

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2024/2025



Introduction

1. Narrative Report	5
2. Statement of Responsibilities	13

Core Financial Statements:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	15
Movement in Reserves Statement	17
Balance Sheet	19
Cash Flow Statement	22

Notes to the Financial Statements

Page numbers for supplementary notes can be found on the next page.

-Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	23
-Notes to the Movement in Reserves Statement	36
-Notes to the Balance Sheet	41
-Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	83
7. Additional Notes to the Accounts	87

Supplementary Financial Statements

8. Collection Fund	103
9. Group Accounts	109

Glossary and Independent Auditor's Report

10. Glossary	110
11. Independent Auditor's Report	119

Index of Notes to the Financial Statements

Note		Page
Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
3.01	Expenditure and Funding Analysis	23
3.02	Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	24
3.03	Income and Expenditure Analysed by Nature	26
3.04	Other Operating Expenditure	27
3.05	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	28
3.06	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	28
3.07	Material Items of Income and Expense	29
3.08	Agency Services	29
3.09	Members Allowances	29
3.10	Officers' Remuneration and Termination Benefits	30
3.11	External Audit Costs	32
3.12	Grant Income	32
3.13	Leases – Council as a Lessor	34
3.14	Construction Contracts	35
Notes to the Movement in Reserves Statement		
4.01	Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations	36

Notes to the Balance Sheet

5.01	Property, Plant and Equipment	41
5.02	Investment Properties	48
5.03	Intangible Assets	49
5.04	Financial Instruments	50
5.05	Debtors	55
5.06	Cash and Cash Equivalents	56
5.07	Assets Held for Sale	56
5.08	Borrowing	57
5.09	Creditors	58
5.10	Provisions	58
5.11	Usable Reserves	59
5.12	Unusable Reserves	64
5.13	Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing	68
5.14	Leases – Council as a Lessee	69
5.15	Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	72
5.16	Events After the Balance Sheet Date	81
5.17	Grants Received in Advance	82

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

6.01	Operating Activities	83
6.02	Investing Activities	84
6.03	Financing Activities	85
6.04	Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	85

Additional Notes to the Accounts

7.01	Accounting Standards that have been Issued but have not yet been Adopted	87
7.02	Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies	87
7.03	Assumptions made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	89
7.04	Related Party Transactions	91
7.05	Contingent Assets and Liabilities	93
7.06	Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments	93
7.07	Further Accounting Policies	98
7.08	Going Concern	101
8.0	Collection Fund Statement	103
8.1	Council Tax	107
8.2	Income Collectable from Business Rate Payers	108
9.0	Group Accounts	109
10.0	Glossary	110
11.0	Independent Auditors Report	119

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1.01 INTRODUCTION

The Statement of Accounts summarises the financial performance for financial year 2024/25 and the overall financial position of the council. This narrative report explains the most significant matters reported in the accounts and provides a simple summary of the council's overall financial position.

The Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 has been prepared on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis. The framework within which these Accounts are prepared and published is regulated by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Unless otherwise stated the convention used in these Financial Statements is to round amounts to the nearest thousand pounds. All totals are the rounded additions of unrounded figures, and therefore may from time-to-time – not be the strict sums of the figures presented in the text or tables.

Whilst these accounts are presented as simply as possible, the content and format are largely prescribed, and the use of some technical terminology cannot be avoided. To aid a better understanding of the terminology used, a glossary of the terms is included at the end of the document. An explanation of the key financial statements including explanatory notes and other relevant supplementary information is also provided.

The key financial statements set out within this document include:

- **The Statement of Responsibilities** declares the respective responsibilities of the council and the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer to produce the Statement of Accounts.
- **The Expenditure and Funding Analysis** is a note to the financial statements, rather than a key statement. It shows all income and expenditure incurred by the council throughout the year under statutory funding provisions and the adjustments that are required to these figures to produce the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under generally accepted accounting practices.
- **The Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** – this Statement sets out the movement on the different reserves held by the council which are analysed into usable and unusable reserves. It analyses the increase or decrease in net worth of the council as a result of incurring expenses, gathering income and from movements in the fair value of the assets. It also analyses the movement between reserves in accordance with statutory provisions.
- **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – this Statement brings together all the functions of the council and summarises all the resources it has generated, consumed or set aside in providing services during the year. As such, it is intended to

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

show the true financial position of the council, before allowing for the concessions provided by statute to raise council tax according to different rules and the ability to divert expenditure to be met from capital resources.

- **The Balance Sheet** – this records the council’s year-end financial position. It shows the balances and reserves at the council’s disposal, its long-term debt, net current assets or liabilities, and summarises information on the non-current assets held. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e., those reserves the council can use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those the council cannot use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line ‘Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.
- **The Cash Flow Statement** – this summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for both capital and revenue.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** – the notes provide more detail about the items contained in the key financial statements, the council’s Accounting Policies and other information to aid the understanding of the financial statements.
- **The Collection Fund** – the council is responsible for collecting council tax and local business rates. The proceeds of council tax are distributed to the council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and local town/parish councils. Local business rates are distributed between the council, the Government, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The Fund shows the income due and application of the proceeds.

The Independent Auditor’s Report explains how the council’s auditors, Ernst and Young LLP, plan their audit and the basis on which they provide an opinion on the council’s Statement of Accounts. It also gives the auditor’s opinion on the council’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources in the year.

1.02 HART DISTRICT

Hart District is primarily rural, covers some 21,500 hectares (83 sq. miles) and is situated in north–east Hampshire, bordering both Surrey and Berkshire. It is a popular place to live, as it benefits from low unemployment, low crime rates and good schools. It has a healthy, active population with high participation in sports and leisure. There are approximately 101,000 residents and an estimated 42,700 homes in Hart. There is an increasing and ageing population, with the number of residents expected to rise in coming years with new housing provided, and increases expected in older age groups. The main centres of population including Fleet, Yateley and Blackwater/Hawley are in the north and east of the district and just over 30% of the population live in the rural areas.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1.03 HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hart District Council (“the council”) comprises 33 councillors who represent their 11 wards. Each ward has 3 councillors who represent it, although once elected councillors will make decisions for the whole district, not just for the ward they were elected for. Elections are held in 3 out of every 4 years, with one seat in each ward contested at each election. The political make-up of the council since the May 2024 local elections was: Conservative Party 9, Community Campaign Hart 11, Liberal Democrat Party 12, and one independent councillor.

The council is a multifunctional organisation. The policies are directed by the political leadership and implemented by the officers of the council. The council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet model as its political management structure. The Leader of the council has responsibility for the appointment of members of the Cabinet, the allocation of Portfolios and the delegation of Executive Functions. Cabinet Members are held to account by a system of scrutiny.

Supporting the work of councillors is the organisational structure of the council headed by the Chief Executive, who is supported by three executive directors.

During the year, the council establishment was 125 full-time equivalent employees. The council has a significant level of outsourced and shared services although some functions were brought in house during the year.

1.04 CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Council has a Corporate Plan (2023-2027) which was approved following a period of public consultation and review from the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee. The plan focusses the council on the priority themes of:

- Planet – make all areas directly under the control of the council carbon neutral by 2035 and make Hart a carbon neutral district by 2040.
- People – fair treatment for all, help for those in need, and a sustainable economy that makes Hart a great place to live, work and enjoy.
- Place - delivering warmer, better homes in sustainable locations that people can afford to live in.
- This will be underpinned by providing a resilient and financially sound council.

The Corporate Plan is underpinned by Service Plans which will run for the lifetime of the plan and are updated annually. This shows in detail how the council will make progress against the priorities in the Corporate Plan. Each year a review is undertaken to update the Service Plan and ensure it continues to highlight the significant projects that the council is taking forward in pursuit of its four corporate priorities. Progress is monitored by the O&S Committee's performance panels.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

Achievements in 2024/25

The council has made progress in several areas over the 2024/25 financial year.

Achievements and key service statistics include:

- Delivered 58 disabled facilities grants to provide adaptations to residents to enable them to continue to live safely and independently in their own homes.
- Processed 577 new housing register applications, an increase on last year.
- Over £100k of community grants awarded for hardship, winter cost of living and Armed Forces community support
- Housing advice given to 743 households.
- Completed 788 community safety early interventions and processed 1189 antisocial behaviour complaints.
- Successfully supported 65 households to secure affordable suitable private sector accommodation, an increase of 75% on the previous year.
- 91 fixed penalty notices issued for environmental offences.
- Successfully ran the local and PCC elections in May 2024 and the General Election in July.
- Launched Impact Hart brand and website, aimed at the local community to help tackle climate change and promote sustainability.
- Awarded government funding for low carbon heat pump projects and digital improvements to the planning service
- Adopted the affordable homes supplementary planning document and reviewed Article 4 directions in conservation areas
- Thermal imaging project surveyed 136 residential properties during the year facilitated by 24 volunteers and supported residents to secure a total of £333k in grants towards energy saving measures in their homes
- Delivered £201k scheme of new solar panels at Hart Leisure Centre.
- Completed the 3-year £1m United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme of community projects in the District.
- Processed 830 licensing applications and 415 enquiries.
- Undertook 294 food hygiene Inspections to Food Businesses. Supported circa 71 new food businesses to open.
- Processed 1,487 environmental Health service enquiries and investigation requests.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1.05 REVENUE BUDGET

A detailed outturn report will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in August 2025. This will include detailed explanations of variations and recommendations to transfer elements of the underspend to earmarked reserves. As reported during the year, an overall net underspend against budget has been achieved which is mainly due to employee vacancies, effective control of expenditure, plus significant additional interest earned on cash deposits. Changes to the budget are made during the year in accordance with the scheme of virement included within the Constitution.

1.06 CAPITAL BUDGET

The overall performance against the 2024/25 capital budget is shown in the table below:

Controllable Costs by Service Area	2024/25 Approved Budget £'000	2024/25 Budget Changes £'000	2024/25 Revised Budget £'000	2024/25 Actual Expenditure £'000	2024/25 Variance v Budget £'000
Community Services	4,151	(481)	3,670	3,451	(219)
Corporate Services	2,277	294	2,571	970	(1,601)
Place Services	0	89	89	89	(0)
Net Cost of Services	6,428	(98)	6,330	4,510	(1,820)

The capital programme for 2024/25 was financed as follows:

Financed by	2024/25 £'000
Government grants and other contributions	3,880
Direct revenue contributions	559
Capital receipts	71
Total	4,510

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1.07 PENSION LIABILITY

In 2024/25, the actuarial valuation included within the accounts for 2024/25 is a net liability of £1.2m which is £1.6m down on 2023/24. Under the International Accounting Standard (IAS 19) the Council must disclose the lower of the actuarial valuation or Asset Ceiling calculation. This is explained in Note 5.15.

The liability represents our share of the liability to Hampshire County Council's Pension Fund. This amount is matched by a Pensions Reserve also shown on the Balance Sheet and therefore has no immediate impact on the council's overall financial position and its General Fund Balances (small differences may arise over the balance sheet date due to accruals being made for invoices not yet received).

Further details are set out in the Accounting Policies and Pension Note [\(Note 5.15\)](#).

[IAS19](#) does not directly impact on the actual level of employer contributions paid to the Hampshire County Council Fund. Employers' levels of contributions are determined by triennial actuarial valuations which are based on the Fund's actual investment strategy (rather than being based on corporate bond yields).

The movement to the Fund is set out in more detail in note 5.15. The total liability has an impact on the net worth of the council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean the financial position of the council remains sound. The deficit on the scheme will be recovered through increased contributions over the remaining life of the employees as assessed by the actuary.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

1.08 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):

- Provides a framework for managing resources in the medium term to deliver the corporate plan.
- Demonstrates that sufficient resources will be available to meet The Council's objectives and priorities, particularly in delivering value for money.
- Looks ahead to the longer term to protect and help plan sustainable services within an extremely challenging external economic and funding environment.
- Strengthens the Council's financial resilience and manages volatility and risk, including maintaining adequate reserves.
- Anticipates financial pressures and identifies potential ways to balance the Council's budget, including efficiency measures.

The MTFS is based on an analysis of the key influences on the council's future financial position and an assessment of the main financial risks facing the council. Given the uncertainty referred to below, the council continually models a range of MTFS scenarios. Emerging pressures were reported to members in Autumn 2024 with a comprehensive review of assumptions and forecast completed in January 2025. During the year, the council undertook a comprehensive review of its reserves to ensure that they align to needs and risks and strengthen financial resilience.

