting period		11,746.7

Note: The fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed at note 24.

This statement of accounts is that upon which the auditor should enter his certificate and opinion. It presents fairly the position of the Lancashire County Pension Fund as at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Notes to the financial statements

Note 1 - Pension Fund operations and membership

The Lancashire County Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme and is administered by Lancashire County Council. The County Council is the reporting entity for this Pension Fund.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, reference should be made to the Lancashire County Pension Fund Annual Report 2023/24 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme, namely the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

General

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

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

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Lancashire County Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees, whether active, deferred or retired members, of Lancashire County Council, the unitary and district councils in Lancashire

and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the geographic county of Lancashire. Teachers, police officers and fire-fighters are not included within the Fund as they come within other national pension schemes.

The Fund is overseen by the Lancashire Pension Fund Committee, which reports directly to Full Council. The Head of Fund is designated as the officer responsible for the management of the Fund.

The Pension Fund Committee comprises twelve County Councillors and seven voting co-optees representing the further and higher education sectors, the Lancashire borough, district and city councils, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and trade unions.

The Committee meets at least quarterly, or otherwise as necessary, with the Investment Panel in attendance and is responsible for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager (which includes the administration of benefits and strategic management of Fund investments and liabilities), the establishment of policies for investment management, the monitoring and review of investment activity and Fund performance and the presentation of an annual report to Full Council on the state of the Fund and investment activities for the year.

The Investment Panel provides professional expert advice and makes recommendations to the Committee in relation to investment strategy. The Panel comprises the Head of Fund as Chair and two independent advisers.

Full details of the responsibilities of the Panel and Committee are published in the Investment Strategy Statement which is available from the Fund website at lancashirecountypensionfund.org.uk.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

The investments of the Fund are managed by the Local Pensions Partnership Investments Ltd (LPPI) and the administration functions by Local Pensions Partnership Administration Ltd, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of Local Pensions Partnership (LPP), a joint venture owned, in equal shares, by Lancashire County Council and the London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA).

The Lancashire Local Pension Board assists Lancashire County Council in its role as scheme manager and provides a scrutiny role to ensure effective and efficient governance and administration of the Fund. The Board comprises an independent chair together with representatives acting on behalf of employers and members. All members of the Board must be able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills set out in the terms of reference of the Board which are available to view on the Fund website at lancashirecountypensionfund.org.uk.

Membership

Membership of the LGPS is automatic although employees are free to opt out of the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme. Employees are re-enrolled every 3 years under the government's auto-enrolment regulations.

Organisations participating in the Lancashire County Pension Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund.
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted

bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

Membership of the Fund, as at 31 March 2024 is detailed in the following table:

31 March 2023	Lancashire County Pension Fund	31 March 2024
324	Number of employers with active members ¹	336
167	Number of ceased employers (no active members but some outstanding liabilities)	173
	Number of active scheme members²	
27,275	County Council	29,405
29,906	Other employers	34,729
57,181	Total	64,134
	Number of pensioners	
27,967	County Council	29,182
28,479	Other employers	29,745
56,446	Total	58,927
	Number of deferred pensioners²	
36,400	County Council	36,159
39,581	Other employers	38,222
75,981	Total	74,381
189,608	Total membership	197,442

¹ includes employers for whom admission to the Fund is in progress

² March 2023 membership numbers have been adjusted to transfer 5,273 pending leavers as at that date from active membership category to deferred membership category. An adjustment of 3,440 pending leavers has been made at 31 March 2024.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Employee contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2018 and range from 5.5 % to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2024. Employer contributions are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The contributions in 2023/24 are based on the valuation at 31 March 2022. The latest valuation was at 31 March 2022 for the three years commencing 1 April 2023.

Employer contribution rates for 2023/24 range from 0.0% to 27.8% of pensionable pay, with a primary rate of 19.2%, and are dependent on the assumptions applied by the actuary when carrying out the valuation. Examples of variables which may differ between employers are demographic assumptions regarding the age profile and life expectancy of employees, probability of dependant's pensions becoming payable and the likelihood of ill health retirements.

Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service. From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with the consumer prices index. A range of other benefits are also provided including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits.

The scheme benefits are summarised in the following table.

	Service Pre 1 April 2008	Service post 1 April 2008 and pre 1 April 2014	Service post 1 April 2014
Pension	Each year worked is worth $1/80^{\text{th}}$ x final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth $1/60^{\text{th}}$ x final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth $1/49^{\text{th}}$ x the pensionable pay for that year (or $1/98^{\text{th}}$ of pensionable pay if member opts for the 50/50 section of the scheme).
Lump sum	Automatic lump sum of 3 x salary. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

Note 2 - Basis of preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the financial year and its position as at 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom 2023/24* which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year nor do they take into account the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 basis, is disclosed in note 24 to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Accounting standards issued but not yet adopted

Under the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24*, the Fund is required to disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change required by a new accounting standard that has been issued on or before 1 January 2024 but not yet adopted by the Code. There are no such accounting changes to be disclosed for 2023/24.

Events after the reporting period and Contingent Liabilities

Non adjusting events after the reporting period

Following the end of the year the Fund has continued with investing activities in line with the Fund's investment strategy. As a result, the Fund's investment assets continued to increase in the year to 30th November 2024 to £12.23bn. (Note: the November 2024 value has not been audited) Further information on the investment strategy can be found on the Fund's website at <https://lancashirecountypensionfund.org.uk/>.

Note 3 - Accounting policies

Fund account - revenue recognition

Contribution income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis. Member contributions are made in accordance with the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2018 using common percentage rates for all schemes which rise according to pensionable pay. Employer contributions are set at the percentage rate certified by the fund actuary, in the payroll period to which they relate. Some employers exercise an option to pay future service rate contributions earlier than the due date, up to a period of 3 years in advance. These early contributions are recognised in the Fund account on receipt.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the Fund actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

the year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long term financial assets.

Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfers in and out relate to members who have either joined or left the scheme.

Transfer values represent amounts received and paid during the period for individual members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

Individual transfers in or out are accounted for when received or paid, which is when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in transfers in.

Investment income

Interest income

Interest income is recognised in the fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

Income from pooled funds

Income (distributions) from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. It is the policy of the Fund to reinvest distributions on the LPPI Global Equities, these distributions are recognised as investment income and the subsequent reinvestments are recorded as a purchase.

Net income from properties

Rental income from leases on properties owned by the Fund is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. Any lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income, over the term of the lease. Property expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis and is deducted from rental income to report net income from properties.

Any property income not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Distributions from pooled property funds are recognised on receipt within pooled property income.

Movement in the net market value of investments

Changes in the value of investments (including investment properties) are recognised as income in the Fund account and comprise all realised and unrealised profits or losses during the year.

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Fund account – expense items

Benefits payable

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

Taxation

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

Management expenses

The Fund discloses its pension fund management expenses on an accruals basis and in accordance with the CIPFA guidance "*Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016)*". *Management expenses are broken down into the following categories:*

- Administrative expenses
- Oversight and governance costs
- Investment management expenses

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses consist of the following:

- Expenses related to LGPS members and pensioners. These include all activities the Fund must perform to administer entitlements and provide members with scheme and benefit entitlement information. Examples of this include pension allocations, benefit estimates, payment of benefits, processing of the transfer of assets, commutation, communications with members and pensioners, and annual benefit statements;
- Expenses related to interaction with scheme employers e.g. data collection and verification, contributions collection and reconciliation, the employer's help desk or other employer support, and communications with employers; and
- Associated project expenses.

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Oversight and governance costs

Oversight and governance expenses include the following costs:

- Investment advisory services (strategic allocation, manager monitoring etc.);
- Independent advisors to the pension fund;
- Operation and support of the pension fund committee (i.e. those charged with governance of the pension fund), local pensions board, or any other oversight body;
- Governance and voting services;

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- Costs of compliance with statutory or non-statutory internal or external reporting (annual reports and accounts, etc.);
- Legal, actuarial and tax advisory services;
- Non-custodian accountancy and banking services; and
- Internal and external audit.

All administering authority staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund. All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Investment management expenses

Investment management expenses are defined as any expenses incurred in relation to the management of pension fund assets and financial instruments entered into in relation to the management of fund assets. This includes expenses directly invoiced by investment managers, custody fees and any fees payable to fund managers which are deducted from fund assets together with a recharge of costs incurred by Lancashire County Council in provision of treasury management services to the Fund. Transaction costs for all categories of investment, other than directly held property, are included within investment management expenses. All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

External investment manager and custodian fees are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

A number of the fee mandates in place include an element that is performance related.

Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the net assets statement date, an estimate based upon the latest available market value of their mandate as at the end of the year is used for the inclusion in the fund account. In 2023/24, £23.6m of fees is based on such estimates (2022/23: £3.1m).

Net assets statement

Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised in the fund account.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS13. For the purpose of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in *Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures* (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016). More details can be found at note 16.

Freehold and leasehold properties

The Fund's property portfolio includes directly owned properties which are leased commercially to various tenants. The risks and rewards of ownership

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of these properties remain with the Fund and therefore the properties are retained on the net asset statement at fair value.

The properties were valued at open market value at 31 March 2024 by independent property valuers Avison Young in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation – Global Standards effective from 31 January 2022

Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period. Any gains or losses are treated as part of a change in market value of investments.

Financial Assets at amortised cost

Financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

The Fund's financial assets comprise of trade and other receivables and cash deposits and are recognised in the net asset statement at amortised cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and on demand deposits and includes amounts held by the Fund's external managers.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

Financial liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to a liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised in the fund account as part of the change in value of investments.

Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (note 24).

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Additional voluntary contributions

Lancashire County Pension Fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Fund. The AVC providers to the Pension Fund during the year were Prudential and Utmost Life and Pensions. AVCs are paid to the AVC provider by employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for individual contributors. Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund accounts in accordance with section 4(1) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed for information in note 18.

Note 4 - Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

The LPPI Global Equities Fund has been categorised at level 1 in the fair value hierarchy as the NAV provided to the fund is the accumulation of the quoted prices of the underlying assets as of 31st March 2024. All the underlying assets are level 1 quoted securities and no adjustments have been made to the NAV such as for fees on exiting the fund. The judgment relates to the application of the Fund's accounting policy on financial assets as prescribed in Note 3, the effect can be seen in Note 16 – Financial Instruments - Fair Value Hierarchy.

Note 5 - Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts. Estimates and assumptions are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and future expectations. The nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming year are set out in the following table.

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Item	Uncertainties	Impact if actual results differ from assumptions
Private equity and infrastructure investments	Private equity and infrastructure investments are valued at fair value in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines or equivalent. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	<p>The market value of private equity and infrastructure investments in the financial statement's totals £2,606.7m (2022/23: £2,595.8m).</p> <p>Note 16 and 17 provides information on the sensitivity of the value of these investments to currency fluctuations, market and other price risks.</p>
Long-term credit investments	Long-term credit investments are valued as the Fund's percentage share of the independently audited Net Asset Value of each individual strategy as provided by the relevant manager. In some cases the underlying investments will be classified as level 3 investments, defined in note 16 as those investments for which valuation involves at least one input which is not based on observable market data.	<p>The market value of long-term credit investments in the financial statements totals £1,826.4m (2022/23: £1,626.0m excluding investment in loans secured on real assets).</p> <p>Note 16 and 17 provides information on the sensitivity of the value of these investments to currency fluctuations, market and other price risks.</p>
Indirect core property investments	Indirect properties are valued at the current open market value as defined by the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Standards. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	<p>Indirect property investments in the financial statements total £880.5m (2022/23: £910.8m).</p> <p>Note 16 and 17 provides information on the sensitivity of the value of these investments to currency fluctuations, market and other price risks. Indirect core property is included within the property and property funds, and total property headings in the sensitivity note.</p>
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex assumptions relating to future experience – the main assumptions would be the discount rate used relative to assumed inflation (essentially the assumed real return on pension fund assets), the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages and future mortality rates. A firm of consulting actuaries (Mercer Limited) is engaged to provide the authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p> <p>Areas of uncertainty highlighted by the actuary include Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) equalisation, the impact of COVID19 / Ukraine, the court of appeal ruling on the Sergeant and McCloud cases and current high</p>	<p>The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.25% reduction in the discount rate assumption would increase the value of the liabilities by approximately £375m. A 0.5% increase in assumed earnings inflation would increase the value of the liabilities by approximately £120m and a 1 year increase in assumed life expectancy would increase the liabilities by approximately £215m.</p> <p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex assumptions relating to future experience</p>

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

	<p>levels of inflation. Further information can be found in note 24 to these accounts.</p>	<p>– the main assumptions would be the discount rate used relative to assumed inflation (essentially the assumed real return on pension fund assets), the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages and future mortality rates. A firm of consulting actuaries (Mercer Limited) is engaged to provide the authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p> <p>Areas of uncertainty highlighted by the actuary include Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) equalisation, the impact of COVID19 / Ukraine, the court of appeal ruling on the Sergeant and McCloud cases and recent high levels of inflation. Further information can be found in note 24 to these accounts.</p>
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Note 6 - Contributions receivable

2022/23		2023/24
£m	By category	£m
73.4	Members	78.9
	Employers:	
91.2	Normal contributions ¹	329.6
6.3	Deficit recovery contributions ¹	1.6
1.6	Augmentation contributions ²	1.9
99.1	Total employers contributions	333.1
172.5	Total contributions receivable	412.0
	By type of employer	
62.7	County Council ¹	209.5
88.6	Scheduled bodies ¹	178.9
21.2	Admitted bodies	23.6
172.5		412.0

¹ Following the actuarial valuations in 2019 and 2022, the Fund gave some employers the option of paying their 3-year future service rate and deficit contributions up front. A number of employers opted to do this and as a result the normal and deficit recovery contributions for the year ended 31 March 2021 included £88.4m in relation to 2022/23 and the normal contributions for the year ended 31 March 2024 includes £122.5m which relates to 2024/25 & 2025/26.

² Augmentation contributions comprise additional pension benefits awarded by employers to scheme members in line with the general conditions of employment.

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Note 7 - Transfers in from other pension funds

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
17.8	Individual transfers in from other schemes	25.4
17.8		25.4

Note 8 - Benefits payable

2022/23		2023/24
£m	By category	£m
266.5	Pensions	297.1
43.7	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	56.1
4.3	Lump sum death benefits	8.1
314.5	Total benefits payable	361.3
	By type of employer	
130.5	County Council	150.2
158.6	Scheduled bodies	182.1
25.4	Admitted bodies	29.0
314.5		361.3

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Note 9 - Payments to and on account of leavers

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.7	Refunds to members leaving service	0.7
18.2	Individual transfers	21.6
18.9		22.3

Note 10 - Management expenses

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
4.2	Fund administrative costs	4.5
110.9	Investment management expenses	111.3
1.7	Oversight and governance costs ¹	2.1
116.8		117.9

¹ Oversight and governance costs above include external audit fees which amounted to £113,251 (2022/23: £90,836). Additional fees of £2,200 were paid to the external auditor for IAS19 assurance work on behalf of Fund employers within the PSAA regime. The majority of the cost of the IAS 19 work is now built into the PSAA scale Fee (£105k) rather than being an additional cost and its only IAS 19 work for bodies outside the NAO framework that now form an extra cost.

