

Statement of Accounts

for

2018/2019

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Introduction

This Statement of Accounts gives you an overall impression of our finances.

Accounting rules and practices are complex and difficult to understand, and there are some technical words and terms that we have to use. We have tried to make this statement as clear and understandable as possible in the circumstances. To help you, at the back of this document, we have provided a glossary to explain some of the financial and accounting terms we have had to use.

The Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019 was available for inspection from 3 June to 12 July 2019. The formal audit of our accounts began on 3 June 2019 and we received an unqualified opinion on the accounts on 9 December 2019. This means that, in the auditors' opinion, our accounts presented a true and fair view of our financial position.

Our external auditors are Ernst and Young LLP. Their address is:

Ernst & Young LLP
No 1 Colmore Square
Birmingham
B4 6HQ.

We have both revenue and capital spending. Broadly, our comprehensive income and expenditure account relates to income received in the year and spending for items used in the year. Our capital account relates to items we have bought and which will be used for more than one year.

To help you, we have explained the various sections in the Statement of Accounts below.

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

This provides a brief background to the budget for 2018/2019, the final financial position and an assessment of our financial prospects in the future.

Statement of Accounting Policies

This specifies the accounting practices we have used to prepare the accounts. We provide other notes to explain the information we have given. We have prepared the accounts and statements in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). If we have not been able to do this fully, we say so in the accompanying notes. The Code of Practice is updated each year and there have been two new Standards adopted in 2018/19, the implications of these are reflected in the accounting policies.

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Introduction

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This covers income and spending on all services which are paid for from Council Tax, Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates. The spending for each service includes charges made by the various trading organisations we run. This account is a summary of the resources we have created and used in the year.

The Movement in Reserves Statement

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

Balance Sheet

This sets out our financial position on 31 March 2019 and includes all our funds apart from the pension fund.

Cash Flow Statement

This statement summarises the cash that has been paid to us and which we have paid to other organisations.

Staffordshire Pension Fund

We run the Staffordshire Pension Fund. We have included the accounts of the pension fund in our statement of accounts. As a result, the independent auditors' report and the statements of assurance cover both our accounts and the Pension Fund accounts. You can get copies of the full annual report for the Pension Fund on the website at www.staffspf.org.uk

Glossary

Wherever possible we have tried not to use technical terminology. We have provided a glossary which aims to simplify and explain this terminology if we have used it.

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

Introduction

I am pleased to introduce our statement of accounts for 2018/2019.

This year we have continued to manage our finances carefully, investing across the county to help create more jobs for Staffordshire people, providing care and support for people who need our help, and keeping council tax low to protect local taxpayers.

We have reaffirmed our priorities to reflect both county-wide and national issues. The three priority outcomes, which are clearly connected to ensure that the people of Staffordshire will:

- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth;
- Be healthier and more independent;
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

Revenue Budget

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provides the background for our revenue and capital budgets, decisions on council tax, cost reductions and investment plans. We have developed it alongside our Strategic Plan and together they provide the direction and financial framework that we need to deliver our programme of change and to achieve improvements in our services and the way we work.

The County Council approved a revenue budget of £495.5 million on providing services during 2018/2019. This money came from government grants of £50.6 million, council tax of £339.6 million (after adjusting for any surplus or deficit) and £98.9 million of business rates. It also includes a contribution from our reserves of £6.4 million. The budget included provision to utilise capital receipts to fund revenue expenditure which is transformational and will generate ongoing revenue cost reductions. Staffordshire has a good track record of generating cost reductions and 2018/19 was no exception with £11.2 million included in the budget.

In 2016/2017, the government first allowed local authorities to raise additional money from council tax for the costs of adult social care, this policy has been continued and in 2018/19 the County Council again set a part of the council tax aside for adult social care. The government stated that the increase could be as much as 3% but the total increase cannot exceed 6% for the three years of 2017/18 to 2019/20. The County Council increased its council tax by 5.95% in 2018/19, this increase consists of 3% for adult social care and 2.95% for the general precept. Most other local authorities approved similar increases and Staffordshire's council tax rate remains the third lowest of any English County Council.

Final Outturn

We spent £3.6 million less than the budget for our day to day activities, this is 0.7% less than the revised budget of £505.2 million. This underspend has arisen as a result of spending controls being put in place during the year, in order to provide transition funding for the 2019/20 MTFS as set out in the MTFS report for 2019/20 to 2024/25.

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

At the First Quarter Budget Monitoring report, a forecast overspend of £3.2 million was shown and over the course of the year, services have introduced spending controls and made efforts to bring their spending in line with budgets, resulting in small underspends being forecast for the rest of the year. The final outturn position is summarised in the table on page 10.

The Health and Care Directorate has seen increasing pressures over recent years due to rising demographic pressures and challenging market conditions. The cost of new nursing placements continues to be higher than the cost of existing placements and this placed a pressure of £11.7m on this service area during the year. Various initiatives were used to mitigate this pressure including block booking beds at a lower cost and reforming the pathway to support the Dynamic Purchasing System. The allocation of the additional Improved Better Care Fund was welcomed in this service area and has helped to ensure it kept its spending within budget. Additional cost reductions have also been made in this service area by a variety of means including holding vacancies, lower reliance on agency and interim staff and implementing new ways of working. Spending controls also generated significant cost reductions in the cost of Learning Disability and Mental Health placements, these were realised from various sources including agreeing further Continuing Health funding and making contract cost reductions.

During the year, numbers of Looked After Children increased significantly and expenditure on independent sector placements increased as a result. The service has had a high level of vacancies during the year and the cost reductions generated by this have been offset by an increase in agency staff as the level of vacancies is not sustainable. Cost reductions identified in Education Services helped to reduce the overspends elsewhere in order to bring the Families and Communities Directorate in at a small underspend position.

In the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Directorate, the service achieved an overall underspend of £4.5 million. This has arisen from two main areas, the review of the transport budget and the two Waste to Energy contracts. There has been good contract management combined with increased income from third parties. In addition the concessionary fares budget achieved a small cost reduction following the conclusion of contractual discussions.

Support services underspent by £1.1m as a result of staffing vacancies and implementing spending controls. Additional income was received in some areas.

The centrally controlled budgets had small underspends at the end of the year, plus there was £1.3 million of the Contingency budget remaining unspent. The transformational spend totalled £13.2m utilising receipts generated in the period. In order to provide one-off funding for the MTFS, £5 million has been contributed to the Exit and Transition Fund as part of the one-off resources required for the next two years.

The final position is an underspend of £3.6 million and this amount will transfer into general balances.

Schools

Spending on schools is paid for through a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from Central Government. We include this expenditure in the financial statements but do not include it for internal reporting purposes and therefore it is not included in the table on page 10. We

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

received £317.9 million in DSG during 2018/2019 and added £5.0 million which was brought forward from 2017/18, giving us a total of £322.9 million to spend in 2018/19. From this total, £3.9 million remains unspent (see note 32 on page 65). After allowing for all spending from reserves including capital investment, overall school reserves have decreased by £1.4 million to £24.7 million at the end of the year.

There have been small underspends in Early Years and School Planning which have partially offset the cost of the licensed deficit for Great Wyrley High School which the County Council had to fund. However, the SEND High Needs block has overspent by £5.1 million and is the main reason why the balance on the DSG reserve has reduced to £3.9 million by the end of the year.

Capital Programme

In 2018/2019, our final capital spend was £108.5 million, compared to £128.4 million in 2017/2018. This investment was funded from a variety of sources including grants from the Government totalling £56.5 million and borrowing of £22.8 million.

The capital spend of £108.5 million includes £13.2 million of revenue transformational spend which has been capitalised and funded from capital receipts generated in year, in accordance with the Capitalisation Direction issued by the Secretary of State. The nature of this expenditure is revenue but will generate ongoing revenue cost reductions, this includes salary costs of staff supporting transformational activities, redundancy costs, preventative measures and other projects designed to generate efficiencies in services. Capitalising this expenditure was included in the revenue budget for 2018/19.

The achievements we have made during the year include the following.

- Continued construction of a new secondary school in Burton, plus construction of a new primary school, Henshurst Ridge in Burton;
- Significant extensions to a number of secondary schools plus some laboratory refurbishments;
- Purchase of land in Lichfield in preparation for a second Dementia Centre of Excellence;
- Work is underway on the new Greenwood House development;
- Moving Lichfield library to new premises;
- Work on the Stafford Western Access Route is well progressed;
- Work on the A50 in conjunction with Highways England has now completed and this is fully open and operational;
- The continued roll out of superfast broadband to rural and isolated communities, we now have circa 96% coverage across the county;
- There is further economic development at Keele, on the IC6 development and in Cannock, on the Mill Green development, these schemes are in progress.

We use borrowing to fund our capital programme when other sources of finance are not sufficient and we monitor our borrowing to ensure it remains affordable. The County Council's Treasury Management Strategy sets out the limits around the borrowing and the indicators we will use to monitor it. Our capital financing requirement reflects the total amount that would need to be financed if the County Council was to cease operating. This requirement at the end of 2018/2019 is £639.5 million. To put this in context, the fair value of

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

all our long term assets is £1,806.1 million therefore the capital financing requirement is 35.4% of this.

You can get more information on our overall 2018/2019 figures for revenue and capital in the report to Cabinet on 19 June 2019, 'Final Financial Outturn Report for 2018/19'.

The Financial Statements

There are four financial statements in the accounts; these are the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cashflow Statement. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the amount that services have cost to provide and the amount of income received to fund them. A deficit on this statement means that the cost of services has not been covered by income and may need to be funded by taxpayers in future years. However, not all the charges in this statement are actual cash and these notional charges are required by statute, these are shown in detail in Note 4. This statement is showing a small deficit on the provision of services of £16.8 million which is a decrease from the previous year's deficit of £44.0 million. The cost of services has reduced from £507.7 million in 2017/18 to £491.5 million in 2018/19 which is as expected given the cost reductions included in the budget and the reducing level of funding available.

In 2018/19, there has been a prior period adjustment made to the accounts as a result of a data cleanse exercise that was undertaken across Property, Plant and Equipment. This has meant opening balances have been restated on financial statements and these are labelled as such. The value of Property, Plant and Equipment has been reduced by 0.9% as assets that we no longer own have been removed. This is an adjustment which does not impact on the cash balances or the useable reserves of the County Council. Further details of the adjustment are shown in Note 47.

Two new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) have come into effect in 2018/19 and these have introduced some new notes and amended some existing ones. One of the changes has been to the way in which we account for the interest payable on our long term borrowing which has resulted in a contribution to reserves of £15m in 2018/19. This contribution will be used to fund the additional interest charges in future years and is not a cash windfall.

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the final balances of the County Council's general fund and other earmarked reserves and this statement shows the money available to support services in future years. The general fund balance is £30.4 million and other earmarked reserves are £117.4 million, of which £24.7 million relates to schools and cannot be spent on other services. Overall, general balances have increased during 2018/2019, which is due to the underspend achieved by services.

Our reserves are reviewed annually to ensure they are still required and are at the correct level; this occurs as part of our budget setting process in February. The reserves were last reviewed in February 2019 and were deemed to be sufficient. The review formed part of a report to the County Council which can be viewed [here](#):

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/documents/s119034/Council%20MTFS%20report%20v4.pdf>

The Balance Sheet also shows the amount held in reserves, both cashable and non-cashable, as well as the liabilities that will need to be paid in future years. The total of assets less liabilities in 2018/19 is £89.4 million, a reduction from 2017/18 which was £163.3 million.

The main reason for this reduction is an increase in the Council's share of any liabilities associated with the pension fund. This liability has increased by £180.3 million and part of this increase is due to the recent judgement issued on the McCloud case. This liability relates solely to the Council and is not the liability of the whole Pension Fund. It should be noted that this liability is not cash-backed and it is reviewed and amended each year by the actuary who analyses a range of variables before reaching his conclusion. The liability is an estimate of the value of all the pensions that will need to be paid in the future, compared with projections of the Pension Fund's value. However many factors will change between now and when the pensions are actually paid.

There are other small movements in the balance sheet that have contributed to this overall reduction in net assets. The value of long term assets is broadly similar to 2017/18 with an increase of just 1.4%. However there were changes in the way we managed our cash at the end of the financial year as we were planning for Brexit. This meant we kept more cash available to us at short notice and therefore both short term investments and cash and cash equivalents have increased when compared with the position at 31st March 2018.

The Cashflow Statement shows how the County Council has managed its cash during the year and would highlight whether there was a problem with the amount of cash coming in or flowing out of the organisation. There has been an increase in the cash balance held as at 31st March 2019 as a result of our planning for Brexit. The Cashflow Statement shows that the County Council is stable and does not have any cashflow problems.

Pension Fund

Despite a large fall in global equity markets towards the end of December 2018, the subsequent recovery meant that the market value of the Pension Fund in 2018/19 had continued to increase from previous years. Equity markets recovered as concerns over global interest rate hikes reduced and with positive steps gained in global trade discussions. The Fund achieved a return of 8.1% over the year and was valued at £5,118.4 million at 31st March 2019, the highest ever annually reported value. More detail on the Fund's assets and liabilities can be seen in the Pension Fund Account and separate Net Assets Statement on pages 98 and 99.

Outlook

In 2018/19 we have managed to achieve an underspend, as a result of spending controls and services living within their means and not requiring the full contingency budget. The underspend includes a contribution of £5m to the Exit and Transition Fund which was approved as part of the MTFS in February 2019.

Looking ahead, the government have announced a Spending Review will take place during 2019 and this will indicate what funding will be allocated to local authorities for their 2020/21

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

budgets. It is widely anticipated that the Spending Review will only cover the one financial year due to the uncertainty caused by Brexit. At the same time, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has been consulting with local authorities on changes to the business rates retention scheme and on a review of the way in which authorities are funded. It is hoped that the outcomes of these consultations will be announced in a similar timeframe to the Spending Review to provide local authorities with the opportunity to consider all funding changes together.

In 2018/19, Staffordshire submitted a bid to be a business rates pilot area and all the districts, boroughs, Fire and Rescue Authority and Stoke on Trent City Council were included in the bid, however it was not successful. We submitted a further bid for 2019/20 which included the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and this bid was indeed successful and the County Council is now part of a business rates pilot, retaining 75% of the business rates collected in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. This will result in additional income of around £5 million for the County Council.

The budget for 2019/2020 identified an additional £40.3 million of cost reductions, over and above those already planned. These cost reductions increase to £62.7 million by 2023/2024. The government allowed local authorities to increase the general part of the council tax by up to 3% in this financial year and therefore we have increased council tax by 2.95%. Whilst we managed to balance the budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21, this is dependent on cost reductions being achieved. The MTFS contains significant risks and these will be monitored going forward.

All of this means that we are faced with some important financial challenges and risks over the medium term. We will face increasing financial pressures in all services due to:

- changes in the population (for example, an increasing elderly population, health issues, increasing numbers of looked after children, unemployment and so on);
- rising public expectations; and
- reductions in government funding.

It is essential that we achieve the cost reductions we have agreed to make, and that we continue our progress in improving our efficiency and making cost reductions by reviewing services. With this in mind the Council is continuing to find new, more efficient and effective ways of working. We are also continuing to work with residents, voluntary groups, partners or the private sector to find new ways to improve lives. We are also working with public sector partners across Staffordshire in order to ensure the funding available is used most effectively.

Non Financial Performance

We use a variety of indicators to measure how we are performing against our priority outcomes. These indicators, together with a summary of our performance in 2018/2019, can be viewed here:

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/documents/s121270/Integrated%20Performance%20Report%20-%20Quarter%204%20201819.pdf>

This is the Quarter Four Integrated Performance Report which also contains budget monitoring information.

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

Format of the Statement of Accounts

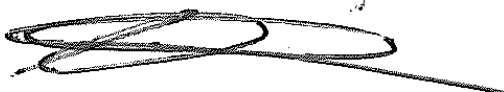
We have to produce the accounts in line with a range of regulations and reporting standards, but it is important that most people can understand them. In this report I have tried to explain what I believe are the main issues in a way that I hope is understandable. Although I have kept to the relevant regulations and reporting standards, I am always looking for ways to improve the content and format of the Statement of Accounts. To help me do this, I would appreciate your comments on how we could improve the accounts and other information in future. Please send any comments to:

Rachel Spain
Corporate Finance Manager
1 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH.

E-mail: rachel.spain@staffordshire.gov.uk

We can also provide this Statement of Accounts in other formats, such as in large print, in Braille, or in other languages. To ask us for the Statement of Accounts in other formats, please call 01785 276065.

The full statement will also be available on our website (www.staffordshire.gov.uk).



Rob Salmon CPFA
County Treasurer
Date: 31 May 2019

Narrative Statement by the County Treasurer

The table compares the budget with the final outturn (spending) for 2018/2019				
	Budget	Outturn	Carry Forward	Over / (Under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Health and Care				
Public Health and Prevention	4.809	4.809		0.000
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	39.977	38.552		(1.425)
Care Commissioning	175.880	175.629	3.500	(0.251)
Health and Care Total	220.666	215.490	3.500	(1.676)
Families and Communities				
Children's Services	114.822	116.513		1.691
Children's Public Health	(4.546)	(4.546)		0.000
Education Services	12.782	10.872		(1.910)
Culture and Communities	5.894	5.965		0.071
Rural	2.155	2.148		(0.007)
Community Safety	8.702	8.702		0.000
Families and Communities Total	139.809	139.654		(0.155)
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills				
Business and Enterprise	1.422	1.215		(0.207)
Infrastructure and Highways	26.577	26.312		(0.265)
Transport, Connectivity and Waste	39.217	35.179		(4.038)
Skills	2.620	2.478		(0.142)
EI&S Business Support	1.135	1.298		0.163
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Total	70.971	66.482		(4.489)
Corporate Services	38.564	36.746		(1.818)
Trading Services	(0.436)	(0.436)		0.000
Total Portfolio Budgets	469.574	457.936	3.500	(8.138)
Centrally Controlled Items				
Interest on Balances and Debt Charges	35.323	35.105		(0.218)
Pooled Buildings and Insurances	12.953	12.329		(0.624)
Contingency	1.340	0.000		(1.340)
Contribution to Exit and Transition Fund	0.000	5.000		5.000
Transformational Spend	(15.000)	(13.242)		1.758
Centrally Controlled Total	34.616	39.192		4.576
Net Revenue Budget / Expenditure	504.190	497.128	3.500	(3.562)

Audit Opinion

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Staffordshire County Council for the year ended 31 March 2019 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 47.

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 2018/19.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Staffordshire County Council as at 31 March 2019 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Treasurer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Treasurer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to

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continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts set out on pages 3 to 10, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Treasurer is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

Working with partners and other third parties

During November 2018, a joint Ofsted and CQC inspection of the local Staffordshire area was carried out to judge the effectiveness of implementation of special educational needs reforms following the Children and Families Act 2014. This inspection identified a number of significant areas of weakness in practice, resulting in the requirement for the County Council and CCGs to issue a Written Statement of Action. The findings of the report identify that the County Council is not working effectively with partners to deliver required services and outcomes to the local population.

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This issue is evidence of weaknesses in proper arrangements for working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities, improving the health and experiences of the local population.

Actions to address the identified weaknesses, include development of an improvement plan and revised governance structure have commenced but were not complete at the end of 2018/19.

Qualified conclusion [Except for]

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, with the exception of the matter reported in the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph above, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Staffordshire County Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

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;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- 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;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the Treasurer

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Treasurer's Responsibilities set out on page 21, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Audit Opinion

In preparing the financial statements, the Treasurer is responsible for assessing the Authority'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 Authority either intends to cease operations, or have 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.

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, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, as to whether the Staffordshire County Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Staffordshire County Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.

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, in all significant respects, the Staffordshire County Council had put

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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 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Pension Fund financial statements

On 31 July 2019 we issued our opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 included within the Statement of Accounts.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

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

In addition we are required to give an opinion on the consistency of the financial statements of the pension fund included in the Pension Fund Annual Report of Staffordshire pension fund. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require authorities to publish the Pension Fund Annual Report by 1 December 2019. As the Authority has not yet prepared the Annual Report we have not yet been able to conclude on the consistency with these financial statements and we have not issued our report on those financial statements.