The current economic and financial environment provides a very challenging context for the Medium-Term Financial Forecast. The forecast and strategy need to remain flexible and the council's reserves resilient to respond to the impact of volatile external events and risk transfers from central government. Hart's budget has been set in the context of unprecedented uncertainty and risk due to the impact of changing economic conditions on the council and its finances. Whilst these conditions continue, it is becoming possible to forecast with more certainty in some key areas as recovery develops. The Council's Financial Strategy, together with information presented to members during the year demonstrates the financial challenges to the council in the future including the risks associated with the current economic situation.

The key MTFS risks are summarised below:

- Achieving savings targets when service demand is rising, and recruitment and retention is very challenging.
- Limited ability for further investment in commercial property with new borrowing restrictions in place. Government policy change has affected the Council's ability to undertake prudent 'yield' investments.
- The impact of the Government's business rate review and funding review is likely to reduce retained business rates and increase risk; negative grants are still on the agenda.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

- Property – this is an increasingly important revenue stream in the Council's budget, so the risk of rent loss due to void periods must be evaluated.
- Environment Act implications on the cost of the waste contract with uncertainty about government and HCC funding.
- Project management and governance to ensure capital schemes and projects are adequately resourced and overseen. Need to attract external funding where possible.
- Reliance on Council Tax increase, planning and building control income are set or limited by the Government.
- The unknown economic impact on inflation and interest rates
- Cost of living and its economic impact on the council's community, businesses, and residents – this is leading to a higher demand for services, the need for closer monitoring of debts and a greater demand for hardship funds.
- Recruitment and retention – impact on services and cost of agency cover.
- Heightened cybercrime risk with the cost of insuring and defending against the risk materialising.

1.09 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about these accounts is available from:

Executive Director of Corporate Services
Hart District Council
Civic Offices
Harlington Way
Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 4AE

Telephone: 01252 622122
Email: enquiries@hart.gov.uk

1.10 INSPECTION AND AUDIT

Interested members of the public have the statutory right to inspect these accounts before the audit is completed. For the 2024/25 accounts, the inspection period is 1 June to 11 July 2025. These dates are advertised on the council's website.

2 STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

2 STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

2.01 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 (S151 Officer). In this council, that officer is the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

2.02 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the chief financial 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 also:

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

2 STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

2.03 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2024/25 present a true and fair view of the financial position of the council (the Balance Sheet) and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Signed

Date

Graeme Clark
Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer

2.04 CHAIRMAN OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2024/25 has received the full approval of Members.

Signed

Date

Wendy Makepeace-Browne
Chair, Audit Committee

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE

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

Income and Expenditure	Note	2023/24 Gross Expenditure £'000	2023/24 Gross Income £'000	2023/24 Net Expenditure £'000	2024/25 Gross Expenditure £'000	2024/25 Gross Income £'000	2024/25 Net Expenditure £'000
Community Services		9,154	(6,056)	3,098	10,838	(3,874)	6,964
Corporate Services		20,143	(14,087)	6,056	20,934	(17,425)	3,509
Place Services		3,957	(1,703)	2,254	3,669	(1,570)	2,099
Cost of Services		33,254	(21,846)	11,408	35,441	(22,869)	12,572
Other Operating Expenditure	3.04	3,975	(108)	3,867	4,215	(16)	4,199
Financial and Investment Income	3.05	2,201	(3,050)	(849)	635	(3,302)	(2,667)
Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	3.06	14,811	(32,397)	(17,586)	15,821	(35,187)	(19,366)
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services		54,241	(57,401)	(3,160)	56,112	(61,374)	(5,262)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2023/24 Net Expenditure £'000	2024/25 Net Expenditure £'000
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		
(Surplus) or Deficit on provision of services	(3,160)	(5,262)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment assets	503	(2,775)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/asset pension	(2,746)	(1,787)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(2,243)	(4,562)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(5,403)	(9,824)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

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 reserves' (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax (or rents) for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movement in the year following those adjustments. This balance includes earmarked reserves which have been segregated within the General Fund for specific projects. See [Note 5.11](#)

Movement in Reserves between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	General Fund Balance £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 1 April 2024	35,754	5,278	10,536	51,568	29,750	81,318
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	5,262	0	0	5,262	4,562	9,824
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation (Note 4.01)	1,713	(54)	(99)	1,560	(1,560)	0
Increase or (decrease) in year	6,975	(54)	(99)	6,822	3,002	9,824
Balance at 31 March 2025	42,729	5,224	10,437	58,390	32,752	91,142

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Movement in Reserves between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024	General Fund Balance £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 1 April 2023	31,847	4,574	10,642	47,063	28,852	75,915
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	3,160	0	0	3,160	2,243	5,403
Reclassification of Balances to Capital Grants and Contributions	0	589	(589)	0	0	0
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation (Note 4.01)	747	115	483	1,345	(1,345)	0
Increase or (decrease) in year	3,907	704	(106)	4,505	898	5,403
Balance at 31 March 2024	35,754	5,278	10,536	51,568	29,750	81,318

BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET

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

Total Assets	Note	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Other land and Buildings		48,840	50,144
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment		1,699	1,671
Infrastructure assets		196	184
Community assets		6,019	6,120
Assets under construction		0	159
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	5.01.5	56,754	58,278
Investment properties	5.02	15,426	15,241
Intangible Assets	5.03	21	166
Long term debtors	5.05	371	135
Total Long Term Assets		72,572	73,820
Short term investments		20,400	24,500
Assets held for sale	5.07	150	150
Short term debtors	5.05	4,436	4,119
Cash and cash equivalents	5.06	9,719	12,031
Current Assets		34,705	40,800
Total Assets		107,277	114,620

BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT

		31 March 2024	31 March 2025
		£'000	£'000
Total Liabilities	Note		
			(455)
	5.09	(6,810)	(6,747)
	5.10	(240)	(136)
Current Liabilities		(7,500)	(7,338)
Lease liability	5.14	(391)	(284)
	5.08	(13,990)	
	5.15.3	(2,772)	
	5.17	(1,306)	(1,067)
Long Term Liabilities		(18,459)	(16,140)
Total Liabilities			(23,478)

		31 March 2024	31 March 2025
		£'000	£'000
Total Net Assets	Note		
Total Assets		107,277	114,620
Total Liabilities		(25,959)	(23,478)
Total Net Assets		81,318	91,142

BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT

Reserve Classification	Note	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Earmarked reserves	5.11.1	27,058	31,920
General fund		8,695	10,809
Capital receipts		5,278	5,224
Capital grants and contributions unapplied		10,536	10,437
Total Usable Reserves		51,567	58,390
Revaluation reserve	5.12.1	12,420	14,708
Capital adjustment account	5.12.2	19,262	19,159
Financial instrument adjustment account	5.12.3	(24)	(11)
Pension reserve	5.12.4	(2,772)	(1,165)
Collection fund	5.12.5	948	122
Accumulated absences	5.12.6	(83)	(61)
Total Unusable Reserves		29,751	32,752
Total Reserves		81,318	91,142

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

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2024/25 present a true and fair view of the financial position of the council (Balance Sheet) and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Signed
Date

Graeme Clark
Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

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

This cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method whereby the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services is adjusted for non-cash items, removing the effects of accruals and extracting transactions relating to investing or financing activities.

Cashflow	Note	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		3,160	5,262
Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	6.01	1,301	3,314
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(3,082)	(3,798)
Net cash flows from Operating Activities – in flow / (out flow)		1,379	4,778
Investing Activities	6.02	2,437	(1,248)
Financing Activities	6.03	(279)	(1,218)
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		3,537	2,312
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		6,182	9,719
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		9,719	12,031

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3.01 EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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

	2023/24 Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	2023/24 Adjustments between the funding and Accounting Basis	2023/24 Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2024/25 Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	2024/25 Adjustments between the funding and Accounting Basis	2024/25 Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Surplus						
Community Services	2,787	(311)	3,098	4,702	(2,262)	6,964
Corporate Services	4,041	(2,015)	6,056	1,822	(1,687)	3,509
Place Services	2,418	164	2,254	2,076	(23)	2,099
Cost of Services	9,246	(2,162)	11,408	8,600	(3,972)	12,572
Other income and expenditure	(13,153)	1,415	(14,568)	(15,575)	2,259	(17,834)
Surplus	(3,906)	(746)	(3,160)	(6,975)	(1,713)	(5,262)

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

General Fund	2023/24 Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund £'000	2024/25 Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund £'000
	(3,906)	
Closing General Fund Balance		(42,728)

3.02 NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

2024/25	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting			
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Community Services	(2,197)	(67)	2	(2,262)
Corporate Services	(1,604)	(86)	3	(1,687)
Place Services	0	(41)	18	(23)
Net Cost of Services	(3,801)	(194)	23	(3,972)
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	3,071	14	(826)	2,259
Difference between General Fund surplus and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement surplus on the provision of services	(730)	(180)	(803)	(1,713)

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2023/24	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis			
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Community Services	(290)	(30)	9	(311)
Corporate Services	(1,977)	(31)	(7)	(2,015)
Place Services	210	(30)	(16)	164
Net Cost of Services	(2,057)	(91)	(14)	(2,162)
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	245	(29)	1,199	1,415
Difference between General Fund surplus and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement surplus on the Provision of Services	(1,812)	(120)	1,185	(747)

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

For **Services** this column adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluations gains and losses.

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

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

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

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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 CIES.

Other Differences

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

For **services** this represents the change in the accumulated absences reserve attributable to each service.

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

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

3.03 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSED BY NATURE

The authority's expenditure and income are analysed as follows.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure Analysis		
Employee benefits expenses	6,695	7,248
Other services expenses	22,545	22,576
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	4,204	5,616
Interest payments	340	450
Changes in fair value of investment properties	1,671	185
Precepts and levies	3,975	4,215
Non-domestic rates tariff, levy and deficit charges	14,811	15,822
Total Expenditure	54,241	56,112

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Income Analysis		
Fees, charges and other service income	(7,546)	(9,849)
Interest and investment income	(3,050)	(3,302)
Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	(29,707)	(31,092)
Government grants and contributions	(16,990)	(17,115)
Gain on disposal of assets	(108)	(16)
Total Income	(57,401)	(61,374)

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		
Total Expenditure	54,241	56,112
Total Income	(57,401)	(61,374)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the provision of Services	(3,160)	(5,262)

3.04 OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Other Operating Expenditure		
Parish council precepts	3,975	4,215
(Gains)/ loss on the disposal of non-current assets	(108)	(16)
Total Other Operating Expenditure	3,867	4,199

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

3.05 FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
	339	
	190	
	(1,877)	
	498	
Total Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(849)	(2,667)

3.06 TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure		
Council tax income	(12,372)	(12,651)
Revenue Support Grant	(69)	(74)
Non-domestic rates income and safety net	(17,240)	(18,345)
Non-domestic rates tariff, levy and deficit charges	14,811	15,821
Non-ring-fenced government grants	(1,880)	(2,151)
Capital grants and contributions	(836)	(1,966)
Total Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure	(17,586)	(19,366)

The breakdown of 'non-ring-fenced government grants' and 'capital grants and contributions' can be seen in more detail in note 3.12 Grant Income.

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

3.07 MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

The council incurs significant expenditure through its delivery of services, and it receives significant income from a number of sources to fund this. For example, the council incurs a significant proportion of its spend on benefit payments, which is funded predominantly by government grant. This income and expenditure is reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in these statements and is supported by notes within the same section. The council does not consider there were any other material items of income and/or expense that were incurred and/or received in the normal day to day provision of the services.

3.08 AGENCY SERVICES

The council provides a number of services on behalf of Hampshire County Council. In 2024/25 the council received £175,040 for providing these services (2023/24 £174,374).

3.09 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The council paid the following amounts to members of the council during the year:

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Members Allowances		
Allowances	261	272
Expenses	1	1
Total Members Allowances	262	273

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

3.10 OFFICERS' REMUNERATION AND TERMINATION BENEFITS

3.10.1 REMUNERATION

The remuneration paid to the council's senior employees is shown below.

Job Role	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Expenses Allowances £	Pension Contributions £	Total £
Chief Executive 2024/25	127,305	0	19,096	146,401
Chief Executive 2023/24	124,200	0	18,630	142,829
Executive Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer 2024/2025	106,888	0	16,033	122,921
Executive Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer 2023/2024	104,598	0	15,690	120,287
Executive Director of Place 2024/25	98,888	0	14,833	113,721
Executive Director of Place 2023/24	96,598	0	14,490	111,087
Executive Director of Communities 2024/25	93,888	0	14,083	107,971
Executive Director of Communities 2023/24	91,598	0	13,740	105,337

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Other council's employees (excluding senior employees noted above) whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 were:

Band	Number of Employees 2023/24	Number of Employees 2024/25
£50,000 to £54,999	7	5
£55,000 to £59,999	4	6
£60,000 to £64,999	2	6
£70,000 to £74,999	2	2
Total number of employees	15	19

3.10.2 Termination Benefits

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

There were no termination payments made in either 2024/25 or 2023/24.