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Investment management expenses

31st March 2024

	Total	Management Fees ²	Performance Related fees	Transaction Costs ¹
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pooled Investments	100.2	86.3	9.9	4.0
Pooled property investments	10.7	8.7	1.1	0.9
Property	0.2	0.2	-	-
Cash Deposits	0.1	0.1		
	111.2	95.3	11.0	4.9
Custody Fees	0.1			
	111.3			

31st March 2023

	Total	Management Fees ²	Performance Related fees	Transaction Costs ¹
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pooled Investments	97.7	66.9	27.0	3.8
Pooled property investments	12.8	10.2	1.0	1.6
Property	0.2	0.2	-	
Cash Deposits	0.1	0.1		
	110.8	77.4	28.0	5.4
Custody Fees	0.1			
	110.9			

¹Transaction costs are not directly invoiced to the Fund and are included within the net asset value of investments by investment managers. In accordance with CIPFA guidance these fees are identified and reported through the Fund account.

² Fund value based management fees include costs invoiced directly to the Fund by investment managers and fees accounted for by investment managers within net asset value and recognised in the fund account in accordance with CIPFA guidance. Fees are charged as a percentage of the value of assets held by each manager. In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments sales and purchases. These are reflected in the cost of investment acquisitions and in the proceeds from the sales of investments.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Note 11 - Investment income

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
1.1	Fixed interest securities	1.2
151.5	Pooled investment vehicles	141.3
24.6	Pooled property investments	38.9
6.2	Net rents from properties	7.7
1.3	Interest on cash deposits	4.0
184.7	Total investment income	193.1

Note 12 - Property income

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
9.8	Rental income	11.8
(3.6)	Direct operating expenses	(4.1)
6.2	Net income	7.7

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Note 13 - Reconciliation of movements in investments

	Market value as at 1 April 2023	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Market value as at 31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Fixed interest securities	22.2	382.4	(395.7)	0.3	9.1
Pooled investment vehicles	9,668.3	664.1	(613.8)	840.1	10,558.7
Pooled property investments	910.8	45.0	(9.9)	(65.4)	880.5
Private equity	12.5	-	-	-	12.5
Direct property	152.8	7.4	(10.5)	(4.4)	145.4
	10,766.6	1,098.8	(1,029.8)	770.5	11,606.1
Cash deposits	45.9				70.3
Loan Investments	20.0				45.0
Investment accruals	0.3				8.0
Net investment assets	10,832.8				11,729.4

	Market value as at 1 April 2022	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Market value as at 31 March 2023
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Fixed interest securities	76.4	-	(52.9)	(1.3)	22.2
Pooled investment vehicles	9,387.5	682.0	(703.7)	302.5	9,668.3
Pooled property investments	944.6	38.5	(12.8)	(59.5)	910.8
Private equity	12.5	-			12.5
Direct property	172.1	11.5	-	(30.8)	152.8
	10,593.1	732.0	(769.4)	210.9	10,766.6
Cash deposits	55.4				45.9
Loan Investments	50.0				20.0
Investment accruals	0.9				0.3
Net investment assets	10,699.4				10,832.8

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Investments analysed by fund manager

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
£m	% of net investment assets		£m	% of net investment assets
Private equity investments				
876.2	8.1%	LPPI Private Equity Fund	873.8	7.4%
Private equity investments managed outside of LPPI Private Equity Fund				
7.8	0.1%	Trilantic Capital Partners	7.6	0.1%
12.5	0.1%	Local Pensions Partnership Limited	12.5	0.1%
896.5	8.3%	Total private equity investments	893.9	7.6%
Long term credit investments				
1,571.2	14.5%	LPPI Credit Investments	1,802.6	15.4%
Credit investments managed outside of LPPI Credit Investments Fund				
26.8	0.3%	CRC	3.2	0.1%
21.9	0.2%	Neuberger Berman	15.5	0.1%
2.5	-	Pimco Bravo	2.6	-
3.4	-	Bridgepoint ¹	2.4	-
0.2	-	Hayfin	0.0	-
1,626.0	15.0%	Total long term credit investments	1,826.4	15.6%
Fixed income investments				
156.3	1.4%	LPPI Fixed Income Fund	465.3	4.0%
Liquid credit investments managed outside of LPPI Fixed Income Fund				
88.3	0.8%	LPPI internal and LCC Treasury Management	132.4	1.1%
244.6	2.2%	Total fixed income investments	597.7	5.1%
Global equity investments				
5,191.3	47.9%	LPPI Global Equities Fund	5,645.9	48.1%

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5,191.3	47.9%	Total global equity investments	5,645.9	48.1%
Infrastructure investments				
1,605.5	14.9%	LPPI Global Infrastructure Fund	1,647.5	14.0%
Infrastructure investments managed outside of LPPI Global Infrastructure Fund				
48.5	0.5%	Icon Infrastructure Partners	44.0	0.4%
36.4	0.3%	Arclight Energy	25.0	0.2%
4.7	-	Pike Petroleum Holdings LLC	4.7	0.1%
2.4	-	Highstar Capital	2.2	-
1.8	-	Eastern Generation Holdings LLC	1.8	-
93.8	0.8%		77.7	0.7%
1,699.3	15.7%	Total infrastructure investments	1,725.2	14.7%
Diversifying strategy investments				
111.5	1.0%	LPPI Diversifying Strategies Fund	14.5	0.1%
111.5	1.0%	Total diversifying strategies investments	14.5	0.1%
Property investments				
<u>Directly held properties</u>				
152.8	1.4%	Knight Frank	145.4	1.2%
<u>Pooled property funds</u>				
Core property				
910.8	8.4%	LPPI Real Estate Fund	880.5	7.5%
1,063.6	9.8%	Total property investments	1,025.9	8.7%
10,832.8	100.0%	Net investment assets	11,729.5	100.0%

The investments are primarily held in pooled funds as identified above. These represent more than 5% of the net assets of the Fund but the funds are made up of a range of investments, none of these individual investments represent more than 5% of the fund.

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Fixed interest securities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
-	UK corporate bonds quoted	-
22.2	Overseas corporate bonds/supernational bonds quoted	9.1
22.2		9.1

Pooled investment vehicles

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m	UK funds:	£m
156.3	Fixed income funds	465.3
192.9	Private equity	197.9
1,605.5	Infrastructure	1,647.5
1,571.4	Long term credit investments	1,802.7
910.8	Property funds	880.5
111.5	Diversifying strategies	14.5
	Overseas funds:	
691.1	Private equity	683.6
93.7	Infrastructure	77.7
54.6	Long term credit investments	23.7
5,191.3	Equity funds ¹	5,645.9
10,579.1		11,439.3

¹The LPPI Global Equities Fund includes UK equities.

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Direct property investments

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
120.8	UK – freehold	115.8
32.1	UK – long leasehold	29.6
152.8		145.4

Property holdings

The Fund's investment in property comprises of investments in pooled property funds along with a number of directly owned properties which are leased commercially to various tenants. Details of these directly owned properties are shown in the table.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
172.1	Opening balance	152.8
	Additions:	
11.1	• Purchases	7.3
0.4	• Subsequent expenditure	0.1
	Deductions:	
-	• Disposals	(10.5)
(30.8)	Net increase/decrease in market value	(4.4)
152.8	Closing balance	145.4

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Leases

All directly held investment properties are leased to tenants. There are no investment properties held by the Fund used for purposes other than to generate rental income.

Residual asset risk

The independent valuation of the direct property portfolio considers the level of committed tenancies amongst other variables. Lessees do not have an option to purchase the properties at the expiry of their lease period and all rental contracts include market review clauses in the event that the lessee exercises an option to renew. Rental income is contractually secured against a wide range of tenants who in turn operate in a range of market sectors. Income generally reviewed to market rent five yearly, and there is also an element of the portfolio income that is indexed or has fixed uplifts (generally being in the range of 2-4% per annum). As at 31 March 2024, the Fund has the following future minimum lease payments due from tenants.

2022/23		2023/24
£m		£m
0.3	Leases expiring within one year	0.5
6.6	Leases expiring between one and five years	5.1
91.1	Leases expiring later than five years	87.7
98.0	Total future minimum lease payments receivable under existing non-cancellable leases	93.3

The above disclosures have been reduced by a credit loss allowance of 5.0% for the county portfolio and 6.3% for the national portfolio 2022/23: 5.0% & 6.3% respectively) per annum reflecting the Fund's expected loss from late or non-recovery of rents from tenants. This adjustment is based on an analysis of rents outstanding 28 days after the due date taking account of trading difficulties that some occupiers were experiencing and how this would affect their ability to pay in the future.

There are no contingent rents as all rents are fixed until the next rent review (generally on 5 year review patterns) and then are either reviewed to market rent, a fixed uplift or in line with an index.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Cash deposits

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
42.0	Sterling	57.5
3.9	Foreign currency	12.8
45.9		70.3

Note 14 - Financial instruments classification

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net asset statement heading.

31 March 2024

	Fair value through profit or loss	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost
	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets			
Fixed interest securities	9.1	-	-
Loan investments	-	45.0	-
Pooled investment vehicles	10,558.7	-	-
Pooled property investments	880.5	-	-
Directly held private equity	12.5	-	-
Cash deposits	-	70.3	-
Investment accruals	8.0	-	-
Debtors	-	23.0	-
Total financial assets	11,468.7	138.3	-
Financial liabilities			
Creditors	-	-	(5.7)
Total financial liabilities	-	-	(5.7)

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31 March 2023

	Fair value through profit or loss	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost
	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets			
Fixed interest securities	22.2	-	-
Loan investments	-	20.0	-
Pooled investment vehicles	9,668.3	-	-
Pooled property investments	910.8	-	-
Directly held private equity	12.5	-	-
Cash deposits	-	45.9	-
Investment accruals	0.3	-	-
Debtors	-	19.8	-
Total financial assets	10,614.1	85.7	-
Financial liabilities			
Creditors	-	-	5.4
Total financial liabilities	-	-	5.4

Note 15 - Net gains and losses on financial instruments

The net gain on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss was £774.9m (2022/23: £241.7m gain). Note 13 outlines the change in Market Value of Fund Asset's, of which, £526.1m relates to unrealised gains and £248.8m relates to realised gains on the disposal of assets. Direct property is not included within this figure.

Note 16 - Financial instruments – fair value hierarchy

Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Transfers between levels are recognised in the year in which they occur.

Level 1

Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 1 assets include Cash and Cash Equivalents, directly held Bonds and those held in the LPPI Global Equity Fund. Listed investments are shown at quoted prices.

Level 2

Level 2 investments are those where quoted market prices are not available, for example where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active or valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data. The only asset currently at level 2 is the holding in the LPPI Fixed Income Fund.

Level 3

Level 3 portfolios are those where at least one input which could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. The instruments included in level 3 are private equity, infrastructure, property, long term credit and diversifying strategies investments, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant management judgement in determining appropriate assumptions, including earnings, public market comparatives and estimated future cash flows.

The values of the investment in private equity and infrastructure are based on valuations provided by the managers of the private equity and infrastructure funds in which Lancashire County Pension Fund has invested. These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines or equivalent, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Ordinarily, valuations are performed annually mainly, and at the end of December. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Fair value hierarchy

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Fund grouped into level 1 to 3 based on the level of which the fair value is observable.

31 March 2024

	Quoted market price Level 1	Using observable inputs Level 2	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	5,662.9	465.3	5,340.6	11,468.8
Financial Assets at Amortised Cost ¹	87.5	45.0	-	132.5
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss (property holdings) ¹	-	-	145.4	145.4
Net investment assets	5,750.4	510.3	5,486.0	11,746.7

¹Included to aid reconciliation to Total Net Investments figure in the Net Asset Statement

31 March 2023

	Quoted market price Level 1	Using observable inputs Level 2	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	5,213.7	156.3	5,244.1	10,614.1
Financial Assets at Amortised Cost ¹	45.9	34.4	-	80.3
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss (property holdings) ¹	-	-	152.8	152.8
Net investment assets	5,259.6	190.7	5,396.9	10,847.2

¹Included to aid reconciliation to Total Net Investments figure in the Net Asset Statement

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Basis of valuation

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Pooled global equities	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted market prices.	Not required.	Not required.
Corporate and overseas government bonds	Level 1	Market approach – active 'over the counter' markets	Corroborative indicative quotes, interest rates, inflation.	Not required.
Fixed income funds	Level 2	Unadjusted market values based on current yields.	Comparable recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same	Not required.
Direct property holdings	Level 3	Valuation performed by independent professional valuers Avison Young in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyor's (RICS) Valuation Standards (9 th edition).	Equivalent yield and ERV (Estimated Rental Value)	Significant increases and decreases in any of those inputs in isolation could result in significantly lower or higher fair value measurements
Pooled property investments - core property	Level 3	Current open market value in accordance with RICS Appraisal and Valuation Standards.	Equivalent yield and ERV (Estimated Rental Value)	Ability to exit fund; market opinion; general market movements. Significant increases and decreases in any of those inputs in isolation could result in significantly lower or higher fair value measurements
Pooled property investments - non-core property	Level 3	Value of equity holding in Real Estate Investment Trust.	Underlying investment valued at existing use valuation for social housing; discount rates; house price index; retail price index; staircasing rates (the rate of progressive tenant ownership % on a part-rent, part-buy ownership agreement).	Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date; changes to expected cash flows; differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Private equity, long term credit and infrastructure investments	Level 3	Annually at fair value in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines or equivalent.	Discount rates, cash flow projections.	Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date; changes to expected cash flows; differences between audited and unaudited accounts

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Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3

Having consulted with the Fund's independent investment advisors; PIRC, the Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges, and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2024.

Description of asset	Assessed valuation range (+/-) ¹	Value at 31 March 2024	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	%	£m	£m	£m
Private equity funds	11.3	894.0	994.7	793.3
Infrastructure funds	5.9	1,725.3	1,826.4	1,623.9
Long term credit	5.9	1,826.3	1,933.6	1,719.2
Diversifying strategies	5.9	14.4	15.3	13.6
Property/Property Funds	7.4	1,026.0	1,101.9	949.8
Level 3 investments	5.7	5,486.0	5,796.9	5,175.1

¹The potential market movement has been separately assessed for each asset class including the total assets of the fund, as such, the sum of the potential change in individual assets may not equal the potential change of the total assets of the fund.

²All movements in the assessed valuation range derive from changes in the underlying profitability of component companies and investments.

Reconciliation of fair value measurements within level 3

	Private equity funds	Infrastructure funds	Long term credit funds	Property and Property funds	Diversifying strategies	Total level 3 investments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Market value 31 March 2023	896.5	1,699.3	1,626.0	1,063.7	111.5	5,397.0
Purchases during the year and derivative payments	91.9	143.2	125.0	52.4	-	412.5
Sales during the year and derivative receipts	(134.7)	(92.6)	(47.9)	(20.3)	(109.1)	(404.6)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	(10.1)	(45.5)	110.8	(69.8)	(5.4)	(20.0)
Realised gains	50.4	20.9	12.4	0.0	17.4	101.1
Market value 31 March 2024	894.0	1,725.3	1,826.3	1,026.0	14.4	5,486.0

Note 17 - Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

Risk and risk management

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

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Fund's operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect change in activity and in market conditions.

Market risk

Market risk is risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings.

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

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

Other price risk

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

The Fund is exposed to share and derivatives price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification. The selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Fund to ensure it is within limits specified in the fund investment strategy.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risks are reasonably possible for the 2023/24 reporting period.

Asset type	Potential market movements (+/-)
Total bonds (including index linked)	4.2%
Total equities	11.3%
Alternatives	5.9%
Total property	7.4%

The sensitivities are consistent with the assumption contained in the investment advisors' most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same. Had the market of the Fund's investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market place would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is also shown):

Asset type	31 March 2024	Potential market movements (+/-) ¹	Potential value on increase	Potential value on decrease
	£m		%	£m
Investment portfolio assets:				
Total equities	6,540	11.3%	7,277	5,803
Alternatives	4,031	5.9%	4,268	3,795
Total property	1,026	7.4%	1,102	950
Total bonds (including index linked)	9	4.2%	9	9
Total assets available to pay benefits²	11,606	5.7%	12,264	10,948

¹The potential market movement has been separately assessed for each asset class including the total assets of the fund, as such, the sum of the potential change in individual assets may not equal the potential change of the total assets of the fund.