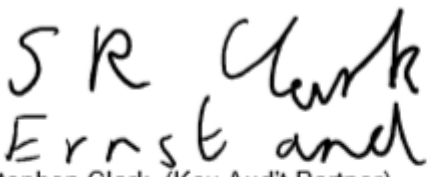
Until we have completed these procedures we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Staffordshire County Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities

Audit Opinion

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 Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Ernst and Young LLP
Stephen Clark, (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Birmingham
9 December 2019

The maintenance and integrity of the Staffordshire County Council web site is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Audit Opinion

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes 1 to 24. 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 2018/19.

In our opinion the pension fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2019 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2019; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the pension fund 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 Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the County Treasurer's (Section 151 Officer) use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer) has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the pension fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of

Audit Opinion

accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts 2018-2019, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- 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;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Audit Opinion

Responsibility of the County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer)

As explained more fully in the Statement of “Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts” the County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer) Responsibilities, the County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the preparation of the Authority’s Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund 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 2018/19, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

In preparing the financial statements, the County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for assessing the Pension Fund’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Pension Fund either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements


Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Audit Opinion

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Staffordshire County Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 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 Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Date: 31 July 2019

Suresh Patel (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
London

The maintenance and integrity of the Staffordshire County Council website is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the County Treasurer;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets, and
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The County Treasurer's Responsibilities

The County Treasurer 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 County Treasurer has:

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

The County Treasurer has also:

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

COUNTY TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the County Council as at 31 March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2019.



Rob Salmon CPFA
County Treasurer
Date: 31 May 2019

Chairman's Certificate

I confirm that the 2018/2019 Statement of Accounts for Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Pension Fund were approved by the Audit and Standards Committee on 30 July 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. C. Kelly', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee
Date: 30th July 2019

Statement of Accounting Policies

1 General

The Statement of Accounts shows the Authority's transactions for the 2018/2019 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2019. In preparing the accounts we have followed the accounting practices set out in the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019' (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance.

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. The accounting convention used is mainly historical cost, other than for certain items of property, plant and equipment and financial instruments, which are held at fair value.

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared with reference to:

- The objective of providing information about the financial position, performance and cash flows in a way that meets the 'common needs of most users'.
- The objective of showing the results of the stewardship and accountability of elected members and management for the resources entrusted to them.

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared with reference to the following qualitative characteristics:

- Understandability.
- Relevance.
- Materiality.
- Reliability.
- Comparability.

2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared on the accruals basis, which means that activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- We recognise revenue from the sale of goods and services in accordance with the performance obligations of the contract
- We record supplies as expenditure when they are used. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and when they are used, they may be carried as stock in the Balance Sheet
- We record expenses in relation to services received (including provided by employees) when the service is received rather than when payments are made.
- We account for interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue or expenditure have been recognised, but cash has not been received or paid, we record a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Statement of Accounting Policies

3 Property, plant and equipment

Recognition

We capitalise expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment, if future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Expenditure that maintains the asset and restores the level of service provision but does not enhance the asset (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it is incurred.

Assets may be split into component parts (e.g. land, buildings and services) where the component is a significant proportion of the overall value. Where an individual component is then replaced, the carrying amount of the old component is replaced by the value of the new component.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost made up of the purchase price and costs associated with bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be used as intended.

We value non-current assets in the way recommended by the CIPFA Code of Practice, reflecting the adoption of IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement. Fair value is the price that would be received when selling an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset takes place either in the principal market for the asset, or in the absence of the principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset.

The Authority employs an external Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) qualified valuer to provide a valuation of its assets.

We classify non-current assets into groupings given by the Code. We value them on the following basis:

- We include property assets in the Balance Sheet at the amount that would be paid for them in their existing use.
- We include infrastructure assets and assets under construction in the Balance Sheet at the cost we originally paid.
- We include vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment on the Balance Sheet at depreciated historic cost.
- If we do not know the original cost of community assets, we include them in the Balance Sheet at a value of £1 each. If we know the original cost of community assets, these are held on the balance sheet at that cost
- We include surplus assets that we do not currently need, in the Balance Sheet at fair value, measured at the highest and best use price for the asset.

We have added any increase in the value of property, plant and equipment to the Revaluation Reserve, with the effective date of revaluation being 31 March 2019. We will revalue non-current assets again on a rolling five-year programme. However, in the meantime we will make changes to the valuation of assets if there are major changes which would have a significant effect on an asset's fair value, residual value or useful life.

Statement of Accounting Policies

We review the value of each category of assets and the value of major individual assets at the end of each financial year, to see if there is any reduction in value. If we identify any reduction as part of this review, or as a result of a valuation exercise, we deal with this in the following way:

- We write the loss off against the Revaluation Reserve, if there is a balance in that reserve.
- If there is no balance in the reserve, we charge the loss to the relevant service revenue account.

Disposal of assets

When we sell an asset or take it out of use, we take the value of the asset off the Balance Sheet and include the gain or loss on selling it in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

When we sell assets, we do not record any loss as a cost that has to be met from council tax because we provide for the cost of non-current assets under separate arrangements for capital financing. We add amounts to the Capital Adjustment Account from the Movement in Reserves Statement.

We record amounts we receive from selling assets in the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve. We can then only use this money to buy new assets or set it aside to reduce the amount we owe in loans.

Schools

We have assessed whether Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools should be included within the balance sheet, based upon an assessment of ownership and control of the assets. Maintained schools are already held on the balance sheet as the County Council controls these entities and therefore all transactions relating to maintained schools are recognised in these accounts. Other types of schools such as Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools are subject to a test of ownership. The Council recognises a school's assets on its balance sheet where it directly owns them, and/or the Council retains substantive rights over the assets and the future economic benefits/service potential of school assets flow to the Council or rights to use the assets have been transferred from another entity.

4 Basis of charge for using property, plant and equipment

We reflect depreciation (loss in value) charges in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, and we work the loss out based on the opening valuation of the asset. We do this on all property, plant and equipment in line with the following policy:

- We charge for all non-current assets and components of non-current assets with a set useful life. We work this charge out using the straight-line method (which assumes that the value of the asset will reduce by an equal amount each year of its life).
- We do not do this for land, assets under construction or those assets held for sale.
- We work out the charge for buildings assuming that their expected lives range from 15 to 60 years.
- We expect the life of infrastructure assets, for example, roads, bridges and footpaths, to be 50 years.
- The expected lives of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment range from five to 20 years.
- We work out charges for new assets from the financial year following the year that we buy them.
- We assume that an asset has no value at the end of its useful life.

Statement of Accounting Policies

We do not have to raise council tax to cover depreciation. However, under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) 2003 Regulations (amended in 2008), we have decided to set aside an amount of revenue to repay any debt equal to 4% of the borrowing supported by government grant at the beginning of the year. Where we have used unsupported borrowing to pay for an asset, we will repay that borrowing over the life of that asset. We only start to repay the borrowing for assets which are completed. If depreciation is different from this amount, we can make a transfer to or from the Capital Adjustment Account to cover the difference. As a result, we replace depreciation with revenue provision in the Movement in Reserves Statement by transferring the amount to or from the Capital Adjustment Account.

5 Assets held for sale

We include assets held for sale in the current assets part of the Balance Sheet. Assets held for sale are carried at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. No depreciation is charged whilst an asset is classified as assets held for sale.

6 Heritage assets

The Museums and Archives services hold the County Council's heritage assets. The assets are held at Shugborough, in the Shire Hall Gallery, in County Buildings and in the Judge's House. We account for these assets in accordance with our policy on property, plant and equipment. We show these assets on the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation and this value will be updated each year.

The carrying amounts of these assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, for example where an asset has suffered physical deterioration or breakage. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with our policy on impairment. It is extremely unlikely that we would dispose of any heritage assets, however if a disposal were to take place then the proceeds would be accounted for in accordance with our policy on disposing of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the accounts and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

7 Leases

We apply the Code's definition of a finance lease as a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset (even though title to the property may not be transferred). An operating lease is any lease that is not a finance lease.

We use various assets which we have accounted for as operating leases. In the Balance Sheet we do not show the related costs for renting them in the future. We include the annual lease rentals in the accounts each year and the outstanding commitments for future years are shown in the notes to the accounts where the value is significant.

We also lease out property and have a number of operating leases. We include income from these leases in the notes to the accounts where the value is significant.

We assess all leases to determine whether they are operating leases or finance leases under International Accounting Standard (IAS)17. Where we have decided that a lease is a finance lease then we show this asset in the Balance Sheet and show the related costs for renting them in the future.

Items of Property, Plant and Equipment financed by finance leases are shown in the balance sheet. For finance leases where the County Council is a lessee the Authority recognises finance leases as assets and liabilities at the present value of the minimum lease payments.

Statement of Accounting Policies

The Authority's incremental borrowing rate on PWLB loans has been used to determine the interest rate implicit in the lease. Any initial indirect costs of the lease are added to the value of the asset.

8 Stock and work in progress

We keep stock and stores in several departments and if the amount of stock is significant, we show it in the Balance Sheet. We reflect stock and stores in the accounts at the lower of their cost or their sale value (after deductions). This practice is in line with the requirements of IAS2 (Inventories). Some stock, for example stationery, is fully included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account in the year we buy it.

For work in progress we do a temporary valuation at the end of the year and record this in the Balance Sheet. The amount we show is what we could reasonably get if we sold the asset in its state at the time.

8 Pensions

We take part in two different pension schemes that meet the needs of employees in particular services. All the schemes give members defined benefits that are related to their pay and length of service. One scheme is for teachers and one is for other employees, as follows:

- Teachers'
This is an unfunded scheme (that is, there is no fund set aside to pay future pensions) run by the Department for Education. The pension cost we charge to the accounts is the contribution rate set by the Department for Education.
- Other employees
Other employees, depending on certain conditions, can join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which we run. The pension costs we charge to our accounts for these employees are equal to the contributions we pay to the pension scheme for these employees, including the effect of any actuarial changes. See Note 41 for further detail.

Discretionary benefits

We also have restricted powers to choose to pay retirement benefits to people who retire early. We add together any liabilities we expect to arise as a result of this in the year of the decision to pay the benefits. We account for these using the same policies we use for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

We have prepared the accounts in line with IAS19 (Employee Benefits). We discount liabilities to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 5.5% (based on the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds, (as measured by the yield on iboxx Sterling Corporates Index, AA over 15 years). We have reflected the accounting rules in the accounts and as notes to the accounts in line with CIPFA recommended practice that movements on the General Fund arising from pension movements are taken to the pension reserve.

By law we cannot raise council tax to cover the costs relating to the pension fund in the year. In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account this means that we must remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with amounts for the cash paid to the pension fund and any amounts due to the fund but not yet paid at the end of the year.

Statement of Accounting Policies

10 Reserves

In line with the Code we split our reserves between those which are 'usable' (contain resources which can be used to fund activities in the future) and 'unusable' reserves (those which are used to facilitate accounting adjustments required by statute).

11 Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute

We have incurred expenditure during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset. We have charged this expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. We have then made a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account to reverse out the amount charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

12 Provisions

We make 'provisions' (that is, set aside an amount) to provide for an amount we will have to pay at an unknown date in the future, based on an event that has already happened. The amount is estimated using the most up-to-date information we have. We pay for significant areas of risk ourselves and take out insurance for major risks and some specific areas. We have set up an insurance arrangement where provisions meet the cost of claims.

13 Interest on balances

During the year we invested some money and paid the interest we earned to the revenue account. We have also made a contribution (similar to interest) to certain reserves and provisions.

14 VAT

Income and spending do not include amounts related to VAT. VAT we collect is paid to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). The VAT we pay is reclaimed from HMRC.

15 Government grants and contributions

We receive grants from government and other bodies and we credit grants to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the grant conditions have been met. If we do not know the actual amount of grant we will receive, we use an estimate. If the grant conditions have not been met, then we show the grant in the Balance Sheet as a creditor as it may have to be returned to the grant providing body.

If a grant has not been spent at the end of the year but the conditions have been met, then it is shown in the usable reserves section of the Balance Sheet.

Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

16 Private finance initiative (PFI)

We have four PFI schemes, which we account for in line with the Code.

Statement of Accounting Policies

The assets of these schemes are included in the Balance Sheet. We also have a liability in the Balance Sheet to show that we owe the contractor further payments for these assets. The value of the building assets has been determined by our in-house valuer. At the end of the contracts, the assets of these schemes will be owned by the Council and will remain on the Balance Sheet.

We have shown the payment to the contractor in three places in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, as a cost to the service, as part of interest payable and to depreciate the asset.

We have transferred land to the contractor next to the new Sir Graham Balfour School with planning permission for a housing development. The value of this land (about £2 million) has resulted in lower contract payments. We have treated this as deferred consideration in the Balance Sheet. We reduce the value of this over the life of the contract.

17 Endowment and trust funds

We run 26 of these funds. They mostly include small amounts received from private individuals, which we have invested to provide an income each year. They do not form part of our accounts.

18 Financial Instruments

In line with the Code, financial liabilities and financial assets are shown in the Balance Sheet when we become a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial Liabilities

We measure financial liabilities at their fair value (the price that would be paid to transfer a liability) and report this in the notes to the accounts. The carrying value in our Balance Sheet is shown at amortised cost, which includes the principal amount we borrowed, with adjustments for stepped interest, premiums and discounts and accrued interest. The method used to calculate the amortised cost is called the 'effective interest rate method'.

In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, we base the yearly charges for interest due on our loans on the carrying amount of the liability. This represents the amount we owe for the year under the loan agreement.

To help us manage our loans over the long term, we continuously review what we owe and occasionally take out new loans and pay off others. Restructuring loans in this way is known as 'loan rescheduling'.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged for restructuring loans, regulations allow us to spread the impact on the General Fund Balance over future years. We have a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid.

Lender option borrower option (LOBO)

We have taken out a number of loans which have a fixed interest rate for a set period. After that period the lender can change the interest rate. We can choose whether to repay the loan or to accept the higher interest rate. These are called lender option borrower option (LOBO) loans. Some LOBOs have a stepped interest rate with a lower rate for the fixed period and a higher rate afterwards. For these LOBO loans the Code requires us to smooth the interest charged to the revenue account over the life of the loan using a method called the Equivalent Interest Rate (EIR).

Statement of Accounting Policies

Financial Assets

We can classify financial assets based on their cashflow characteristics and our business model for holding the financial assets. This gives rise to three methods of accounting:

- *Amortised cost*
These are investments that we hold in order to collect contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest. Financial assets at amortised cost are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at their amortised cost. The amount presented in our Balance Sheet includes the outstanding principal receivable plus accrued interest.
- *Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)*
When there are no contractual cash flows, we measure financial assets at FVPL. These assets are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.
We measure the fair value of these assets in accordance with the following three levels:
Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.
Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

When we derecognise these assets, any gains and losses are credited or debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- *Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)*
Where there are no contractual cash flows, we can irrevocably elect to account for a financial asset (such as shares in a company) through FVOCI instead of FVPL. Any gains and losses from changes in fair value would be taken to the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve instead of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

Expected credit losses

We recognise expected credit losses on our financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI), either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the authority.

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. 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.

Credit losses for our treasury investments are expected to be minimal and CIPFA has ruled that no credit losses be recognised for financial assets made with central or local government.

19 Cash and cash equivalents

We are required to disclose our policy on how we define cash and cash equivalents; this includes a definition of investment balances.

Cash and cash equivalents include the following classes of financial assets that can be called upon at short-notice and (if necessary) turned into cash:

Statement of Accounting Policies

- Cash in hand
- Money Market Fund balances
- Call accounts with banks or building societies
- Overnight fixed term deposits with banks or building societies

The Authority's bank overdraft is presented as part of the cash and cash equivalents on the face of the balance sheet, as the amounts are an integral part of the Council's cash management.

Investment balances are typically longer-term commitments either where cash cannot be realised quickly or where there is a risk that the value of the investment will change over time:

- Fixed term deposits greater than one day in duration
- Treasury bills and gilts
- Certificates of deposit
- Multi-lateral development bank investments

20 Interests in companies

In our accounts, we record interests in companies and other organisations as investments. Currently we have interests in three companies, Entrust (49% holding), Penda (50% holding) and Nexxus (100% holding). The investments in Entrust, Penda and Nexxus are not currently material in value.

21 Employee Benefits

We have shown an amount in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement which relates to the cost of employees carrying forward leave entitlement. The full cost of staff retiring or being made redundant has also been shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These amounts have not affected the amount raised by council tax as they have been posted to the Accumulated Absences Reserve and Pensions Reserve within unusable reserves in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

22 Pooled Budgets

Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups have entered into a framework agreement under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006. This is a pooled fund arrangement known as the Better Care Fund. The Council is the host partner of the fund. Each partner accounts separately for the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities which relate to or arise from expenditure on individual schemes and its interest in pooled funds. Further information is shown in Note 27 to the accounts.

23 Accounting Standards Issued but Not Yet Adopted

At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code.

- IFRS 16 Leases will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities. Implementation of IFRS 16 has been deferred until 1st April 2020 for Local Government.
- IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property provides further explanation of the instances in which a property can be classified as investment property. This will have no impact as we have no investment property.
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration clarifies the treatment of payments in a foreign currency made in advance of obtaining or delivering

Statement of Accounting Policies

services or goods. We do not have any material transactions within the scope of this amendment.

- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments provides additional guidance on income tax treatment where there is uncertainty. This will have no impact on the accounts.
- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: prepayment features with negative compensation amends IFRS 9 to make clear that amortised cost should be used where prepayments are substantially lower than the unpaid principal and interest. We have no loans to which this will apply.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

2017/2018 Gross expenditure £m Restated	2017/2018 Gross income £m Restated	2017/2018 Net expenditure £m Restated		2018/2019 Gross expenditure £m	2018/2019 Gross income £m	2018/2019 Net expenditure £m
316.9	(112.9)	204.0	Health and Care	316.9	(118.8)	198.1
717.4	(540.2)	177.2	Families and Communities	583.6	(420.9)	162.7
			Economy, Infrastructure and			
115.6	(39.8)	75.8	Skills	118.6	(47.2)	71.4
88.4	(42.4)	46.0	Corporate Services	78.7	(33.5)	45.2
33.6	(17.7)	15.9	Centrally Controlled Costs	31.7	(13.9)	17.8
(11.2)	0.0	(11.2)	Non distributed costs	(3.7)	0.0	(3.7)
1,260.7	(753.0)	507.7	Cost of services	1,125.8	(634.3)	491.5
			Other operating expenditure			
		34.0	(Note 6)			65.0
			Financing and investment			
		65.3	(income)/expenditure (Note 7)			51.9
			Taxation and non-specific grant			
		(563.0)	income (Note 8)			(590.5)
		44.0	Deficit on provision of services			17.9
			Deficit/(Surplus) on revaluation			
		(85.3)	of non current assets			(60.5)
			Remeasurement of the net			
		(54.9)	defined benefit liability/(asset)			132.8
			(Note 41)			
		(140.2)	Items that will not be reclassified to the deficit on the provision of services			72.3
			Deficit/(Surplus) on revaluation			
		(0.6)	of Available For Sale Financial			
			Assets			0.0
		(0.6)	Items that may be reclassified to the deficit on the provision of services			0.0
		(140.8)	Other comprehensive expenditure/(income)			72.3
		(96.8)	Total comprehensive expenditure/(income)			90.2

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, accounted for as 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the general fund balance for council tax setting purposes. The 'Net increase/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves' line shows the statutory general fund balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

	General Fund Balance £m	Schools (Note 5) £m	Other Reserves Revenue (Note 5) £m	Amalgamated General Revenue Reserves £m	Capital Receipts Reserve £m	Capital Grants Unapplied £m	Amalgamated Capital Reserves £m	Total Usable Reserves £m	Unusable Reserves £m	Total Council Reserves £m
Balance at 1 April 2017 (Restated)	(21.0)	(29.1)	(36.2)	(65.3)	(13.2)	(23.4)	(36.6)	(122.9)	56.4	(66.5)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2017/2018</u>										
Deficit on the provision of services	44.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	0.0	44.0
Other comprehensive (income)/ expenditure	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(140.8)	(140.8)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	44.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	(140.8)	(96.8)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 4)	(58.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	1.9	11.9	(46.5)	46.5	0.0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(14.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	1.9	11.9	(2.5)	(94.3)	(96.8)
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves	9.2	3.0	(12.2)	(9.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(Increase)/decrease in year	(5.2)	3.0	(12.2)	(9.2)	10.0	1.9	11.9	(2.5)	(94.3)	(96.8)
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward (Restated)	(26.2)	(26.1)	(48.4)	(74.5)	(3.2)	(21.5)	(24.7)	(125.4)	(37.9)	(163.3)
IFRS9 transitional arrangements (Note 44)	0.0	0.0	(15.2)	(15.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(15.2)	0.0	(15.2)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2018/19</u>										
Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	17.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.9	0.0	17.9
Other comprehensive (income)/ expenditure	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	72.3	72.3
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	17.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.9	72.3	90.2
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 4)	(49.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	(22.0)	(18.8)	(68.6)	68.6	0.0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves	(31.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	(22.0)	(18.8)	(50.7)	140.9	90.2
Transfers (to)/from earmarked reserves	27.7	1.4	(29.1)	(27.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(Increase)/decrease in year	(4.2)	1.4	(29.1)	(27.7)	3.2	(22.0)	(18.8)	(50.7)	140.9	90.2
Balance at 31 March 2019 carried forward	(30.4)	(24.7)	(92.7)	(117.4)	0.0	(43.5)	(43.5)	(191.3)	103.0	(88.3)

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. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that 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. The second category of reserves includes those amounts which the Council are not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes those reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses, where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold (an example would be the Revaluation reserve). Furthermore it includes reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in reserves statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

31 March 2017 Restated £m	31 March 2018 Restated £m		Notes	31 March 2019 £m
1,632.8	1,723.5	Property, plant and equipment	12	1,751.9
8.4	8.4	Heritage assets	13	8.4
19.7	20.7	Long term debtors	16	28.1
31.6	32.1	Long term investments	15	30.4
1,692.5	1,784.7	Long term assets		1,818.8
8.4	9.6	Assets held for sale	19	10.5
0.0	0.0	Short term investments	15	11.5
1.2	1.0	Inventories		1.5
103.1	89.3	Short term debtors	17	104.4
45.2	22.8	Cash and cash equivalents	18	46.4
157.9	122.7	Current assets		174.3
(0.3)	(0.2)	Short term borrowing		(0.3)
(103.5)	(108.5)	Short term creditors	20	(104.5)
(57.0)	(54.1)	Long term borrowing repayable within one year	15	(36.0)
(7.5)	(7.2)	PFI and finance leases deferred liability	15	(7.4)
(8.8)	(7.7)	Accumulated absences creditor	22	(6.2)
(177.1)	(177.7)	Current liabilities		(154.4)
(2.1)	(1.6)	Long term creditors		(0.8)
(9.3)	(10.4)	Long term provisions	21	(12.3)
(430.5)	(428.0)	Long term borrowing	15	(415.9)
(979.8)	(947.9)	Pension scheme liability	41	(1,128.2)
(86.6)	(77.1)	PFI and finance lease liability	15	(78.9)
(73.3)	(69.8)	PFI third party financing liability	37	(66.3)
(25.2)	(31.6)	Capital grants receipts in advance	33	(48.0)
(1,606.8)	(1,566.4)	Long term liabilities		(1,750.4)
66.5	163.3	Net assets		88.3
(122.9)	(125.4)	Usable reserves (Movement in Reserves Statement)		(191.3)
56.4	(37.9)	Unusable reserves	22	103.0
(66.5)	(163.3)	Total reserves		(88.3)

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting year. 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.

2017/2018		2018/2019
Restated		
£m		£m
44.0	Net deficit on the provision of services	17.9
(138.4)	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	(160.4)
87.0	Adjustments for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	102.5
(7.4)	Net cash flows from Operating activities (Note 23)	(40.0)
20.7	Investing Activities (Note 24)	(4.6)
9.1	Financing Activities (Note 25)	21.0
22.4	Net (increase)/decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(23.6)
45.2	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year (Note 18)	22.8
22.8	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year (Note 18)	46.4

Notes to the Accounts

1. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

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

- 1) There is a high degree of uncertainty regarding future levels of funding for local government. The Council has undertaken a rigorous challenge of reviewing its spending and as a result has ensured appropriate savings are built into its medium term financial plans. The Council has determined that this uncertainty regarding future funding levels is not known in sufficient enough detail to provide an indication that its assets would be impaired or services reduced significantly. Any action to reduce spending would be taken in a planned and systematic way to reduce the impact on service delivery.
- 2) The Council has four PFI contracts to provide schools, children's homes, waste disposal and street lighting facilities. The accounting policies for PFI schemes have been applied to these arrangements and the assets are recognised as non-current assets in the Balance Sheet. These contracts have to be accounted for in this way as we have assessed that they meet the requirements of the applicable accounting standard IFRIC 12.
- 3) The McCloud judgement will impact on pension costs in future years. The exact impact is not yet known and will be calculated by the actuary. The accounts currently reflect the latest estimate of these additional costs.
- 4) The Council acts as the accountable body for the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP). We account for the transactions of the SSLEP and hold balances on its behalf. However, the Council does not make decisions about how the funds should be used and separate accounts are produced for the SSLEP. In the Council's accounts we have included balances of £12.7m in cash and cash equivalents (notes 15 and 18) and earmarked reserves (note 5).

Notes to the Accounts

2. Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019 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 that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls.</p> <p>If funding streams were reduced, in so far as it results in the reduction of service delivery or closure of facilities, this could result in the impairment of assets due to obsolescence. The Council has determined that the level of uncertainty at this time is not sufficient to indicate this course of action.</p>
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages and mortality rates. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied in producing the accounting entries necessary for the accounts.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, including the impact of the McCloud judgement. The actuary provides a sensitivity analysis which is shown in Note 41.
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	The Council has made an impairment allowance against debtor balances. It is not certain that this impairment allowance would be sufficient as we cannot assess with certainty which debts will be collected or not.	An understatement of doubtful debts would lead to a future adjustment and impairment to be reflected.
Britain leaving the European Union	There is a high level of uncertainty about the implications of Britain leaving the European Union. It is not currently possible to predict the form that exit will take and whether asset values and the discount rate will consequently change. In preparing the accounts, the assumption has been made that there will be no significant effect.	Higher impairment allowances may need to be charged in the future if asset values fall. If the discount rate changes, the size of the net pension liability will also vary.

Notes to the Accounts

3. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

On 31st May 2019 the County Treasurer authorised the Statement of Accounts to be issued. When preparing the accounts we have considered events between the date we produced the balance sheet and 31st May 2019. No events have occurred which require disclosure in the accounts.

12 schools have converted to academy status during this period. This does not have an impact on the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2019, therefore the financial statements and notes have not been adjusted in respect of this.

The McCloud judgement was issued after the balance sheet date and the accounts have been updated to reflect its impact.

Notes to the Accounts

4. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations

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

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital grants unapplied	Capital receipts reserve	Movement in unusable reserves
2018/19				
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:	£m	£m	£m	£m
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(63.7)	0.0	0.0	63.7
Capital grants and contributions applied	69.5	0.0	0.0	(69.5)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(13.2)	0.0	13.2	0.0
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale/part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Income and Expenditure Statement	(72.9)	0.0	0.0	72.9
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	29.1	0.0	0.0	(29.1)
Capital expenditure charged against the General fund balance	0.1	0.0	0.0	(0.1)
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	24.9	(24.9)	0.0	0.0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0.0	2.9	0.0	(2.9)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Income and Expenditure Statement	10.0	0.0	(10.0)	0.0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure				
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sales proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal	0.6	0.0	0.0	(0.6)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Note 22)	1.1	0.0	0.0	(1.1)
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(36.0)	0.0	0.0	36.0
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.7)	0.0	0.0	0.7
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year due to statutory requirements	1.4	0.0	0.0	(1.4)
Total adjustments	(49.8)	(22.0)	3.2	68.6

Notes to the Accounts

4. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations (Cont'd)

	Usable Reserves			Movement in unusable reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital grants unapplied	Capital receipts reserve	
2017/2018				
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:	£m	£m	£m	£m
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(55.4)	0.0	0.0	55.4
Capital grants and contributions applied	50.3	0.0	0.0	(50.3)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(15.8)	0.0	15.8	0.0
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	(47.0)	0.0	0.0	47.0
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	28.4	0.0	0.0	(28.4)
Capital expenditure charged against the General fund balance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	27.3	(27.3)	0.0	0.0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0.0	29.2	0.0	(29.2)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	13.3	0.0	(13.3)	0.0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0.0	0.0	7.5	(7.5)
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sales proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal	(13.6)	0.0	0.0	13.6
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 22)	0.4	0.0	0.0	(0.4)
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(47.4)	0.0	0.0	47.4
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax and business rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and business rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.1
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1.2	0.0	0.0	(1.2)
Total adjustments	(58.4)	1.9	10.0	46.5

Notes to the Accounts

5. Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note 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 2018/2019.

	Balance at 1 April 2017	Transfers out 2017/2018	Transfers in 2017/2018	Balance at 31 March 2018	Transfers out 2018/2019	Transfers in 2018/2019	Balance at 31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund:							
Information technology	(3.4)	2.5	(3.0)	(3.9)	1.7	(1.9)	(4.1)
PFI equalisation	(1.1)	0.3	0.0	(0.8)	0.1	(0.4)	(1.1)
Other Service Reserves	(0.3)	0.1	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.0	(0.2)	(0.5)
Trading services appropriation reserve	(3.6)	2.9	(3.3)	(4.0)	1.7	(1.1)	(3.4)
Renewing vehicles and plant reserve	(0.2)	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance self funding schools absence	(0.3)	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other insurance reserves	(2.2)	0.7	(0.1)	(1.6)	0.7	(0.3)	(1.2)
Business Rates Pool	(1.9)	0.0	(1.6)	(3.5)	0.0	(1.6)	(5.1)
Revenue carried forward ¹	(23.2)	27.3	(38.4)	(34.3)	21.8	(64.8)	(77.3)
Total earmarked reserves	(36.2)	34.3	(46.5)	(48.4)	26.0	(70.3)	(92.7)

¹ Transfers into reserves includes a £15.2m credit for modified loans as part of IFRS9 transitional arrangements (see Note 44).

Notes to the Accounts

5. Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Cont'd)

School Reserves

Under the Education Reform Act 1988, if we have given a budget to a school and they have not spent it, they can still use that money, even though, technically it is held in our reserves. In other words, these unspent balances represent a special form of reserve which is not available for us to use. The schools revenue balances we hold in this way currently total **£16.8** million. Schools also hold balances of **£7.9** million for specific purposes, most of which relate to the standards fund formula capital programme.

Since 1997/1998 a loan scheme has been working for schools, where they can borrow money from overall school balances to pay for small capital-related projects. The 'loans' to schools are interest-free if under £100,000 and they must repay them over no more than five years.

	Balance 31 March 2017 £m	(Increase)/ reduction £m	Balance 31 March 2018 £m	(Increase)/ reduction £m	Balance 31 March 2019 £m
<u>Delegated revenue budgets</u>					
Primary schools	(17.6)	1.3	(16.3)	2.0	(14.3)
Secondary schools	(4.3)	2.9	(1.4)	0.0	(1.4)
Special	(2.0)	0.1	(1.9)	0.4	(1.5)
Pupil Referral Unit	(0.7)	0.5	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)
	(24.6)	4.8	(19.8)	2.3	(17.5)
Outstanding loans	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.7
Net school reserves as 31st March	(24.1)	4.8	(19.3)	2.5	(16.8)
Earmarked reserves	(5.0)	(1.8)	(6.8)	(1.1)	(7.9)
Total	(29.1)	3.0	(26.1)	1.4	(24.7)

Notes to the Accounts

6. Other Operating Expenditure

Restated 2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
0.3 Levies	0.3
0.1 Impairment on assets held for sale	1.9
33.6 Losses on the disposal of non current assets*	62.8
34.0 Total	65.0

*the losses on disposal are due to the reclassification of school assets for newly created academies. These are accounted for as leased assets and they amount to **£66.2** million (£28.3 million in 2017/2018 Restated) on Academy and Foundation conversions and gains of £2.4m on non school asset disposal.

7. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
47.4 Interest payable and similar charges	33.4
Pensions interest cost and expected returns on 25.1 pension assets	25.7
(6.2) Interest receivable and similar income	(5.2)
(1.0) Trading Services Surplus (Note 26)	(2.0)
65.3 Total	51.9

8. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
(315.5) Council tax income	(338.8)
(101.1) NNDR	(104.1)
(68.9) Non-ringfenced government grants (Note 33)	(53.2)
(77.5) Capital grants and contributions	(94.4)
(563.0) Total	(590.5)

Notes to the Accounts

9. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from unallocated general fund resources by the Council in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Council's earmarked general reserves are shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement and in Note 5. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2017/2018 Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	2017/2018 Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 10)	2017/2018 Net Expenditure in the Comprehen- sive Income and Expenditure Statement		2018/2019 Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	2018/2019 Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 10)	2018/2019 Net Expenditure in the Comprehen- sive Income and Expenditure Statement
Restated £m	Restated £m	Restated £m		£m	£m	£m
238.3	(34.3)	204.0	Health and Care	236.5	(38.4)	198.1
154.6	22.6	177.2	Families and Communities	174.5	(11.8)	162.7
			Economy, Infrastructure and			
93.4	(17.6)	75.8	Skills	88.8	(17.4)	71.4
47.4	(1.4)	46.0	Corporate Services	51.5	(6.3)	45.2
(17.9)	33.8	15.9	Centrally Controlled Costs	7.7	10.1	17.8
0.0	(11.2)	(11.2)	Non distributed costs	0.0	(3.7)	(3.7)
515.8	(8.1)	507.7	Cost of services	559.0	(67.5)	491.5
			Other operating expenditure			
1.9	32.1	34.0	(Note 6)	2.2	62.8	65.0
			Financing and investment			
40.2	25.1	65.3	(income)/expenditure (Note 7)	26.2	25.7	51.9
(563.0)	0.0	(563.0)	Taxation and non-specific grant	(590.5)	0.0	(590.5)
			income (Note 8)			
(5.2)	49.1	44.0	Deficit on provision of	(3.1)	21.0	17.9
			services			
(21.0)			Opening General Fund	(26.2)		
			Balance			
(5.2)			Surplus/Deficit on General Fund	(4.2)		
			Balance in Year			
(26.2)			Closing General Fund	(30.4)		
			Balance at 31 March			

Notes to the Accounts

10. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2018/19

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (a)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (b)	Other Differences (c)	Total Adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Health and Care	(34.3)	1.6	(5.7)	(38.4)
Families and Communities	(29.7)	20.7	(2.8)	(11.8)
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills	(13.3)	1.3	(5.4)	(17.4)
Corporate Services	(4.6)	1.9	(3.6)	(6.3)
Centrally Controlled Costs	34.2	(11.6)	(12.5)	10.1
Non distributed costs		(3.7)		(3.7)
Net Cost of Services	(47.7)	10.2	(30.0)	(67.5)
Other income and expenditure for the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	62.8	25.7	0.0	88.5
Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	15.1	35.9	(30.0)	21.0

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2017/18 Comparative Figures

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (a)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (b)	Other Differences (c)	Total Adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Health and Care	(27.8)	0.5	(7.0)	(34.3)
Families and Communities	10.3	6.2	6.1	22.6
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills	(11.4)	0.3	(6.5)	(17.6)
Corporate Services	0.0	1.1	(2.5)	(1.4)
Centrally Controlled Costs	(4.2)	25.2	12.8	33.8
Non distributed costs	0.0	(11.2)	0.0	(11.2)
Net Cost of Services	(33.1)	22.1	2.9	(8.1)
Other income and expenditure for the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	32.1	25.1	0.0	57.2
Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1.0)	47.2	2.9	49.1

(a) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

For Services - this represents the cost of capital and the cost of repaying borrowing used in prior years.

For Taxation and Specific Grant Income - this reflects income from capital grants received in the year.

(b) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

For Services - this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Council 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

(c) Other Differences

For Services - notional charges representing the costs of employees' annual leave, the cost to the Pension Fund of employees retiring early and contributions to or from earmarked reserves.

For Taxation and Specific Grant Income - the council tax and business rates amounts reflect the actual collection funds for both those funding streams.

Notes to the Accounts

11. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

2017/2018 Restated £m		2018/2019 £m
	Expenditure	
457.6	Employee benefits expenses	414.2
789.0	Other service expenses	690.9
55.4	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	63.7
47.4	Interest payments	33.4
0.3	Precepts and levies	0.3
33.6	Loss on disposal of assets	62.8
1,383.3	Total expenditure	1,265.3
	Income	
(250.7)	Fees, charges and other service income	(174.2)
(6.2)	Interest and investment income	(5.2)
(417.3)	Income from council tax and non-domestic rates	(442.9)
(665.1)	Government grants and contributions	(625.1)
(1,339.3)	Total income	(1,247.4)
44.0	Deficit on the Provision of Services	17.9

The deficit on provision of services includes many transactions which are not cash based. These notional transactions are then reversed out of the General Fund and are not funded by council tax. There is more detail in Note 4.