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

3.11 EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts and certification of grant claims.

Per Statement of Accounts, the audit fee for 2024/25 was £168k (£153k 2023/24) for the appointed auditor work and £16k (£14k 2023/24) for the certification of grant claims.

Fee Type	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Fees payable to Ernst and Young LLP for external audit services carried out as the appointed auditor for the year	153	168
Fees payable to Ernst and Young LLP for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year 23/24*	14	16
Total		184

* £16k for the certification of grant claims in 2024-25 not to be provided by Ernst Young.

3.12 GRANT INCOME

Grants, third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the council when there is reasonable assurance that:

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

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

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

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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.

The council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2024/25.

Grant Income Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income:

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Non ring fenced Government Grants		
New Homes Bonus	(790)	(739)
Revenue Support Grant	(69)	(74)
Lower Tier Services	(55)	(10)
Non-ring fenced Government Grants-Funding Guarantee	(1,027)	(1,402)
Other Non-ring-fenced Government Grants	(8)	0
Total	(1,949)	(2,225)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Capital Grants and Contributions		
Developer Leisure Contributions	(773)	(673)
Other Capital Grants and Contributions	(63)	(1,293)
Total		

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Total Grant Income Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Non-ring-fenced Government Grant Total	(1,949)	(2,225)
Capital Grants and Contributions Total	(836)	(1,966)
Total	(2,785)	(4,191)

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Grant Income Credited to Services:

Grant Income Credited to Services	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Housing Benefits/Council Tax Subsidy and Grants	(10,052)	(9,359)
Disabled Facilities Grant	(911)	(1,040)
Welfare	(1,556)	(981)
Planning	(53)	(20)
Developer's Contributions and other Capital Grants	(1,237)	(776)
New Burdens Grants	(29)	(38)
Election Grants	(38)	(96)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	(401)
Other Grants and Contributions	(329)	(213)
Total	(14,205)	(12,924)

3.13 LEASES – Council as a Lessor

Under IFRS16, where the council grants, what was previously classified as, an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset continues to be recognised in the Balance Sheet. Rental income generated from such leases is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The recognition of rental income is carried out on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payment schedule differs from this pattern.

The council owns a number of property, plant and equipment assets that are leased to other bodies for one or a combination of the following purposes:

- To gain rental income from its investment properties
- For economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.
- To provide leisure facilities for public use

3 NOTES TO THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

Duration of the lease	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Not later than one year	(2,511)	(3,254)
Later than one year and not later than five years	(15,513)	(12,144)
Later than five years	(16,000)	(13,907)
Total value of Leases where the Council is the lessor	(34,024)	(29,305)

3.14 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

As of the **31 March 2025** the council does not have any significant construction contracts in progress.

4 NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

4.01 ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources the council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources the council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

4 NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

2024/25 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under the Regulations

	2024/25 General Fund Balance £'000	2024/25 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2024/25 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment to Revenue Resources			
Pensions Costs (<i>transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve</i>)	180	0	0
Financial Instruments (<i>transferred to the Financial Instruments Account</i>)	(13)	0	0
Council tax and NDR (<i>transferred to (or from) the Collection Fund</i>)	825	0	0
Holiday Pay (<i>transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve</i>)	(22)	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provisions of Services in relation to capital expenditure (<i>these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	2,019	0	1,986
Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources	2,989	0	1,986

	2024/25 General Fund Balance £'000	2024/25 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2024/25 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(16)	16	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (<i>transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	(701)	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (<i>transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	(559)	0	0
Total Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources	(1,276)	16	0

4 NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	2024/25 General Fund Balance £'000	2024/25 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2024/25 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment to Capital Resources			
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(71)	0
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(2,084)
Total Adjustment to Capital Resources			(2,084)

	2024/25 General Fund Balance £'000	2024/25 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2024/25 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Total Adjustments			
Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources	2,989	0	1,986
Total Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources	(1,276)	16	0
Total Adjustment to Capital Resources	0	(71)	(2,084)
Total Adjustments			(98)

4 NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

2023/24 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under the Regulations

	2023/24 General Fund Balance £'000	2023/24 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2023/24 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment to Revenue Resources			
Pensions Costs (<i>transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve</i>)	120	0	0
Financial Instruments (<i>transferred to the Financial Instruments Account</i>)	(4)	0	0
Council tax and NDR (<i>transferred to (or from) the Collection Fund</i>)	(1,199)	0	0
Holiday Pay (<i>transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve</i>)	14	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provisions of Services in relation to capital expenditure (<i>these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	2,916	0	649
Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources			649

	2023/24 General Fund Balance £'000	2023/24 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2023/24 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(115)	115	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (<i>transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	(689)	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (<i>transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account</i>)	(296)	0	0
Total Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources			0

4 NOTES TO THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	2023/24 General Fund Balance £'000	2023/24 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2023/24 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Adjustment to Capital Resources			
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(167)
Total Adjustment to Capital Resources	0	0	(167)

	2023/24 General Fund Balance £'000	2023/24 Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	2023/24 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied Account £'000
Total Adjustments			
Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources	1,847	0	649
Total Adjustment between Revenue and Capital Resources	(1,100)	115	0
Total Adjustment to Capital Resources	0	0	(167)
Total Adjustments			482

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.01 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price plus 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.

Charges to Revenue for Non-current Assets – Services and support services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

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

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

Component Accounting - Where components of an asset are significant in value in relation to the value of the asset as a whole, and they have substantially different economic lives, they will be recognised separately. Components will be recognised separately as and when they are replaced or re-valued. Individual assets valued at less than £200,000 will be disregarded for componentisation.

Capital Expenditure and de minimis - Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of tangible fixed assets is accounted for on an accruals basis. Capitalisation thresholds apply so for land and buildings a de minimis of £10k applies, and for plant and equipment a de minimis of £5k applies, where it meets the criteria of having a life greater than a year and/or has increased the value/life of an asset or enhanced the usability of the asset.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.01.1 Revaluations

The council carries out a rolling programme that ensures all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years and all assets within a class are revalued simultaneously. For the 2024/25 financial year, valuations were carried out as at **31 March 2025**. Increases in valuation are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. 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 on 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.

All valuations were carried out externally by independent valuers Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with methodologies and basis for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

Assets are then carried on the Balance Sheet using the following measurement basis:

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction - depreciated historical cost
- Surplus assets – fair value
- All other assets – current value

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.

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

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

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

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

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

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the council takes into account a market 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 council uses appropriate valuation techniques for each circumstance, maximising the use of relevant known data and minimising the use of estimates or unknowns. This takes into account the three levels of categories for inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

- Level 1 – quoted prices.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

The council's surplus assets have been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes.

Valuation Year	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Total £'000
Carried at historical cost	0	4,562	271	6,852	159	0	11,844
31 March 2025	46,707	0	0	0	0	0	46,707
31 March 2024	153	0	0	0	0	0	153
31 March 2023	973	0	0	0	0	0	973
31 March 2022	3,154	0	0	0	0	0	3,154
31 March 2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost or valuation	50,987	4,562	271	6,852	159	0	62,831

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

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

There were no impairment losses recognised in the year 2024/25.

5.01.3 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life and assets that are not yet available for use such as assets under construction.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line allocation over the useful life of the assets. Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

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.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Infrastructure - straight line allocation over the life of the asset
- Buildings – straight line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Land – is not depreciated.
- Assets under construction – not depreciated.
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – straight line allocation over the life of the asset
- IT and Intangible Assets – straight line allocation over the life of the asset

The Useful Economic Life of assets in each category can vary depending on the type, make, construction and use of the asset. Current lives used for accounting purposes are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| • Infrastructure | 3 to 25 years |
| • Buildings | 10 to 53 years |
| • Land | 99 years |
| • Vehicles, plant and equipment | 1 to 25 years |
| • IT and Intangible Asset | 3 years |

5.01.4 Capital Commitments

As at the 31 March 2025 the authority has entered into an agreements for:

- Food Waste Collection Vehicles £550,000
- PSDS Heat Pumps Design £39,430

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.01.5 Movements on Balances

2024/25 Asset Movements	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation at 1 April 2024	49,470	4,235	271	6,661	0	60,637
Additions	0	327	0	191	159	677
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,366	0	0	0	0	1,366
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	151	0	0	0	0	151
Derecognition - disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost or Valuation at 31 March 2025	50,987	4,562	271	6,852	159	62,831
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment at 1 April 2024	(630)	(2,536)	(75)	(642)	0	(3,883)
Depreciation charge	(1,856)	(355)	(12)	(90)	0	(2,313)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	1,409	0	0	0	0	1,409
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	234	0	0	0	0	234
Derecognition - disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment at 31 March 2025	(843)	(2,891)	(87)	(732)	0	(4,553)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2025	50,144	1,671	184	6,120	159	58,278
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	48,840	1,699	196	6,019	0	56,754

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

2023/24 Asset Movements	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or Valuation at 1 April 2023	51,506	3,557	271	6,383	0	61,717
Additions	0	797	0	278	0	1,075
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(1,876)	0	0	0	0	(1,876)
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(72)	0	0	0	0	(72)
Derecognition - disposals	0	(207)	0	0	0	(207)
Reclassifications	(88)	88	0	0	0	
Cost or Valuation at 31 March 2024	49,470	4,235	271	6,661	0	60,637
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment at 1 April 2023	(452)	(2,409)	(63)	(575)	0	(3,499)
Depreciation charge	(1,875)	(327)	(12)	(67)	0	(2,281)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	1,372	0	0	0	0	1,372
Depreciation written out to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	325	0	0	0	0	325
Derecognition - disposals	0	200	0	0	0	200
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment at 31 March 2024	(630)	(2,536)	(75)	(642)	0	(3,883)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	48,840	1,699	196	6,019	0	56,754
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	51,054	1,148	208	5,808	0	58,218

Vehicles, Plant and equipment includes £391k of embedded leased vehicles in relation to Grounds Maintenance (2023-24 £507k).

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.02 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

An investment property is defined as a property which is held exclusively for revenue generation or for the capital gains that the asset is expected to generate. In this respect, the asset is not used directly to deliver the council's services.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. Properties are not depreciated but are re-valued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal. 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.

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

Fair Value - The council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 2 for valuation purposes (see Note 5.01.1 for explanation of fair value levels).

Valuations have taken account of the following factors: existing lease terms and rentals taken from the tenancy schedule, independent research into market evidence including Market rentals and yields, and then adjusted to reflect the nature of each business tenancy or void and the covenant strength for existing tenants. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000	£'000
Investment Property Income		
Rental income from investment property	1,173	1,173
Net gain / (Loss)		1,173

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

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

Investment Properties	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at start of year	17,097	15,426
Additions - Purchases	0	0
Net gains or (losses) from fair value adjustments	(1,671)	(185)
Transfers (to) or from Property, plant and Equipment/ Assets held for sale	0	0
Balance at end of year	15,426	15,241

5.03 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication the asset might be impaired. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include only purchased licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period the software is expected to be of use to the council. The useful life assigned to the major software suites used by the council is three years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Intangible Assets	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Balance at the start of year: Gross carrying amounts	362	383
Balance at the start of year: Accumulated amortisation	(362)	(362)
Net carrying amount at the start of the year		21
Additions in period	21	152
Amortisation for the period	0	(7)
Net carrying amount at the end of year		166
Net carrying amount at the end of year: Gross carrying amounts	383	535
Net carrying amount at the end of year: Accumulated amortisation	(362)	(369)
Net Book Value at the end of the year		166

5.04 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

5.04.1 Categories of Financial Instruments

Classification and Measurement of Financial Assets Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics.

There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

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

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

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Expected Credit Loss Model Expected credit losses for all of financial assets held at amortised cost are recognised either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables, and contract assets and trade receivables with a significant financing component.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses.

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

For trade and contract receivables without a significant financing component the council has applied a simplified approach consistently to calculate expected credit losses, under which impairment losses are automatically based on lifetime expected credit losses, removing the need to consider changes in credit risk since initial recognition.

In accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice, no impairment loss allowance is recognised for monies owed by Central and Local Government bodies.