²The sensitivity table above excludes the cash and loan investments.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Asset type	31 March 2023	Potential market movements (+/-) ¹	Potential value on increase	Potential value on decrease
	£m	%	£m	£m
Investment portfolio assets:				
Total equities	6,088	12.6%	6,855	5,321
Alternatives	3,593	6.3%	3,820	3,367
Total property	1,064	6.6%	1,134	993
Total bonds (including index linked)	22	4.0%	23	21
Total assets available to pay benefits²	10,767	5.9%	11,402	10,132

¹The potential market movement has been separately assessed for each asset class including the total assets of the fund, as such, the sum of the potential change in individual assets may not equal the potential change of the total assets of the fund.

²The sensitivity table above excludes the cash and loan investments.

Direct Property – Price Risk

The fund invests in and holds a direct property portfolio to obtain a return on investment via rental income. The properties are valued in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyor's (RICS) Valuation Standards (9th edition). The valuer considers the equivalent yield, which represents the return a property will produce, to value the properties.

The below table shows the market value of the portfolio after a potential movement in the equivalent yield being obtained by the properties.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

County Portfolio

Asset type	Asset value as at 31 March 2024	Potential Movement in Equivalent Yield			
		-0.25%	0.25%	-0.50%	0.50%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Direct Property	29.2	27.6	25.7	28.7	24.8

National Portfolio

Asset type	Asset value as at 31 March 2024	Potential Movement in Equivalent Yield			
		-2.50%	2.50%	-5.00%	5.00%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Direct Property	116.2	157.7	94.0	276.1	80.8

Interest rate risk

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

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the Investment Panel and its investment advisors. The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

31 March 2023	Asset type	31 March 2024
£m		£m
45.9	Cash and cash equivalents	70.3
45.9	Total	70.3

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Interest rate risk - sensitivity analysis

The Fund has recognised that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. A 100 basis point (BPS) movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the Fund's risk management strategy (1BPS = 0.01%). The Fund's investment advisor has advised that long-term average rates are expected to move less than 100 basis points for one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 1% change in interest rates:

Asset type	Impact of		
	31 March 2024	1% increase	1% decrease
	£m	£m	£m
Cash and cash equivalents	70.3	0.7	(0.7)
Total change in assets available		0.7	(0.7)

Asset type	Impact of		
	31 March 2023	1% increase	1% decrease
	£m	£m	£m
Cash and cash equivalents	45.9	0.5	(0.5)
Total change in assets available		0.5	(0.5)

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Currency risk

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

The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Fund and its investment advisors in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2024 and as at the previous year end.

31 March 2023	Currency exposure – asset type	31 March 2024
£m		£m
5,882.4	Overseas equities	6,329.5
148.5	Overseas alternatives	102.1
22.2	Overseas bonds (including index linked)	9.1
6,053.1	Total overseas assets	6,440.7

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Currency risk - sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movement to be 6.2%. A 6.2% fluctuation in the currency is considered reasonable based on the Fund advisor's analysis of long-term historical movements in the month-end exchange rates over a rolling 36-month period. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant (2022/23: 6.5%).

A 6.2% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Currency exposure - asset type	Asset value at 31 March 2024	Potential market movement +/- 6.2%	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Overseas equities	6,329.5	391.3	6,720.8	5,938.2
Overseas alternatives	102.1	6.3	108.4	95.8
Overseas bonds (including index linked)	9.1	0.6	9.7	8.5
Total assets available to pay benefits	6,440.7	398.2	6,838.9	6,042.5

Currency exposure - asset type	Asset value at 31 March 2023	Potential market movement +/- 6.5%	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Overseas equities	5,882.4	383.1	6,265.5	5,499.3
Overseas alternatives	148.5	9.7	158.2	138.8
Overseas bonds (including index linked)	22.2	1.4	23.6	20.8
Total assets available to pay benefits	6,053.1	394.2	6,447.3	5,658.9

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

The following table summarises the Fund's approximate currency exposure by currency:

Currency	Asset value at 31 March 2024	Potential market movement (+/-) ¹	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	%	£m	£m
Canadian Dollar	30.6	5.2	32.2	29.0
Euro	208.4	4.3	217.4	199.4
Singapore Dollar	9.1	4.9	9.5	8.6
Swedish Krona	1.2	7.0	1.2	1.1
US Dollar	545.5	8.2	590.4	500.6
Global Basket	5,645.9	6.1	5,992.7	5,299.2
Total Holdings in Foreign Currencies	6,440.7	6.2	6,838.9	6,042.5

¹The potential market movement has been separately assessed for each currency including the Total holdings in Foreign Currencies, as such, the sum of the potential change in individual currencies may not equal the potential change of the Total Holdings in Foreign Currencies.

Currency	Asset value at 31 March 2023	Potential market movement (+/-) ¹	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£m	%	£m	£m
Canadian Dollar	32.0	5.7	33.8	30.2
Euro	264.8	5.3	279.0	250.7
Singapore Dollar	9.1	5.7	9.6	8.6
Swedish Krona	1.2	6.0	1.3	1.1
US Dollar	554.7	9.1	605.3	504.1
Global Basket	5,191.3	6.9	5,547.9	4,834.6
Total Holdings in Foreign Currencies	6,053.1	6.5	6,447.3	5,658.9

¹The potential market movement has been separately assessed for each currency including the Total holdings in Foreign Currencies, as such, the sum of the potential change in individual currencies may not equal the potential change of the Total Holdings in Foreign Currencies.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Credit risk

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

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

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

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

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independent and meet the Fund's credit criteria. The Fund has also set limits as to the maximum percentage of the deposits placed with any class of financial institution.

The Fund's cash holding under its treasury management arrangements at 31 March 2024 was £70.3m (31 March 2023: £45.9m) and was held with the following institutions:

31 March 2023	Summary	Rating	31 March 2024
£m			£m
	Bank deposit accounts		
7.0	Northern Trust	A+	49.8
38.7	Svenska Handelsbanken	AA2	8.9
0.1	National Westminster Bank	A1	0.1
-	Santander	A1	2.0
	Cash equivalents		
-	Aberdeen Lux Sterling Liquidity Fund	Aaa-mf	10.0
	Cash float with property manager		
0.1	Barclays Bank Plc	A1	(0.5)
45.9	Total		70.3

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that there are adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. The Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings.

Management prepares periodic cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flow. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the Funds investment strategy.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

The Fund has financial liabilities of £5.7m at 31 March 2024, all of which is due within one year.

Note 18 - Additional voluntary contributions (AVC)

Members participating in AVC arrangements each receive an annual statement confirming the amounts held in their account and the movements during the year. A summary of the information provided by Utmost Life and Pensions and Prudential is shown below. (This summary has not been subject to review and the Pension Fund relies on the individual contributors to check deductions made on their behalf are accurately reflected in the statements provided by the AVC providers). The figures relate to the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 for Prudential and 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 for Utmost Life and Pensions and are not included in the Pension Fund accounts, in accordance with *Regulation 4(1) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016*.

31 March 2024

	Utmost Life and Pensions	Prudential	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Value at start of the year	0.6	34.7	35.3
Income (incl. contributions, bonuses, interest and transfers in)	-	12.6	12.6
Expenditure (incl. benefits, transfers out and change in market value)	-	(7.4)	(7.4)
Value at the end of the year	0.6	39.9	40.5

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Note 19 - Current assets

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
8.2	Contributions due – employers	15.5
6.2	Contributions due – members	6.7
5.4	Sundry debtors	0.8
19.8		23.0

Note 20 – Current liabilities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£m		£m
5.4	Accrued expenses	5.7
5.4		5.7

Note 21 - Contractual commitments

As at 31 March 2024 the commitments relating to outstanding call payments due to unquoted limited partnership funds held in the private equity and infrastructure part of the portfolio totalled £369.7m (2023: £602.0m). The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing and commitments to these partnerships are drawn down over a number of years. The term of a fund investment is typically 10 years. Realisation of these investments in the form of distributions normally occurs in the second half of the fund life, when portfolio companies have built value and can be sold.

Commitments to outstanding call payments for credit strategies stood at £8.6m (2023: £39.7m). The majority of these amounts are expected to be called over the coming two years and relate to various different investments including direct lending and distressed credit opportunities which are expected to begin repaying capital after 5 years. In order to maintain a steady level of investment in the long term, the Fund will enter into further commitments to fund this type of strategy over the coming years.

There are no outstanding commitments on direct property development contracts relating to properties under construction held in the direct property part of the portfolio (2023: £0m).

There are no outstanding commitments in relation to the Pooled real estate fund (2023: £0m).

Note 22 - Related party transactions

In accordance with IFRS, the financial statements must contain the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that the reported financial position of the Pension Fund may have been affected by the existence of related parties and associated material transactions.

There are three groups of related parties; transactions between Lancashire County Council as administering authority and the Fund; between employers within the Fund and the Fund; and between members and senior officers and the Fund.

Lancashire County Council

The Lancashire County Pension Fund is administered by Lancashire County Council.

The Council incurred costs of £1.1m (2022/23: £1.0m) in relation to the administration of the Fund. This includes a proportion of relevant officers' salaries in respect of time allocated to pension and investment issues. The Council was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses.

The Council is also the single largest employer of the members of the Pension Fund and paid £209.1m of employer and employee to the Fund in 2023/24. Of the £209.1m, £92.8m relates to 2024/25 and 2025/26. Total employer contributions from the Council in 2023/24 amounted to £177.2m. All monies owing to and due from the Fund were paid in year.

Lancashire County Council is a shareholder in the Local Pensions Partnership (LPP), having an ownership in the company equal to that of the London Pension Fund Authority. LPP manages the investment and administration

functions of the Fund and the Fund makes regular payments to LPP to cover investment management charges and scheme administration expenses. Payments made for the year to 31 March 2024 amount to £4.9m (2022/23: £5.1m).

The Fund has a private equity investment of £12.5m in the Local Pensions Partnership as at 31 March 2024.

Employers within the Fund

Employers are related parties in so far as they pay contributions to the Fund in accordance with the appropriate Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (LGPS). Contributions for the year are shown in note 6 and in respect of March 2024 payroll, are included within current assets in note 19.

Pension Fund Committee, Pensions Board and Senior Officers.

The Pension Fund Committee, Pensions Board members and senior officers of the Pension Fund were asked to complete a related party declaration for 2023/24 regarding membership of, and transactions with such persons or their related parties. No related party transactions were identified during the year to 31 March 2024.

Each member of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board formally considers conflicts of interest at each meeting.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Note 23 - Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Lancashire County Council Chief Executive, Director of Resources, the Lancashire County Council Director of Finance, and the Head of Fund.

Total remuneration payable to key management personnel is set out below:

2023/24

	Employment period	Salary ¹	Employer Pension contributions ¹	Total including pension contributions ¹
		£	£	£
Head of Fund	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	81,233	13,116	94,349
Director of Finance	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	1,127	182	1,309
Chief Executive	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	4,730	-	4,730
Director of Resources	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	3,369	511	3,880

¹ The remuneration amount has been apportioned to the Fund on the basis of time spent on Fund work

² The Chief Executive and Director of Resources posts were split on the 1st April 2023.

2022/23

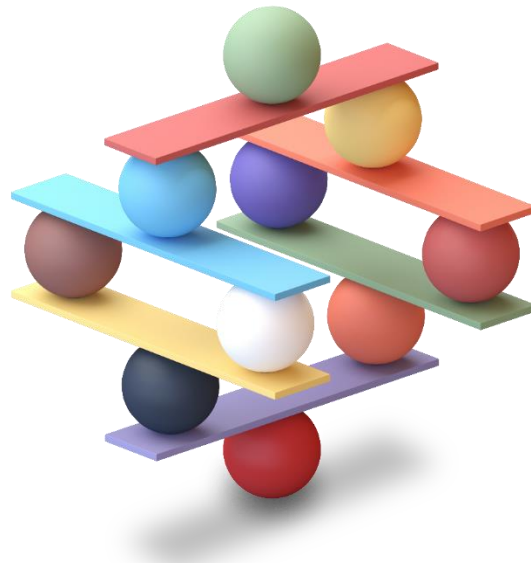
	Employment period	Salary ¹	Employer Pension contributions ¹	Total including pension contributions ¹
		£	£	£
Head of Fund	01/04/22 – 31/03/23	77,462	13,169	90,631
Director of Finance	01/04/22 – 31/03/23	1,074	183	1,256
Chief Executive and Director of Resources	01/04/22 – 31/03/23	4,451	-	4,451

¹ The remuneration amount has been apportioned to the Fund on the basis of time spent on Fund work

Note 24 - Funding arrangements

Lancashire County Pension Fund

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 – Statement by the Consulting Actuary

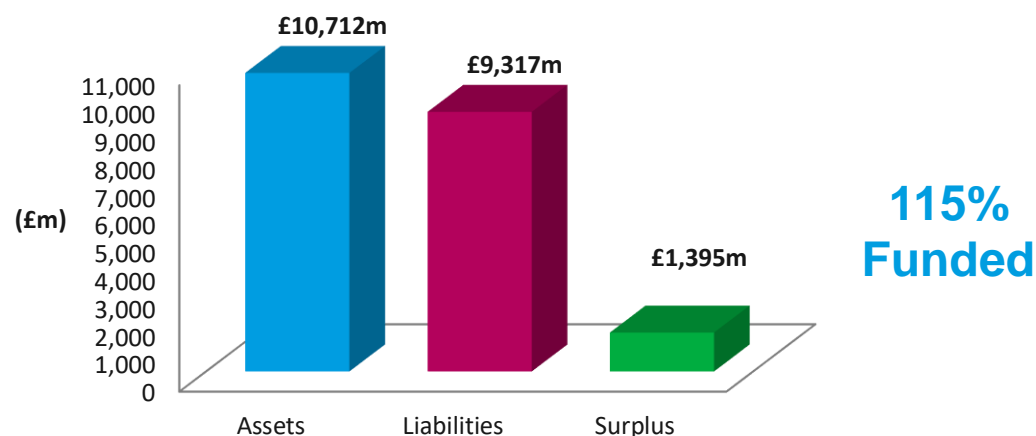


This statement has been provided to meet the requirements under Regulation 57(1)(d) of The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

An actuarial valuation of the Lancashire County Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2022 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.

On the basis of the assumptions adopted, the Fund's assets of £10,712 million represented 115% of the Fund's past service liabilities of £9,317 million (the "Solvency Funding Target") at the valuation date. The surplus at the valuation was therefore £1,395 million.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes



The valuation also showed that a Primary contribution rate of 19.2% of pensionable pay per annum was required from employers. The Primary rate is calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date.

The funding objective as set out in the FSS is to achieve and maintain a solvency funding level of 100% of liabilities (the solvency funding target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. Equally, where there is a surplus it may be appropriate to offset this against contributions for future service, in which case contribution reductions will be put in place to allow for this.

The FSS sets out the process for determining the recovery plan in respect of each employer. At the actuarial valuation the average recovery period adopted was 10 years for employers in deficit (16 years for employers in surplus). The total initial recovery payment (the “Secondary rate” for 2023/26) was an offset of approximately £27m per annum in £ terms (which allows for the contribution plans which have been set for individual employers under the provisions of the FSS), although this varies year on year.

Further details regarding the results of the valuation are contained in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated March 2023.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

In practice, each individual employer's position is assessed separately and the contributions required are set out in the report. In addition to the certified contribution rates, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements (other than ill-health retirements) will be made to the Fund by the employers.