Notes to the Accounts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements on Balances in 2018/2019

	Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £m	Infrastructure Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets Under Construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £m
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2018	702.2	307.0	968.4	9.2	47.8	2,034.6	270.1
Additions	17.6	3.7	68.6	0.2	11.8	101.9	1.2
Revaluation increases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	48.8	7.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	57.6	11.1
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(7.8)	(13.6)	0.0
Derecognition - Disposals	(70.0)	(2.1)	0.0	(2.5)	0.0	(74.6)	0.0
Assets Reclassified (to) / from Held for Sale	41.3	0.0	0.0	(0.2)	(45.6)	(4.5)	0.0
Reversal of non-enhancing expenditure initially capitalised as capital spend	(10.8)	(0.3)	(0.7)	0.0	(0.1)	(11.9)	0.0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
At 31 March 2019	723.3	316.1	1,036.3	7.7	6.1	2,089.5	282.4

Notes to the Accounts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment (Cont'd)

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment

	Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £m	Infrastructure Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets Under Construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £m
At 1 April 2018	(14.3)	(122.8)	(174.0)	0.0	0.0	(311.1)	(37.3)
Depreciation Charge	(12.0)	(9.8)	(19.0)	0.0	0.0	(40.8)	(7.5)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	6.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	3.2
Depreciation written out to the Deficit on the Provision of Services	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0
Derecognition - Disposals	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0
Derecognition - Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other movements in Depreciation and Impairment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
At 31 March 2019	(16.9)	(127.7)	(193.0)	0.0	0.0	(337.6)	(41.6)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2019	706.4	188.4	843.3	7.7	6.1	1,751.9	240.8
At 31 March 2018	687.9	184.2	794.4	9.2	47.8	1,723.5	232.8

Notes to the Accounts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment (Cont'd)

Comparative Movements in 2017/2018 Restated

	Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £m	Infrastructure Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets Under Construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £m
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2017	681.1	300.3	912.4	8.0	18.5	1,920.3	261.7
Additions	20.5	3.2	62.7	2.0	29.2	117.6	1.0
Revaluation increases recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	67.9	5.6	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	73.4	7.4
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5.2)	0.0	0.0	(1.5)	0.1	(6.6)	0.0
Derecognition - Disposals	(45.2)	(1.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(46.3)	0.0
Assets Reclassified (to)/ from Held for Sale	(6.3)	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	(5.3)	0.0
Reversal of non-enhancing expenditure initially capitalised as capital spend	(10.6)	(1.0)	(6.7)	(0.2)	0.0	(18.5)	0.0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
At 31 March 2018	702.2	307.0	968.4	9.2	47.8	2,034.6	270.1

Notes to the Accounts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment (Cont'd)

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment

	Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £m	Infrastructure Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets Under Construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £m
At 1 April 2017	(14.8)	(116.5)	(156.2)	0.0	0.0	(287.5)	(33.3)
Depreciation Charge	(10.0)	(10.6)	(17.8)	0.0	0.0	(38.4)	(7.3)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	5.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.3
Depreciation written out to the Deficit on the Provision of Services	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0
Derecognition - Disposals	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0
Derecognition - Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other movements in Depreciation and Impairment	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.0
At 31 March 2018	(14.3)	(122.8)	(174.0)	0.0	0.0	(311.1)	(37.3)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2018	687.9	184.2	794.4	9.2	47.8	1,723.5	232.8
At 31 March 2017	666.3	183.8	756.2	8.0	18.5	1,632.8	228.4

Notes to the Accounts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment (Cont'd)

Valuations

In accordance with IAS16, the Council revalues Property, Land and Buildings on a rolling five year programme on a fair value basis as set out in Accounting Policy Note 2. It is considered that there is no material difference in a fair value basis compared to a valuation based on carrying value. All valuations were carried out externally by Cecilia Reed MRICS, District Valuer Services. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out with an effective date of 31st March 2019 in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Summary values are shown in the following table:

	Land and Buildings £m	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment £m	Infrastructure Assets £m	Surplus Assets £m	Assets Under Construction £m	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £m
2018/2019						
Carried at historical cost	0.0	316.1	1,036.3	0.0	6.1	1,358.5
Carried at valuation	723.3	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	731.0
	723.3	316.1	1,036.3	7.7	6.1	2,089.5

13. Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Council

	Archives £m	Museums £m	County Buildings & Judges House £m	Total Assets £m
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2017	5.6	2.5	0.3	8.4
At 31 March 2018	5.6	2.5	0.3	8.4
Cost or Valuation				
1 April 2018	5.6	2.5	0.3	8.4
At 31 March 2019	5.6	2.5	0.3	8.4

Notes to the Accounts

13. Heritage Assets (Cont'd)

Archives

The Council has a number of archived documents held across various Record Offices and Libraries. They are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation. These insurance valuations are updated annually.

The archived collections include a number of significant documents such as The Sutherland Papers valued at £1.8 million and a printed book collection valued at £1 million.

Museums

The County Council Museum collection contains various objects, photographs and ephemera covering a wide range of subjects within the fields of Staffordshire's social and agricultural history, and, to a lesser extent, crafts and industry. The Museum collection includes 19th century horse drawn carriages with a total value of £0.3 million.

The Council's Art collection is located at Shire Hall. This includes fine art collections by artists associated with Staffordshire and decorative art collections by contemporary craftsmakers.

County Buildings and Judges House

The asset described as County Buildings is a late Victorian Grade II listed building which houses the Council Chamber and other County Council offices and meeting rooms. The Judges House sits within County Buildings and is used to accommodate Justices of the Peace occasionally but is now primarily used for member meetings.

Both these buildings contain historical artefacts including oil paintings, antique silver cutlery and mayoral regalia.

14. Interests in Companies

The Council has a 49% share of the company Entrust which provides education support services to schools. This share was purchased in 2012/2013 for £30.2m however the company did not begin trading until April 2013. The investment in Entrust is valued at cost, plus the County Council's share of any profit or loss made by the company. The remaining balance of the long term investment on the balance sheet is money we have invested in two local authorities.

	At 31 March 2017	At 31 March 2018 restated	At 31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m
Opening Balance	23.2	1.1	1.7
Revaluation	(22.1)	0.6	(1.7)
Closing Balance	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>0</u>

Notes to the Accounts

15. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

Under accounting regulations, the Council needs to break down the 'financial instruments' (relating to our investment, lending and borrowing activities) shown on the Balance Sheet into various categories. A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity and this breakdown is shown below.

	Long - Term			Current		
	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<u>Financial assets</u>						
<i>At amortised cost:</i>						
Investments	30.5	30.4	30.4	0.0	0.0	11.5
Call accounts and short term deposits				9.0	4.0	4.5
Bank Overdraft	0.0	0.0	0.0	(13.8)	(23.9)	(22.2)
<i>At fair value through other comprehensive income</i>						
Investments *	1.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>At fair value through profit & loss</i>						
Cash equivalents *	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	42.7	64.1
Total investments	31.6	32.1	30.4	45.2	22.8	57.9
<i>At amortised cost</i>						
Trade receivables	0.0	0.0	0.0	94.8	82.8	101.4
Loss allowance	0.0	0.0	0.0	(8.3)	(10.1)	(12.1)
Total Financial Assets	31.6	32.1	30.4	131.7	95.5	147.2
<u>Financial liabilities</u>						
<i>At amortised cost:</i>						
Loans	(430.5)	(428.0)	(415.9)	(57.0)	(54.1)	(36.0)
Total borrowings	(430.5)	(428.0)	(415.9)	(57.0)	(54.1)	(36.0)
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(86.6)	(77.1)	(78.9)	(7.5)	(7.2)	(7.4)
Total other long term liabilities	(86.6)	(77.1)	(78.9)	(7.5)	(7.2)	(7.4)
Trade and other creditors	0.0	0.0	0.0	(89.0)	(96.4)	(95.0)
Total creditors	0.0	0.0	0.0	(89.0)	(96.4)	(95.0)
Total Financial Liabilities	(517.1)	(505.1)	(494.8)	(153.5)	(157.7)	(138.4)

Investments and borrowing are classified as current if the Council is likely either to settle the balances or to receive proceeds within 12 months. Interest owed to or payable by the Council within the next 12 months is shown in the Balance Sheet as at 31 March under the "current" category.

* Treated as available for sale investments in the accounts to 31 March 2017 and 2018

Notes to the Accounts

15. Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets, financial liabilities, debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost.

Financial instruments must be shown at 'fair value'. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The Council has estimated fair value by calculating the net present value of the remaining cash flows. This gives an estimate, in today's terms, of the value of the payments in the future and this is shown in the table below. The assumptions made when calculating fair values are:

- No early repayment or impairment of loans is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The rate used is the rate applicable on the date of valuation for a similar instrument with the same duration.
- The fair value of short-term instruments is assumed to approximate to the carrying value.

Fair values are also shown in the table below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

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

The fair values calculated are as follows:

		31 March 2017	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2019
	Fair value level	Carrying amount	Fair Value	Carrying amount	Fair Value	Carrying amount	Fair Value
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
PWLB - maturity	2	404.4	639.5	430.0	640.6	399.9	619.2
PWLB - equal instalments of principal	2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Lender option borrower option	2	82.8	148.2	51.9	92.0	51.9	89.1
Total borrowings		487.5	788.0	482.1	732.8	451.9	708.5

The fair value of the liabilities held at amortised cost is higher than the carrying amount as at 31 March 2019. This is because the Council has a number of fixed rate loans where at the balance sheet date, the interest rates are higher than the current rates available from the market for similar loans.

Notes to the Accounts

15. Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (Cont'd)

		31 March 2017	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2019
	Fair value level	Carrying amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying amount £m	Fair Value £m	Carrying amount £m	Fair Value £m
Deposits with banks and building societies	2	9.0	9.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.5
Local authority deposits	2	30.5	37.4	30.4	37.5	41.9	49.5
Financial assets held at amortised cost		39.5	46.4	34.4	41.5	46.4	54.0
Money market funds	1	50.0	50.0	42.7	42.7	64.1	64.1
Equity investment	3	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Financial assets held at fair value		51.1	51.1	44.4	44.4	64.1	64.1
Financial Assets		90.6	97.5	78.8	85.9	110.5	118.1

The fair value and carrying amount for money market funds and bank and building society deposits are broadly the same at 31 March 2019 as interest rates being received are similar to market rates. The fair value of the local authority deposits is higher at 31 March 2019 as the interest rate on similar investments is now lower than when the investments were originally made.

The equity investment represents the Council's 49% share of the education support services company, Entrust. This investment is valued at cost, plus the Council's share of any profit or loss made by the company not at fair value (See note 14 for further detail).

Notes to the Accounts

15. Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments consist of the following:

	2017/2018			2018/2019		
	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £m	Financial Assets at amortised cost £m	Total £m	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost £m	Financial Assets at amortised cost £m	Total £m
Interest expense / Reduction in fair value	(47.4)	0.0	(47.4)	(33.4)	0.0	(33.4)
Total expense in Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(47.4)	0.0	(47.4)	(33.4)	0.0	(33.4)
Interest income / Increase in fair value	0.0	6.2	6.2	0.0	5.2	5.2
Total income in Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	0.0	6.2	6.2	0.0	5.2	5.2
Net (loss) /gain for the year	(47.4)	6.2	(41.2)	(33.4)	5.2	(28.2)

Notes to the Accounts

16. Long Term Debtors

31 March 2017 £m	31 March 2018 £m		31 March 2019 £m
0.6	0.5	Deferred consideration (PFI)	0.5
19.1	20.2	Other long term debtors	27.6
19.7	20.7	Total	28.1

As part of the Two Schools PFI scheme, we transferred land next to the new Sir Graham Balfour School over to the contractor. The land had planning permission for a housing development. The value of this land was about £2 million and this has resulted in lower contract payments. This is the deferred consideration and is being written down over the life of the PFI contract.

The other long term debtors shown above include amounts that relate to the Police Authority (£0.3m) and Stoke on Trent City Council (£13.5m). These debts arose when these two organisations were part of the County Council. Both organisations make payments to us to service the debts.

There is also a debt relating to the Black Country Reinvestment Society of £1.07m which arose when we gave the Society money for it to lend out to small businesses in Staffordshire. As these businesses grow they repay the loan and the Society repays us.

Notes to the Accounts

17. Short Term Debtors

31 March 2017	31 March 2018		31 March 2019
£m	£m		£m
97.4	88.3	Trade debtors	109.9
5.2	3.5	Prepayments	2.3
8.8	7.6	VAT (due to us)	4.3
(8.3)	(10.1)	Allowance for doubtful debts (debts we think may not be paid)	(12.1)
103.1	89.3	Total	104.4

18. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31 March 2017	31 March 2018		31 March 2019
£m	£m		£m
(13.8)	(23.9)	Bank overdraft	(22.2)
9.0	4.0	Call accounts and short-term deposits *	4.5
50.0	42.7	Money Market Funds *	64.1
45.2	22.8	Total cash and cash equivalents	46.4

* In accordance with the appropriate guidelines, these balances are defined as "cash and cash equivalents" because they are all accessible by the Council at short notice. The cash is held in various accounts with banks and Money Market Funds earning a market rate of interest.

Notes to the Accounts

19. Assets Held for Sale

31 March 2017 Restated £m	31 March 2018 Restated £m		31 March 2019 £m
21.5	8.4	Balance outstanding at start of	9.6
		Assets newly classified as held for sale	
2.0	5.4		5.1
0.0	0.0	Assets reclassified as surplus	0.0
0.0	0.0	Assets reclassified as operational	(0.5)
0.0	0.0	Impairments	(1.6)
<u>(15.1)</u>	<u>(4.2)</u>	Assets sold	<u>(2.1)</u>
8.4	9.6	Balance outstanding at year-end	10.5

Although there are some assets classified as held for sale that have been brought forward from the previous year, it is envisaged that all of these assets will have been sold by the end of March, therefore the Council does not hold assets held for sale which would be classified as non-current.

20. Short-Term Creditors

31 March 2017 £m	31 March 2018 £m		31 March 2019 £m
(88.8)	(95.6)	Trade and other creditors	(94.3)
(7.0)	(6.6)	Tax and money owed to HM Revenues and Customs	(5.9)
(7.7)	(6.3)	Money received in advance	(4.3)
<u>(103.5)</u>	<u>(108.5)</u>	Total	<u>(104.5)</u>

Notes to the Accounts

21. Provisions

We hold various provisions in line with schemes of management that set out the financial arrangements for how they are used. We regularly review the balances we hold. A summary of the balances held on each provision is shown below.

Long term provisions

	Business Rates Appeals	Insurance		Long Term Provisions Total
		Before LGR	After LGR	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance at 1 April 2018	(3.1)	(1.1)	(6.2)	(10.4)
Amounts used in 2018/2019	0.8	0.0	4.2	5.0
Amounts contributed to provision	(2.1)	0.1	(4.9)	(6.9)
Balance at 31 March 2019	(4.4)	(1.0)	(6.9)	(12.3)

The provision for business rates appeals represents the County Council's share of any provisions made by the District and Borough Councils of Staffordshire

Our insurance arrangements are a combination of insurance with other providers and money we provide ourselves. The balances we hold are to meet claim payments, motor vehicle and fire (education properties) insurance claims which are not covered by other insurers. We have split the provisions between those before local government reorganisation (LGR) - 31 March 1997 and those after that date. When we have paid all claims relating to before 31 March 1997, we will share any profit or loss with Stoke-on-Trent City Council in line with the transfer of property agreement.

Notes to the Accounts

22. Unusable Reserves

31 March 2017 Restated £m	31 March 2018 Restated £m		31 March 2019 £m
(126.7)	(192.7)	Revaluation reserve	(218.1)
(836.6)	(869.0)	Capital adjustment account	(840.6)
4.4	18.0	Financial instruments adjustment account	17.5
982.8	974.8	Pensions reserve	1,142.5
29.1	28.5	Available for Sale reserve	0.0
(5.4)	(5.2)	Collection fund adjustment account	(4.5)
8.8	7.7	Accumulated absences account	6.2
56.4	(37.9)	Total Unusable Reserves	103.0

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

2017/2018 Restated		2018/2019	
£m	£m	£m	£m
	(126.7)		(192.7)
(92.2)		(66.0)	
	Balance at 1 April		
	Upward revaluation of assets		
	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the deficit on the provision of services		
<u>13.6</u>		<u>3.8</u>	
	Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets not posted (78.6) to the deficit on the provision of services		(62.2)
1.5	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	3.4	
<u>11.1</u>	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	<u>33.4</u>	
	12.6 Amounts written off to the Capital adjustment account		36.8
	(192.7) Balance at 31 March		(218.1)

Notes to the Accounts

22. Unusable reserves (Cont'd)

Capital Adjustment Account

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

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

Note 4 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2017/2018 Restated £m	2018/2019 £m
(836.6)	(869.0)
Balance at 1 April	
0.0	28.5
IFRS9 Transitional arrangements	
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	
55.4	63.7
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	
15.8 (REFCUS)	13.2
Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the	
47.0 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	72.9
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation	
(12.6) Reserve	(36.9)
105.6	112.9
Net written out amount of the cost of non current assets consumed in the year	
Capital financing applied in the year:	
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new	
(23.3) capital expenditure (including REFCUS)	(13.2)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to	
(50.3) capital financing	(69.5)
Application of grants to capital financing from the	
(29.2) Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(2.9)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital	
(28.4) investment charged against the General Fund balance	(29.1)
Capital expenditure charged against the revenue fund	
(6.8) (including Balance Sheet transactions)	1.7
(138.0)	(113.0)
(869.0)	(840.6)
Balance at 31 March	

Notes to the Accounts

22. Unusable reserves (Cont'd)

Pensions Reserve

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

2017/2018	2018/2019
£m	£m
982.8 Balance at 1 April	974.8
(55.0) Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets and liabilities	132.8
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the deficit on	
(0.4) the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1.1)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the	
47.4 year	36.0
974.8 Balance at 31 March	1,142.5

Available for Sale Reserve

The Available for Sale Reserve contains the gains or losses made by the Council arising from the changes in the value of its investment in Entrust. The 2018/2019 Code of Practice adopted IFRS 9 Financial Instruments. As a result of the implementation of IFRS 9, the Available for Sale Reserve has been decommissioned and the balance held has been transferred to the Capital Adjustments Account.

2017/2018	2018/2019
£m	£m
29.1 Balance at 1 April	28.5
0.0 IFRS 9 Transitional arrangements	(28.5)
(0.6) Revaluation of investment in Entrust	0.0
28.5 Balance at 31 March	0.0

Notes to the Accounts

23. Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

The cash flows from operating activities includes the following items:

2017/2018		2018/2019
£m		£m
(6.3)	Interest received	(5.4)
38.0	Interest paid	23.7

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

2017/2018		2018/2019
£m		£m
(37.5)	Depreciation	(39.9)
(16.2)	Impairment and downward valuations	(22.9)
(1.8)	Increase/(Decrease) in impairment of bad debts	(2.0)
(7.5)	(Increase)/Decrease in creditors	6.5
(11.8)	Increase/(Decrease) in debtors	10.9
(0.2)	Increase/(Decrease) in stock valuation	0.4
(23.1)	Movement in pension liability	(47.4)
(53.7)	Net carrying amount of non-current assets sold	(76.7)
13.4	Other non-cash items charges to the net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10.7
(138.4)		(160.4)

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

2017/2018		2018/2019
£m		£m
77.7	Capital grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	98.5
13.3	Proceeds for the sale of PPE, investment property and intangible assets	10.0
(4.0)	Other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(6.0)
87.0		102.5

Notes to the Accounts

24. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2017/2018 £m		2018/2019 £m
115.1	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investments and intangible assets	108.5
(16.7)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(13.6)
0.0	(Receipts)/purchases of short-term and long-term investments	0.0
(77.7)	Other receipts from investing activities	(99.5)
20.7	Net cash flows from investing activities	(4.6)

25. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2017/2018 £m		2018/2019 £m
(30.5)	Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	0.0
4.1	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance sheet PFI contracts	6.0
35.5	Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	15.0
9.1	Net cash flows from financing activities	21.0

Notes to the Accounts

26. Trading Operations

We have set up a number of trading services which we run as businesses providing services to departments.

2017/2018							2018/2019
Net (surplus)/ deficit		Turnover	Expenditure	Trading (surplus)/ deficit	Other items Capital charge	Other	Net (surplus)/ deficit
£m		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
(0.1)	Occupational Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(0.9)	County Fleet Care	(3.8)	0.8	(3.0)	0.9	0.1	(2.0)
(1.0)	Total	(3.8)	0.8	(3.0)	0.9	0.1	(2.0)

Notes to the Accounts

26. Trading Operations (Cont'd)

Trading Unit	Details of nature of unit
Occupational Health	The unit provides a full occupational health service to employees of the Council to enhance their well being with a view to reducing sickness absence rates and improving productivity.
County Fleet Care	The unit supplies and maintains vehicles on behalf of the Council. Vehicles include highways vehicles, schools transport vehicles and a range of vehicles used to support vulnerable adults in the county.

Notes to the Accounts

27. Pooled Budgets

Better Care Fund

In 2018/19 Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups entered into a Section 75 Framework Agreement of the National Health Service Act 2006 pooled fund arrangement, known as the Better Care Fund. Staffordshire County Council is the Host Partner for the pool. The total value of the pool was £93.1m.

Each Partner accounts separately for the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities which relate to or arise from expenditure on Individual Schemes and its interest in Pooled Funds.

In accordance with the agreement, the income and expenditure included in Staffordshire County Council accounts and detailed below relates to income received from CCG's and spent by the County Council as the Lead Commissioner for these services.