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

2024/25 Financial Assets	31 March 2025 Non Current Investments/ Cash and Cash Equivalents £'000	31 March 2025 Non Current Debtors £'000	31 March 2025 Current Investments/ Cash and Cash Equivalents £'000	31 March 2025 Current Debtors £'000	31 March 2025 Total £'000
Amortised cost - soft loan	0	135	0	218	353
Amortised cost - other	0	0	36,531	1,412	37,943
Total Financial Assets	0	135	36,531	1,630	38,296
Non-financial instruments balance	0	0	0	2,489	2,489
Total cost or valuation	0	135	36,531	4,119	40,785

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

2023/24 Financial Assets	31 March 2024 Non Current Investments/ Cash and Cash Equivalents £'000	31 March 2024 Non Current Debtors £'000	31 March 2024 Current Investments/ Cash and Cash Equivalents £'000	31 March 2024 Current Debtors £'000	31 March 2024 Total £'000
Amortised cost - soft loan	0	371	0	212	583
Amortised cost - other	0	0	30,293	1,571	31,864
Total Financial Assets	0	371	30,293	1,783	32,447
Non-financial instruments balance	0	0	(174)	2,653	2,479
Total cost or valuation	0	371	30,119	4,436	34,926

2024/25 Financial Liabilities	31 March 2025 Non Current Borrowings £'000	31 March 2025 Non Current Creditors £'000	31 March 2025 Current Borrowings £'000	31 March 2025 Current Creditors £'000	31 March 2025 Total £'000
Fair Value through Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised costs	(13,624)	0	(455)	(1,361)	(15,440)
Total Financial Liabilities	(13,624)	0	(455)	(1,361)	(15,440)
Non-financial instruments balance	0	0	0	(5,386)	(5,386)
Total	(13,624)	0	(455)	(6,747)	(20,826)

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

2023/24 Financial Liabilities	31 March 2024 Non Current Borrowings £'000	31 March 2024 Non Current Creditors £'000	31 March 2024 Current Borrowings £'000	31 March 2024 Current Creditors £'000	31 March 2024 Total £'000
Fair Value through Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised costs	(13,990)	0	(450)	(1,532)	(15,972)
Total Financial Liabilities	(13,990)	0	(450)	(1,532)	(15,972)
Non-financial instruments balance	0	0	0	(5,278)	(5,278)
Total	(13,990)	0	(450)	(6,810)	(21,250)

5.04.2 Material soft loans made by authority.

The loan to Serco Ltd, as part of the waste agreement with Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, for vehicles is deemed to be material soft loan. The loan is an interest free loan of £1.931m to Serco Ltd over seven years.

Material Soft Loans made by the authority	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Opening balance at 1 April	809	583
Total cash payments	(243)	(243)
Interest	18	13
Closing balance at the end of year	583	353
Nominal value at 31 March	607	364

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.04.3 Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses	2023/24 (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services £'000	2024/25 (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services £'000
Interest Expense: Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	339	316
Total Expense	339	316
Interest Revenue: Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(1,877)	(2,128)
Total Income	(1,877)	(2,128)
(Surplus) or Deficit for the year	(1,538)	(1,812)

5.04.4 Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair values assessed 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.
 - For the council's investments in externally managed pooled funds, fund values published by the fund manager have been used as these represent the prices in the principal market within which the council would normally enter into a transaction to sell the asset.
 - For the Stable or Low Volatility Net Asset Value money market funds, the valuation used assumes that, for each £1 for every of principal invested, the fund will return £1 of principal on withdrawal by the council, plus interest.
- 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.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

	2023/24 Carrying Amount £'000	31 March 2024 Fair Value £'000	2024/25 Carrying Amount £'000	31 March 2025 Fair Value £'000
Financial Assets				
Amortised cost - Investments	30,293	30,293	36,531	36,531
Amortised cost - Short term debtors	1,783	1,783	1,630	1,630
Long term debtors	371	371	135	135
Total Financial Assets	32,447	32,447	38,296	38,296

	2023/24 Carrying Amount £'000	31 March 2024 Fair Value £'000	2024/25 Carrying Amount £'000	31 March 2025 Fair Value £'000
Financial Liabilities				
Amortised cost - Short term borrowing	(450)	(450)	(455)	(455)
Amortised cost - Short term Creditors	(1,532)	(1,532)	(1,361)	(1,361)
Long term borrowing	(13,990)	(8,896)	(13,624)	(8,002)
Total Financial Assets	(15,972)	(10,878)	(15,440)	(9,818)

5.05 DEBTORS

Income is recognised in the accounts when it becomes due. Income that is due but has not been received at the end of the financial year is carried under the debtors heading in the balance sheet.

This debtor balance is reviewed at each year end to assess the recoverability of the sums due and where it is doubtful debts will be settled the balance of debtors is written down and an impairment charge made to the relevant account for the income that might not be collected. This assessment is carried out using the council's past experience and current knowledge of collection rates for different groups of debtors.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Short and Long term Debtors		
Central government bodies	516	484
Other local authorities	552	573
Other entities and individuals	3,368	3,062
Total Short-term Debtors		4,119
Interest Revenue: Financial assets measured at amortised cost	371	135
Total Long-term Debtors		135

5.06 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.

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Bank current accounts	4	881
Short-term deposits	9,715	11,150
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,719	12,031

5.07 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

Assets held for sale are items of property, plant or equipment or a group of assets and liabilities whose carrying amount is to be recovered principally through a sale rather than its continued use by the authority. As at 31 March 2025 there is one asset classified as held for sale.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Movements in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Balance at 1 April	150	150
Property, Plant and Equipment classified assets as held for sale	0	0
Investment Property classified assets as held for sale	0	0
Sold	0	0
Balance at 31 March		

5.08 BORROWINGS

The total borrowings in the Balance Sheet carry the principal amount repayable. Interest is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement in accordance with the loan agreement.

The council have borrowing with Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) as shown in the table below:

Short and Long Term Borrowing	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
PWLB	(450)	(455)
HCC	0	0
Total Short-term Borrowing		(455)
PWLB	(13,990)	(13,624)
Total Long-term Borrowing		(13,624)
Total Short and Long-term Borrowing		(14,079)

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.09 CREDITORS

Creditors are all amounts owed by the council as at 31 March 2025.

Creditors	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Central government bodies	(2,137)	(1,321)
Other local authorities	(2,087)	(2,164)
Other entities and individuals	(2,586)	(3,262)
Total Creditors		(6,747)

5.10 PROVISIONS

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties. When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Movements in year	Balance at 1 April 2024 £'000	Additional provisions made in 2024/25 £'000	Amounts used in 2024/25 £'000	Unused amounts in 2024/25 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £'000
Business Rates Appeals Provision	(145)	(14)	23	0	(136)
5C Baseline Truing Up Provision	(95)	0	95	0	(0)
Total Provisions	(240)	(14)	118	0	(136)

5.11 USABLE RESERVES

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

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

General Fund - the primary fund of the council. It records all assets and liabilities of the council that are not assigned to a special purpose fund. It provides the resources necessary to sustain the day-to-day activities and thus pays for all administrative and operating expenses.

Earmarked Reserves - Earmarked reserves are created for specific purposes (legal/contractual requirement) that span financial years for which there is a definitive time frame. The council has a number of earmarked reserves and details of the main earmarked reserves can be found in the earmarked reserves below.

Capital Receipts Reserve - represents the capital receipts available to finance capital expenditure in future years, after setting aside any statutory amounts for the repayment of loans. The receipt arising from the disposal of an asset will be classed as a capital receipt, to be used to finance capital expenditure, if it is greater than £10,000. If the receipt falls below this threshold it will fall to the income and expenditure account, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.

Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve - where a capital grant or contribution has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution shall be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. These balances are a capital resource available to finance expenditure.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Movements in the council's usable reserves are detailed in 4.0 Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 4.01 Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation.

The balances of the individual reserves can be seen on the Balance Sheet.

5.11.1 TRANSFERS TO / FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

Earmarked reserves are created for specific purposes (legal/contractual requirement) that span financial years for which there is a definitive time frame. The note below sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2024/25.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Note, some totals may not cast by £1,000 due to rounding's but need to remain to reconcile through the accounts.

2024/25 Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 1 March 2024 £'000	Transfers In 2024/25 £'000	Transfers (Out) 2024/25 £'000	Adjustment Transfers 2024/25 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £'000
Hitches Lane (Edenbrook) SANG	7,637	1,626	(100)	0	9,163
Bramshot Farm SANG	7,273	868	(58)	0	8,083
Government Funding Risk	3,550	2,136	(7)	(100)	5,579
Small SANG Schemes	3,456	662	(422)	0	3,696
Contract Renewal	1,349	0	(41)	(57)	1,251
Community Services	1,186	161	(178)	286	1,455
Housing	1,044	385	(178)	(296)	955
Corporate Services	621	47	(243)	70	495
Digital Transformation	287	110	(32)	0	365
Climate Change	251	54	(18)	(3)	284
Place Services	163	0	0	100	263
Planning	58	0	(58)	0	0
Biodiversity	38	0	0	0	38
Open Spaces	31	2	(8)	0	25
Other Earmarked Reserves	114	164	(10)	0	268
Total Reserves	27,058	6,215	(1,353)	(0)	31,920

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

2023/24 Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 1 March 2023 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Transfers (Out) 2023/24 £'000	Adjustment Transfers 2023/24 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
Hitches Lane (Edenbrook) SANG	7,237	562	(162)	0	7,637
Bramshot Farm SANG	6,185	1,199	(111)	0	7,273
Government Funding Risk	0	1,877	(1,528)	3,201	3,550
Small SANG Schemes	3,419	199	(163)	1	3,456
Contract Renewal	0	965	(48)	432	1,349
Community Services	0	158	(68)	1,096	1,186
Housing	1,035	641	(39)	(593)	1,044
Corporate Services (incl. Climate Change)	1,019	200	(39)	(559)	621
Digital Transformation	377	5	(95)	0	287
Climate Change	0	100	(77)	228	251
Place Services	0	0	(45)	208	163
Planning	251	58	0	(251)	58
Biodiversity	0	38	0	0	38
Open Spaces	204	2	(18)	(157)	31
NNDR Smoothing Account	2,928	0	0	(2,928)	0
New burden reserves	464	0	0	(464)	0
IT Cyber Security	150	0	0	(150)	0
Regulatory Services	73	0	0	(73)	0
Other Earmarked Reserves	93	12	0	9	114
Total Reserves	23,435	6,016	(2,393)	(0)	27,058

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

A brief description of those reserves with movement in balances over £50,000 is provided below.

SANGs

Developer's contributions to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green (SANG) spaces.

Government Funding Risk Reserve

Reserve to mitigate or smooth the impact of significant reductions to the council's funding from government, including new homes bonus.

Open Spaces

Developer's contributions towards the maintenance of Elvetham Heath plus funds for supporting roundabout sponsorship.

Housing Reserve

To facilitate the provision of services to homeless people in the district as well as support housing refugees. This is accumulated government funding which will be spent on a planned basis over a number of years.

Community, Corporate, Place and Planning Reserves

To fund a number of projects within these service areas.

Digital Transformation

Digital transformation, flexible and agile working has been recognised as a priority for the council and this reserve supports projects in this area.

Climate Change

To fund the Climate Change action plan.

Contract Renewal

Funds set aside for the preparations required for renewing the Council's major contracts.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.12 UNUSABLE RESERVES

5.12.1 Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

Movements in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
	865	
	(1,368)	0
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(503)	2,775
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(623)	(487)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(623)	(487)
Balance 31 March		14,708

5.12.2 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements in 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 and enhancement.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the council. The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note, some totals may not cast by £1,000 due to rounding's but need to remain to reconcile through the accounts.

Movement in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Balance at 1 April	21,052	19,263
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(2,281)	(2,313)
Revaluation gains or (losses) on Property, Plant and Equipment	253	384
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,176)	(3,681)
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	(7)	(7)
Total Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(4,211)	(5,617)
Adjusting amounts written out to the Revaluation Reserve	623	487
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year	(3,588)	(5,130)
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	71
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	2,319	1,796
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	167	2,084
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund balance	688	701
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	296	559
Total Capital financing applied in year	3,470	5,211
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,671)	(185)
Balance at 31 March	19,263	19,159

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.12.3 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

The council uses the account to manage fair value adjustments regarding the soft loan for Bramshot Farm and the soft loan for Serco. Balance Sheet represents adjustment for Bramshot Farm Loan received from Hampshire County Council and soft loan to Serco.