The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each individual employer is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). Any different approaches adopted, e.g. with regard to the implementation of contribution increases and deficit recovery periods, are as determined through the FSS consultation process.

The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the Solvency Funding Target and the Primary rate of contribution were as follows:

	For past service liabilities (Solvency Funding Target)	For future service liabilities (Primary rate of contribution)
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)		
Category A employers*	4.5% per annum	5.0% per annum
Category B employers*	4.25% per annum	4.75% per annum
Rate of pay increases (long term)	4.6% per annum	4.6% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of GMP)	3.1% per annum	3.1% per annum

**As defined in the FSS, but broadly speaking category A employers have a taxpayer guarantee / taxpayer backing, and category B employers do not*
The assets were assessed at market value.

The next triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2025. Based on the results of this valuation, the contribution rates payable by the individual employers will be revised with effect from 1 April 2026.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits for the Purposes of IAS 26

IAS 26 requires the present value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits to be disclosed, and for this purpose the actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS 19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes.

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

To assess the value of the benefits on this basis, we have used the following financial assumptions as at 31 March 2024 (the 31 March 2023 assumptions are included for comparison):

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	4.8% per annum	4.9% per annum
Rate of CPI Inflation / CARE benefit revaluation	2.7% per annum	2.6% per annum
Rate of pay increases	4.2% per annum	4.1% per annum
Increases on pensions (in excess of GMP) / Deferred revaluation	2.8% per annum	2.7% per annum

The demographic assumptions are the same as those used for funding purposes for the 2022 actuarial valuation, but with a long-term rate of life expectancy improvement of 1.5% p.a. For the year end assumptions, we have also updated to the latest CMI tables available (CMI 2022) and applied a suitable reweighting.

Full details of the demographic assumptions are set out in the formal report on the actuarial valuations dated March 2023

The movement in the value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits for IAS 26 is as follows:

	Liabilities
Start of period liabilities	£9,201m
Interest on liabilities	£435m
Net benefits accrued/paid over the period*	(£59m)
Actuarial (gains)/losses (see below)	(£350m)
End of period liabilities	£9,277m

**this includes any increase in liabilities arising as a result of early retirements*

Pension fund accounts and explanatory notes

Key factors leading to actuarial gains above are:

- **Change in financial assumptions:** Corporate bond yields increased slightly over the year, with a corresponding increase in discount rate from 4.8% p.a. to 4.9% p.a. In addition, there has been a reduction in long-term assumed CPI from 2.7% p.a. to 2.6% p.a. In combination, these factors lead to a small reduction in liabilities.
- **Change in demographic assumptions:** As noted above, the assumptions have been updated to reflect the new CMI model available. This acts to reduce the liabilities.
- **Pension increases / recent high short-term inflation:** The figures allow for the impact of the April 2024 pension increase of 6.7%, to the extent it wasn't allowed for in the 2023 statement, along with known CPI since September 2023 (which will feed into the 2025 pension increase). As inflation over the year was higher than the long-term assumption, this increases the liabilities

Mark Wilson

Clive Lewis

Fellow of the Institute and

Fellow of the Institute and

Faculty of Actuaries

Faculty of Actuaries

Mercer Limited

May 2024

Appendix - additional considerations

The “McCloud judgment”: The figures above allow for the impact of the judgment based on the proposed remedy.

GMP indexation: The above figures allow for the provision of full CPI pension increases on GMP benefits for members who reach State Pension Age after 6 April 2016.

Covid 19 / Ukraine / Gaza conflict: The financial assumptions allow for these factors to the degree that they are reflected in the market values on which the assumptions are based. The mortality assumption includes no specific adjustment for COVID as our view is that it is not possible at this point to draw any meaningful conclusions on the long-term impact.

High inflation over last two years: The period-end figures above allow for the impact of actual known CPI at the accounting date as noted above. The period-end assumptions then allow for expected (market implied) CPI from that point.

Governance Statement



Lytham windmill

Executive Summary

The Leader of the County Council, County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, and Chief Executive, Angie Ridgwell both recognise the importance of having good management, effective processes, and other appropriate controls in place to run the county council in delivering services to the communities of Lancashire.

Each year the council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which describes how the corporate governance arrangements have been working across the organisation. To help do this, both the council's Executive Management Team (EMT) and the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee undertake a review of the Council's governance framework and the AGS.

Like all other local authorities, this has been another challenging year for the county council as we have responded to significant inflationary and demand pressures, particularly relating to social care, special educational needs, and home to school transport. The council remains in a relatively strong financial position however we need to constantly innovate and adapt to meet these pressures. Over the next twelve months we will continue our focus on providing services more efficiently and effectively, proactively managing the impact of increasing demand to improve the quality and impact of our services. We will promote responsible partnering, seek to pool budgets where appropriate, and reduce costs to achieve the best outcomes for our residents through targeted investment.

This year, we have robustly reviewed our governance arrangements. This has included:

- A new Executive Director of Resources who has taken over the council's statutory Chief Finance Officer responsibilities;

- A risk and resilience review that involved senior officers and members;
- A new Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to Officers;
- A review of our companies and the establishment of a Company Member Cabinet Committee;
- A new Shareholder Agreement for Local Pensions Partnership Ltd.

These improved arrangements will help us ensure we are performing to the high standards we expect; that we are meeting our legal obligations and that we have good decision-making processes in place.

During the year we have also worked collaboratively with our Lancashire council partners and consulted with the public and local stakeholders to progress proposals to establish a Combined County Authority (CCA). This includes negotiating a Devolution Deal with Government to draw power from Whitehall and give Lancashire greater control over its public services and funding. The proposed CCA will give Lancashire a stronger voice both nationally and in the Northwest and give us access to greater funding that can be deployed locally to build on Lancashire's many strengths.

At the end of the year, we received the interim external auditor's Annual Report for 2022/23 and their opinion on the council's accounts. The report has made no material comments on the accounts but did highlight the risk of significant weakness in relation to the implementation of Oracle Fusion and made a key recommendation that we have accepted. The recommendation relates to the position on 31 March 2023 and the report also noted that significant progress had been made in this area since then.

On the 22 April 2024 the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee considered the content of the proposed governance statement to ensure that it properly reflects how the council is run.

Governance Issues

Good progress has been made against the issues identified in last year's Annual Governance Statement and this year's review confirms that the council continues to maintain appropriate systems and processes to ensure good governance. However, we recognise the need for continuous improvement and the following issues are currently being addressed:

Key Delivery/Improvement Area	Lead Officer	To be delivered by
Sustainability – Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)/Executive Management Team	March 2025/Ongoing
Workforce	Executive Director of Resources/ Executive Management Team	March 2025/Ongoing
Promoting independence and reducing demand	Executive Director of Education and Children's Services Executive Director of Adult Services Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Health	March 2025
Customer centric service delivery	Executive Director of Resources/ Executive Management Team	March 2025
School Places	Executive Director of Education and Children's Services	March 2025
ICT Related Issues	Executive Director of Resources	Winter 2024
Building Schools for the Future	Executive Director of Resources	Autumn 2024

Throughout the year, we will monitor the implementation and operation of our governance arrangements as part of the performance management role of the Executive Management Team. The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee will also provide independent assurance during the year.

Introduction

Local authorities are required by statute to review their governance arrangements at least once a year. Preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with the CIPFA/Solace "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" (2016) (the Framework) helps fulfil this requirement. The Framework requires local authorities to be responsible for ensuring that:

- Their business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations;
- Public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for; and
- Resources are used economically, efficiently, and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people.

The Framework also expects that local authorities will put in place proper arrangements for the governance of their affairs which facilitate the effective exercise of functions and ensure that the responsibilities set out above are being met. facilitate the effective exercise of functions and ensure that the responsibilities set out above are being met.

What is Corporate Governance?

Corporate governance is about the systems, processes and values by which councils operate and by which they engage with, and are held accountable to, their communities and stakeholders.

The Council has adopted a Code of Corporate Governance which follows the CIPFA/Solace guidance "*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*" (2016) which defines the seven core principles that should underpin the governance framework of a local authority:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management; and
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

Key elements of the County Council's Governance Framework

Key elements of Lancashire County Council's governance framework are set out below:

Leader, Cabinet and Council	Decision Making	Risk and Performance Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leader provides leadership Cabinet develops and sets policy Full Council agrees the annual budget, sets Council Tax and the policy framework including the Corporate Strategy (the cornerstone of our policy framework) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are webcast Decisions are recorded on the Council's website Scheme of delegation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk registers identify both operational and strategic risks Key risks are considered by Executive Management Team (EMT), Cabinet and Audit, Risk and Governance Committee Processes are in place for managing and reporting performance to Executive Management Team and Cabinet Directors' complete assurance statements
Council's Leadership Team	Scrutiny and review	External and Internal Audit and review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Paid Service is the Chief Executive who is responsible for all council staff and leading the Executive Management Team The Executive Director for Resources is the council's s.151 Officer and is responsible for ensuring the proper administration of the council's financial affairs The Monitoring Officer is the Council's Director of Law & Governance who is responsible for ensuring legality and promoting high standards of public conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny Committees review council policy, decisions, and budget proposals Work to deliver local public sector accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External audit provides an opinion on the Council's annual statement of accounts and whether the Council has secured economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of its resources Internal Audit provides regular assurance on the governance, risk management and internal control framework External inspections provide an accountability mechanism Peer challenge/reviews highlight good practice and areas for improvement

How do we comply with the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework?

The Council has approved and adopted:

- a Local Code of Corporate Governance
- the requirements of the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016; and
- a number of specific strategies and processes for strengthening corporate governance.

An updated Local Code of Corporate Governance can be found on the Council's website. This shows how the County Council has complied with the seven principles set out in the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework. The Code is reviewed annually and the outcome reported to Audit, Risk and Governance Committee and presented to Full Council for approval. It sets out the requirements underpinning these principles and how the council ensures that it meets them along with the evidence base used to assess their effectiveness.

Managing Performance and Risk

Performance management is a key component of the council's approach to achieving its outcomes. During the year, Cabinet received its Quarterly Performance Report setting out achievements against agreed high-level metrics relating to the corporate strategy. This includes executive summaries from the Chief Executive and Executive Directors and more detailed, service-specific performance metrics enabling members to monitor ongoing service delivery and performance. The reports highlight good performance and mitigation actions where required.

A new Strategy, Policy and Performance Board Chaired by the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services meets bi-monthly. The Board receives a suite of performance dashboards, which draw attention to concerns with performance, describe recovery plans, and escalates issues for discussion and action to the EMT. The Board monitors against service level and corporate indicators and co-ordinates the reporting of performance information to Cabinet. Directorates also monitor performance on a regular basis using performance dashboards.

A new approach to directorate and service planning was introduced during 2023/24 and has been refined for 2024/25. Directorate and service level planning is a cornerstone of effective performance management. It provides a solid foundation to enable us to hold the councils' strategic priorities and values firm, even in times of change. Good business planning also supports the budget planning cycle, ensuring that the council prioritises activity and appropriately supports its objectives through funding decisions.

As part of the business planning process a new approach to workforce planning has also been introduced. Workforce planning is crucial in managing the balance between workforce supply and demand. It's not just about numbers but the right mix of skills and experiences. It aligns service plans with the priorities of the council's Corporate Strategy, ensuring that we have the right people, with the right skills, in the right positions, at the right time. In a dynamic and challenging landscape, the ability to anticipate and respond to workforce needs is a key driver to the on-going delivery of quality services.

Part of the performance management process involves identifying, and where appropriate mitigating risks to ensure that the council's exposure to those risks is reduced. Managing risks is the responsibility of all services. Service risks are scored quarterly with the greatest risks being elevated onto the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register.

During the year, service risk and opportunity registers were updated regularly, and the Corporate Risk and Opportunity register was reported to the Executive Management Team/Compliance and Assurance Board and Audit, Risk and Governance Committee. During the year, EMT revised the risks on the corporate register to better reflect the changing environment in which the council was operating. Risks are also monitored and reviewed by the new Compliance and Assurance Board that is chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by other statutory officers. In addition to this, the council's Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, and Monitoring Officer meet on a regular basis to discuss governance issues including risk and take appropriate action as necessary.

The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee also monitors the effectiveness of risk management arrangements across the organisation. A review of this is undertaken annually by Internal Audit and reported to the committee. The previous Internal Audit review of risk management provided for substantial assurance and that the council's corporate risk management framework is operating effectively.

Equality Impact Assessments together with Health Impact Assessments are used throughout the organisation to assess the impact of service proposals and to inform decision making.

The budget setting process is well established, and services prioritise budgets and spending to achieve intended outcomes. In recent years, the budget setting process has inevitably focused on achieving savings whilst still focusing on the priorities of the political administration.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy is updated regularly and reported to Cabinet together with relevant resource forecasts. It takes full account of the changing regulatory, environmental, demographic, and economic factors that

impact on the financial environment in which the council operates. The report to Cabinet includes in-year revenue and capital expenditure monitoring information along with updates on the multi-year capital programme. The final outturn position will be reported to Cabinet.

Managing our resources (Value for Money)

The council's external auditors, in their interim assessment of 2022/23, concluded that the council has a strong track record of financial control and that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy is updated regularly. Whilst the external auditor did not note any significant weaknesses, they have made some improvement recommendations regarding the council's savings plans.

During 2022/23, the new Oracle Fusion system, used for procurement, payroll, and financial procedures, was implemented. The implementation gave rise to several issues and due to the significance of the matters, the external auditor raised a key recommendation that has been accepted. Since this happened, good progress has been made in addressing a number of those issues and the council now has a 'business as usual' operating model in place. Aside from this issue the external auditor concluded that the council continues to have good procedures around risk monitoring and governance. The external auditor has made some improvement recommendations regarding risk management reporting arrangements that have been accepted.

The external auditor concluded that the council seeks to improve economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and that it has (broadly) strong arrangements for doing so. The council reports thoroughly on performance and works well with partners. The external auditor was satisfied that no significant weaknesses exist in this area but did identify one improvement recommendation relating to contract management arrangements.

The council ensures that it provides timely support, information, and responses to its external auditors – properly considering audit findings and assumptions around what may happen in the future particularly relating to those elements that cannot be directed by the council.

Financial Sustainability

Councils across the country continue to face ongoing pressures, driven by increasing demand and inflation. When compounded with the current workforce challenges, local government must make difficult decisions and look to be as creative and innovative as possible. Consequently, financial sustainability remains a significant risk facing the county council. Throughout 2023/24 projections were reported to both the Executive Management Team and Cabinet in the 'Money Matters' report which forms a regular review point for assessing the effectiveness of financial plans.

In February 2023, Full Council agreed a Council Tax increase for 2023/24 of 3.99% that included a 2% levy for adult social care. Following the Local Government Provisional Settlement announced in December 2023, Full Council agreed a Council Tax increase for 2024/25 of 4.99% (reflecting a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and a further 2% to be used for adult social care) at its meeting in February 2024.

There are several risks inherent in the assumptions within the budget and considerable challenges and uncertainty within the local government sector at present. The council has, therefore, also developed a strategy for identifying further efficiencies and productivity improvements utilising best practice and technology designed to improve outcomes at lower cost.

The council continues to retain relatively healthy reserves with the current uncommitted transitional reserve, being sufficient to meet the forecast funding gap for the lifetime of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. However, the intention remains to identify further savings and/or deliver agreed savings earlier than currently planned to reduce the forecast funding gap enabling further investment to be made into priority services. The value of the County Fund will be kept under review in future years including ongoing assessment of risks that it is established to cover. The relatively healthy uncommitted transitional reserve level also supports and mitigates emergency situations.