Section 75	2017/2018		2018/2019	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding provided to the pooled budget:				
East Staffordshire CCG	(2.8)		(2.9)	
South East Staffordshire & Seisdon CCG	(5.1)		(5.2)	
Cannock Chase CCG	(3.0)		(3.1)	
North Staffordshire CCG	(4.8)		(4.9)	
Stafford & Surrounds CCG	(3.4)		(3.5)	
Stoke on Trent CCG	<u>(0.2)</u>		<u>(0.2)</u>	
		(19.3)		(19.8)
Expenditure met from the pooled budget		19.3		19.8
County Council share of net surplus/deficit arising on the pooled budget		<u><u>0.0</u></u>		<u><u>0.0</u></u>

The following memorandum account shows the gross income and expenditure of the scheme in

	2017/2018		2018/2019	
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding provided to the Pooled Budget:				
Clinical Commissioning Groups	(61.3)		(62.1)	
Department for Communities & Local Government	<u>(24.3)</u>		<u>(31.0)</u>	
		(85.6)		(93.1)
Expenditure met from the Pooled Budget:				
Clinical Commissioning Groups	42.0		42.4	
Staffordshire County Council	36.1		42.5	
District & Borough Councils	<u>7.5</u>		<u>8.2</u>	
		85.6		93.1
Net position on the pooled budget		<u><u>0.0</u></u>		<u><u>0.0</u></u>

Notes to the Accounts

28. Members' Allowances

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

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Basic Allowance	0.6	0.6
Special Responsibility Allowance	0.4	0.4
Expenses	0.0	0.0
Total	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>

Notes to the Accounts

29. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Council's senior officers is set out in the table below. The definition of senior officer is:

an officer whose salary is £150,000 or more

a statutory chief officer as per section 2(6) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

a non-statutory chief officer as per section 2(7) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Officer	Year	Salary, fees and allowances £	Performance related pay £	Taxable expenses and allowances £	Compensation for loss of office £	Employer's pension contributions £	Total including pension contributions £
Chief Executive - John Henderson	2017/2018	188,375	15,000	0	0	0	203,375
Chief Executive - John Henderson - note 1	2018/2019	188,375	15,000	0	0	0	203,375
Director of Health and Care	2017/2018	153,607	12,201	0	0	0	165,808
Director of Health and Care - note 2	2018/2019	153,875	11,262	0	0	0	165,137
Director of Families and Communities	2017/2018	136,693	0	11,111	0	30,893	178,697
Director of Families and Communities	2018/2019	139,427	0	9,963	0	32,904	182,294
Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills	2017/2018	116,843	10,854	7,037	0	28,859	163,593
Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills	2018/2019	114,644	10,709	7,777	0	30,102	163,232
Director of Strategy, Governance and Change	2017/2018	122,412	0	7,368	0	27,665	157,445
Director of Strategy, Governance and Change Note 3	2018/2019	93,645	0	6,105	0	22,100	121,850
Director of Corporate Services Note 3	2018/2019	35,522	0	2,035	0	8,383	45,940

Notes to the Accounts

29. Officers' Remuneration (Cont'd)

Officer	Year	Salary, fees and allowances £	Performance related pay £	Taxable expenses and allowances £	Compensation for loss of office £	Employer's pension contributions £	Total including pension contributions £
Section 151 Officer, Director of Finance & Resources	2017/2018	136,693	0	9,367	0	30,893	176,953
Section 151 Officer, Director of Finance & Resources Note 3	2018/2019	135,149	0	10,220	187,176	23,175	355,720
Section 151 Officer, County Treasurer Note 4	2018/19	22,725	0	1,564	0	5,363	29,652

Notes for clarification

This note is a disclosure of in year salary payments.

note 1 The Chief Executive is not part of the Local Government Pensions Scheme

note 2 The Director of Health and Care is not part of the Local Government Pension Scheme

Note 3 The Director of Finance and Resources was made redundant from December 2018. A New Director of Corporate Services role replaces both the Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Strategy, Governance and Change.

Note 4 The Statutory Role of Section 151 Officer has been taken by the County Treasurer from December 2018.

Notes to the Accounts

29. Officers' Remuneration (Cont'd)

The Council's employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) are as follows. The figures include severance payments and those employees have been identified within the 'Leavers' column. The number of employees includes teachers.

The employees identified within the previous tables in this note are included in the table below.

Number of employees 2017/2018			Remuneration band	Number of employees 2018/2019		
Teachers	Non-teachers	Leavers		Teachers	Non-teachers	Leavers
121	57	6	£ 50,000 to £ 54,999	89	55	1
71	17	0	£ 55,000 to £ 59,999	57	16	2
47	35	5	£ 60,000 to £ 64,999	54	27	0
37	5	6	£ 65,000 to £ 69,999	30	5	2
14	9	2	£ 70,000 to £ 74,999	12	4	0
11	11	5	£ 75,000 to £ 79,999	9	12	1
3	5	4	£ 80,000 to £ 84,999	3	4	1
6	8	0	£ 85,000 to £ 89,999	6	2	1
5	6	3	£ 90,000 to £ 94,999	3	12	0
2	3	3	£ 95,000 to £ 99,999	4	2	2
1	2	2	£100,000 to £104,999	0	1	0
0	4	0	£105,000 to £109,999	0	1	0
0	0	0	£110,000 to £114,999	0	3	0
0	1	1	£115,000 to £119,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£120,000 to £124,999	0	0	0
0	2	1	£125,000 to £129,999	0	0	0
0	1	0	£130,000 to £134,999	0	1	0
0	1	1	£135,000 to £139,999	0	1	0
0	0	0	£140,000 to £144,999	0	0	0
0	3	1	£145,000 to £149,999	0	1	0
0	1	0	£150,000 to £154,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£155,000 to £159,999	1	0	1
0	0	0	£160,000 to £164,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£165,000 to £169,999	0	2	0
0	0	0	£170,000 to £174,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£175,000 to £179,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£180,000 to £184,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£185,000 to £189,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£190,000 to £194,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	£195,000 to £199,999	0	0	0
0	1	0	£200,000 to £204,999	0	1	0
0	0	0	£330,000 to £334,999	0	1	1
318	172	40	Total	268	151	12

Notes to the Accounts

30. Exit Packages

The number of exit packages is disclosed below in bands of £20,000, up to £100,000. Thereafter the number is disclosed in bands of £50,000.

Total Cost	2017/2018		Payment band	2018/2019		Total Cost
	Number of employees			Number of employees		
	Teachers	Other SCC		Teachers	Other SCC	
£	Teachers	Other SCC		Teachers	Other SCC	£
816,052	12	92	£0 to £ 20,000	10	44	484,084
824,596	5	23	£ 20,001 to £ 40,000	2	25	758,517
1,296,125	6	20	£ 40,001 to £ 60,000	0	7	355,842
789,587	2	9	£ 60,001 to £ 80,000	1	1	138,445
265,120	0	3	£ 80,001 to £ 100,000	0	6	525,510
522,394	0	4	£ 100,001 to £ 150,000	0	1	136,562
365,869	0	2	£ 150,001 to £ 200,000	0	0	0
698,925	0	3	£ 200,001 to £ 250,000	0	1	233,146
273,108	0	1	£ 250,001 to £ 300,000	0	0	0
0	0	0	£ 300,001 to £ 350,000	0	0	0
0	0	0	£ 350,001 to £ 400,000	0	0	0
0	0	0	£ 400,001 to £ 450,000	0	0	0
0	0	0	£ 450,001 to £ 500,000	0	1	488,689
5,851,776	25	157	Total	13	86	3,120,795

The note includes all costs to the Council when an employee leaves. Therefore redundancy payments, lump sum payments to the individual and any actuarial strain owed to the Pension Fund have been included.

Notes to the Accounts

31. External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors.

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Fees payable to external auditors with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year *	0.144	0.095
Fees payable to external auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	0.019	0.017
Total	0.163	0.112

* this includes a scale variation fee of £34k for additional work to complete the audit of the 2017/2018 financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts

32. Dedicated Schools Grant

In 2018/2019 we received a specific grant from Central Government called the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). As a result, we have shown this on the schools service figures in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement.

We pay for our spending on schools using this grant. We can only use the DSG to pay for spending properly included in the schools budget, as defined by government regulations. The schools budget includes estimates for a restricted range of services provided on a council-wide basis and for an individual school's budget. We divide this up into a share of the budget, for each school. We have to account for overspending and underspending on the two parts separately.

Details of how we used the DSG for 2018/2019 are as follows:

	Schools budget funded by DSG		
	Central Expenditure £m	Individual Schools Budget £m	Total £m
Final DSG for 2018/2019, before academy recoupment	109.2	477.5	586.7
Academy figure recouped for 2018/2019	0.0	(268.8)	(268.8)
Total DSG after academy recoupment for 2018/2019	109.2	208.7	317.9
Plus: brought forward from 2017/2018	5.1	(0.1)	5.0
Less: carry-forward to 2019/2020 agreed in advance	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agreed budgeted distribution in 2018/2019	114.3	208.6	322.9
In year adjustments*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Final budget distribution for 2018/19	114.3	208.6	322.9
Less: Actual central expenditure	110.2	0.0	110.2
Less: Actual ISB (Individual Schools Budget) deployed to schools	0.0	208.8	208.8
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2018/2019	0.0	0.0	0.0
Carry forward to 2019/2020	4.1	(0.2)	3.9

*Amount recognised in year but not accrued for in accordance with Education Funding Agency guidance.

Notes to the Accounts

33. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2018/2019.

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	47.0	25.5
Improved Better Care Fund	16.8	22.8
New Homes Bonus	2.9	2.3
Local Services Support Grant	0.3	0.4
Adult Social Care Grant	0.0	2.2
Education Services Grant	1.9	0.0
Total	68.9	53.2
Credited to Services		
Department for Education	67.7	62.6
Department for Transport	44.0	43.1
Department of Health	40.3	42.8
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government	10.8	12.2
DEFRA	9.7	10.5
Higher Education Funding Council for England	0.4	0.4
Home Office	2.4	2.8
Youth Justice Board	0.9	0.3
Other	7.9	8.8
Total	184.1	183.5

Notes to the Accounts

33. Grant Income (Cont'd)

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

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
Department for Education	1.1	1.3
Department for Transport	11.0	8.0
Other Contributions	19.5	38.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	31.6	48
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the Accounts

34. Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council.

Central government

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 that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills). Grants received from government departments are shown in Note 33.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2018/2019 is shown in Note 28.

Members represent our interests within a range of organisations and some are also members of district, borough or parish councils within Staffordshire. Members make declarations under Sections 94 to 98 of the Local Government Act 1972 and under the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2001. Members also give details of their personal interests in council business to the Monitoring Officer. You can get more details from the Monitoring Officer, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2DH.

Pension Fund

We run the Staffordshire Pension Fund. We have included the accounts of the pension fund in our accounts.

Other Public bodies (subject to common control by Central Government)

The Council has pooled budget arrangements with NHS organisations as detailed in Note 27.

On 31 March 2019, we held cash totalling £28,724 (£113,243 on 31 March 2018) on behalf of the Staffordshire Connects Partnership. We have not included this in the Balance Sheet. The Partnership is audited by our internal audit team as well as Grant Thornton.

The Council acts as the accountable body for the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP), which supports projects that benefit the local economy and supports growth through the creation of jobs, housing and skills (apprenticeships). At 31 March 2019 we held cash of £12.7m (£12.1m on 31 March 2018) on behalf of the SSLEP. This is included in the balance sheet as part of cash balances and is carried forward in earmarked reserves (Note 5).

Notes to the Accounts

34. Related Parties (Cont'd)

Payments to the Environment Agency

2017/2018		2018/2019
£m		£m
0.3	Environment Agency - Flood defence levy	0.3
0.3	Total	0.3

Entrust

In 2013/2014 Entrust was established to provide education support services to schools throughout Staffordshire and other counties. The Council owns 49% of the shares in Entrust and Capita Business Services Limited (a subsidiary of Capita plc) owns 51% of the shares in Entrust. The company began trading on 1st April 2013.

Some members and officers of the Council are also Directors of Entrust, these are:

- Cllr Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial
- Rob Salmon, Deputy Director of Finance

During 2018/2019, the Council purchased services in the normal course of business from Entrust for £34.6 million (2017/2018 - £52.2 million). Entrust bought services in the normal course of business from the Council for £4.3 million (2017/2018 - £8.4 million).

At the end of the year, Entrust owed the Council £0.9 million (2017/2018 - £0.6 million).

Penda Ltd

In 2015/16 the County Council entered into a partnership with Kier Ltd to provide property services and to manage the County Council's asset portfolio. This joint venture is called Penda Ltd. The County Council has invested £50,000 in the partnership.

Ian Turner and Wendy Woodward, who are officers of the Council, are also Directors of Penda Ltd.

There were no material transactions between the Council and Penda Ltd in 2018/19.

Notes to the Accounts

34. Related Parties (Cont'd)

Nexus Trading Services Ltd

In 2017/18 Nexus began trading by providing social care services for older people and those with disabilities.

Nexus is wholly owned by the County Council. During 2017/18, the County Council lent Nexus £150,000 which will be paid back. The current amount outstanding as at 31st March 2019 is £118,290.

Some Members and Officers of the County Council are also Directors of Nexus and they are:

- Cllr Mark Deaville, Cabinet Member for Commercial
- Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
- Andrew Felton, Business Design Manager
- Robert Flinter, Head of Change
- Helen Riley, Director of Families and Communities
- Andrew Sharp, Social Work and Safeguarding Lead (resigned 25th April 2019)

During 2018/2019, the Council purchased services in the normal course of business from Nexus for £0.9 million.

Notes to the Accounts

35. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI/PPP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. 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.

<u>2017/2018</u>		<u>2018/2019</u>	
Total		Total	
£m		£m	
643.0	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	639.8	
	Capital Investment		
112.6	Property, plant and equipment	95.3	
0.0	Investment properties	0.0	
0.0	Intangible assets	0.0	
15.8	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	13.2	
<u>128.4</u>	Total Capital Investment	<u>108.5</u>	
	Financed From		
25.6	Borrowing	22.8	
68.9	Capital Grants	56.5	
23.4	Capital Receipts	13.2	
0.0	Revenue	0.1	
0.1	Other Contributions	0.0	
10.4	Section 106 Contributions	15.9	
<u>128.4</u>	Total	<u>108.5</u>	

Notes to the Accounts

35. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing (Cont'd)

2017/2018		2018/2019
£m		£m
643.0	Opening Capital Financing Requirement (as above)	639.8
(19.0)	Minimum Revenue Provision	(19.4)
25.6	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow	22.8
0.0	Assets acquired under finance leases	(5.8)
(9.8)	Assets acquired under PFI/PPP contracts	(3.7)
639.8	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	633.7

Notes to the Accounts

36. Leases

Operating Leases

The Council has operating leases in place for various properties.

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

31 March 2018		31 March 2019
£m		£m
1.2	Not later than one year	1.2
4.3	Later than one year and not later than five years	3.7
45.7	Later than five years	44.9
<hr/>		<hr/>
51.2		49.8

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

31 March 2018		31 March 2019
£m		£m
1.3	Minimum lease payments	1.2
0.0	Contingent rents	0.0
<hr/>		<hr/>
1.3		1.2

Notes to the Accounts

36. Leases (continued)

Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has entered into two finance leases during the year. One for the provision of residential dementia care, and one for office accommodation.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2018 £m		31 March 2019 £m
0.0	Operational Land & Buildings	13.7
<u>0.0</u>		<u>13.7</u>

The finance lease for office accommodation has been paid for in full, and there is no future liability. The Council is committed to making minimum payments under the lease for residential dementia care, comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Council and finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

31 March 2018 £m		31 March 2019 £m
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
0.0	Current	0.1
0.0	Non current	5.7
0.0	Finance costs payable in future years	5.8
<u>0.0</u>		<u>11.6</u>

Notes to the Accounts

36. Leases (Cont'd)

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Not later than one year	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1
Later than one year and not later than five years	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.4
Later than 5 years	0.0	9.6	0.0	5.3
	0.0	11.5	0.0	5.8

Notes to the Accounts

37. Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts

We have four PFI schemes as follows:

1. Two Schools PFI Scheme

We signed a PFI contract with Total School Solutions Limited on 31 March 1999. The contract covered the refurbishment and extension of Cooper Perry Primary School and Sir Graham Balfour High School, Stafford.

The contract is for 25 years and is worth about £49.6 million. It involves providing repairs and maintenance, energy, cleaning, caretaking and other services. The amount we paid in 2018/2019 was £1.8 million, paid for from extra government grants and contributions from schools. Further payments we make under the contract are performance related. In other words, we take off amounts if the accommodation is not available on time or if the performance is below a given standard.

2. Streetlighting PFI Scheme

We have entered into a PFI contract under which street lighting and associated maintenance services are provided. The contract is for 25 years and is worth £174.9 million. The amount we paid in 2018/2019 was £12.1 million, paid for by extra government grants and contributions from revenue.

3. Children's Homes PFI Scheme

We entered into a further PFI contract in 2005/2006 to design, pay for and maintain three children's homes. The contract is for 25 years and is worth £20.8 million. The amount we paid in 2018/2019 was £1 million.

4. Waste to Energy PFI Scheme

We entered into a PFI contract for the construction of the Waste to Energy plant at Four Ashes. The contract is for 25 years and is worth £377.3 million. The amount we paid in 2018/2019 was £24 million.

Valuation of PFI assets

The assets of each PFI scheme have been included in the Balance Sheet and in Note 12. However the note below splits out the assets for each scheme.

	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
Two Schools Scheme	2.7	3.1
Streetlighting Scheme	48.6	50.1
Children's Homes Scheme	6.2	7.1
Waste to Energy	175.3	180.5
Total value of assets	232.8	240.8

Value of PFI liabilities

Each PFI scheme has a liability shown on the Balance Sheet. This reflects the amount of the contract which is still left to pay. The liability should reduce each year as more payments are made to the contractor. It may also increase as further additions are made to the assets.

	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
Two Schools Scheme	(4.6)	(4.2)
Streetlighting Scheme	(5.0)	(4.6)
Children's Homes Scheme	(3.1)	(3.0)
Waste to Energy	(67.9)	(65.1)
PFI liabilities	(80.6)	(76.9)
Waste to Energy (Third Party financing)	(73.3)	(69.8)
Total value of liabilities	(153.9)	(146.7)

Notes to the Accounts

37. Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts (Cont'd)

Details of payments due

The payments due to the contractors for the schemes can be split into amounts to reduce the liability, amounts of interest and amounts that relate to services provided. They can also be split over the remaining time of the contracts. The note below shows these splits with the amounts at current prices.

Two Schools Scheme

	Payments to reduce liability	Interest	Service Charges
	£m	£m	£m
Due within one year	0.4	0.5	0.9
Due within 2 to 5 years	1.7	1.5	3.9
Due within 6 to 10 years	2.1	0.7	4.3
Due within 11 to 15 years			
Total due	4.2	2.7	9.1

Streetlighting Scheme

	Payments to reduce liability	Interest	Service Charges	Payments for assets
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Due within one year	2.6	0.4	4.4	0.1
Due within 2 to 5 years	11.0	1.3	19.0	0.6
Due within 6 to 10 years	12.1	0.5	22.1	0.6
Due within 11 to 15 years				
Total due	25.7	2.2	45.5	1.3

Notes to the Accounts

37. Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts (Cont'd)

Children's Homes Scheme

	Payments to reduce liability	Interest	Service Charges
	£m	£m	£m
Due within one year	0.2	0.4	0.4
Due within 2 to 5 years	1.1	1.2	1.7
Due within 6 to 10 years	1.6	0.5	1.8
Due within 11 to 15 years			
Total due	2.9	2.1	3.9

Waste to Energy

	Payments to reduce liability	Interest	Service Charges
	£m	£m	£m
Due within one year	2.9	10.0	7.0
Due within 2 to 5 years	12.1	35.5	31.0
Due within 6 to 10 years	16.5	33.5	46.0
Due within 11 to 15 years	17.3	20.6	55.1
Due within 16 to 20 years	16.3	7.4	65.4
Total due	65.1	107.0	204.5

Notes to the Accounts

37. Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Similar Contracts (Cont'd)

The outstanding liability to the contractor for capital expenditure is as follows:

	Two Schools Scheme		Streetlighting Scheme		Children's Homes Scheme		Waste to Energy	
	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance outstanding at start of year	(5.0)	(4.6)	(5.5)	(5.0)	(3.3)	(3.1)	(70.6)	(67.9)
Payments during the year	0.4	0.4	2.7	2.7	0.2	0.1	2.7	2.8
Capital expenditure incurred in the year	0.0	0.0	(2.2)	(2.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other movements	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Balance outstanding at year end	(4.6)	(4.2)	(5.0)	(4.6)	(3.1)	(3.0)	(67.9)	(65.1)

38. Impairment Losses

During 2018/2019 the Council recognised impairment losses to a number of properties totalling £34.8 million (£67.2 million in 2017/2018 restated). The main reasons for the impairment losses were changes in market value of the properties and the transfer of school assets to newly created academies. The loss has initially been charged to any balances within the revaluation reserve related to the asset that has been impaired. Any impairment value in excess of this has been charged across a range of service areas in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement depending on the occupation of the relevant property during 2018/2019.