Movement in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(28)	(24)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	4	13
Balance at 31 March	(24)	(11)

5.12.4 Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements in 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 and changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed at the time the council makes the employer contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. In 2024/25, the actuarial valuation has seen a significant movement from a deficit to a surplus position. Under the International Accounting Standard (IAS 19) the Council must disclose the lower of the actuarial valuation or Asset Ceiling calculation. The Asset Ceiling calculation resulted in a lower valuation and has therefore been included within the accounts for 2024/25 resulting in a net liability of £1.2m.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(5,398)	(2,772)
Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability / asset	2,746	10,052
Asset Ceiling Adjustment	0	(8,265)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,128)	(1,113)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,008	933
Balance at 31 March		

5.12.5 Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

	31 March 2024 Total £'000	Council Tax 31 March 2025 £'000	Non domestic Rates 31 March 2025 £'000	31 March 2025 Total £'000
Movement in year				
Balance at 1 April	(252)	124	824	948
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,200	(44)	(782)	(826)
Balance at 31 March	948	80	42	122

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.12.6 Accumulated Absences Account

Benefits payable during employment are short-term employee benefits due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g., cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render services to the council. Where wages/salaries, overtime, and any other allowances have not physically been paid for within the period but relates to the period then the period will be charged by the means of an accrual.

However, these transactions must not have a financial impact upon the General Fund. To mitigate this accrual a corresponding entry will be made to the Accumulated Absences Account.

Movement in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(69)	(83)
Amount by which officer remuneration (charged)/credited 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)	22
Balance at 31 March	(83)	(61)

5.13 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute (REFCUS) - These amounts represent expenditure on capital grants and other payments which do not result in an asset belonging to the council. Under the government's capital controls this expenditure would be treated as revenue expenditure. These amounts should be written off over a period consistent with the consumption of the economic benefits controlled by the council.

As the council does not control the economic benefit arising from this particular expenditure, 100% of the expenditure is written off to revenue in the year it is incurred, leaving no balance at the end of the year. The expenditure (net of grants received) is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Movement in year	2023/24 Total £'000	2024/25 Total £'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement 1 April	40,862	40,665
Capital Investment - Property, Plant and Equipment	1,096	829
Capital Investment - Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,176	3,681
Sources of Finance - Capital Receipts	0	(71)
Sources of Finance - Government grants and contributions	(2,485)	(3,880)
Sums set aside from revenue - Direct revenue contributions	(296)	(559)
Sums set aside from revenue - Minimum revenue provision	(688)	(701)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement 31 March	40,665	39,964
Explanation of movements in year – Minimum Revenue Provision	(688)	(701)
Explanation of movements in year - Assets acquired under finance leases	491	0
Increase / (decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(197)	(701)

5.14.1 LEASES – Council as a Lessee

Under IFRS 16, leases are accounted for based on a single model that requires lessees to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases, unless they qualify for certain exemptions. A lease is defined as a contract that conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

For leases previously classified as finance leases, the council assesses whether the arrangement meets the definition of a lease under IFRS 16 and recognises a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability. Operating leases are also transitioned to IFRS 16 accounting by recognising right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, subject to applicable exemptions.

Where a lease encompasses both land and buildings, the council continues to evaluate the elements separately for accounting purposes, ensuring compliance with IFRS 16 requirements.

Embedded Leases within Contracts Under IFRS 16, the council is required to analyse contracts that provide services and determine if there are embedded leases within those agreements. Where applicable, such embedded leases are identified and accounted for in line with IFRS 16's stipulations.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Under IFRS 16, right-of-use assets related to property, plant, and equipment are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease. The initial measurement is based on the present value of lease payments, adjusted for any initial direct costs incurred by the council. The right-of-use asset is matched by a corresponding lease liability, representing the council's obligation to make lease payments to the lessor.

Lease payments are apportioned as follows:

- Reduction of the Lease Liability: Payments applied to decrease the lease liability on the Balance Sheet.
- Interest Expense: A finance charge recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The council has a contract with BDBC for the maintenance of grounds within the district, and maintenance vehicles and equipment used to fulfil their obligations under this contract, are recognised as embedded leased assets. The assets acquired under these leases are carried in Property, plant and equipment in the balance sheet at the following net amounts.

Movement in year	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	507	391
Total	507	391

The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts.

Minimum lease payments	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Current finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)	117	106
Non-current finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments)	391	284
Finance costs payable in future years	82	57
Total	589	447

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods.

	Minimum Lease Payments	Minimum Lease Payments	Finance Lease Liabilities	Finance Lease Liabilities
	31 March 2024	31 March 2025	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
Minimum lease payment periods payable	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	142	126	117	106
Later than one year and not later than five years	394	321	340	285
Later than five years	53	0	50	0
Total	589	447	507	391

5.14.2 Council as Lessor

Right-of-use assets (Finance Leases) – Where the council grants a lease (formerly finance lease) over property, plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal, matched by a lease asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- A charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease debtor, and
- Finance income credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt.

The council received no material rental income from properties under leases formerly categorised as Finance Leases.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.15 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

5.15.1 Participation in pension schemes

The council participates in one post-employment scheme:

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

- The liabilities of the HCC pension scheme attributable to the council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, i.e., an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employees turnover rates etc. and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond (gross redemption yield on the iboxx Sterling Corporates Index, AA over 15 years).
- A significant proportion of the assets of the Scheme are invested in equities. The assets of the HCC pension fund attributable to the council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:
 - Quoted securities-current bid price.
 - Unquoted securities-professional estimate
 - Unitised securities-current bid price
 - Property-market value
- The change in the net pension's liability (asset) is analysed into the following components:
 - Service cost comprising:
 - current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned for the year - allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts of services for which the employees worked.
 - past service cost - the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years - debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non-Distributed Costs.
 - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset i.e. net interest expense for the council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability/asset that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability/asset at

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

the beginning of the period, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability/asset during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- Re-measurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability - charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - actuarial gains and losses - changes in the net pension's liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions - charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Contributions paid to the HCC pension fund - cash paid as the employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the MiRS this means there are appropriations to and from the Pension Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and any amounts payable to the fund but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pension Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

In June 2023, the UK High Court (*Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited*) ruled that certain historical amendments for contracted-out defined benefit schemes were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation. The judgment has now been upheld by the Court of Appeal per the latest communication.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a contracted out defined benefit scheme, and amendments have been made during the period 1996 to 2016 which could impact member benefits. Work is being performed by the Government Actuary's Department as the Local Government Pension Scheme actuary to assess whether section 37 certificates are in place for all amendments and some of these have been confirmed however, at the date of these financial statements, the full assessment is not complete. Until this analysis is complete, we are unable to conclude whether there is any impact to the liabilities or if it can be reliably estimated. As a result, Hart District Council does not consider it necessary to make any allowance for the potential impact of the Virgin Media case in its financial statements.

5.15.2 Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits.

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

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2024 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2025 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2024 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2025 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Operating cost - Current Service Cost	938	979	0	0
Operating cost - Past Service Cost	0	0	0	0
Operating cost - Net interest expense	128	90	62	44
Total Post-employment Benefits Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,066	1,069	62	44

	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2024 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2025 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2024 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2025 £'000
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense) *	(2,660)	424	0	0
Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions *	(1,302)	(117)	(13)	(3)
Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions *	19	(9,231)	1	(199)
Actuarial (gains) and losses due to liability experience	1,103	(906)	106	(20)
Asset ceiling adjustment *	0	8,265	0	0
Total Post-employment Benefits (Gains) and Losses Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement *	(2,840)	(1,565)	94	(222)

* Prior years totals signage amended to be consistent with movement on CIES

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Movement in Reserves Statement	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2024 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2025 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2024 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2025 £'000
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(1,066)	(1,069)	(62)	(44)

Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in year	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2024 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2025 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2024 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2025 £'000
Employers' contribution to the scheme	847	785	0	0
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	0	0	158	148

5.15.3 Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is

Net Liability arising from defined benefit obligation	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2024 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 31 March 2025 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2024 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 31 March 2025 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	67,176	58,482	1,490	1,165
Fair value of plan assets	(65,894)	(66,747)	0	0
Total	1,282	(8,265)	1,490	1,165

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Net Liability	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Local Government Pension Scheme	1,282	(8,265)
Asset ceiling adjustment	0	8,265
Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	1,490	1,165
Total	2,772	1,165

Asset Ceiling

Following the pensions valuation by the Council's actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, the Council determined that the fair value of its pension plan assets outweighed the present value of the plan obligations at 31 March 2025 resulting in a pension plan asset. IAS 19 Employee Benefits requires that, where a pension plan asset exists, it is measured at the lower of:

- The surplus in the defined benefit plan; and
- The asset ceiling.

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. The Council's actuary calculated the asset ceiling as the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions.

The Council has therefore limited the Pension asset recognised in its balance sheet to the asset ceiling, which was nil in 2023/24. The remaining represents the unfunded liabilities £1.2m which are not included in the asset ceiling adjustment and any liabilities as a result of past contributions. The adjustment has been recognised within other comprehensive income and expenditure of the CIES.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

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

Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme (Plan) Assets	Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 2024/25 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 2023/24 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 2024/25 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets at 1 April	62,104	65,894	0	0
Opening fair value of scheme assets adjustments	(2)	0	0	0
Interest income	2,878	3,117	0	0
Remeasurement gain / (loss) - Return on plan assets, excluding the amount in the net interest expense	2,660	(424)	0	0
Remeasurement gain / (loss) - Contributions from employer	856	785	158	148
Remeasurement gain / (loss) - Contributions from employees into the scheme	346	372	0	0
Remeasurement gain / (loss) - Benefits paid	(2,948)	(2,997)	(158)	(148)
Closing fair value of scheme assets 31 March	65,894	66,747	0	0

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

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

Movements in the Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme 2024/25 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 2023/24 £'000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements 2024/25 £'000
Opening balance at 1 April	66,014	67,176	1,492	1,490
Current service cost	938	979	0	0
Interest cost	3,006	3,207	62	44
Contributions from scheme participants	346	372	0	0
Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(1,302)	(117)	(13)	(3)
Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	19	(9,231)	1	(199)
Actuarial (gains) and losses due to liability experience	1,103	(906)	106	(20)
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	0	0	0
Benefits paid	(2,948)	(2,997)	(158)	(148)
Closing Balance at 31 March	67,176	58,482	1,490	1,165

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

5.15.6 Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

The fair value of the scheme assets are:

Asset Classification	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
	Total		Quoted	Quoted	Unquoted	Unquoted	Total
	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	528	0.8%	1,294	1.9%	0	0.0%	1,294
Equities	30,193	45.8%	22,230	33.3%	5,955	8.9%	28,185
Corporate Bonds	6,499	9.9%	3,027	4.5%	3,147	4.7%	6,174
Government Bonds	9,557	14.5%	9,726	14.6%	0	0.0%	9,726
Property	4,911	7.5%	0	0.0%	6,094	9.2%	6,094
Other *	14,206	21.6%	6,114	9.2%	9,160	13.7%	15,274
Total	65,894	100.0%	42,391	63.5%	24,356	36.5%	66,747

*Other holdings cover hedge funds, currency holdings, asset allocation futures and other financial instruments. The return is in line with that of equities.

5.15.7 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Results under IAS 19 can change dramatically depending on market conditions which when taken in conjunction with discount rate volatility will lead to volatility in the funded status of the pension plan and thus to volatility in the net pension liability on the council's Balance Sheet, Other Comprehensive Income and the IAS 19 pension expense in Cost of Services. The council has disclosed information about the sensitivity of the defined benefit to changes in key assumptions in accordance with the requirements of the revised IAS 19.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumption remained constant. The assumptions in longevity, by way of an example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women when in practice this is unlikely to occur and also changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme i.e., on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependant on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

The Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, with estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2024.

Mortality Assumptions	Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24	Local Government Pension Scheme 2024/25
	24.7	
	22.6	
	25.7	

Percentage Rate Assumptions	Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24	Local Government Pension Scheme 2024/25
CPI Increases	2.8%	2.8%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.8%	3.8%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.8%	2.8%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.8%	2.8%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.8%	5.8%

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

The impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the scheme is:

Sensitivity Analysis	Defined Benefit Obligation increase	Monetary Amount £'000
Discount rate (scheme liabilities) - decrease 0.1%	1%	864
Salaries – increase by 0.1%	0%	15
Pensions - increase 0.1%	1%	874
Longevity – increase by 1 year*	4%	2,386

*A rating of +1 year means members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them.