The council updates its Medium-Term Financial Strategy twice a year. The forecast for future years considers anticipated cost pressures (both inflationary and demand led), planned savings and expected resource levels. The forecast is necessarily underpinned by a range of estimates and recommendations through the Executive Management Team, Cabinet and the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee. The financial management arrangements of the council conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the *Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government*.

Financial Management Code

The CIPFA Financial Management Code is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. The code sets out six principles underpinned by a series of financial management standards identifying the professional standards to be met if a local authority is to meet the minimal expectations of financial management that are acceptable to meet the fiduciary duties to taxpayers, customers, and lenders.

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The Council continues to undertake medium-term financial planning which has driven the annual budget-setting and monitoring process. Through the Scrutiny Management Board, and the Audit, Risk and Governance committee sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool in delivering and demonstrating good financial management. The positive financial performance of the council during the year has once again evidenced that the long-term sustainability of local services is at the heart of the council's strategy supported by the prudent use of public resources.

How do we know our governance arrangements are working?

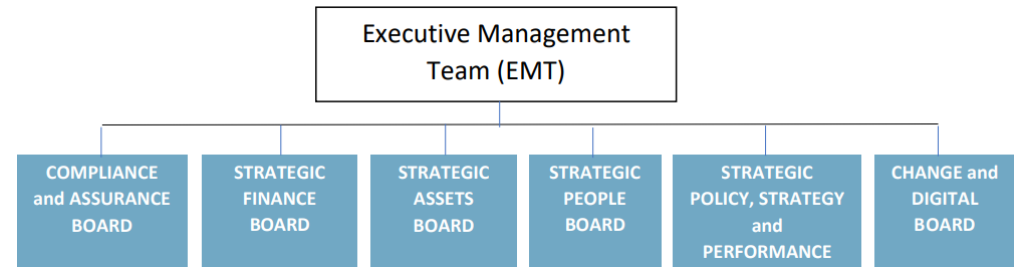
There are several ways we do this:

The role of management

Good governance enables the council to pursue its vision effectively as well as underpinning that vision with good arrangements for the control and management of risk. To do this the Executive Management Team review the council's governance arrangements annually and can confirm that appropriate internal controls for which they have responsibility are in place. This includes their scrutiny of regular budget and performance reports including performance against savings targets within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. In addition to this, the three statutory officers – the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officers meet on a regular basis to review and discuss governance issues and take forward any actions to improve the governance framework.

Directors have the day-to-day responsibility for managing and controlling services – they are accountable for their successful delivery. They set the culture, develop, and implement policies, procedures, processes, and controls. Directors have completed an 'assurance statement' for 2023/24 that reports on service compliance, and they produced regular directorate risk registers that set out appropriate mitigating actions for significant risks. Where the evidence needed to provide full assurance is not available, improvement plans are in place.

This year a new officer governance board framework has been introduced:



Each board is chaired by a member of EMT and seeks assurance that processes for operational decision making are robust and are in accordance with agreed schemes of financial delegation. It also ensures that decisions are not only compliant but deliver the required outcomes. The new governance framework enables effective and consistent strategic operational management of council business.

The Monitoring Officer regularly reviews the council's Constitution and ethical governance arrangements and there are regular briefings on key corporate governance issues to Directors and Heads of Service.

The Role of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

The Council's Audit, Risk and Governance Committee plays a vital role in overseeing and promoting good governance, ensuring accountability and reviewing the way things are done.

The Committee provides an assurance role to the Council by examining such areas as audit, risk management, internal control, counter fraud, treasury management, and financial accountability. The Committee exists to challenge the way things are done, making sure the right processes are in place. It works closely with both Internal Audit and senior management to continually improve the Council's governance, risk and control environment.

In addition to the standard items on the agenda, the Committee considered reports on the following:

- Oracle Fusion Data Breach
- Governance Risk and Resilience Framework Review
- The Overpayment of Salaries
- Local Member Grants Scheme
- Cyber Security Risks
- Assurance over the Pension Fund
- Data and Analytics Risks

In July 2023, the Chairman presented his annual report. The report set out the work the Committee had undertaken and provided a means by which it was able to review its own effectiveness.

The role of the Head of Internal Audit

For 2023/24 the Head of Internal Audit provided moderate assurance (provisional*) overall regarding the adequacy of design and effectiveness in operation of the council's frameworks of governance, risk management and control. This is an improvement from 2022/23 when the opinion was limited due to the issues concerning the implementation of Oracle Fusion.

In forming his opinion, he considered the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service throughout the year as well as the work of external assurance providers and information available from less formal sources than planned audit engagements. Audit work covered the full range of the council's services. The council is in a much stronger financial position than many local authorities, however, the financial projections show that it still faces financial challenges. The county council has adapted well to the changing risk environment and appears to be operating as would be expected.

(*The Head of Internal Audit will be reporting his final opinion to Audit, Risk and Governance Committee in July 2024. However, based on the work currently undertaken it is anticipated that a moderate opinion will be given.)

External Assurances

The opinions and recommendations of the External Auditor and other inspection and review agencies and peer reviews offer us further assurance.

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External auditor's interim Annual Report of Lancashire County Council 2022/23

The external auditor's work identified one significant weakness in relation to Oracle Fusion and the key recommendation has been accepted. Several improvement recommendations were identified and will be responded to appropriately.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Serious Youth Violence

The council was subject to a thematic Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Serious Youth Violence. The inspection lasted for three weeks, with week three (from Monday 5 February) being the 'on-site' week.

Inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) carried out the inspection.

Colleagues from the Police, Health, Education, Children's Social Care, the voluntary sector, and organisations such as the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network came together to showcase all that is done every day to reduce the risk of serious youth violence and prevent it from happening in the future. The report will be published late Spring 2024.

Adult Services Peer Review

To help us prepare for the Adult Services Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection, which may take place sometime during the next year, the council has sought external opinion on its self-assessment from two external peer review teams. The first peer review was undertaken in October 2023 and focused on the council's self-assessment of theme one – Working with People.

The second peer review undertaken by a team from the Local Government Association took place in February 2024 and was run as a full mock inspection covering all four themes. Although the reviews are not a formal inspection, they provided the council with a good indication of its strengths and which areas it may need to do some more work on.

Information Governance

The council has a comprehensive Information Governance Framework in place, overseen by the Senior Risk Information Officer (SIRO) and the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG). The constitution of the CIGG has been broadened to include representation from Children's Social Care, Internal Audit, Investigations and Fraud.

The Corporate Cyber Risk and Security Group (CCRSG) was established in June 2023 to coordinate and manage cyber risk for the county council and create a collaborative and decision-making forum for cyber risk and security. The CCRSG meets monthly and may escalate or inform matters to the CIGG and Compliance and Assurance Board as appropriate.

A bi-monthly Compliance and Assurance Board has also been established to provide an overview of compliance and assurance on statutory responsibilities, statutory officer compliance and risk awareness reporting and governance management. To align with these new reporting arrangements, the CIGG now meets bi-monthly (at adjacent months to the Compliance and Assurance Board). The annual review of policies took place in January 2024 and appropriate amendments made to existing policy. An Artificial Intelligence Policy is in draft format and under review.

Access to Information

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A review of the work undertaken by Information Governance in 2023 confirms a busy and productive year despite the challenges of managing higher demand for services and fluctuating capacity and availability of resources:

Request Type	Total Received	Note
Freedom of Information requests	1,541	9.5% increase from 2022
Subject Access Requests	1,064	17% increase from 2022
Police Requests for information held by LCC in connection with investigations	389	4% increase from 2022

Information Security Incident Reporting

There were 618 information security incidents reported to Information Governance. This is an increase of 56% from the 395 incidents reported for the same period in 2022. Of these incidents, only 4 (0.6%) were deemed to be 'data breaches' and subsequently reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This is a decrease of 43% from 2022, when 7 incidents were reported to the ICO.

This provides assurance that there is a 'speak up' culture at Lancashire in terms of the duty to report any concerns. The rise in information security reporting together with the reduction of data breaches to the ICO is a positive indication that employee awareness has increased, and the severity of incidents has reduced.

Oracle Fusion

Last year, a data breach occurred involving personal data held within Oracle Fusion, the system used for HR, Payroll, Finance and Procurement and during the implementation several issues arose that need to be rectified. The issue regarding implementation was identified as a significant weakness by the external auditor. However, over the past year officers have worked hard to resolve them, and the council now has a business-as-usual operating model in place. In terms of the data breach this was reported to the Information Commissioner's Office and no further action was taken because of the council's swift response.

Both issues have been risks on the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register and both EMT and the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee have received progress reports on the issues.

Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman

During 2023/24 Full Council did not receive any public reports from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman.

Lancashire County Developments Limited

Lancashire County Developments Limited is an owned subsidiary of the County Council. As a material entity it forms part of the Council's group accounts. The County Council has the power to change decision making rights, and to appoint and remove Directors of the company. Board Directors are County Councillors who regularly meet and receive financial and performance reports. In the 2023/24 financial year there have been no governance issues reported. The company is annually subject to a separate external audit to the

county council. No significant issues were identified during the audit and the accounts were signed off by both the Board and the auditors.

Constitutional and Governance Changes

During 2023/24 governance practices across the council have been reviewed. This project had several elements.

Risk and Resilience Review

The aim of this work was to review how the council's governance works in practice, and to identify any potential risks and improvement actions. The findings contributed to the review of the Constitution, and the production of a robust Annual Governance Statement. Ensuring that the council has a strong governance culture is a priority for all officers and members. This review was undertaken independently by the Internal Audit Service at the request of the council's Monitoring Officer to provide evidence of areas of governance strength and identify areas requiring continuous improvement.

Overall, the responses from officers and members were positive with a significant majority either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the seven characteristics of good governance. The review identified several actions to improve specific areas of governance including the 'speak up culture' and these were put forward to Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for approval in January. The committee also agreed that a further review be undertaken after the 2025 county council elections. Improvement was disestablished, and its functions delivered by Cabinet. Cabinet now receives the Corporate Performance report on a quarterly basis.

Constitution Review

Following the leadership of the new Monitoring Officer, the Political Governance Working Group agreed, in May 2023, to undertake a full review of the Constitution to ensure it is accurate, up to date and properly reflects the council's operational arrangements. As part of the review, all county councillors were invited to attend a briefing and take part in a survey. Group briefings and feedback have also been provided and views gathered as part of Internal Audit's Risk and Resilience Review have been utilised. External benchmarking on best practice was also conducted.

An Officer Working Group was consulted to ensure the input of specialist officers, for example in Procurement and Finance. Officers particularly commented on the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, which sets out the rules for officer decision making. The new Constitution was approved by Full Council in March 2024.

Officer Governance Board Framework

As mentioned above a new officer governance board framework has been introduced that enables effective and consistent strategic operational management of council business.

Review of Council Owned Companies

Following a Full Council request, an audit exercise was conducted into how the county council is performing as a company member/shareholder in relation to the companies over which it exercises control. The audit concluded that whilst there were no significant problems in relation to any of the county council companies, the independent auditors identified a gap in the county council's governance arrangements. In response, a new Company Member Cabinet Committee was established to provide strategic management of

county council owned companies. Any risks identified by the Company Member Cabinet Committee in relation to the companies will be reported to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny

Following the establishment of new overview and scrutiny arrangements for 2022/23, there is a requirement for the Scrutiny Management Board to produce an Annual Report to Full Council. The Government's Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, and best practice guidance from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny highlight this as an important way of ensuring that Full Council is informed about the activities of the scrutiny committees.

The Annual Report was presented to Full Council in December 2023 and provided a summary of activity undertaken by scrutiny during 2022/23 and incorporated information relating to scrutiny's findings, impacts and its contribution to the council's corporate priorities. The annual report for 2023/24 will be reported to Full Council during 2024.

Code of Conduct for Members

In general, Lancashire continues to receive relatively few complaints about county councillors. In January 2024, the Audit Risk and Governance committee considered a reporting setting out a summary of all complaints received in 2023 against county councillors under the Code of Conduct.

Independent Remuneration Panel

The Independent Remuneration Panel met in November 2023 and recommended to Full Council that:

- The Basic Allowance be increased by £1,925 (the same flat rate as the 2023/24 staff pay award);
- The current ICT and mobile phone subsidies of £240 per year be removed, and be added instead to the Basic Allowance; and
- The Special Responsibility Allowances be increased using the Scheme's existing multipliers and based on the increased Basic Allowance (£13,777).

The same percentage increase (18.64%) would also be applied to the Chairman / Vice Chairman Allowances and the Dependants' Carers' Allowance.

Full Council approved the recommendations at its meeting in December 2023.

Staff Survey 2023

For the council's most recent staff survey, the response rate was 46%. The comments are helping shape the way the council operates, improving those things that are most important to employees, so that the council can deliver the best possible services to Lancashire's residents. Officers have explored the survey findings in more detail and have focused on designing the actions needed to build on the council's many strengths and improve those areas that

staff have highlighted. Each service has produced an action plan, set up a Staff Voice Group, and appointed Change Influencers to drive improvement.

Social Value Policy and Framework

Cabinet agreed a revised Social Value Policy and Framework that sets out the legal context for social value and the approach for the county council to deliver social value through its commissioning, procurement, and contract management activities. At the centre of the social value strategy are the priorities for the county council and Lancashire 2050. The aim of the revised policy is to focus the council's procurement activity across all service areas with a shared aim, shared ambition, shared goals, and shared priorities. The revised policy will provide a structured approach to monitoring, measuring, and reporting the council's social value achievements.

Lancashire Combined County Authority and Devolution Proposal

As part of the Autumn Budget Statement on 22 November 2023, the Government announced the opportunity for a Devolution Deal for Lancashire and proposed the creation of a Combined County Authority for the administrative area covered by the three upper tier councils, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council.

To progress the potential Devolution Deal, under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, a consultation was completed on the draft Combined County Authority (CCA) Proposal. In November 2023 Full Council agreed the proposal and consultation with residents and other stakeholders of the wider CCA area for a period of 8 weeks commencing on 1 December 2023.

Following consultation, the three councils met in March 2024 to agree their final Proposal to Government, which took account of the outcome of the consultation and formally proposed the creation of the CCA. The creation of the Combined County Authority by regulation will then be subject to formal parliamentary approval in summer and autumn 2024.

Role of the Responsible Officer for Adult Services

The services of the Executive Director for Adult Services (Executive Director), are shared with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), based on 80% ICB to 20% Lancashire County Council (LCC), via a secondment agreement. To facilitate continuity whilst the Executive Director undertakes ICB business, additional director capacity has been secured by way of a Deputy Executive Director of Adult Services (the Deputy), who directly line manages the relevant Adult Services Directors, providing day to day support and direction to them, and professional support to the council.

There are significant benefits to be secured for residents and for the NHS/local authorities if the secondment arrangement delivers improved integration between health and social care in the county, although, seconding the lead officer to a different organisation presents a risk to the council especially as Adult Services are moving to a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection regime.

An Internal Audit review has been undertaken at the request of the Executive Director, to consider the operation of the arrangement with a view to identifying and addressing any material risk. The review provides a substantial assurance opinion with regards to the control framework surrounding the revised leadership arrangements. Robust controls exist to ensure that strategic responsibility and accountability for the planning, commissioning,

and delivery of social services for all adult client groups, ensuring adults receive the care and support they need, when they need it. The review has highlighted where controls could be strengthened.

A particular area of focus for the Executive Director has been in relation to income receivable from the NHS. There are many different joint funding arrangements with the NHS across a range of services, most of which are quite complex and have been subject to ongoing discussion and negotiation. Recent work has focused on several savings targets and the directorate's ability to recover due income from the NHS. This is an area of particular challenge for the NHS in Lancashire due to the overall financial position of the ICB and poses significant risk to the adult services budget. Work is ongoing with the Executive Director and the council's Treasurer to reach a reasonable resolution to this and other areas with the NHS, where a shared approach to funding is required.