Notes to the Accounts

39. Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2018/2019, incurring liabilities of £2.3 million, of which £0.2 million relates to Teachers. (£3.8 million in 2017/2018, of which £0.7 million related to Teachers).

40. Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

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

The scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However the scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employer's contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and the performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2018/2019, the Council paid £27.2 million to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in respect of teachers retirement benefits, representing 25.7% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2017/2018 were £31.9 million and 25.8%.

The Council is also responsible for all pension payments relating to added years benefits awarded, together with related increases. In 2018/2019 these amounted to £5.3 million (£5.3 million in 2017/2018) representing 5% of pensionable pay.

Notes to the Accounts

41. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme called the Staffordshire Pension Fund is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The scheme changed to a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme on the 1st April 2014. Pre 1st April 2014 service remains protected under the existing scheme regulations and continues to be linked to final salary.

In 2018/2019, the Council paid an employer's contribution of £27.471 million (£62.06 million in 2017/2018) into the Staffordshire Pension Fund. The fund's actuary decides how much we should contribute, based on the actuarial valuation carried out every three years.

The Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years benefits we have awarded, together with related increases. In 2018/2019 these payments amounted to £5.3 million (£3.1 million in 2017/2018), representing 3.2% of pensionable pay.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge 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. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
<u>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</u>		
Cost of Services:		
<i>Service cost compromising:</i>		
Current service costs	93.9	71.3
Past service costs	2.7	12.5
(Gains) from settlements	(13.8)	(16.2)
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
Net interest expense	25.1	25.7
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	107.9	93.3

Notes to the Accounts

41 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (Cont'd)

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Other Post-employment Benefits charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising;		
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense).	5.4	104.9
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	0.0	0.0
Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(54.3)	(233.3)
Other	(6.0)	(4.4)
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(54.9)	(132.8)

Movement in Reserves Statement

Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	(54.9)	(132.8)
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Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in year:

Employers' contributions payable to scheme	75.0	35.3
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	9.0	9.9
Effect of Business combinations and Disposals	0.0	0.7
	84.0	45.9

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(2,911.7)	(3,216.4)
Fair value of plan assets	1,963.8	2,088.2
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(947.9)	(1,128.2)

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme assets:

	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
1 April	1,910.0	1,963.8
Interest income	49.7	52.5
Actuarial gains and (losses)	(5.5)	105.0
Assets distributed on settlements	(11.8)	(16.5)
Employer's contributions	75.2	35.3
Contributions from scheme members	11.8	10.8
Benefits paid	(65.6)	(68.6)
Effects of Business combinations and Disposals	0.0	5.9
31 March	1,963.8	2,088.2

Notes to the Accounts

41. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (Cont'd)

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
<u>Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities:</u>		
1 April	2,889.8	2,912.0
Current service cost	93.8	71.3
Interest cost	75.1	78.3
Contribution by scheme members	11.8	10.8
Actuarial losses	(60.4)	237.8
Benefits paid	(75.4)	(78.4)
Past service costs (including curtailments)	2.6	12.5
Losses on curtailments	0.0	0.0
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(25.6)	(32.7)
Effects of Business combinations and Disposals	0.0	5.2
31 March	2,911.7	3,216.8
<u>Local Government Pension Scheme assets</u>		
	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
Cash and Cash Equivalents	90.0	57.2
Equity Instruments		
<i>By industry type;</i>		
Consumer	85.1	93.2
Manufacturing	82.0	79.9
Energy and utilities	24.0	33.5
Financial institutions	79.8	77.2
Health and care	58.1	59.9
Information technology	55.6	59.5
Other	2.1	1.9
Sub-total equity	386.7	405.1
Bonds:		
Corporate Bonds (investment grade)	149.0	155.0
Property:		
UK Property	152.0	177.5
Private Equity:		
All	57.3	74.8
Other Investment Funds:		
Equities	928.0	940.0
Bonds	115.7	158.0
Hedge Funds	34.4	36.5
Other	50.7	84.1
Sub-total Other Investment Funds	1,128.8	1,218.6
Total Assets	1,963.8	2,088.2

Notes to the Accounts

41. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (Cont'd)

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Discretionary benefits have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019. The main assumptions they have for working out these costs are shown below:

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	22.1 years	22.1 years
Women	24.4 years	24.4 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	24.1 years	24.1 years
Women	26.4 years	26.4 years
Rate of increase in salaries	2.8%	2.8%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.4%	2.4%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7%	2.7%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period. They also assume that for each change in assumption, all other assumptions remain constant. In practice this is unlikely to occur and changes in some assumptions may be interrelated.

The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous year. The opposite movement will have the same impact, in the opposite direction.

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2019	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	10.0%	323
0.5% increase in salaries	1.0%	42.9
0.5% increase in pensions	9.0%	274.9

The Staffordshire Pension Fund pays a compulsory lump-sum retirement benefit of three times the yearly pension. From 6 April 2006, new tax rules allowed a member of a pension scheme to take up to 25% of a pension as lump sum. Members of the Staffordshire Pension Fund can convert their remaining pension into a lump sum. The actuary has assumed that people retiring in the future will take 50% of the maximum tax-free lump sum for their service before April 2008 and 75% of the maximum tax-free lump sum for their service after April 2008. We will review the assumption regularly.

Notes to the Accounts

41. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (Cont'd)

In the Balance Sheet we have included our assets in the Pension Fund at their fair value.

- Shares quoted on the relevant stock-market, valued on the basis of their bid value
- Shares not quoted on the stock markets, valued on the basis of a professional estimate
- Pooled investment vehicles, valued at the average of the bid and offer rates
- Property, valued at market value

We have split the change in the pensions payments we make into seven parts.

Current-service cost – the increase in payments as a result of years of service earned this year. We add this to the revenue accounts of the services the employees worked for.

Past-service cost – the increase in payments arising from decisions made in the current year and the effect of which relates to years of service earned in earlier years. We take this from the net cost of services as part of non-distributed costs.

Interest cost and expected return on assets – the interest cost is the increase in the value of the liabilities that arise because those liabilities are one year closer to being paid, because all members are one year older. The return on assets is the value of the return expected to be achieved on the fund's investments in the long term.

Gains and losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of action to relieve us of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or benefits of employees. We take this from the net cost of services as part of non-distributed costs.

Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not matched the assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions. We do not charge these to revenue.

Contributions paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund.

Projected defined benefit cost for the period to 31 March 2019

The contributions paid by the Council are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial actuarial valuation (the most recent being as at 31 March 2013). The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2019 are set out in the Rate and Adjustments certificate. Hymans Robertson estimate the Employer's contribution for the period to 31 March 2020 will be approximately £34.7m

Notes to the Accounts

42. Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises when we know about an issue at the Balance Sheet date but we do not know what the outcome will be until an event does or does not happen.

i54 Western Extension Project

The i54 Western Extension project is a joint venture between the County Council and the City of Wolverhampton Council to develop land close to the border between the two local authorities for business use which will deliver jobs and other economic benefits to Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. The scheme will be jointly funded by the two authorities, with grant and business rates support from the BCLEP (Black Country LEP) and SSLEP (Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent LEP). A small amount of expenditure has been occurred in 2018/19 by both local authorities, although the Joint Venture agreement was not fully signed by 31st March 2019.

Entrust

Many Staffordshire maintained schools have contracts for services supplied by Entrust. There is a potential risk that were the company to fail, these contracts would be unfulfilled and a cost would remain with the schools.

43. Contingent Assets

At 31 March 2019 the Council does not have any material contingent assets.

Notes to the Accounts

44. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, both revised in December 2017.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the Council publishes an annual treasury management strategy which sets out how risks will be managed. In addition we have written policies known as Treasury Management Practices which cover the procedures we follow to manage risks.

The main risks covered are listed below:

- 1. Security (credit) risk** - the possibility that counterparties fail to pay amounts due to the Council and a loss is made.
- 2. Liquidity risk** - the possibility that the Council might not have cash available to make payments on time.
- 3. Interest rate risk** - the possibility of a financial loss for the Council because short-term interest rates rise or fall.
- 4. Price risk** - the possibility of a financial loss for the Council as a result of changes in the value of market instruments.
- 5. Refinancing risk** - the possibility that the Council might need to renew financial instruments on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.

In managing these risks, the Council works hard to protect itself against unpredictable financial markets and protect the money it has available to pay for services. Within this it is important to recognise that no investment or loan portfolio, regardless of the economic conditions, can ever be risk free.

1. Security (credit) risk

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

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy complies with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance on Local Government Investments; this emphasises that priority is given to security and then liquidity, rather than yield. The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality. This is implemented by using recommendations from Arlingclose, the Council's treasury management advisor; their creditworthiness service helps determine the counterparties with whom the Council invests.

When selecting high quality commercial entities for investment, a number of different measures are examined, such as credit ratings, credit default swaps and equity prices. These include banks and building societies, the UK Government, other local authorities and AAA rated Money Market Funds.

Investments are made subject to financial limits on both an investment category and individual basis. In the case of investment category limits, investments are limited to 50% of the total amount invested in Money Market Funds or directly with banks. On an individual basis in 2018/19, for Money Market Funds the limit is the lower of 0.50% of Money Market Fund size or 10% of total Council investments and for banks, the lower of 5% of total Council investments or £30m per counterparty.

Independent advice was taken from Arlingclose in 2013 when the Council made the decision to make long-term investments with other local authorities that did not have a credit rating in their own right.

Notes to the Accounts

44 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

The following table summarises the security risk exposure of the Council's investments at 31 March each year.

Credit Rating	Long-Term			Short-Term		
	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
AAA	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	42.7	64.1
A	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	4.0	4.5
Unrated local authorities	30.4	30.4	30.4	0.0	0.0	11.5
Total investments	30.4	30.4	30.4	59.0	46.7	80.1

Since April 2010, the Council's strategy of using cash in lieu of long-term borrowing has reduced this risk, as it holds considerably less short-term investments as a result (around £109 million of cash was used in lieu of borrowing as at 31 March 2019).

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally; the risk of any failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual entity. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at 31 March 2019 that this was likely to crystallise into actual losses.

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

	Estimated maximum exposure to default at 31 March 2018	Amounts at 31 March 2019	Historical experience of default	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 2019	Estimated maximum exposure to default at 31 March 2019
	£m	A £m	B %	C %	(A x C) £m
Customers	10.1	58.7	21.2	21.2	11.8
Total	10.1				11.8

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting year and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £51.4 million of the £57.1 million balance is past its due date for payment. The remaining balance of £5.7 million is less than 28 days' old. The amount past its due date for payment can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Less than three months	6.6	(3.7)
Three to six months	3.1	(4.3)
Six months to one year	9.0	14.5
More than one year	16.3	44.9
Total	35.0	51.4

Notes to the Accounts

44 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

2. Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments.

The Council has £51m (2018: £51m) of "Lender's option, borrower's option" (LOBO) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the rate payable; the Council will then have the option to accept the new rate or repay the loan without penalty. Due to current low interest rates, in the unlikely event that the lender exercises its option, the Council is likely to repay these loans. The maturity date is therefore uncertain.

3. Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments (for example when a fixed term loan is taken out with corresponding variable rate investments). Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council. A rise in interest rates would have the following effects;

- borrowings at variable rates - the interest expense will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of the liabilities will fall (this will not affect the balance sheet but will affect the fair value notes)
- investments at variable rates - the interest income will rise
- investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall (this will not affect the balance sheet but will affect the fair value notes).

A large proportion of the loans the Council holds are long-term fixed rate loans. There is a risk that significant and long-lasting falls in interest rates mean that the Council is forced to pay interest in excess of market interest rates until the loans mature (the opposite would also be true in the case of interest rate increases).

Since April 2010 the Council has implemented a strategy of using cash in lieu of borrowing. This partly offsets the fixed rate loans exposure and reduces the impact of interest rate changes as this is a type of variable rate borrowing.

This risk is further offset by the long-term local authority investments made in 2013/14. These investments aim to hedge (or cancel out) a small part of the risk exposure that long-term fixed rate loans create.

Interest rate risk can be managed in a number of ways. If economic circumstances are favourable, the Council can repay fixed-rate loans early, increase the use of cash in lieu of borrowing; or reschedule loans by replacing existing loans with new loans at a lower rate.

Notes to the Accounts

44. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

At 31 March 2019, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be as follows:

	£m
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1.3
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(1.2)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0.1
Decrease in fair value of fixed-rate investment assets *	(3.8)
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities*	(115.8)

*No impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed (in other words increases becoming decreases and vice versa).

4. Price Risk

The Council has an equity investment (shareholding) in Entrust, with a nil value in the Balance Sheet. As such the Council currently has no exposure to price risk.

5. Refinancing Risk

The Council is exposed to the risk that it will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The Council has measures in place to make sure it is not due to repay a large percentage of borrowing at the same time. This reduces the financial effect of needing to borrow again if interest rates are high. The Council's policy is to make sure that no more than 15% of loans are due for repayment within the same financial year. This is done by carefully planning when new loans are taken out and, if it is best to do so, making early repayments.

Using cash in lieu of borrowing increases refinancing risk as interest payments are not fixed. The use of LOBO (Lender Option Borrower Option) loans also increase this risk as their maturity date is uncertain because the lender has the option, at various intervals, to force an increase in the interest rates payable. This would almost certainly lead to the loan being repaid by the Council.

In January 2018, the Council repaid £30.5 million of its Eurohypo LOBO loans (held by Commerzbank) and replaced them with £30.5 million PWLB loans with a shorter maturity. Restructuring its LOBO loans portfolio has helped the Council to reduce the refinancing risk for its LOBO loans portfolio, as well as deliver substantial savings and rebalance the debt maturity profile.

Notes to the Accounts

44. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments (Cont'd)

The repayment structure of financial liabilities is as follows:

On 31 March 2018	Financial Liabilities	On 31 March 2019
£m		£m
430.2	PWLB	400.0
41.8	* LOBO - Depfa Bank	41.8
10.1	* LOBO - Dexia Bank	10.1
482.1	Total	451.9
54.1	within one year	36.0
15.0	over 1 under 2	18.0
9.0	over 2 under 5	28.8
50.3	over 5 under 10	30.5
5.0	over 10 under 15	29.0
24.0	over 15 under 20	0.0
13.2	over 20 under 30	21.1
296.2	over 30 under 40	288.5
15.3	over 40	0.0
482.1	Total	451.9

* LOBO - Lender Option Borrower Option loan

Using Cash in Lieu of Borrowing

As at the 31 March 2019, around £109 million of cash had been used in lieu of borrowing.

The impact of this strategy has been outlined in each of the specific risks above.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments

The Council has adopted IFRS 9 Financial Instruments with effect from 1 April 2018. The main changes include the reclassification of financial assets and the earlier recognition of the impairment of financial assets. The reclassification changes have not had a material impact upon our financial statements as the majority of our financial assets have retained the same measurement basis.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments has changed how we account for restructured loans that are classified as modifications. The Council currently holds 12 modification loans that had previously involved repaying and replacing loans at lower rates. Under IFRS 9, the Council is required to account for interest charges at the original loan rate. For 2018/19, this has meant a change in the liability balance for these loans, from £65.2m to £50.1m, resulting in a £15.1m credit to reserves.

The impairment changes have not had a material impact upon our financial statements as they are immaterial for treasury management assets such as bank deposits and we already make an allowance for doubtful debts on our trade debtors - see Note 17. In addition the Council will not need to recognise any expected credit losses for its £30m local authority deposits according to CIPFA/LASAAC's adaptation where the counterparty is central government or a local authority.

Notes to the Accounts

45. Education Endowments

We are responsible for managing 11(11 in 2017/2018) individual trust funds which we have set up as a result of donations or money left to us from various sources. The purpose of most of the funds is to provide educational prizes, scholarships and special benefits of a kind we would not normally provide as a local education authority. We invest most funds in stocks and shares and, as they do not represent our assets, we do not include them in the Balance Sheet.

The funds are shown below.

	2017/2018			2018/2019		
	Total income	Gross spending	Market value of fund	Total income	Gross spending	Market value of fund
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Rugeley Educational	79	74	2,264	80	59	2,443
Brewood Educational	68	69	1,994	70	69	2,152
Stafford Educational	17	17	486	17	15	526
Stafford Education Centre Charity	107	108	4,140	147	113	4,467
Alleyes – Stone	2	2	48	2	7	52
Alleyes – Uttoxeter	1	0	30	1	0	32
Tamworth High	8	9	244	9	1	264
Tamworth Youth Centre	2	0	57	2	0	62
Others	17	14	499	18	15	532
Total	301	293	9,762	346	279	10,530

46. Trust Funds

We manage a number of small funds on behalf of other organisations. These are 12 mainly social services comforts funds which are available to people in residential homes and day centres, and 3 other funds. The funds do not represent our assets and we do not include them in the Balance Sheet.

	Balance 31 March 2018 £000	Income £000	Spending £000	Balance 31 March 2019 £000
Trust funds				
Social services comforts funds	32	7	(12)	27
Homestead and Lea House	7	0	0	7
Glebelands	1	0	0	1
Chairman's charity	10	0	(2)	8
Total	50	7	(14)	43

Notes to the Accounts

47. Prior Year Adjustments

A prior year adjustment occurs when the accounts from last year need to be amended due to a change of accounting policy or an error. The 2017/2018 Statement of accounts have been amended for the following reasons below.

Data Cleanse

A review of the properties held within the accounting database led to a data cleanse exercise. The result of this exercise is that a few of our property assets shown on the accounting database have now been disposed of and a couple of assets have needed to be reinstated.

School disposals and revaluations for academy conversions

When schools convert to academy status, assets are removed from the balance sheet and accounted for as leased assets. The adjustment is to take account of leases that had been approved and signed during the prior years, but the assets remained on the balance sheet. This exercise was largely completed in the 2017/2018 accounts, however there were some school convertors not adjusted for.

Developer Contributions

In 17/18 SCC had incorrectly utilised existing contributions to fund expenditure on capital schemes which are to be funded by future section 106 contributions. This should have been reflected as a debtor for the monies which are due as part of the section 106 agreements.

Internal Recharges

Internal recharges in relation to Disabled Facility (DFG) and Public Health (PH) grants had not been removed from the Income and Expenditure Account, this led to a double count of expenditure and income.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 2017/2018

The restatement of the relevant lines of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, is presented in the table below.

	2017/2018 Audited Accounts £m	Adjustments £m	Restated net expenditure 2017/2018 £m
Cost of Service - Health and Care	214.3	(10.3)	204.0
Cost of Service - Families and Communities	165.5	11.7	177.2
Cost of Service - Economy, Infrastructure and Skills	69.6	6.2	75.8
Cost of services	500.1	7.6	507.7
Other Operating Expenditure - G&L on disposal	28.8	5.2	34.0
Deficit on provision of services	31.2	12.8	44.0
(Surplus) on revaluation of non current assets	(81.9)	(3.4)	(85.3)
Other Comprehensive Expenditure/(Income)	(137.4)	(3.4)	(140.8)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure/(Income)	(106.2)	7.6	(98.6)

Notes to the Accounts

47. Prior Year Adjustments (Cont.)

Movement in Reserves Statement 2017/2018

The restatement of the relevant lines of the Movement in Reserves Statement, is presented in the table below.