5.15.8 Impact on the council's cash flows.

The objective of the Local Government Pension Scheme is to keep employers' contributions at a rate that is as constant as possible. Hampshire County Council has agreed a strategy with the actuary to achieve a level of 100% over the next few years and the next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2025. Funding levels are monitored annually.

Benefits accrued up to 31 March 2014 were based on final salary and length of service. Changes to the structure of the LGPS from 1 April 2014 result in benefits accruing from that date being based on a career average salary but with various protections for those members in the scheme prior to the 1 April 2014.

It is anticipated to pay £0.79m in expected contributions to the scheme in 2025/26.

5.16 EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the Balance Sheet date – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the Balance Sheet date – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where such events have a material effect disclosure is made in the Notes to the Accounts of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

5 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2025, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information. The council had one material item to note for consideration in 2024/25, see below.

On 5th February 2025, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirmed the proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) affecting Hart District Council and neighbouring authorities. This reorganisation is expected to result in the dissolution of existing councils and the establishment of a new unitary authority by 31st March 2028. While the financial implications of this reorganisation are still being assessed, it is anticipated that the Council's assets, liabilities, and service responsibilities will transfer to the successor authority. As such, this constitutes a non-adjusting post balance sheet event. The Council is actively reviewing its balance sheet to ensure all items are substantiated and appropriately documented in preparation for transition.

5.17 GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

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

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has 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.

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

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Grants		
Grampian Conditions	1,306	1,067
Total	1,306	1,067

These Grampian conditions prohibit development to begin until a specific action has been completed. If the development was cancelled these funds would be payable back to the developer.

6 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

6.01 OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

Interest in year	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
	1,641	
	(343)	
Total	1,298	1,880

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

Non cash movements	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Depreciation and Amortisation	2,281	2,319
Impairment and downward valuations	(253)	(384)
(Increase) / Decrease in Debtors	(1,833)	1,139
Increase / (Decrease) in Creditors	95	208
Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	(309)	(104)
Movement in Pension Liability	121	179
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	1,671	185
Movement in Fair Value of Financial Instruments	18	13
NBV of Asset Disposals	7	0
Other non-cash items charged to the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service	(497)	(241)
Total	1,301	3,314

6 NOTES TO 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:

Investing and financing activities	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
	(2,967)	
Total		

6.02 INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Investing Activities	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Purchase of property, plant & equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(604)	(829)
Purchases of short and long-term investments (treasury)	(400)	(4,100)
Other payments for investing activities	(107)	(117)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	115	16
Other receipts for investing activities	3,433	3,782
Net cash flows from investing activities	2,437	(1,248)

6 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

6.03 FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Financing Activities	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
	2,114	
	152	
	(106)	
	(1,340)	
	(1,099)	
	0	
Net cash flows from financing activities		

6.04. RECONCILIATION OF LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2024/25	1 April 2024 £'000	Financing Cash Flows £'000	Other Non cash Changes £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Long-term borrowing	13,990	0	(366)	13,624
Short-term borrowing	450	(358)	363	455
Lease liabilities	507	(117)	0	390
Other (payments) / receipts for financing activities	1,486	(743)	0	743
Total	16,433	(1,218)	(3)	15,212

6 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2023/24	1 April 2023 £'000	Financing Cash Flows £'000	Other Non cash Changes £'000	31 March 2024 £'000
Long-term borrowing	14,348	0	(358)	13,990
Short-term borrowing	1,421	(1,341)	370	450
Lease liabilities	121	(106)	492	507
Other (payments) / receipts for financing activities	320	1,166	0	1,486
Total				16,433

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.01 ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code) requires changes in accounting policy to be applied retrospectively unless alternative transitional arrangements are specified in the Code. The Code requires an authority to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code for the relevant financial year.

The standards introduced by the 2025/26 Code where disclosures are required in the 2024/25 financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code, are:

- a) IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts: This standard replaces IFRS 4 and introduces a consistent accounting model for insurance contracts, focusing on the measurement of liabilities and the recognition of revenue. January 2023.
- b) Amendments to IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates: These amendments address the lack of exchangeability and provide guidance on how to account for foreign exchange rates when exchangeability is restricted. August 2023.
- c) Changes to the measurement of Operational Property, Plant, and Equipment: In line with the HM Treasury Thematic Review, there is a shift towards using depreciated replacement cost for specialised assets and assets where there is no market.

It is likely that though they provide clarifications, items a) and b) will not have a significant impact on the amounts anticipated to be reported in the financial statements. There will be limited application of items c).

7.02 CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out within the notes in the Statement of Accounts 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:

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Future funding for local government

There is a degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding streams for the council and Local Government as a whole. The council has had to consider a range of options which either deliver savings or generate income to maintain service provision. This does remain a risk, and reserves are being held accordingly to protect the medium-term financial position of the council. The next spending review will be undertaken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in autumn 2025 and the effect of this on local government funding is yet to be determined.

Asset classifications

The council has made judgements on whether assets are classified as Investment Property or Property, Plant and Equipment. These judgements are based on the main reason the council is holding the asset. If the asset is used in the delivery of services or is occupied by third parties who are subsidised by the council, they are deemed to be Property, Plant and Equipment assets. If there is no subsidy and/or full market rent is being charged this would indicate that the asset is an Investment Property. The classification determines the valuation method to be used.

Lease classifications

Under IFRS 16, the council recognises all leases on the balance sheet, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. As a lessee, the council records a right-of-use asset and a lease liability for each lease. The council is deemed to control assets that fall within contractual and other arrangements involving the provision of a service using specific assets, which are considered to contain a lease. The appropriate accounting policy for each lease has been applied to these arrangements, resulting in no additional right-of-use assets recognised within the council's Balance Sheet.

Providing for potential liabilities

The council has made judgements about the likelihood of pending liabilities and whether a provision should be made or whether there is a contingent liability. The judgements are based on the degree of certainty around the results of contract agreement or pending legal actions.

Production of group accounts

The council has an interest in another entity, Hart Housing Property Management Ltd (HHPMC) which manages residential property on behalf of the council. The accounts of HHPMC have not been consolidated into the financial statements of the council since grouping the accounts would not materially change the reported figures in the Statement of Accounts.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.03 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 authority about the future or 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 2025 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain the council may be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets. However, the council's assets are subject to a periodic revaluation and an annual impairment review and any changes in valuation are accounted for in the year they occurred.	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls.</p> <p>It is estimated the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £256,000 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>If the actual valuation differs from the assumptions made, then these will be adjusted when the asset is revalued.</p>
Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties	Investment properties are revalued every year and, therefore, takes into account the current market conditions.	A 1% movement in the valuation of investment properties would equate to a movement of £164,850

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pension Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability for funded LGPS benefits of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumptions would result in an increase in the pension liability of £0.87M
Provisions	The council has made provision in relation to National Non-Domestic Rate Appeals. This provision is based on an estimation of any future liability and the likelihood these costs will be incurred.	If the estimates used in the calculation of the provision prove to be inaccurate, then there will be further income or expenditure incurred by the General Fund via the Collection Fund.
Arrears	At 31 March 2025, the council had a balance of sundry (trade) debtors of £1,170,589. A review of significant balances suggested an impairment of doubtful debts of £179,865 (15%) was appropriate. It is not certain this impairment allowance would be sufficient as the council cannot assess with certainty which debts will be collected or not.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, a doubling of the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £179,865 to set aside as an allowance from revenue.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.04 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Central government has effective control over the general operations of the council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions the council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits). Details of transactions with government departments are set out in the previous note, Grant Income.

Elected Members of the council have direct control over the council's financial and operating policies. Members are required to observe the Code of Conduct for Councillors, register financial interests in the council's register (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) and register the receipt of any gifts/hospitality. There were no material receipts of any gift or hospitality to disclose for 2024/25.

Officers are required to observe the Code of Conduct for Officers and register the receipt of any gifts/hospitality. The council had no material related party transactions with officers during 2024/25.

Related party transactions with the precepting bodies and the pension fund are disclosed in the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme note within these accounts.

Entities Controlled or Significant influenced by the Authority.

Hart Housing Property Management Company Ltd (HHPMC)

- HHPMC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hart District Council (HDC). Its purpose is to manage residential property owned by the authority.
- HHPMC lease residential property from HDC. HHPMC paid £274k in rent to HDC in financial year 2024/25. HHPMC subsequently offer short term tenancy agreements to key workers and local people at affordable rent.
- HHPMC operates independently of HDC. It has a board of Directors who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the property.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

HHPMC Income and Expenditure	2023/24 Net Income £'000	2024/25 Net Income £'000
Lease rental charge	(274)	(274)
Management Fee	44	46
Re-charges	(7)	(12)
Net Income	(237)	(240)

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Amounts due to or from those parties able to control or influence the council or to be controlled/ influenced by the council are as follows:

Related Party	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Amounts due to Central Government	(2,137)	(1,321)
Amounts due to Hampshire County Council	(434)	(206)
Amounts due from Central Government	516	484
Amounts due from Hampshire County Council	227	146

7.05 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Contingent assets and liabilities are not included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or Balance Sheet but are disclosed by way of a note to the accounts where a receipt or some other economic benefit is probable (contingent asset), or where there is a possible obligation that may require payment or other transfer of economic funds (contingent liability).

The council has no contingent assets and liabilities to report.

7.06 NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

7.06.1 Disclosure and Nature and Extent of Risk arising from Financial Instruments

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

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

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the council in the annual treasury management strategy. The council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

7.06.2 Credit risk

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

The risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, as laid down by Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Rating Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum and time to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

The council's treasury management advisors, Link Asset Services, give a credit rating based on the latest market information.

This council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

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

The table below summarises the nominal value of the council's investment portfolio at 31 March 2025 with each level of counterparty. All investments were made in line with the council's approved credit rating criteria at the time of placing the investment and the council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Credit Risk – Investments and Cash & Cash Equivalents

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Investment and Cash & Cash Equivalents Counterparty Rating		
	9,715	
	13,000	
	5,000	
	2,404	
Total	30,119	36,531

The council does not generally allow credit for customers. As per the Code of Practice requirements, the disclosure below includes details only of debtors that have arisen as a result of trading activities. Balances and transactions arising from statutory functions (i.e., council tax and NNDR payments) are excluded from this disclosure note as they have not arisen from contractual trading activities.

The past due, but not impaired amount, can be analysed by age as follows:

Credit Risk – Debtors

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Aged Debt		
Less than three months	221	381
Three to six months	53	169
Six months to one year	74	64
More than one year	739	739
Total	1,087	1,353

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.06.3 Liquidity risk

The council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure 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. There is no significant risk it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Borrowing maturity		
Less than one year	450	455
Between one and two years	366	374
Between two and five years	1,147	1,173
Between five and ten years	2,087	2,133
Between ten and fifteen years	2,327	2,378
Between fifteen and twenty years	1,262	766
More than twenty years	6,800	6,800
Total	14,440	14,079

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

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.06.4 Market risk

The council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the council.

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

The council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance, during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long-term returns, similarly the drawing of longer-term fixed rates borrowing would be postponed. The risk of interest rate loss is partially mitigated by Government grant payable on financing costs.

As at 31 March 2025 there was no material exposure to changes in interest rates that would suggest the possibility that financial loss might arise for the council. The Bank of England base rate was cut three times during 2024-25 financial year from 5.25% to 4.50%. Each cut was a reduction of 25bps. Interest has fallen to 4.25% since the end of the financial year. Hart's debt is fixed rate for the duration of the loans and its cash deposits are relatively short term with fixed rates, therefore there has been no adverse impact of the rate decreases on Hart's finances. Interest earned on invested cash is above budget in 2024/25 due to the interest rates being lowered at a slower rate than was expected as well as active management of bank balances.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.07 FURTHER ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The majority of the accounting policies which the council adopts have been put before their respective statements and notes to aid the readability and understanding of this document. However, there are a few which cover the accounts as a whole and do not necessarily relate to just one area, these are detailed below.

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which means the functions of the council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Accruals

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

- Revenue from sale of goods is recognised when the council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the council.
- Revenue from provision of services is recognised when the council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the balance sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when the payments are made.

Available for Sale/Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the council arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost or disposed of, and the gains are realised. Following the introduction of IFRS9 this reserve is has moved to Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve.

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Disposal of Assets

Where an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the Notes to the Accounts.

Investments

The council accounts for investments in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, which is set annually. The council's investment priorities are:

- the security of capital and
- the liquidity of its investments
- the yield on maturity of the investment

In the February 2024 revision of the Treasury Strategy, the ESG credentials of counterparties is also an investment priority where it is possible to assess this.