Lancashire County Pension Fund

Lancashire County Pension Fund (LCPF) is a Pension Fund within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS England & Wales) which is a funded pension scheme (not paid through taxation such as other public sector schemes). LCC is the body appointed under statute to act as the Administering Authority for LCPF. While the Fund is technically not a separate legal entity it does have its own specific governance arrangements and controls which sit within LCC's overall governance framework.

Governance documentation

LCPF produces its own Governance Compliance statement which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013. This statement sets

out the Fund's Governance Structure, scheme of delegation, and the terms of reference for its Governing Bodies, the Pensions Committee, and the Local Pensions Board. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

In addition, there are several strategy statements and policies which together ensure suitable governance of LCPF.

Governance Structure

The Pension Fund Committee fulfils the role of 'Scheme Manager', as set out in regulations, for LCPF which includes the administration of benefits and strategic management of Fund investments and liabilities. It is responsible for establishing and monitoring the progress on the strategic objectives of LCPF through a rolling three-year Strategic Plan.

The Council has established two bodies to assist and support the Pension Fund Committee oversee LCPF:

- Pension Fund Investment Panel; and
- Lancashire Local Pension Board

The Pension Fund Investment Panel provides expert professional advice to the Pension Fund Committee in relation to investment strategy. The Panel also supports the Head of Fund with the specialist advice required by the Pension Fund Committee.

The Local Pension Board's role is to assist Lancashire County Council as the Administering Authority in its role as Scheme Manager (as delegated to the Pension Fund Committee). This includes the following roles:

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- to secure compliance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
- to secure compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
- in such other matters as the LGPS regulations may specify.

The Council is also responsible for the financial arrangements of the Lancashire County Pension Fund and a separate assessment of the adequacy of these arrangements is also required.

During 2023-24, there has been a governance review resulting in an updated Shareholders' Agreement for Local Pensions Partnership Ltd.

Risk Management

The management of risk is central to the activities of LCPF and it has established its own risk management arrangements which include the following:

- Risks are monitored and assessed on a quarterly basis;
- Risk reporting and risk register are presented to the Pension Fund Committee and the Local Pension Board on a regular basis;
- Additional oversight is provided by the council's Audit, Risk & Governance Committee; and
- LCPF has a 'Risk Management Framework' policy document which is reviewed periodically and sets out all the risk management arrangements for managing all risks for the Fund.

The risk register is broken down into the following key risk areas:

- Investment and Funding Risk – all financial risks associated with LCPF, including risks associated with managing scheme assets and pension liabilities;
- Member risk – all risks which may impact on the high levels of service the fund members receive;
- Operational risk – risks which could negatively impact the smooth and effective running of all aspects of Fund operations and governance;
- Transition risk – temporary risks arising from changes in the management of investments or service delivery;
- Emerging risk - evolving, new risk that is difficult to characterise or assess now, as the cause and / or how the risk will impact the organisation is unclear.

Investment and Administration Services

Pensions administration and investment functions have since 2016 been delivered on behalf of LCPF by the Local Pension Partnership Limited (LPPL) a company group owned by Lancashire County Council and the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA). Pension administration services are provided by the administration arm of the Local Pensions Partnership, which is called Local Pensions Partnership Administration Limited (LPPA), with investment services being undertaken by the investment arm, Local Pensions Partnership Investments Limited (LPPI).

The Pension Fund Committee monitors the performance of these functions. For all arrangements where there is a relationship between the Fund and another organisation LCPF seeks to spell out clearly the expectations and requirements on each party, whether in contractual form where appropriate or through a form of “service level agreement” where a contract is not appropriate.

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Internal audit assurance

The County Council's Internal Audit Service undertakes an agreed audit plan each year to provide assurance regarding the operation of the Pension Fund Service.

Strategic oversight of actions to address the Council's governance challenges in 2023/24

This section provides a concise, high-level summary of strategic actions taken to address the council's governance challenges for the 2023/24 financial year, and what arrangements are in place for oversight of delivery.

Challenge to be addressed	Governance actions taken
<p>Financial Sustainability</p> <p>Failure to deliver a sustainable financial strategy that supports the delivery of the corporate strategy and four priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates provided to Cabinet through the money matters reports covering in year financial position and medium-term financial strategy on a quarterly basis. • Directorate Leadership Teams (DLT's) meet regularly and have a monthly focus on financial position and savings delivery chaired by the relevant Executive Director. • Overall, the Council has an appropriate level of reserves available to manage the financial risks it is facing from 2023/24 to 2026/27. However, on current forecasts it will be necessary that additional savings will be required to bring the council to a financially sustainable position. • Indicative savings targets covering updated MTFS position have been allocated to Directorates to identify savings proposals to meet the forecast future gap. Budget proposals for 24/25 presented to November Cabinet along with MTFS update. • The updated MTFS and budget proposals (including council tax) went to January Cabinet incorporating the outcome of the local government financial settlement. • Following the Local Government Provisional Settlement announced in December 2023, Full Council agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.99% (reflecting a 2.99% increase in general council tax and a further 2% to be used for adult social care) at its meeting in February 2024.
<p>Recruitment & Retention</p> <p>Unable to attract and recruit candidates and retain staff leading to an inability to deliver services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People Strategy developed which gives a coherent and cohesive direction of travel for the business in terms of attraction, recruitment, retention, and development with associated metrics. • New operating model for people services agreed to support the business with key strategic people risks and activities. • Full review of contingent workforce completed to identify required staffing levels and skills. • Recruitment process to be redesigned and benchmarked against emerging and best practice. • Talent attraction team in place as part of People Services operating model • Development of a leadership capability framework

Annual governance statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised approach to strategic Workforce planning launched November 2023 • Adult Social Care vacancy rate reducing overall from 20% to 15% • Childrens Social Care nearly full establishment
<p>Demand for Services</p> <p>Demand for client-based services continues to increase resulting in increased budget pressures and poor outcomes for those people in receipt of council services.</p>	<p>Adult Social Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Living Well at Home framework now incorporated into a single 'Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System' to enable better utilisation of provider capacity at a fixed price. • Living Better Lives in Lancashire new operating model is agreed, and operational plan is being formulated. • Additional resource has been procured to help reduce waiting lists and risk assessment plans for people on waiting lists. This work will start in January. <p>SEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional SEN Units continue to be established. • Agreement to establish new SEN provision in North of the county. • Staffing options developed and short-term investment secured. • Refreshed Alternative Provision Strategy 2023-26 agreed by Cabinet September 2023 • SEND Inspection readiness work continues to strengthen oversight. • Refreshing Improvement Plan.
<p>Our Improvement Journey</p> <p>That the council will not be sufficiently radical or innovative to transform services at the required pace to achieve the scale of change needed over the next 12 months and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised change governance in place - Change and Digital Board (CandD) established and meeting. • Further prioritisation of change activity underway with paper to EMT Dec 23 agreeing further consolidation of priorities • Single view of change requirements developing through collaboration between CandD Board and People Board, plus links to property programme • Single change and programme management office service to be introduced by March 2024, review to commence imminently; includes additional resources to deliver agreed priorities. • Service redesign proofs of concept completed on schedule by December 23, including business case for implementing first element of service redesign. • Initial work to develop Resources redesign and agreed areas of LCC blueprint on completed Dec 23.
<p>School Places</p> <p>Insufficient school places in some parts of the county meaning children and young people are missing out on education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions to identify further opportunities and mitigations. • Developed approaches to better support new arrivals to county/country including support to address language barriers. • Publicity, including social media has reduced the number of late applications. • The website now shows levels of subscription for individual schools and maps of geographical priority areas.

Annual governance statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers attend open evening for the most oversubscribed schools, and year 6 parent information sessions are held in the areas with the most pressure for places. • The expansion of popular schools including Unity College (Burnley), Primet Academy (Colne) and Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School (Colne). The number of places available for Year 7 pupils has been increased, as has the availability of places in higher year groups to accommodate in-year admissions. • Consultations have taken place in respect of primary and secondary schools in Preston. • 11 secondary schools increased their intake of pupils to reflect the growth in demand: Longridge High, St Cecelia's RC High, Fulwood Academy, Lostock Hall Academy, Academy@Worden, Albany Academy, Parklands Academy, Bowland High, Clitheroe Royal Grammar, Shuttleworth College, Burnley High.
<p>ICT Related Issues</p> <p>Cyber Security, and the Oracle Fusion Implementation and Data Breach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been quarterly updates on each issue to both EMT and Audit Risk and Governance Committee and a range of mitigating actions have been put in place. There has been a reduction in the risk score for Cyber Security following the implementation of tools and services with a new security partner. • An enormous amount of work has been completed by colleagues to rectify the Oracle Fusion post implementation issues. There have been numerous service improvements and a business-as-usual operating model is now in place.
<p>Building Schools for the Future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been quarterly updates on this issue to both EMT and Audit Risk and Governance Committee and a range of mitigating actions have been put in place.
<p>Mental Health Beds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mental Health Team Transformation supports earlier intervention and support in times of crisis and was rolled out in Quarter 3, 2023. • Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust have an ambitious capital and workforce plan phased over the next 2 years to significantly increase the overall inpatient bed base to address this gap. • The use of Out of Area placements will continue throughout this period of transition.

Governance Challenges for 2024/25 and onwards

The review of governance arrangements has identified the main areas where the council will need to focus its efforts during 2024/25, to address changing circumstances and challenges. These are set out below. Completion or substantial progress against these objectives is due by the end of the financial year, in March 2025.

Sustainability – Medium Term Financial Strategy

Financial sustainability remains one of the council's biggest risks and it is encouraging that the projected revenue underspend has continued to improve. However, a significant risk factor is in relation to savings delivery, as the budget is based on the delivery of both new / previously agreed savings. Mitigation plans have been implemented to reduce the financial impact both in-year and within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Workforce

The council faces recruitment and retention issues with significant hard to recruit to areas such as social work and structural engineering. Through the new People Strategy, the council wants to become an employer of choice with a workforce that is skilled, productive, healthy, and motivated. A new approach to strategic workforce planning has been integrated into business and service planning process to help to achieve this aim.

Promoting Independence and Reducing Demand

Demand management is incredibly challenging and post-covid residents are presenting with increasingly complex needs. However, the continued reduction in children being taken into care is a good example of where the practice model can have significant positive impact, in this case keeping families together and children and young people safe in their own homes. The council is also now more confident of reducing waiting times for adult social care clients and the issues relating to Education, Health and Care Plans, and home to school transport, are being addressed.

Customer Centric Service Delivery

In terms of change and improvement, the priority change portfolio has been agreed with the Executive Management Team. Further scoping of programmes and projects is underway to enable forecasting and allocation of resources and production of programme plans for key areas including SEND, WOCL, Adults Services quality and practice elements and in-house residential review. Recommendations from the change programme health check are being implemented. Recruitment to the Change Service is in progress, with internal and external recruitment taking place and work to deliver against the service redesign financial targets is progressing, with the first redesign project commencing in April 2024.

School Places

This issue continues to be one of the council's main priorities and work continues to identify further opportunities and mitigations. Support to help new arrivals to county/country has been strengthened, including support to address language barriers. Outreach in terms of publicity is improving and this

has reduced the number of late applications for school places. The council's website now shows levels of subscription for individual schools and maps of geographical priority areas. Officers will continue to attend open evenings for the most oversubscribed schools, and Year 6 parent information sessions will be held in the areas with the most pressure for places. The expansion of popular schools has increased the number of places available for Year 7 pupils and the availability of places in higher year groups to accommodate in-year admissions. Work will continue with secondary schools to increase their intake of pupils to reflect the growth in demand.

Information Technology

The council's Digital Strategy will be refreshed to ensure a digital first approach and look at the use of Artificial Intelligence to help residents access council services in an easier and more responsive way. The council will also continue to work with cyber security partners to minimise the risk of attacks on services and focus on reducing cyber-crime. Officers will continue working on the post implementation issues related to Oracle Fusion.

Building Schools for the Future

Work will continue with partners to resolve the issues identified in the affected schools.

Monitoring implementation

The key governance challenges facing the council in 2024/25 will be monitored by the Executive Management Team, the Compliance and Assurance Board and are identified risks in the Council's Corporate Risk and

Opportunity Register. This document is the 'action plan' for each issue identified.

The governance arrangements relating to the register involve its review by the Executive Management Team and Compliance and Assurance Board, which is then reported in turn to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee. The register identifies risks, the current controls that apply and the mitigating actions to be taken, producing a "risk score" and a residual (target) score after mitigating actions have been applied.

Conclusion

The council's governance arrangements have continued to provide overall assurance over the past 12 months and have been strengthened in several areas. As a result, the county council has the appropriate systems and processes in place to ensure good governance is maintained. Whilst these work generally well, the council has identified several areas where further improvements can be made to strengthen its governance framework. The external auditor's interim Annual Report for 2022/23 has identified a weakness in relation to the implementation of Oracle Fusion. At the time, the council acted swiftly to resolve the issues and now has a business-as-usual operating model in place. A lesson learnt assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the issues encountered are avoided in any future digital programme implementation.

The governance of the county council will continue to be monitored by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, the Executive Management Team and the Compliance and Assurance Board.

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

Our opinion on the financial statements is unmodified

We have audited the financial statements of Lancashire County Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Balance Sheet and the Group Cash Flow Statement, the Technical Annex and notes to the financial statements and group accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Authority's expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2024) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the group and the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to listed public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events

or conditions may cause the Authority or the group to cease to continue as a going concern.

Our evaluation of the Section 151 Officer's assessment of the Authority's and the Group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included a review of the assumptions and forecasts provided to support the Section 151 Officer's assessment regarding the future continuation of services.