	General Fund			Unusable Reserves		
	2017/2018 Audited Accounts £m	Adjustments £m	17/18 Restated Accounts £m	2017/2018 Audited Accounts £m	Adjustments £m	2017/18 Restated Accounts £m
Balance at 1 April 2017	(21.0)	0.0	(21.0)	48.4	8.0	56.4
<u>Movement in reserves during 2017/2018</u>						
Deficit on the provision of services	31.2	12.8	44.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	0.0	0.0		(137.4)	(3.4)	(140.8)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	31.2	12.8	44.0	(137.4)	(3.4)	(140.8)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(45.6)	(12.8)	(58.4)	33.7	12.8	46.5
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward	(26.2)	0.0	(26.2)	(55.3)	17.4	(37.9)

Notes to the Accounts

47. Prior Year Adjustments (Cont.)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

The restatement of the relevant lines of the Balance Sheet, is presented in the table below.

	2016/2017 £m	Adjustment £m	2016/2017 Restated £m
Property, plant and equipment	1,640.6	(7.8)	1,632.8
Assets held for sale	8.6	(0.2)	8.4
Net assets	74.5	(8.0)	66.5
Unusable reserves	48.4	8.0	56.4
Total reserves	(74.5)	8.0	(66.5)

	2017/2018 £m	Adjustment £m	2017/2018 Restated £m
Property, plant and equipment	1,740.7	(17.2)	1,723.5
Long term debtors	17.7	3.0	20.7
Assets held for sale	9.8	(0.2)	9.6
Short term debtors	86.1	3.2	89.3
Capital grants receipts in advance	(25.4)	(6.2)	(31.6)
Net assets	180.7	(17.4)	163.3
Unusable reserves	(55.3)	17.4	(37.9)
Total reserves	(180.7)	17.4	(163.3)

Notes to the Accounts

47. Prior Year Adjustments (Cont.)

Cash Flow Statement 2017/2018

The restatement of the relevant lines of the Cash Flow Statement, is presented in the table below.

	Original balances 2017/2018 £m	Adjustment £m	Restated balances 2017/2018 £m
Net deficit on the provision of services	31.2	12.8	44.0
Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	(125.6)	(12.8)	(138.4)

STAFFORDSHIRE PENSION FUND

Financial statements

**1 April 2018
to
31 March 2019**

Pension Scheme registration number: 10011745

Pension Fund account

Staffordshire Pension Fund account for the year ended 31 March 2019

	Notes	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Dealing with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund			
Contributions receivable	7	232.4	157.1
Transfers in	8	12.5	12.7
		244.9	169.8
Benefits payable	9	(171.2)	(182.3)
Leavers	10	(15.3)	(19.7)
		(186.5)	(202.0)
<hr/>			
Net additions/(withdrawals) from dealings with fund members		58.4	(32.2)
Management expenses	11	(16.7)	(20.4)
<hr/>			
Net additions/(withdrawals) including fund management expenses		41.7	(52.6)
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Returns on investments			
Investment income	12	69.2	76.7
Taxes on income	12	(0.3)	(0.3)
Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the value of investments	13a	76.7	329.5
<hr/>			
Net returns on investments		145.6	405.9
<hr/>			
Net increase in the net assets available for benefits during the year		187.3	353.3
Opening net assets of the Fund		4,590.5	4,777.8
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Closing net assets of the Fund		4,777.8	5,131.1
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Net assets statement

Net assets statement at 31 March 2019

	Notes	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Long term investments	13/13c	1.3	1.3
Investment assets			
Bonds	13/13c	367.7	380.3
Equities	13/13c	919.3	990.0
Pooled investment vehicles	13/13c	2,544.5	2,699.6
Derivatives	13/13c	2.5	1.2
Property	13/13c	386.1	436.0
Other investment balances	13c	386.4	488.0
Cash deposits	13/13c	180.5	139.9
		4,787.0	5,135.0
Investment liabilities			
Derivatives	13/13c	(0.9)	(2.4)
Other investment balances	13/13c	(12.5)	(2.6)
		(13.4)	(5.0)
Net investment assets	13/13c	4,774.9	5,131.3
Long term assets	18	2.0	1.0
Current assets	18a	12.3	18.5
Long term Liabilities	19	(0.1)	(0.1)
Current liabilities	19a	(11.3)	(19.6)
Net assets of the Fund available to fund benefits at the end of the reporting period		4,777.8	5,131.1

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund and deal with the net assets available to us. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial position on the scheme, which does take account of these obligations, is set out in the actuary's report on page 142.

The notes on pages 111 to 141 also form part of the Pension Fund financial statements.

Notes to the accounts

1. Description of the Fund

The Staffordshire Pension Fund ('the Fund') is part of the LGPS and is administered by Staffordshire County Council. The council is the reporting entity for this pension fund.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, reference should be made to the Staffordshire Pension Fund Annual Report 2018/19 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme.

a) General

The scheme is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (as amended). The fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.
- the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) The Financial Reports of Pension Schemes (as amended in 2014).

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Staffordshire County Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Staffordshire County Council, the district councils in Staffordshire County and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the county area. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes.

Staffordshire County Council is legally responsible for the Staffordshire Pension Fund. Under the County Council's constitution, the Pensions Committee and Pensions Panel are delegated to look after the Fund. As a result of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, a Local Pensions Board was also set up to aid effective governance.

b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Fund include the following:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund.
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

There are over 400 employer organisations within the Fund (including the County Council itself), and over 100,000 individual members, as detailed in the following table.

Membership of the Fund

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
Pensionable employees		
Staffordshire County Council	10,424	9,049
Other employers	23,352	23,686
Total	33,776	32,735
Pensioners		
Staffordshire County Council	16,579	17,218
Other employers	16,577	17,513
Total	33,156	34,731
Deferred pensioners (people who no longer pay into the scheme)		
Staffordshire County Council	20,500	19,726
Other employers	20,052	21,117
Total	40,552	40,843
Total number of members in the pension scheme	107,484	108,309

c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The last such valuation was at 31 March 2016.

d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service.

From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits as explained on the Staffordshire Pension Fund website at www.staffspf.org.uk.

2. Basis of preparation

The statement of accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2018/19 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2019. The financial statements follow the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019 (the Code) which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector and issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year nor do they take into account the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

You can get more information on the Pension Fund, including the Fund Governance Statement, the Investment Strategy Statement and the Funding Strategy Statement at www.staffspf.org.uk.

3. Accounting policies

When preparing the Pension Fund financial statements we have adopted the following significant accounting policies, which we have applied consistently.

Contributions

Normal contributions, both from members and employers, are accounted for in the payroll month they relate to, at the rates given on the rates and adjustments certificate. Additional contributions such as employer deficit funding and actuarial strain are accounted for in line with the agreement under which they are paid, or when they are received if there is no agreement. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long term debtors.

Transfer values

Transfer values represent the amounts either due to the Fund from new members' previous pension funds, or which the Fund is due to pay to the new pension funds of members who have left the Fund. Transfer values are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised as follows:

- Interest income as it accrues.
- Dividend income on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend.
- Property related income, which primarily consists of rental income, is received in advance and is accrued into the correct year.
- Changes in the net market value of investments (including investment properties) are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.
- Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue.

Benefits payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities, providing that payment has been approved.

Under pension fund rules, members may receive a lump-sum retirement grant on top of their annual pension. Lump-sum retirement grants are accounted for from the date of retirement.

Other benefits are accounted for on the date the member leaves the Fund or dies.

Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme and as such is exempt from paying tax in the UK on interest received and on the proceeds of investments sold. The Fund may suffer withholding tax on overseas investments in the country of origin, where this is not recoverable it is accounted for as an expense when it arises.

Management expenses

All costs related to managing investments, administration, oversight and governance are reported in one line in the Fund Account called 'Management expenses'.

Investment management expenses, including performance-related fees, are accounted for on an accruals basis and are recognised before any VAT the Fund can recover.

Investment management transaction costs include fees, commissions, stamp duty and other fees (see note 11a).

The fees of external investment managers and the custodian are agreed in their respective mandates governing their appointments. They are broadly based on the market value of investments and can increase or decrease as the value of these investments change.

All administrative expenses and oversight and governance costs are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the Pensions Administration team are charged to the Fund. Management, accommodation and other support service costs are charged to the Fund based on Staffordshire County Council policy.

Financial instruments

The fair value of financial instruments 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 financial instruments of the Fund have to be classified into the following categories under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS):

- Financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, these have two categories: *Designated*, where assets and liabilities are measured at fair value with fair value changes through profit and loss; and *Held for trading*, where financial assets and liabilities are held for the purpose of selling in the short-term for which there is a pattern of short-term profit making.
- Financial assets at amortised cost; any financial asset with fixed or determinable payments not quoted in the open market such as debtors.
- Held to maturity investments; any financial asset which is intended to be held to maturity at amortised cost.
- Other financial liabilities measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Investments

The LGPS Central Pool trading company, LGPS Central Limited only became able to trade on 3 April 2018, therefore, reliable trading results and profit forecasts are not yet available. Consequently, the Pension Fund's view is that the market value of this investment at 31 March 2019 cannot be reasonably assessed and that cost is therefore an appropriate estimate of fair value.

Equities traded through the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service (SETS), are valued on the basis of the latest bid (buying) price.

Pooled investment vehicles are valued at the bid market price provided by the relevant fund managers, which reflects the market value of the underlying investments.

The value of bonds are recorded at the net market value based on their current market yields. The value does not include interest earned but not paid at the year end, which is included separately within accrued investment income.

UK directly held property investments are stated at their value on the open-market based on an annual independent valuation by Savills, as at 31 March 2019. The valuation report has been prepared in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered

Surveyors' ("RICS") Valuation – Global Standards 2017 incorporating the IVSC International Valuation Standards issued June 2017 and effective from 1 July 2017 (the "RICS Red Book").

The private equity, private debt and hedge fund valuations are valued based on the Fund's share of the net assets of the underlying funds using the latest financial statements provided by the respective fund managers.

Derivative contracts are valued at bid market price.

Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest and the purchase and sale of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot rates at the date of transaction. Where forward foreign exchange contracts are in place for assets and liabilities in foreign currencies, the exchange rate set out in the contract is used. Other assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are given in Sterling (£) at the rates of exchange that apply at the end of the financial year.

Surpluses and deficits arising when converting currency are dealt with as part of the change in market value of investments.

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place prior to the year-end giving rise to a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events. Contingent liabilities can also arise in circumstances where a provision would be made, except that it is not possible at the balance sheet date to measure the value of the financial obligation reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net assets statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

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

As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of an accompanying actuarial report.

4. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Pension Fund liability

The Pension Fund liability is calculated every three years by the Fund actuary, Hymans Robertson, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19, the assumptions underpinning the valuation are given in the accompanying Actuarial Statement. The estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

Property

The Fund's independent valuers, Savills, have made no allowance for any Capital Gains Tax or other taxation liability that might arise upon a sale of the property, nor have they allowed for any adjustment to any of the properties' income streams to take into account any tax liabilities that may arise. Their valuation is exclusive of VAT (if applicable). They have excluded from their valuation any additional value attributable to goodwill, or to fixtures and fittings which are only of value in situ to the present occupiers.

No allowance has been made for rights, obligations or liabilities arising in relation to fixed plant and machinery, and it has been assumed that all fixed plant and machinery and the installation thereof complies with the relevant EEC legislation.

Investment in LGPS Central Limited

This investment has been valued at cost on the basis that fair value as at 31 March 2019 cannot be reliably estimated. Management have made this judgement because:

- LGPS Central Limited only became operational on 3 April 2018
- no dividend to shareholders has as yet been declared
- no audited accounts are as yet available which would allow fair value to be calculated on a net asset basis or enable the accuracy of profit and cash flow projections contained in the company's business plan to be assessed with confidence.

5. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The items in the net assets statement at 31 March 2019 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are shown in the following table.

5. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Item	Uncertainty	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Private equity	Private equity funds are valued in accordance with each investment managers valuation policy. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total private equity investments in the financial statements are £179.8m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.
Private debt	Private debt funds are valued in accordance with each investment managers valuation policy. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total value of private debt funds in the financial statements is £206.5m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.
Hedge funds	Hedge funds are valued at the sum of the fair values provided by the administrators of the underlying funds plus adjustments that the Funds directors or independent administrators judge necessary. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total value of Hedge funds in the financial statements is £89.6m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.
Freehold/leasehold property and pooled property funds	Valuation techniques are used to determine the carrying amount of pooled property funds and directly held freehold and leasehold property. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible management uses the best available data. Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect the fair value of property.	The total value of all property in the financial statements is £436.0m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.

6. Events after the balance sheet date

Since the Statement of Accounts were issued on 31 May 2019 there has been an update regarding a judgement on the McCloud Case.

Impact of McCloud judgement

The McCloud judgement relates to a legal challenge by members of the New Judicial Pension Scheme against the age-based transitional provisions put into place when new pension arrangements were introduced in 2015. The members argued that these transitional provisions were directly discriminatory on grounds of age and indirectly discriminatory on grounds of sex and race, based on the correlation between these two factors reflected in the judicial membership. A Tribunal ruled against the Government, deeming that the transitional provisions were not a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Given the uncertainty around this judgement, the Government was awaiting news of its right to an appeal, to understand what the likely impact of the McCloud judgement may be on members' benefits. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal.

The Actuary has therefore made an allowance for potential outcomes of this judgement in its disclosure of the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits in the accompanying actuarial report.

7. Contributions receivable

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Employers		
Normal	107.5	114.6
Actuarial strain	5.6	7.3
Deficit recovery contributions	84.1	0.0
Scheme members		
Normal	35.2	35.2
Total	232.4	157.1

The deficit recovery contributions in 2017/2018 relate to the prepayment of employer deficit funding made by eleven employing bodies in respect of 2018/2019 and future years, as agreed by the actuary.

Contributions receivable can be analysed by type of member body as follows:

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Staffordshire County Council	75.9	39.7
Scheduled bodies	138.9	98.7
Admitted bodies	17.6	18.7
Total	232.4	157.1

8. Transfers in

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Individual transfers in from other schemes	12.5	11.3
Group transfers in from other schemes	0.0	1.4
Total	12.5	12.7

9. Benefits payable

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m
Pensions	134.2	143.3
Commutations and lump-sum retirement benefits	33.3	34.8
Lump-sum death benefits	3.7	4.2
Total	171.2	182.3

Benefits payable can be analysed by type of member body as follows:

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Staffordshire County Council	68.9	70.3
Scheduled bodies	86.6	92.4
Admitted bodies	15.7	19.6
Total	171.2	182.3

10. Payments to and on account of leavers

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Individual transfers to other schemes	14.8	18.3
Group transfers to other schemes	0.0	0.7
Payments for members joining / (leaving) state scheme	0.0	0.1
Refunds to members leaving service	0.5	0.6
Total	15.3	19.7

11. Management expenses

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Administration expenses	2.4	2.2
Investment management expenses (see note 11a)	13.3	16.5
Oversight and governance costs	1.0	1.7
Total	16.7	20.4

Included within oversight and governance costs are the Fund's external audit costs of £0.03m for 2018/19 (£0.03m for 2017/2018). The charge for 2018/19 includes the current year audit fee of £0.02m and additional fees in respect of IAS19 assurances for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 audits £0.01m.

11a. Investment management expenses

A breakdown of the costs we had to pay in connection with the investment of the Fund is set out below:

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Transaction costs	1.1	0.8
Management fees	11.7	14.7
Performance related fees	0.4	0.9
Custody fees	0.1	0.1
Total	13.3	16.5

The Fund was also charged indirectly through the bid-offer spread (the difference between bid prices and offer prices) on investments.

12. Investment income

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Bonds	15.0	15.5
Dividends from equities	23.9	28.2
Income from pooled investment vehicles	2.0	1.4
Rents from property	20.2	18.7
Interest on cash deposits	0.8	1.2
Stock lending	0.2	0.2
Private Debt	6.6	10.6
Other	0.5	0.9
	69.2	76.7
Withholding tax we cannot recover	(0.3)	(0.3)
Total	68.9	76.4

12a. Directly held property fund account

A summary of the income and expenses associated with the Fund's directly held property is provided below:

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Rental income	20.2	18.7
Direct operating expenses	(1.4)	(2.3)
Net income	18.8	16.4

13. Pension Fund investments 2018/2019

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Long term investments		
Equities	1.3	1.3
Investment assets		
Bonds	367.7	380.3
Equities	919.3	990.0
Pooled investment vehicles	2,544.5	2,699.6
Derivatives	2.5	1.2
Property	386.1	436.0
Private equity	141.6	179.8
Private debt	134.5	206.5
Hedge funds	88.2	89.6
Cash	180.5	139.9
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	10.2	11.1
Amount receivable for sales of investments	11.9	1.0
Total Investment assets	4,787.0	5,135.0
Investment liabilities		
Derivatives	(0.9)	(2.4)
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(12.5)	(2.6)
Total Investment liabilities	(13.4)	(5.0)
Net Investment assets	4,774.9	5,131.3

All companies operating unit trusts or managed funds are registered in the United Kingdom.