Minimum revenue provision (MRP)

Regulations 27 and 28 in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 requires the council to make an annual charge to revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement - known as a Minimum Revenue Provision.

Unsupported borrowing will be subject to MRP using the Asset Life Method, which will be charged over a period which is reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life of the assets. An annuity method will be applied for the MRP calculation. MRP commences in the financial year following either the year in which the expenditure was incurred or the year when the asset becomes operational. This excludes all investment properties as these properties will be financed once the property is sold and if the value of the property reduces a reserve will be created. Any interest costs to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to leases will also be mitigated by a corresponding MRP adjustment.

Overheads

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

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Prior Period Adjustments, changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

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

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

Revenue recognition

Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net worth. Revenue is recognised when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the council and these benefits can be measured reliably.

IFRS 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) is applied in accounting for revenue arising from the following transactions and events:

- the sale of goods
- the rendering of services
- interest, royalties and dividends.
- non-exchange transactions (i.e., council tax)
- where previously a liability had been recognised (i.e., creditor) on satisfying the revenue recognition criteria.

The amount of revenue arising on a transaction is usually determined by agreement between the council and the buyer or user of the asset. It is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable taking into account the amount of any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed by the council.

VAT

Value Added Tax is excluded from both revenue and capital in terms of both income and expenditure except where the council is not able to recover VAT on expenditure. HM Revenue and Customs allow local councils to recover the majority of VAT incurred.

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7.08 GOING CONCERN

It is assumed the 2024/25 accounts will be prepared on a going concern basis and that the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The provisions in the Code of Audit Practice in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate. These provisions confirm that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting. Local authorities carry out functions essential to the local community and are themselves revenue-raising bodies (with limits on their revenue-raising powers arising only at the discretion of central government). If an authority were in financial difficulty, the prospects are thus that alternative arrangements might be made by central government either for the continuation of the services it provides or for assistance with the recovery of a deficit over more than one financial year. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for local authority financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis. Accounts drawn up under the Code therefore assume that a local authority's services will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Budget for 2024/25 was balanced, the actual revenue out-turn for 2024/25 indicates a surplus of £2.1m. The council carried out a detailed assessment of its financial position for 2025/26 and future years, considering current economic conditions as part of its medium-term financial planning. The budget for 2025/26 was balanced and early indications for 2026/27 indicate that this budget will have a deficit of £1,422k, this is assuming a decrease in financial support from central government. There is headroom available within reserves that could be used to help balance the budget in the short term if required in future years.

Whilst there is uncertainty on income, the council remains confident in its ability to maintain sufficient cash for its services throughout the medium term. The council has undertaken cashflow forecasting for the period through to the end of March 2028, covering beyond the 12-month going concern period. This shows that the cash balances remain positive throughout the period, and there is no forecast need to borrow through that period for cash management purposes.

In terms of cash and cash equivalent balances the council held the following: -

7 ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

In terms of cash and cash equivalent balances the council held the following:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Cash and cash equivalent balances		
Bank current accounts	4	881
Short-term deposits (maturity <= 3 months)	19,115	11,150
Total	19,119	12,031

As the table illustrates above, the council held liquid cash balances of £12m on 31st March 2025 plus an additional £25m in longer term investments. This provides evidence that Hart DC can meet its financial obligations.

Furthermore, the council is continually assessing the 2025-26 capital programme, although no postponements have been agreed, this is an option if further protection to the levels of cash and useable reserves were needed.

For these reasons, the Council does not consider that there is material uncertainty in respect of its ability to continue as a going concern for the period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements

8 COLLECTION FUND

The Collection Fund Statement is a record of revenue expenditure and income relating to the council's role as a billing authority for council tax and national non-domestic rates (NNDR) in accordance with the requirements of section 89 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Its primary purpose is to show the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of tax due and its distribution to other local authorities, Major Preceptors and the Government. Collection Fund Statement items are only included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet when they relate to the council's own entitlements or commitments as distinct from those of Local Government or Central Government partners. Amounts owed to or owing by taxpayers at the Balance Sheet Date are therefore not shown in the council's Balance Sheet with the exception of the proportion of council tax to which the council itself is entitled.

It also shows how the income is distributed between Hart District Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Billing authorities in England are required by statute to maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR). The fund key features relevant to accounting for council tax in the core financial statements are:

- While the council tax income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and transferred to the General Fund of the billing authority or paid out of the Collection Fund to major preceptors.
- Council tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account for the year shall be the accrued income for the year. The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the Collection Fund shall be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Since the collection of council tax and NDR Income is in substance an agency arrangement:

- Cash collected by the billing authority from council tax debtors belongs proportionately to the billing authority and the major preceptors. There will be therefore a debtor/creditor position between the billing authority and each major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of the cash collected from council taxpayers.
- Cash collected from NDR taxpayers by billing authorities (net of the cost of collection allowance) belongs to the government and preceptors and the amount not yet paid to them at the Balance Sheet date shall be included in the Balance Sheet as a creditor; similarly, if cash paid to the government and preceptors exceeds the cash collected from NDR taxpayers (net of the billing authority's cost of collection allowance), the excess shall be included in the Balance Sheet as a debtor.

8 COLLECTION FUND

8.0 COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT

Amounts required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund	Council Tax 2023/24 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2023/24 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2023/24 £'000	Council Tax 2024/25 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2024/25 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2024/25 £'000
Council Tax Receivable (net of benefits' discounts for prompt payment and transitional relief)	(89,356)	N/A	(89,356)	(94,192)	N/A	(94,192)
Transitional protection payments / (relief adjustment)	0	(3,117)	(3,117)	0	(745)	(745)
Non-Domestic Rates Receivable (net of discretionary and mandatory reliefs)	N/A	(28,970)	(28,970)	N/A	(33,673)	(33,673)
Total	(89,356)	(32,087)	(121,443)	(94,192)	(34,418)	(128,610)

8 COLLECTION FUND

Amounts required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund	Council Tax 2023/24 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2023/24 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2023/24 £'000	Council Tax 2024/25 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2024/25 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2024/25 £'000
Precepts / demands for council tax and shares of non-domestic rating income - Hampshire County Council	61,788	2,831	64,619	65,455	3,079	68,534
Precepts / demands for council tax and shares of non-domestic rating income - Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner	10,640	N/A	10,640	11,162	N/A	11,162
Precepts / demands for council tax and shares of non-domestic rating income - Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service	3,403	315	3,718	3,537	342	3,879
Precepts / demands for council tax and shares of non-domestic rating income - Hart District Council & (Town/Parish Councils)	12,117	12,581	24,698	12,675	13,684	26,359
Payment with respect to central government share of NDR (net of allowable deductions)	N/A	15,726	15,726	N/A	17,105	17,105
Interest Charged to Collection Fund	0	9	9	0	27	27
Impairment of Debts / Appeals - change in the impairment allowance for doubtful debts	449	(585)	(136)	556	206	762
Impairment of Debts / Appeals - change in allowance for loss of income on appeals	N/A	(492)	(492)	N/A	(23)	(23)
Charge to the General Fund for allowable collection costs for Non-Domestic rates.	N/A	96	96	N/A	97	97
Total	88,397	30,481	118,878	93,385	34,517	127,902

8 COLLECTION FUND

	Council Tax 2023/24 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2023/24 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2023/24 £'000	Council Tax 2024/25 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2024/25 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2024/25 £'000
(Surplus) or Deficit for Year						
Amounts required by statute to be credited to the Collection Fund	(89,356)	(32,087)	(121,443)	(94,192)	(34,418)	(128,610)
Amounts required by statute to be debited to the Collection Fund	88,397	30,481	118,878	93,385	34,517	127,902
(Surplus) or Deficit for Year	(959)	(1,606)	(2,565)	(807)	99	(708)

	Council Tax 2023/24 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2023/24 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2023/24 £'000	Council Tax 2024/25 £'000	Non Domestic Rates 2024/25 £'000	Total Collection Fund 2024/25 £'000
Fund Movement						
(Surplus) / Deficit for the Year	(959)	(1,606)	(2,565)	(807)	99	(708)
Contribution towards previous year's estimated surplus or deficit - Hampshire County Council	1,490	(167)	1,323	785	167	952
Contribution towards previous year's estimated surplus or deficit - Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner	254	N/A	254	135	N/A	135
Contribution towards previous year's estimated surplus or deficit - Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service	81	(19)	61	43	19	62
Contribution towards previous year's estimated surplus or deficit - Hart District Council	294	(742)	(448)	154	743	897
Contribution towards previous year's estimated surplus or deficit - Central Government	N/A	(928)	(928)	N/A	928	928
Movement on the fund in year	1,160	(3,462)	(2,303)	310	1,956	2,266
Opening Fund balance	(2,055)	1,402	(654)	(895)	(2060)	(2,956)
Closing fund balance	(895)	(2,060)	(2,956)	(586)	(104)	(690)

8 COLLECTION FUND

8.1 COUNCIL TAX

The average council tax at Band D set by the council was as follows:

Band	Chargeable Dwellings	Band Multiplier	Band D Equivalent	Council Tax Income per Band £
A	522	6/9	347.67	770,593
B	1,755	7/9	1,365.23	3,025,998
C	7,507	8/9	6,672.62	14,789,664
D	8,338	9/9	8,338.26	18,481,500
E	7,482	11/9	9,144.91	20,269,418
F	6,756	13/9	9,757.94	21,628,187
G	3,834	15/9	6,389.33	14,161,763
H	240	18/9	480.60	1,065,235
Tax Base (equivalent Band D)			42,496.57	

Approved Tax Base	Total
Total Band D Equivalent	42,496.57
Class O Exempt Properties	536.40
Plus, allowance for new properties and ending of discounts 0.5%	216.00
Less, allowance for properties being demolished and additional discounts 0.01%	0.00
Assumed losses on collection 1.3%	(558.00)
Tax Base (equivalent Band D) approved by Council	42,690.97

8 COLLECTION FUND

The amount of income generated by each council tax band was as follows:

Preceptors income generated by each council tax band	2023/24 Total £	2024/25 Total £
Hampshire County Council	1,460.24	1,533.24
Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner	251.46	261.46
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service	80.43	82.84
Hart District Council	192.42	198.17
Town and Parish Councils	93.95	98.73
Total income generated by each council tax band		2,174.44

8.2 INCOME COLLECTABLE FROM BUSINESS RATE PAYERS

The council collects non-domestic rates for its area based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform national rating multiplier. The total NDR Rateable Value as at 31 March 2025 was £82,768,322 (£81,703,382 as at 31 March 2024).

The non-domestic rate multiplier for 2024/25 was 49.9p pence (2023/24 49.9p pence) for qualifying properties of less than £51,000 rateable value and 54.6p pence (2023/24 51.2p pence) for qualifying properties of more than £51,000 rateable value.

9 GROUP ACCOUNTS

9.0 GROUP ACCOUNTS

Hart District Council wholly owns Hart Housing Property Management Company Ltd (HHPMC) which has been categorised as a subsidiary of the authority, the accounts have not been consolidated due to HHPMC being immaterial.

HHPMC was established on 16 June 2021 as a dedicated and wholly owned housing management company. The Company lease assets on behalf of the council, manage the letting and management of the property efficiently to provide affordable housing to key workers and local residents.

10 GLOSSARY

10.0 GLOSSARY

Accounts

A generic term for statements setting out details of income and expenditure or assets and liabilities or both in a structured manner. Accounts may be categorised by the type of transactions they record e.g., revenue accounts, capital accounts or by the purpose they serve e.g., management accounts, final accounts, balance sheets.

Accounting policies

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

- (a) recognising
- (b) selecting measurement bases for, and
- (c) presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

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

Accounting standards

A set of rules explaining how accounts are to be measured, maintained and reported. By law, local authorities must follow 'proper accounting practices', which are set out in Acts of Parliament and in professional codes and statements of recommended practices. These standards make comparability, among other things, possible.

Accrual

The recognition of income and expenditure as it is earned or incurred, as opposed to when cash is received or paid.

Actuarial gains and losses

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

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

Amortisation

The reducing of the value of assets to reflect their reduced worth over time. The term means the same as depreciation, though in practice amortisation tends to be used for the write-off of intangible assets.

10 GLOSSARY

Assets

These can either be:

Long term (non-current), tangible assets that give benefits to the authority for more than one year.

Property, Plant and Equipment, assets which are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to other, or for administrative purposes.

Audit – internal

The council has an internal audit function, they have a wide-ranging role and are responsible for auditing key financial systems and all other activities of the council on a rolling programme. They make recommendations to improve internal controls, safeguard assets and secure value for money.