In our evaluation of the Section 151 Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 that the Authority's and group's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the group and the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the group and Authority and the Group and Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

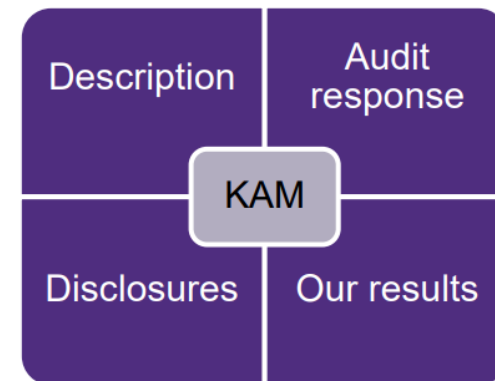
Our approach to the audit

 <p>The diagram shows a circular process with three segments: 'Materiality' on the left, 'Key audit matters' on the top right, and 'Scoping' on the bottom. Arrows indicate a clockwise flow between these segments.</p>	<p>Overview of our audit approach - Financial statements audit</p> <p>Overall materiality Group: £41.908m which represents 1.45% of the Group's prior year gross expenditure on provision of services Authority: £41.489m, which represents 1.44% of the Authority's prior year gross expenditure on provision of services.</p> <p>Key audit matters were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation of land and buildings, (Authority, same as prior year) • Valuation investment property (Group, same as prior year) • Valuation of the net defined benefit pension asset/liability (Authority, same as prior year) • Management override of controls (Group, same as prior year) <p>Our auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2023 included one key audit matters that has not been reported as a key audit matter in our current year's report. This relates to the data migration for the new financial ledger implementation which was a 2022/23 specific risk.</p> <p>Value for money arrangements</p> <p>We are required to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024. Our approach to this work is set out in the 'Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources' section of this report.</p>
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Key audit matters

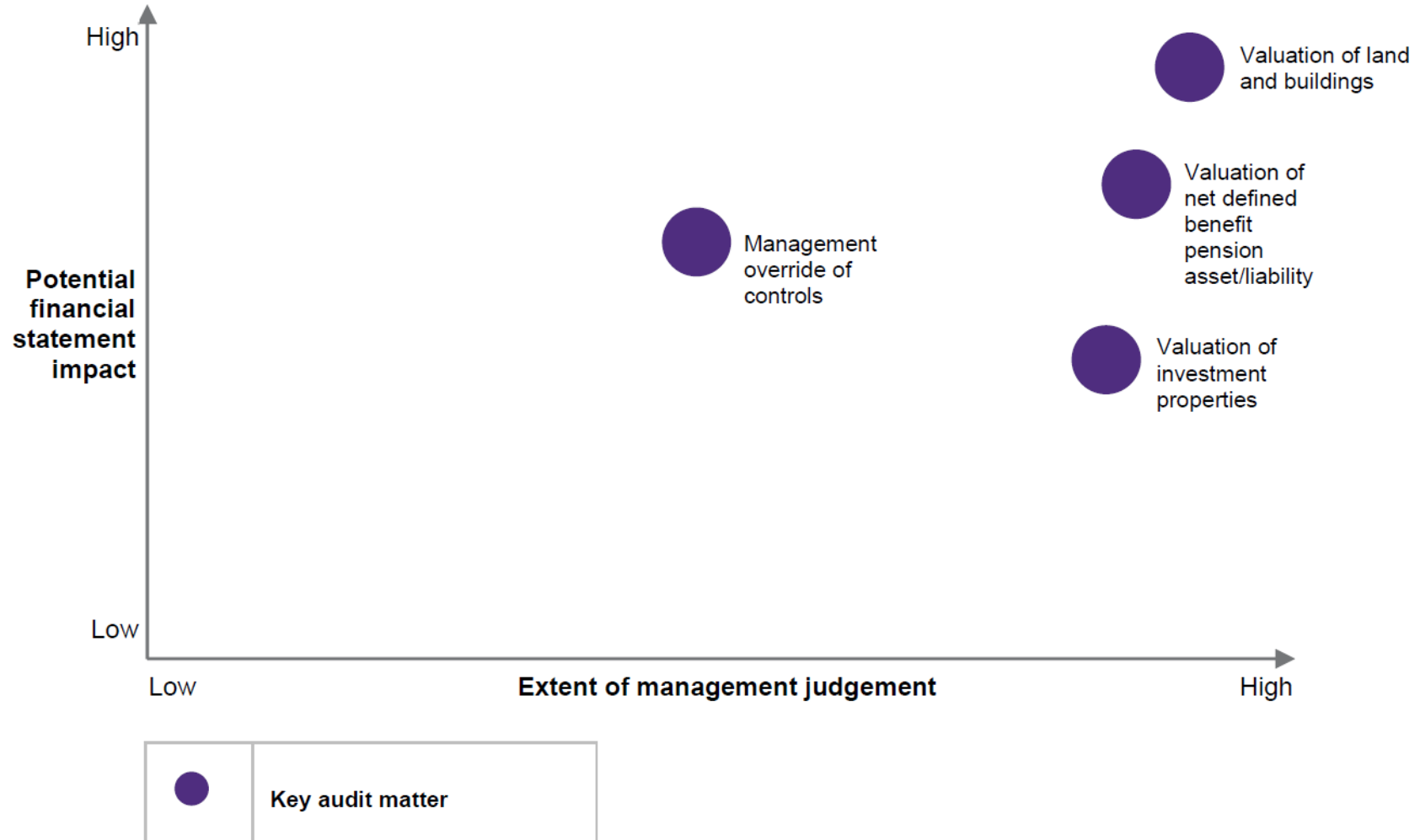
Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the group and Authority's financial statements of the current year and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified.

These matters included those that had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.



Independent auditor's report

In the graph below, we have presented the key audit matters, significant risks and other risks relevant to the audit. This is not a complete list of all risks identified by our audit.



Note: All significant risks identified are key audit matters.

Key Audit Matter - Authority

Risk 1 Valuation of Land and Buildings

We identified Valuation of Land and Buildings as one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement due to error. This is due to the value of the assets and the extent of estimation involved in valuing them.

The Council re-values its land and buildings on a rolling three-yearly basis to ensure that the carrying value is not materially different from the current value.

These valuations represent a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.

Relevant disclosures in the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Accounting policies – Property, Plant and Equipment
- Financial statements: Note 17 Property, Plant and Equipment
- The Narrative Report – Financial Performance Section

How our scope addressed the matter - Authority

In responding to the key audit matter, we have performed the following audit procedures:

- assessed the design and implementation of controls management has in place to ensure the estimate is accurate and underlying data is complete;
- evaluated management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to the valuation experts and the scope of their work;
- evaluated the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the Council's valuation experts;
- challenged the information and assumptions used by the valuers to assess completeness and consistency with our understanding;
- engaged an independent auditor's expert valuer to provide an evaluation of the reasonableness of the assumptions and approach taken by the Council's valuers;
- confirmed that revaluations made during the year were input correctly into the Council's asset register; and
- evaluated the assumptions made by management for those assets not revalued during the year and assessed how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end.

Our results

We obtained sufficient audit assurance to conclude that:

- the basis of the valuation of land and buildings was acceptable; and
- the assumptions and processes used by management in determining the estimate of valuation of land and buildings were balanced and reasonable.

Key Audit Matter - Authority

Risk 2 Valuation of Pension Fund Net Liability/Asset

We identified the Valuation of Pension Fund Net Liability/Asset as one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement due to error.

The pension fund net liability/asset is considered a significant estimate due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of the estimate to changes in key assumptions. As at 31/3/2024 the Council was reporting a net asset of £1,049.6m, within the draft financial statements.

Relevant disclosures in the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Accounting policies – Employee Benefits
- Financial statements: Technical Annex, Post-employment benefit disclosure notes
- The Narrative Report – Financial Performance Section

How our scope addressed the matter - Authority

In responding to the key audit matter, we have performed the following audit procedures:

- understood the processes and controls put in place by management to ensure that the pension fund net liability/asset is not materially misstated and evaluated the design and implementation of the relevant controls;
- assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the share of the pension fund valuation;
- assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided to the actuary to estimate the balance;
- undertaken procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made by reviewing the report of the consulting actuary (as auditor's expert) and performing additional procedures suggested within the report to determine whether estimates are reasonable and consistent with the ranges set by the auditor's expert;
- tested the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in the notes to the financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary; and
- obtained assurances from the auditor of Lancashire Pension Fund as to the controls surrounding the validity and accuracy of membership data; contributions data and benefits data sent to the actuary by the pension fund and the fund assets valuation in the pension fund financial statements. We also obtained assurance over the accuracy of the triennial valuation data.
- assessed the council and the actuary's determination that the pension asset recorded on the balance sheet has been accounted for in line with the requirements of IFRIC 14

Key observations

Based on our audit work, management obtained a revised IFRIC 14 asset cap assessment which applied a funding horizon as a key assumption in the calculation of the present value of secondary contributions. The result of this is that there is now no asset able to be recognised. Management have

amended the accounts to correct for this and have restated the 2022-23 accounts.

Key Audit Matter – Group

Risk 3 Management Override of Controls

Under ISA (UK) 240, there is a non-rebuttable presumed risk that the risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. The Council faces external scrutiny of its spending, and this could potentially place management under undue pressure in terms of how they report performance.

We are aware from previous years' audit findings that there are no authorisation controls in place over journals, which required us to complete additional testing of individual journals.

We therefore identified management override of control, in particular journals, management estimates, and transactions outside the course of business as a key audit matter for the Group and the Council, which was one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement.

Relevant disclosures in the Statement of Accounts

- Accounting policies
- Group accounting policies
- Note 2 – Critical Judgements in applying accounting policies
- Note 3 – Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

How our scope addressed the matter - Group

In responding to the key audit matter, we have:

- evaluated the design effectiveness of management controls over journals
- analysed the journals listing and determined the criteria for selecting high risk unusual journals
- identified, using an elevated risk scoring process, and tested unusual journals made during the year and the accounts production stage for appropriateness and corroboration
- gained an understanding of the accounting estimates and critical judgements applied by management and considered their reasonableness with regard to corroborative evidence
- requested assurance from the component auditor in relation to the risk of management override of controls with Lancashire County Developments Limited

Our results

We have not identified any evidence of inappropriate management override of controls from the testing performed.

Key Audit Matter – Group

Risk 4 Valuation of Investment Properties

We identified the Valuation of Investment Properties as one of the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement due to error.

Investment properties are revalued annually and are held within the Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) subsidiary. The valuations are conducted such that they are co-terminus with the group's year end reporting date.

These valuations represent a significant estimate by management in the financial statements due to the size of the numbers involved and the sensitivity of this estimate to changes in key assumptions.

How our scope addressed the matter - Group

In responding to the key audit matter, we obtained an understanding of the Group's investment property portfolio holding at the reporting date, and the timing and extent of the valuation exercises to be performed by management's experts; in order to determine the audit procedures required of the component auditor. We communicated our Group audit instructions to the auditor of Lancashire County Developments Limited to provide us with sufficient assurance over the valuation of investment properties. We requested the component auditor to perform the following audit procedures:

- Evaluate management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate, the instructions issued to valuation experts and the scope of their work
- Evaluate the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the valuation expert
- Discuss with the valuer the basis on which the valuation was carried out, any changes from prior year and any significant aspects of the valuation approach
- Challenge the information and assumptions used by the valuer to assess completeness and consistency with your understanding.
- Challenge and corroborate the key assumptions applied in the valuation calculations. Ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information relied upon by the valuer; such as rental income, floor spaces etc.
- Assess the instructions to the valuer, the valuer report and the assumptions that underpin the valuation
- Test revaluations made during the year to see if they had been input correctly into the asset register
- Evaluate the assumptions made by management for any assets not revalued during the year and how management has satisfied themselves that these are not materially different to current value at year end

Relevant disclosures in the Statement of Accounts

- Accounting policies – Investment Properties
- Financial statements: Group Accounts Note 8, Group Investment Properties
- The Narrative Report – Financial Performance Section

Our results

Sufficient and appropriate responses were received from the component auditor, and their work was performed in accordance with our Group instructions.

We obtained sufficient audit assurance to conclude that:

- the basis of the valuation of investment property was acceptable; and
- the assumptions and processes used by management in determining the estimate of valuation investment property were balanced and reasonable.

Our application of materiality

We apply the concept of materiality both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming the opinion in the auditor's report.

Materiality was determined as follows:

Materiality measure

Materiality for financial statements as a whole

We define materiality as the magnitude of misstatement in the financial statements that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of these financial statements. We use materiality in determining the nature, timing and extent of our audit work.

Group

Authority

Materiality threshold	£41.908m (£41.908m 2022/23) which represents 1.45% of the Group's prior year gross expenditure on provision of services	£41.489m (£41.489m 2022/23) which represents 1.44% of the Authority's prior year gross expenditure on provision of services.
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Independent auditor's report

Significant judgements made by auditor in determining the materiality

In determining materiality, we made the following significant judgements

- Gross expenditure on provision of services is seen to be the most appropriate benchmark because stakeholders and residents are interested in the level of service expenditure incurred as this is considered public money largely arising from taxation. In addition, it is used to determine the provision of public services to local residents.
- A percentage of 1.45% was selected to apply to the benchmark based upon our risk assessment and the level we considered would be relevant to the users of the financial statements.

Materiality for the current year is unchanged from the level that we determined for the year ended 31 March 2023

In determining materiality, we made the following significant judgements

- Gross expenditure on provision of services is seen to be the most appropriate benchmark because stakeholders and residents are interested in the level of service expenditure incurred as this is considered public money largely arising from taxation. In addition, it is used to determine the provision of public services to local residents.
- A percentage of 1.44% was selected to apply to the benchmark based upon our risk assessment and the level we considered would be relevant to the users of the financial statements.

Materiality for the current year is unchanged from the level that we determined for the year ended 31 March 2023

Materiality measure

Performance materiality used to drive the extent of our testing

We set performance materiality at an amount less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

Performance materiality threshold

£31.431m (2022/23: £31.431m), which is 75% of financial statement materiality

£31.117m (2022/23: £31.117m), which is 75% of financial statement materiality

Significant judgements made by auditor in determining the performance materiality

In determining performance materiality, we made the following significant judgements:

- Based upon our risk assessment and experience of auditing the financial statements of the group we have determined

In determining performance materiality, we made the following significant judgements

- Based upon our risk assessment and experience of auditing the financial statements of the authority we have determined

Independent auditor's report

performance materiality to be 75% of financial statement materiality. This is the same as the previous year.

performance materiality to be 75% of financial statement materiality. This is the same as the previous year.

Specific materiality We determine specific materiality for one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Specific materiality	We determined a lower level of specific materiality for the following areas: The senior officer remuneration disclosures in the have been identified as an area of focus due to the sensitive nature of the balance and the keen interest by users of the financial statements. We have set a lower materiality at £20k.	We determined a lower level of specific materiality for the following areas: The senior officer remuneration disclosures in the have been identified as an area of focus due to the sensitive nature of the balance and the keen interest by users of the financial statements. We have set a lower materiality at £20k.
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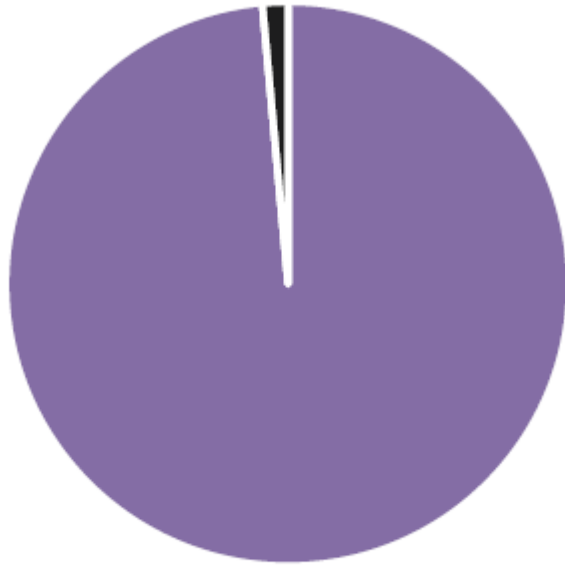
Communication of misstatements to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee We determine a threshold for reporting unadjusted differences to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

Threshold for communication	£2.095m (2022/23: £2.095m), which represents 5% of headline materiality and misstatements below that threshold that, in our view, warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.	£2.074m (2022/23: £2.074m), which represents 5% of headline materiality and misstatements below that threshold that, in our view, warrant reporting on qualitative grounds.
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Independent auditor's report

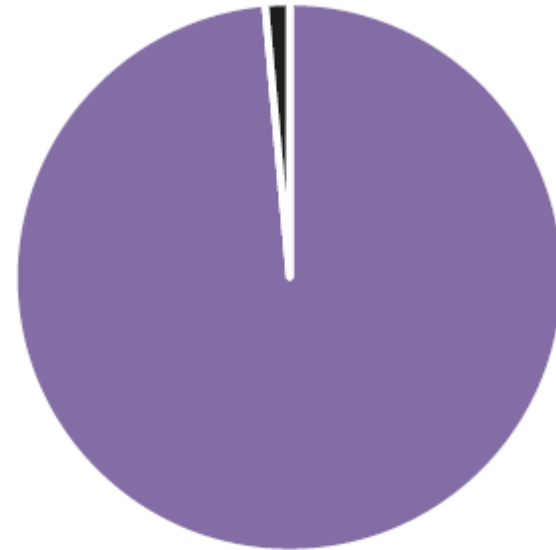
The graph below illustrates how performance materiality interacts with our overall materiality and the threshold for communication to the Audit Risk & Governance Committee.

Overall materiality - Group

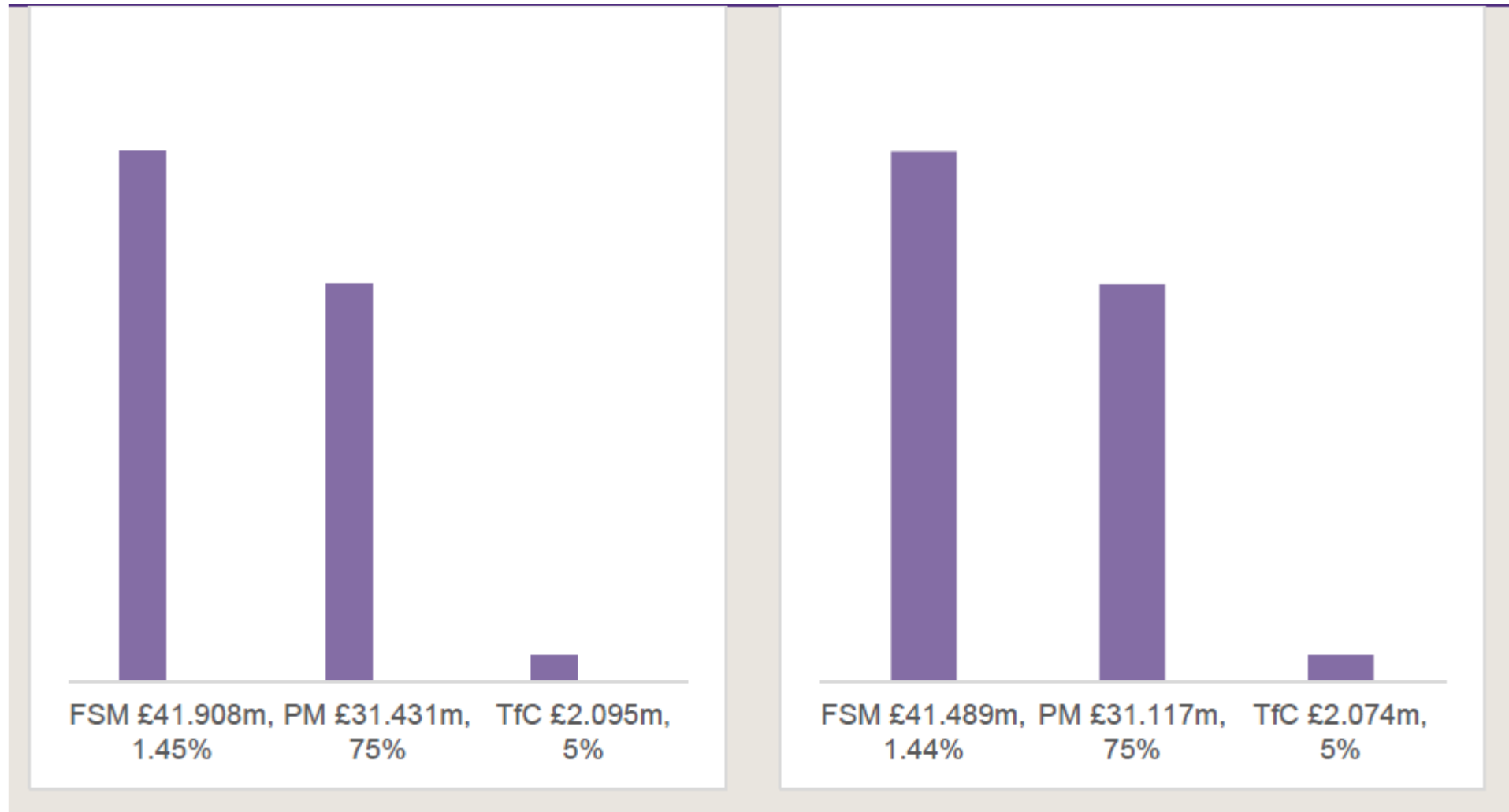


- Prior year gross expenditure on provision of services - £2,890.2m
- FSM £41.908m, 1.45%

Overall materiality - Authority



- Prior year gross expenditure on provision of services - £2,887.4m
- FSM £41.489m, 1.44%



FSM: Financial statement materiality, PM: Performance materiality, TfC: Threshold for communication to the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee.

An overview of the scope of our audit

We performed a risk-based audit that requires an understanding of the Group's and the Authority's business and in particular matters related to:

Evaluating the reasonableness of the valuation of Land and Buildings

- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the Authority's property portfolio holding at the reporting date, and the timing and extent of the valuation exercises to be performed by management's experts;
- The Authority's rolling triennial valuation programme for other land and buildings did influence the scope of audit procedures. While a significant proportion of the Authority's land and buildings were revalued (£1,032m out of £2,287m at the reporting date), this left a balance of £1,255m of assets at the reporting date that had not been valued for at least a year prior to the reporting date. Auditor challenge was therefore required to gain assurance that these assets were reasonably stated in the financial statements.

Evaluating the reasonableness of the valuation of the net defined benefit pension asset/liability

- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the Authority's approach to obtaining actuarial reports which would allow for a reasonable estimate of the Authority's LGPS net asset/liability at the reporting date.
- The Authority's approach involved the use of estimated pension fund asset returns. This influenced the scope of the audit work since the engagement team was aware that updated information on pension fund asset performance could likely have a material impact on the Authority's net asset/liability. Given the level of materiality at £41.9m against the value of assets subject to market fluctuation of £4,311m (at the start of the year), it was considered a significant source of estimation uncertainty.
- Within the scope of our audit procedures is the evaluation of the work of the pension fund auditor, in respect of the pension fund's reported asset performance; the work of the nationally appointed auditor's expert, in respect of assessing the appropriateness of actuarial assumptions used by

the scheme actuary; and the work of the scheme actuary in preparing the IAS 19 calculations and disclosures to be included in the Authority's financial statements.

Evaluating the reasonableness of the valuation of Investment Properties

- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the group's investment property portfolio holding at the reporting date, and the timing and extent of the valuation exercises to be performed by management's experts;
- The Group's valuation programme did not significantly influence the scope of the audit procedures for Investment Property since the Group followed its stated policy of revaluing its Investment Property holding (£84m) at the reporting date.
- The investment property is held within the group accounts, and so we directed the component auditor to perform appropriate procedures to gain assurance over the valuation of the properties.

Understanding the Group, the Authority and its other components, and their environments, including Group-wide controls

- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the Authority, the Group and its environment, including Group-wide controls, and assessed the risks of material misstatement at the Group and Authority level;
- The Group organisational structure did not significantly influence the scope of the audit as the Authority's finance team was in control of the production of the financial statements, which was not a complex process.

Identifying significant components

- The Group audit team evaluated the identified components to assess their significance and determined the planned audit response based on a measure of materiality. Significance was determined as a percentage of the Group's total gross expenditure as well as the value of the assets of the subsidiary on the Group balance sheet.

Independent auditor's report

Type of work to be performed on financial information of the Authority and other components (including how it addressed the key audit matters)

- Full scope audit procedures were undertaken at the Authority
- Full scope audit procedures were performed at the subsidiary, Lancashire County Developments Limited, by the component auditor.

Performance of our audit

- Full scope audit procedures were undertaken at the Authority, which represents 99% of the Group's total expenditure. Refer to the table below for greater clarity.
- The engagement team obtained an understanding of the consolidation process and tested the consolidation, including the alignment of accounting policies, and the significant consolidation adjustments.

Audit approach	Number of components	% coverage gross expenditure
Full-scope audit	1 (2022/23: 1)	99 (2022/23: 99)
Specific-scope audit	0 (2022/23: 0)	0 (2022/23: 0)
Specified audit procedures	1 (2022/23: 1)	1 (2022/23: 1)
Review procedures	0 (2022/23: 0)	0 (2022/23: 0)
Analytical procedures	0 (2022/23: 0)	0 (2022/23: 0)
Total	2 (2022/23: 2)	100 (2022/23: 100)

Communications with component auditors

- We issued the auditors of the component with a set of Group instructions, outlining the procedures required for completion to support the Group audit.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, and our auditor's report on the pension fund financial statements. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information within the Statement of Accounts. Our opinion on the financial statements does not

cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice is unmodified

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Section 151 Officer. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Section 151 Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority and the Group without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance

with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group and Authority and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks (the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2003).

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

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

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

We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority and Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to:

- journal entries that altered the Authority's financial performance for the year;
- potential management bias in determining accounting estimates and judgements in relation to:
 - o the valuation of land and buildings

- o the valuation of Group investment property
- o the valuation of the net pension fund asset
- o the completeness and accuracy of provisions

Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud,
- journal entry testing, with a focus on large post year-end journals above performance materiality, journals posted by senior management, journals posted to miscellaneous codes, journals prepared and posted by different users and journals posted by users with administrative privileges,
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of land and buildings, investment property, provisions, and net pension fund asset valuation, and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

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

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including the risk of management override of controls. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the Group and Authority's engagement team and component

Independent auditor's report

auditors included consideration of the engagement team's and component auditor's;

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

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

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

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

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

Other matters which we are required to address

We were appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments in December 2022 to audit the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024 and subsequent financial periods. Our total uninterrupted period of engagement is 12 years, covering the years ending 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2024.

The non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided to the Group and Authority and we remain independent of the group and Authority in conducting our audit.

Our audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Lancashire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have:

- We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Lancashire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole of Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office has concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2024.
- We are also unable to issue our certificate of completion of the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed our consideration of a matter brought to our attention by the Authority in 2013.
- We are also unable to issue our certificate of completion until we have issued our opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements included in the Pension Fund Annual Report with the pension fund financial statements included in the statement of accounts.

We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our

audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sarah Ironmonger, Key Audit Partner

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

Manchester

17 February 2025

Lancashire County Pension Fund - independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Lancashire County Council on the pension fund financial statements of Lancashire County Pension Fund

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Lancashire County Pension Fund (the 'Pension Fund') administered by Lancashire County Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement, and notes to the pension fund financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2024 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund's assets and liabilities
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Pension Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Section 151 Officer's conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 that the Pension

Lancashire County Pension Fund - independent auditor's report

Fund's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Pension Fund. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2022) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Authority in the Pension Fund financial statements and the disclosures in the Pension Fund financial statements over the going concern period.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Section 151 Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Pension Fund financial statements is appropriate

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial Grant Thornton UK LLP. 2 statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Pension Fund's financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, and our auditor's report on the Authority's and group's financial statements. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice)

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or

Lancashire County Pension Fund - independent auditor's report

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

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

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Section 151 Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Authority is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Section 151 Officer. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Pension Fund's financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Section 151 Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Pension Fund's financial statements, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for assessing the Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been Grant Thornton UK LLP. 3 informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Pension Fund without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Pension Fund and determined that the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those related to the reporting frameworks (the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Government Act 2003), Public Service Pensions Act 2013,

Lancashire County Pension Fund - independent auditor's report

Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

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

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

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

We assessed the susceptibility of the Pension Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were in relation to:

- journal entries that altered the Fund's financial performance for the year;
- potential management bias in determining accounting estimates and judgements in relation to:
 - the valuation of level 3 investments
 - the valuation of level 2 investments
 - the valuation of directly held investment properties

Our audit procedures involved:

- evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud,
- journal entry testing, with a focus on large post year-end journals above performance materiality, journals posted by senior management, journals over half performance materiality which impact the fund account and journals impacting changes in the value of investments,
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of level 2 investments, level 3 investments and directly held property, and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

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

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including management override of controls. We remained alert to any indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, throughout the audit.

Lancashire County Pension Fund - independent auditor's report

Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:

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

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

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Sarah Ironmonger, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor
Manchester
17 February 2025

Glossary of terms and contact information

Rossendale, Lancashire



A

Accounting policies

The rules and practices applied by the council that determine how the transactions and other events are reflected in the financial statements.

Accruals

Income and expenditure are included in the accounts as they are earned or incurred, not when money is received or paid.

Actuarial gains and losses

These arise due to the differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred or because the actuarial assumptions have been changed.

Associate

An associate is an entity over which an investor has significant influence.

C

Capital expenditure

Payments for the acquisition, construction, enhancement or replacement of assets such as land, buildings, roads and computer equipment.

Capital grants unapplied account

A reserve holding capital grants and contributions which either had no conditions attached that could require their return to the grantor, or whose conditions have now been satisfied. Amounts held in this account have already been recognised in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement and transferred into capital grants unapplied via the movement in reserves statement.

Capital receipts

Income received from the sale of land, buildings or equipment.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.

CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (The Code)

The Code incorporates guidance in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). It sets out the proper accounting practice to be adopted for the statement of accounts to ensure they give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the council.

Contingent asset

A possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events, not wholly within the council's control.

Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is either:

- a possible obligation arising from a past event whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council; or
- A present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that there will be an associated cost, or the amount of the obligation cannot be accurately measured.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the council for goods and services received but not paid for as at 31 March.

D

Debtors

Amounts owed to the council for goods and services provided but where the income had not been received by 31 March.

Depreciation

Depreciation is the charge made to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to reflect the council's use of its assets. The justification being, that in using an asset to provide services, its value is diminished.

E

Earmarked reserves

The council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

F

Fair value

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Floating rate note

A bond with a variable interest rate. These bonds typically have coupons renewable every three months and pay according to a set calculation derived from the interest set for each quarter.

I

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset below its carrying amount in the balance sheet due to obsolescence, damage or an adverse change in the statutory environment.

Infrastructure assets

A class of assets whose life is of indefinite length, and which are not usually capable of being sold, such as highways or footpaths.

Intangible assets

Assets which do not have a physical substance for example computer software licences.

International financial reporting standards (IFRS)

Defined accounting standards that must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position, and a standardised method of comparison with financial statements of the other entities.

Investment property

Property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation, not as part of service delivery.

J

Joint venture

A joint venture is an arrangement under which two or more parties have contractually agreed to share control and have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

M

Market value

The monetary value of an asset as determined by current market conditions at the balance sheet date.

Minimum revenue provision

The minimum amount that the council must charge to the accounts to provide for the repayment of borrowing associated with capital expenditure.

N

Net book value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historic cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Net realisable value

The open market value of the asset in its existing use, less the costs incurred in selling the asset.

O

Operating lease

This is a type of lease, usually vehicles or equipment where the balance of risks and rewards of holding the asset remains with the lessor. The asset remains the property of the lessor and the lease costs are revenue expenditure to the council.

Operational assets

Assets used by the council in the delivery of services for which it has responsibility.

P

Prior period adjustments

A material adjustment applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of errors.

Private finance initiative (PFI)

A partnership between the private and public sectors that uses private sector financing to provide public sector assets.

Provisions

An amount set aside to provide for a liability, which is likely to be incurred, but the exact amount and the date it will arise is uncertain.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A government agency which is the major provider of loans to finance long term funding requirements for local authorities.

R

Related party

Related parties are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the council or be controlled or influenced by the council. They

include Central Government, other local authorities, precepting and levying bodies, subsidiary and associated companies, Members, and senior officers and their close family members.

Reserves

An amount set aside for a particular purpose. Reserves can be either usable or unusable.

Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS)

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital when it does not result in the creation of an asset or add to the value of an item of property, plant or equipment belonging to the council. Examples include works on property owned by other parties and capital grants to other organisations.

S

Subsidiary

A subsidiary is a company that is controlled by a holding or parent company.

I would like to thank you for showing an interest in the council's finances and hope you find this information useful. We feel it is important that residents and businesses in the county understand all of the services that we provide and how council tax and business rates are spent during the year. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve things in the future or would like to receive further information about these accounts, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the following address:

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