Audit – external

Our external auditor is Ernst and Young LLP. They report to the council on a number of issues, but in this context, they provide assurance to the council that this statement of accounts 'presents fairly' the council's financial affairs and position.

Balance sheet

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

Budget

A forecast of the council's planned expenditure. The level of council tax is set by reference to detailed revenue budgets. Budgets are reviewed during the course of the financial year to take account of pay and price changes, and other factors affecting the level or cost of services.

Cabinet

The Cabinet is the executive board responsible for undertaking all of the council's functions, except those functions which are reserved to the full council or delegated to committees or officers. When the executive councillors meet collectively, they are known as the Cabinet.

Capital Adjustment Account

This account includes the amalgamated balances of the Property, Plant and Equipment Restatement Account and the Capital Financing Account at 31 March and holds financing transactions relating to capital expenditure.

Capital charges

Charges made to service expenditure accounts based on the service's use of property, plant and equipment assets (depreciation and impairment) plus credits relating to government grants and capital contributions used to pay for those assets.

10 GLOSSARY

Capital expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition or enhancement of property, plant and equipment assets, Revenue Expenditure Financed by Capital under Statute (REFCUS), advances (loans) or grants to other individuals/organisations.

Capital receipts

Income received from the sale of property, plant and equipment assets.

Central services to the public

This includes the costs of local tax collection, elections, emergency planning, local land charges and any general grants.

CIPFA

CIPFA is the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, which is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom

Issued by CIPFA, this is the guidance which is followed when preparing these statements. It provides expert support in dealing practically with the preparation of the year-end accounts and is the guidance by which every local authority must follow.

Collection fund

The fund into which are paid amounts of council tax and non-domestic rates, and from which are met demands by county and district councils and payments to the national non-domestic rates pool.

Community assets

Community assets are a class of property, plant and equipment assets which are expected to be held by the council in perpetuity. Examples include parks, historic buildings and works of art.

Contingent asset

An asset arising from past events, whereby its existence can only be confirmed by one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

Contingent liability

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

10 GLOSSARY

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.

Corporate and democratic core

Comprises all activities which local authorities engage in because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. It includes the costs of the Head of the Paid Service, costs of treasury management and bank charges and the costs of democratic representation.

Council tax

A local tax set by councils to help pay for local services. There is one bill per dwelling based on its relative value compared to others in the area. There are discounts, including where only one adult lives in the dwelling. Bills will also be reduced for properties with people on low incomes, for some people with disabilities and some other special cases.

Council Tax Base

The amount calculated for each billing authority which derives their council tax charge from their precept demand. The number of properties in each band is multiplied by the relevant band proportion to calculate the number of Band D equivalent properties in the area. The calculation allows for exemptions, discounts, appeals and a provision for non-collection.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the Council for goods and services received but not paid for as at 31 March.

Current service cost (pensions)

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

Current Value

The amount at which would be paid for the asset in its existing use.

Deferred credits

Income still to be received (or applied in the accounts) where deferred payments (or application) have been allowed. For example, the principal outstanding from the sale of former council houses (deferred capital receipts).

Defined Benefit scheme

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

10 GLOSSARY

Depreciation

Depreciation is the measure of the consumption or wearing out of the useful economic life of a property, plant and equipment asset.

Events after the balance sheet date

Significant events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Exceptional items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council, which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give a fair representation in the accounts.

Expected return on assets

For a defined benefit scheme, this is a measure of the return on the investment assets held by the plan for the year. It is not intended to reflect the actual realised return by the plan, but a longer-term measure based on the value of assets at the start of the year taking into account movements in assets during the year and an expected return factor.

Fair value

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.

Financial instruments adjustment account

This account includes transactions relating to the reversal of the fair value adjustment from the Income and Expenditure account so as to neutralise the effect on the council taxpayer.

General Fund (GF)

This is the primary revenue account which records the cost of providing the majority of the council's services.

Housing Benefit

The housing benefit scheme is a national scheme administered at a local level by the council on the behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. It is a means-tested service where the council can pay all, or part of, a household's rent or council tax, or both.

Housing benefit subsidy

The government reimburses the council for most of the housing benefit payments made to residents plus an allowance to cover the costs of administering the scheme.

10 GLOSSARY

Infrastructure assets

A class of assets whose life is of indefinite length, and which are not usually capable of being sold, such as highways and footpaths.

Intangible assets

'Non-financial' fixed assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights. Purchased intangibles, such as software licences, are capitalised at cost.

Interest cost

For defined benefit pension schemes the interest cost is the present value of the liabilities during the year as a result of moving one year closer to being paid.

International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) – Employee Benefits

This Standard is based on the principle that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a property, plant and equipment asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

International financial reporting standards (IFRS)

Since 2010/11 the council has had to prepare its statements in line with International Financial Reporting Standards. On implementation, this resulted in a significant change to the way budgets and accounts are prepared with different accounting treatment being applied to asset valuations, leases, some accruals and derivatives.

Leases

A contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. The lessee must recognise a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying leased asset and a lease liability representing its obligation to make lease payments. This applies to all leases, with exceptions for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

Liabilities

Amounts the authority either owes or anticipates owing to others, whether they are due for immediate payment or not.

Long term debtors

These debtors represent the income still to be received, for example, from the sale of an asset or the granting of a mortgage or a loan.

10 GLOSSARY

Minimum revenue provision (MRP)

The minimum amount that the council must charge to the revenue account in the year in respect of internal and external borrowing for capital purposes.

National non-domestic rates (NNDR) also known as Business Rates

The form of local taxation charged on non-residential premises at a level set by central government.

Net Book Value

The amount at which property, plant and equipment assets are included in the balance sheet i.e., their historical cost or fair value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation and impairment.

Net service expenditure

Comprises of all expenditure less all income, other than income from council tax and revenue support grant, in respect of a particular service.

Non-distributed costs

Overheads for which no user now benefits and should not be apportioned to services. Costs generally included under this heading are those arising from early retirement payments to the pension fund.

Outturn

The final total expenditure and income amount in any financial year.

Overheads

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those services that benefit from the supply or service. The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.
- Non-distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

Past service cost

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

10 GLOSSARY

Precept

The charge made by another authority on the council to finance its net expenditure. The council currently has the following precepting authorities: Hampshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and all the town and parish councils in the district.

Prior period adjustments

The adjustments applicable to prior years arising from the correction of material errors.

Provisions

Amounts set aside for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount that have been incurred.

Related parties

This is defined under Financial Reporting Standard 8. The council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties, which can include central government, subsidiary and associated companies, the Pension Fund, other councils, and chief and senior officers. IAS24 requires attention to be drawn to the possibility the reported financial position may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by material transactions with them. Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- (a) one party has direct or indirect control of the other: or
- (b) the parties are subject to common control from the same source; or
- (c) one party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to the extent the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests: or
- d) the parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interest.

Remuneration

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash (excludes employer pension contributions).

Reserves

The general capital and revenue balances of the council. There are two types of reserves which might be described as either available or not available to finance expenditure. Revenue reserves which result from monies being set aside or surpluses or delayed expenditure can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the council (e.g., General Fund). The capital receipts reserve is also available to the extent allowed for by statute. However, other capital reserves are not available to meet expenditure, e.g., the capital adjustment account.

10 GLOSSARY

Revaluation reserve

This account includes transactions relating to the revaluation and impairment of the council's assets.

Revenue Expenditure

Day to day expenditure incurred in the provision of services including salaries and wages, transport and goods and services.

Revenue Expenditure Financed by Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

A type of capital expenditure which may be deferred but which does not give rise to tangible assets owned by the council. Examples are renovation grants and disabled facilities grants (grants to private individuals and companies to improve housing standards) and capital grants to other organisations.

Revenue Support Grant

A historic grant that used to be paid by the government in support of the council's revenue expenditure, as part of the Formula Grant.

Section 151 Officer

Another term to describe the Statutory Chief Financial Officer of the council with responsibilities as set out in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts and within Section 151 of the Local Government Act.

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

11.0 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hart District Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements comprise the:

- Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Cash Flow Statement
- the related notes 3.01 to 3.14, 4.01, 5.01 to 5.17, 6.01 to 6.04, 7.01 to 7.08 and 9 including material accounting policy information
- Collection Fund and the related notes 8.1 to 8.2

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 2024/25.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for qualified opinion section, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Hart District Council as at 31 March 2025 and of its 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 2024/25; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended).

Basis for qualified opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024/907) ("the Regulations") which came into force on 30 September 2024 required the accountability statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 to be approved not later than 27 February 2026 ('the backstop date').

As a result of the disclaimers of opinion on the financial statements for the years ended 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024, we do not have sufficient appropriate audit evidence over:

- the valuation of property, plant and equipment that were last revalued in the financial year 2022/23, amounting to £0.923 million as at 31 March 2025, and the consequential impact of these on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; and
- the valuation of additions of property, plant and equipment during 2022/23, amounting to £0.941 million and the consequential impact of these on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- the classification of reserves between useable and unusable including:
 - o General Fund
 - o Earmarked Reserves

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

- Capital receipts
 - Capital grants and contributions unapplied
 - Revaluation reserve
 - Capital adjustment account
 - Financial instrument adjustment account
- Our inability to audit the classification is a consequence of the disclaimer of opinion on the reserve balances as at 31 March 2023. We have obtained assurance over the in- year movements in reserves for the year ended 31 March 2025 and the comparative year.

Our opinion on the current period's financial statements is also modified because of the possible effect of this matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Code of Audit Practice 2024, 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 qualified opinion.

The audits of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 for Hart District Council were not completed for the reasons set out in our disclaimers of opinion on those financial statements dated 4 December 2024 and 13 February 2025 respectively.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Executive Director of Corporate Services 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 Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a period to 31 March 2028.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Executive Director of Corporate Services with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts 2024/25, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the other information contained within the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this 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 course of 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 the other information, we are required to report that fact.

As described in the Basis for qualified opinion section of our report, our audit opinion is qualified due to lack of assurance over Property, Plant and Equipment valuations undertaken in 2022/23, capital additions in 2022/23 not subsequently revalued and the classification of certain reserves. Information on these elements of the financial statements is included in the narrative report and accordingly we have concluded that the other information may be materially misstated for the same reason.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Council
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- 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 (as amended)
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we are not satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 13, the Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Council 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 2024/25, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the Executive Director of Corporate Services determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Council and determined that the most significant are:

- Local Government Act 1972,
- Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992) [applicable to authorities with a statutory obligation to maintain a separate collection fund],
- Local Government Act 2003,
- The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended in 2018, 2020, and 2022,
- Planning Act 2008 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/948),
- Business Rate Supplements Act 2009,
- The Local Government Finance Act 2012,
- The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended), and
- The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

In addition, the Council has to comply with laws and regulations in the areas of anti-bribery and corruption, data protection, employment Legislation, tax Legislation, general power of competence, procurement and health & safety.

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We understood how Hart District Council is complying with those frameworks by understanding the incentive, opportunities and motives for non-compliance, including inquiring of Management, the Head of Internal Audit and Those Charged with Governance and obtaining and reading documentation relating to the procedures in place to identify, evaluate and comply with laws and regulations, and whether they are aware of instances of non-compliance. We corroborated this through our reading of the Council's committee minutes, through enquiry of employees to confirm Council policies, and through the inspection of employee handbooks and other information. Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures had a focus on compliance with the accounting framework through obtaining sufficient audit evidence in line with the level of risk identified and with relevant legislation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Council's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by understanding the potential incentives and pressures for management to manipulate the financial statements, and performed procedures to understand the areas in which this would most likely arise. Based on our risk assessment procedures, we identified management override and inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure to be our fraud risks.

To address our fraud risk of inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure we tested a sample of Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Property additions to ensure that the capitalisation criteria were properly met, and the expenditure was genuine.

To address our fraud risk of management override of controls, we tested specific journal entries identified by applying risk criteria to the entire population of journals. For each journal selected, we tested specific transactions back to source documentation to confirm that the journals were authorised and accounted for appropriately. We also reviewed the Council's accounting estimates for evidence of management bias, and considered whether there were any significant or unusual transactions outside the normal course of business.

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

Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2024, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024, as to whether Hart District Council had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether Hart district Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2025.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether Hart District Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure 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 (as amended) to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

11 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the NAO, as group auditor, has confirmed that no further assurances will be required from us as component auditors of Hart District Council.

Until we have completed these procedures, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Hart District Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 85 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Council and the Council's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Brittain (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Reading

11 February 2026