13a. Investment reconciliation

Period 2018/2019	Value at 1 April 2018 £m	Purchases at cost £m	Sales proceeds £m	Change in market value £m	Value at 31 March 2019 £m
Bonds	367.7	46.6	(38.3)	4.3	380.3
Equities	920.6	429.2	(407.2)	48.7	991.3
Pooled investment vehicles	2,544.5	2,933.9	(3,008.9)	230.1	2,699.6
Derivatives	1.6	1,830.4	(1,826.0)	(7.2)	(1.2)
Property	386.1	50.0	(0.2)	0.1	436.0
Other	364.3	98.6	(31.9)	44.9	475.9
	4,584.8	5,388.7	(5,312.5)	320.9	4,981.9
External cash deposits (central cash)	148.7				99.7
Investment manager cash	31.8			8.6	40.2
	4,765.3			329.5	5,121.8
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	10.2				11.1
Amount receivable for sales of investments	11.9				1.0
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(12.5)				(2.6)
Net Investment assets	4,774.9				5,131.3

The previous years data is provided below:

Period 2017/2018	Value at 1 April 2017 £m	Purchases at cost £m	Sales proceeds £m	Change in market value £m	Value at 31 March 2018 £m
Bonds	324.6	113.7	(48.2)	(22.4)	367.7
Equities	890.7	530.2	(502.8)	2.5	920.6
Pooled investment vehicles	2,497.3	120.0	(142.0)	69.2	2,544.5
Derivatives	1.2	2,035.6	(2,045.8)	10.6	1.6
Property	370.6	3.3	0.0	12.2	386.1
Other	307.1	92.5	(35.2)	(0.1)	364.3
	4,391.5	2,895.3	(2,774.0)	72.0	4,584.8
External cash deposits (central cash)	151.5				148.7
Investment manager cash	33.7			4.7	31.8
	4,576.7			76.7	4,765.3
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	9.1				10.2
Amount receivable for sales of investments	5.6				11.9
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(8.3)				(12.5)
Net Investment assets	4,583.1				4,774.9

The Fund holds the following pooled investments that exceed 5% of the total value of net assets at 31 March 2019 (also at 31 March 2018):

- LGIM, passive UK equity - £354.1m or 6.9% (£332.6m or 7.0%)
- LGIM, passive global equity - £1,329.7m or 26.0% (£1,635.4m or 34.2%)
- LGIM, passive index-linked gilts - £388.1m or 7.6% (£367.0m or 7.7%)
- LGPS Central, active global equity - £505.1m or 9.9% (£0.0m or 0.0%)

As at 31 March 2019 (also at 31 March 2018) the Fund was committed to the following contractual commitments:

- £99.6m of contractual commitments for private equity investments (£127.8m)
- Investment in a UK pooled property fund of £14.1m (£7.4m)
- £177.6m of private debt investments (£161.8m)

13b. Investments analysed by Manager

The market value and percentage of assets held by each of the investment managers at the end of the financial year is shown below:

	31 March 2018		31 March 2019	
	£m	%	£m	%
Investments managed by LGPS Central Limited				
LGPS Central Limited Global Equity Active Multi Manager Fund	0.0	0%	505.1	10%
LGPS Central Limited	1.3	0%	1.3	0%
	1.3	0%	506.4	10%
Investments managed outside of LGPS Central Limited				
Insight Investment (corporate bonds)	380.2	8%	392.6	7%
Standard Life Investments (UK equity)	301.2	6%	306.1	6%
JP Morgan Asset Management (global equity)	414.9	9%	447.4	9%
Longview Partners (global equity)	223.2	5%	263.0	5%
Legal & General Investment Management (passive UK index-linked gilts)	367.0	8%	388.1	8%
Legal & General Investment Management (passive all world equity)	2,050.1	43%	1,683.7	33%
Russell Investments (emerging markets equity)	122.2	3%	117.8	2%
Colliers International UK Plc (property)	386.3	8%	436.3	9%
HarbourVest Partners (private equity)	109.2	2%	128.9	3%
Knightsbridge Advisors (private equity)	15.4	0%	21.0	0%
Partners Group (private equity)	12.1	0%	20.4	0%
Lazard Technology Partners (private equity)	0.8	0%	0.9	0%
Capital Dynamics (private equity)	4.1	0%	8.6	0%
Hayfin Capital Management (private debt)	35.2	1%	69.7	1%
Highbridge Capital Management (private debt)	38.2	1%	57.3	1%
Alcentra Limited (private debt)	61.1	1%	79.5	2%
Goldman Sachs Asset Management (hedge funds)	88.2	2%	89.6	2%
Director of Finance and Resources (central cash)	154.6	3%	104.5	2%
	4,764.0	100%	4,615.4	90%
	4,765.3	100%	5,121.8	100%

13c. Analysis of Investments

	31 March 2018		31 March 2019	
	£m	%	£m	%
Long term investments				
UK equities unquoted	1.3	0%	1.3	0%
Investment assets				
Bonds				
UK corporate quoted	159.2	3%	176.1	3%
Global corporate quoted	208.5	5%	204.2	4%
	367.7	8%	380.3	7%
Equities				
UK quoted	340.9	7%	341.7	7%
Global quoted	578.4	12%	648.3	12%
	919.3	19%	990.0	19%
Pooled investment vehicles				
UK	446.0	9%	358.9	7%
UK index-linked	367.0	8%	388.1	8%
Global	1,731.5	36%	1,952.6	38%
	2,544.5	53%	2,699.6	53%
Derivatives (see note 14)				
Forward foreign currency	1.1	0%	0.1	0%
Futures	1.4	0%	1.1	0%
	2.5	0%	1.2	0%
Property				
UK directly held property	352.7	7%	397.6	8%
UK pooled property funds	33.4	1%	38.4	1%
	386.1	8%	436.0	9%
Other				
Private equity	141.6	3%	179.8	3%
Private debt	134.5	3%	206.5	4%
Hedge funds	88.2	2%	89.6	2%
	364.3	8%	475.9	9%
Cash				
External deposits	148.7	4%	99.7	2%
Investment manager cash (Sterling £)	14.3	0%	29.3	1%
Investment manager cash (non Sterling £)	17.5	0%	10.9	0%
	180.5	4%	139.9	3%
	4,766.2	100%	5,124.2	100%
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	10.2		11.1	
Amount receivable for sales of investments	11.9		1.0	
Total Investment assets	4,788.3		5,136.3	
Investment liabilities				
Derivatives (see note 14)				
Forward foreign currency	0.0		(1.0)	
Futures	(0.9)		(1.4)	
	(0.9)		(2.4)	
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(12.5)		(2.6)	
Total Investment liabilities	(13.4)		(5.0)	
Net Investment assets	4,774.9		5,131.3	

13d. Stock lending

The Fund lends stock in return for payment. The table below summarises the value of the stock lent out by the Fund at the end of the last two years.

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Equities - UK	49.4	54.3
Equities - Global	61.9	59.9
Fixed interest - UK	1.1	1.1
Fixed interest - Global	2.2	8.1
	114.6	123.4

Securities released to a third party under the stock-lending agreement with Northern Trust are included in the net assets statement to reflect the Fund's continuing economic interest in those securities.

Collateral holdings, supporting the loans, are not identified as individual loans but are kept in a pooled structure. As security for the stocks on loan, as at 31 March 2019 the Fund held £130.6 million (£121.5 million at 31 March 2018) of collateral in the form of government obligations (such as Gilts) and equities.

Income received from stock-lending activities was £0.2 million for the year ending 31 March 2019, (£0.2 million for year ending 31 March 2018). This is included within the investment income figure shown on the Pension Fund account.

13e. Directly held property net asset account

The Fund had investments in property of £436.0m at 31 March 2019 (£386.1m at 31 March 2018), of which £397.6m was in directly held property (£352.7m at 31 March 2018). The account below reconciles the movement in the Fund's investments in directly held property.

The Fund is required to classify its directly held property into a hierarchy by reference to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values (See note 15 for more information on the hierarchy). The Fund has classified its directly held property as Level 3, as fair values are based on significant unobservable inputs and estimated using valuation techniques.

Transaction costs for directly held property in 2018/2019 were £2.5m (£0.1m in 2017/2018).

	2017/2018	2018/2019
	£m	£m
Balance at start of year	340.7	352.7
Purchases at cost	0.7	46.7
Sale proceeds	0.0	(0.2)
Change in market value	11.3	(1.6)
Balance at 31 March	352.7	397.6

14. Derivative contracts

The holding of derivative contracts is to hedge exposures and reduce risk for the Fund. The use of derivative contracts is managed in line with the investment management agreement between the Fund and the various investment managers who use them.

Forward foreign currency contracts

A significant proportion of the Fund's equity holdings are held in overseas stock markets. To reduce the volatility associated with fluctuating currency rates, some of the Fund's investment managers hold forward foreign currency contracts. The open contracts at 31 March are analysed in Sterling (£) below against other major currencies.

	31 March 2018		31 March 2019	
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Euro	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
United States Dollar	0.7	0.0	0.0	(1.0)
	1.1	0.0	0.1	(1.0)

Futures contracts

Futures contracts are used to manage interest rate risk. All are traded on a stock exchange and are listed below at 31 March.

The Fund invests in fixed-rate corporate bonds denominated in Sterling, US dollars and Euros. In order to avoid taking duration risk in relation to movements in US dollar and Euro based interest rates, positions are taken in the corresponding government bond futures.

	Nominal Value	31 March 2018		31 March 2019	
		Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Euro Bund Future (Euro €) - June 2018	15.9	0.0	(0.2)	0.0	0.0
Long Gilt Future (Sterling £) - June 2018	73.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
US 10 year Note (US \$) - June 2018	59.9	0.0	(0.6)	0.0	0.0
US 5 year Note (US \$) - June 2018	16.2	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	0.0
Euro Bund Future (Euro €) - June 2019	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.3)
Long Gilt Future (Sterling £) - June 2019	63.9	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
US 10 year Note (US \$) - June 2019	55.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.9)
US 5 year Note (US \$) - June 2019	15.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.2)
US 10 year Ultra (US \$) - June 2019	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)
		1.4	(0.9)	1.1	(1.4)

15. Fair value - basis of valuation

The basis of the valuation of each asset class of investment is set out below. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represent the highest and best price available at the reporting date. There have been no changes in the valuation techniques used during the year.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments (equities and bonds)	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Bonds are valued at a market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Pooled investment vehicles	Level 2	Fair value based on the weekly market quoted prices of the respective underlying securities	When considering the fair value of assets which are not at the reporting date, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value	Not required
Unquoted Equities	Level 3	Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (EBITDA) multiple - Revenue multiple - Discount for lack of Marketability - Control premium 	Valuations could be affected by post balance sheet events, changes to expected cashflows, or by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Freehold and leasehold properties	Level 3	Valued at fair value by Savills in accordance with International Valuation Standards and RICS Valuation Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing lease terms rentals - Independent market research - Covenant strength for existing tenants - Assumed vacancy levels - Estimated rental growth - Discount rate 	Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices
Pooled property funds	Level 3	The Funds ownership share in property limited partnerships is applied to the partnership net assets. The net assets are based on the fair value of the underlying investment properties in accordance with International Valuation Standards and RICS Valuation Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing lease terms rentals - Independent market research - Covenant strength for existing tenants - Assumed vacancy levels - Estimated rental growth - Discount rate 	Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices

15. Fair value - basis of valuation (continued)

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Private equity	Level 3	Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines (2012) Updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EBITDA multiple - Revenue multiple - Discount for lack of marketability - Control Premium 	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Private debt	Level 3	Valued at fair value in accordance with International Valuation Standards and investment managers valuation policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparable valuation of similar assets - EBITDA multiple - Revenue multiple - Discounted cash flows - Enterprise value estimation 	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Hedge funds	Level 3	Closing bid price and offer prices are published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Forward foreign currency contracts	Level 2	Market forward exchange rates at the year end	Exchange rate risk	Not Required
Futures	Level 1	Published exchange prices at the year-end	Not required	Not Required

Sensitivity of assets valued at Level 3

In consultation with the Fund's investment advisor, the Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2019.

Asset type	Assessed valuation range	31 March 2019	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	%	£m	£m	£m
UK equities unquoted	18%	1.3	1.5	1.1
Freehold and leasehold properties	14%	397.6	453.3	341.9
Pooled property funds	14%	38.4	43.8	33.0
Private equity	27%	179.8	228.3	131.3
Private debt	7%	206.5	221.0	192.0
Hedge funds	13%	89.6	101.2	78.0
		913.2	1,049.1	777.3

15a. Fair value hierarchy

Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. The three levels are detailed below:

Level 1 - Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as Level 1 are quoted equities and bonds.

Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices). Level 2 products include pooled investment vehicles, as they are not traded in a market that is considered to be active and where the asset value can be determined by observed values for the underlying assets.

Level 3 - Inputs for assets or liabilities that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs). Examples include private equity, private debt and hedge funds, which are valued using valuation techniques that require significant judgement.

The following table provides an analysis by the three levels based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

31 March 2019	Level 1 £m	Level 2 £m	Level 3 £m	Total £m
Financial assets				
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	1,371.4	2,699.7	515.6	4,586.7
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss (See note 13e)	0.0	0.0	397.6	397.6
Financial liabilities				
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	(1.4)	(1.0)	0.0	(2.4)
	1,370.0	2,698.7	913.2	4,981.9

The previous years data is provided below:

31 March 2018	Level 1 £m	Level 2 £m	Level 3 £m	Total £m
Financial assets				
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	1,288.5	2,545.5	399.0	4,233.0
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss (See note 13e)	0.0	0.0	352.7	352.7
Financial liabilities				
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	(0.9)
	1,287.6	2,545.5	751.7	4,584.8

15b. Reconciliation of fair value measurements within level 3

Period 2018/2019	Market Value 1 April 2018 £m	Purchases during the year and derivative payments £m	Sales during the year and derivative receipts £m	Unrealised gains / (Losses) £m	Realised gains / (Losses) £m	Market Value 31 March 2019 £m
UK equities unquoted	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Freehold and leasehold properties	352.7	46.7	(0.2)	(0.3)	(1.3)	397.6
Pooled property funds	33.4	3.3	0.0	1.7	0.0	38.4
Private equity	141.6	32.5	(28.8)	20.9	13.6	179.8
Private debt	134.5	66.1	(3.1)	9.0	0.0	206.5
Hedge funds	88.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	89.6
	751.7	148.6	(32.1)	32.7	12.3	913.2

The previous years data is provided below:

Period 2017/2018	Market Value 1 April 2017 £m	Purchases during the year and derivative payments £m	Sales during the year and derivative receipts £m	Unrealised gains / (Losses) £m	Realised gains / (Losses) £m	Market Value 31 March 2018 £m
UK equities unquoted	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Freehold and leasehold properties	340.7	0.7	0.0	12.0	(0.7)	352.7
Pooled property funds	29.9	2.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	33.4
Private equity	146.1	24.6	(34.0)	(14.1)	19.0	141.6
Private debt	74.6	67.9	(1.2)	(8.1)	1.3	134.5
Hedge funds	86.4	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	88.2
	677.7	97.1	(35.2)	(7.5)	19.6	751.7

16. Classification of financial instruments

The net assets of the Fund disclosed in the Net assets statement and in notes 13a to 13e, 18, 18a, 19 and 19a are made up of the following categories of financial instruments. No financial instruments were reclassified during 2018/2019.

The analysis within notes 16, 16b and 17 on financial instruments does not include the Pension Fund's directly held property. This is treated under a different accounting standard (IAS 40 Investment Property) and is disclosed in note 13e - Directly held property net asset account and note 12a - Directly held property fund account.

	Designated as fair value through profit and loss	Financial Assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
31 March 2019	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets				
Bonds	380.3	0.0	0.0	380.3
Equities	991.3	0.0	0.0	991.3
Pooled investment vehicles	2,699.6	0.0	0.0	2,699.6
UK pooled property funds	38.4	0.0	0.0	38.4
Cash	0.0	142.3	0.0	142.3
Other investment balances	475.9	12.1	0.0	488.0
Derivatives	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2
Long term assets	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0
Current assets	0.0	16.1	0.0	16.1
	4,586.7	171.5	0.0	4,758.2
Financial liabilities				
Derivatives	(2.4)	0.0	0.0	(2.4)
Other investment balances	0.0	0.0	(2.6)	(2.6)
Long term Liabilities	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Current liabilities	0.0	0.0	(19.6)	(19.6)
	(2.4)	0.0	(22.3)	(24.7)
	4,584.3	171.5	(22.3)	4,733.5

16. Classification of financial instruments (continued)

The previous years data is provided below:

	Designated as fair value through profit and loss	Financial Assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
31 March 2018	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets				
Bonds	367.7	0.0	0.0	367.7
Equities	920.6	0.0	0.0	920.6
Pooled investment vehicles	2,544.5	0.0	0.0	2,544.5
UK pooled property funds	33.4	0.0	0.0	33.4
Cash	0.0	177.7	0.0	177.7
Other investment balances	364.3	22.1	0.0	386.4
Derivatives	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.5
Long term assets	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Current assets	0.0	12.3	0.0	12.3
	4,233.0	214.1	0.0	4,447.1
Financial liabilities				
Derivatives	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	(0.9)
Other investment balances	0.0	0.0	(12.5)	(12.5)
Long term Liabilities	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Current liabilities	0.0	0.0	(8.5)	(8.5)
	(0.9)	0.0	(21.1)	(22.0)
	4,232.1	214.1	(21.1)	4,425.1

16b. Net gains on financial instruments

The gains recognised in the accounts in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
Financial assets		
Designated as fair value through profit and loss	60.7	322.5
Amortised cost	4.7	8.6
	65.4	331.1

17. Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

The primary objective of the Fund is to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all Pension liabilities as they fall due for payment. The Fund aims to do this by adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return.

The majority of the Fund is invested through external investment managers. Each has an investment management agreement in place which sets out the relevant benchmark, performance target, asset allocation ranges and any restrictions.

Risks are managed through diversification; by investing across asset classes, across managers and styles and ensuring managers maintain a diversified portfolio of investments within their mandate. The majority of the Fund is invested in liquid investments.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in market prices, interest rates or currencies. The Fund is exposed through its investment portfolio to all these market risks.

Market risk also represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate caused by factors other than those mentioned above. These changes can be caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or those affecting the market in general and will affect each asset class the Fund holds in different ways.

A high proportion of the Fund is invested in equities and therefore fluctuation in equity prices is the largest risk the Fund faces. The Fund relies on the fact that it has positive cash flows and a strong employer covenant to underpin its investment in equities and maintains its high exposure to equities over the long-term as they are expected to deliver higher returns.

The Fund manages market risk through a diversified investment portfolio and instructing individual investment managers to diversify investments within their own individual portfolios in line with their investment strategies and mandate guidelines. The Pensions Panel and Pensions Committee regularly receive reports which monitor such risks.

Market risk – sensitivity analysis

In consultation with the Fund's investment advisor the following movements in market prices have been judged as possible for the 2019/2020 financial year. The potential market movement figures also allow for interest rate and currency rate fluctuations.

Asset type	Possible market movements
UK equity	+/- 18%
Global equity	+/- 22%
Private equity	+/- 27%
Private debt	+/- 7%
UK fixed interest bonds	+/- 11%
UK index-linked bonds	+/- 9%
Corporate bonds	+/- 7%
Cash	+/- 1%
UK Commercial property	+/- 14%
Hedge funds	+/- 13%

This movement in the market prices would increase or decrease the net assets at 31 March 2019 to the amounts shown below:

Asset type	31 March 2019 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
UK equities unquoted	1.3	18%	1.5	1.1
UK corporate bonds	176.1	7%	188.4	163.8
Global corporate bonds	204.2	7%	218.5	189.9
UK equities	341.7	18%	403.2	280.2
Global equities	648.3	22%	790.9	505.7
UK pooled investments	358.9	18%	423.5	294.3
UK index-linked pooled investments	388.1	9%	423.0	353.2
Overseas pooled investments	1,952.6	22%	2,382.2	1,523.0
Derivatives	(1.2)	0%	(1.2)	(1.2)
UK pooled property funds	38.4	14%	43.8	33.0
Private equity	179.8	27%	228.3	131.3
Private debt	206.5	7%	221.0	192.0
Hedge funds	89.6	13%	101.2	78.0
Cash	139.9	1%	141.3	138.5
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	11.1	0%	11.1	11.1
Amount receivable for sales of	1.0	0%	1.0	1.0
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(2.6)	0%	(2.6)	(2.6)
Long term assets	1.0		1.0	1.0
Current assets	18.5	0%	18.5	18.5
Long term Liabilities	(0.1)		(0.1)	(0.1)
Current liabilities	(19.6)	0%	(19.6)	(19.6)
	4,733.5		5,574.9	3,892.1

The previous years data is provided below:

Asset type	31 March 2018 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
UK equities unquoted	1.3	18%	1.5	1.1
UK corporate bonds	159.2	7%	170.3	148.1
Global corporate bonds	208.5	7%	223.1	193.9
UK equities	340.9	18%	402.3	279.5
Global equities	578.4	22%	705.6	451.2
UK pooled investments	446.0	18%	526.3	365.7
UK index-linked pooled investments	367.0	9%	400.0	334.0
Overseas pooled investments	1,731.5	22%	2,112.4	1,350.6
Derivatives	1.6	0%	1.6	1.6
UK pooled property funds	33.4	14%	38.1	28.7
Private equity	141.6	27%	179.8	103.4
Private debt	134.5	7%	143.9	125.1
Hedge funds	88.2	13%	99.7	76.7
Cash	180.5	1%	182.3	178.7
Outstanding dividend entitlements and recoverable withholding tax	10.2	0%	10.2	10.2
Amount receivable for sales of	11.9	0%	11.9	11.9
Amounts payable for purchases of investments	(12.5)	0%	(12.5)	(12.5)
Long term assets	2.0		2.0	2.0
Current assets	12.3	0%	12.3	12.3
Long term Liabilities	(0.1)		(0.1)	(0.1)
Current liabilities	(11.3)	0%	(11.3)	(11.3)
	4,425.1		5,199.4	3,650.8

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Changes in market interest rates would affect the value of the Fund's bonds. The amount of income the Fund generates from its cash holdings would also be affected.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2019 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

Interest rate risk - sensitivity analysis

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. Medium to long-term average rates are expected to move less than 100 basis points from one year to the next and experience suggests that such movements are likely.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 100 basis points (i.e.1%) change in interest rates:

Asset type	31 March 2019 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
Cash and cash equivalents	99.7	0%	99.7	99.7
Cash balances	2.4	0%	2.4	2.4
Bonds	380.3	1%	384.1	376.5
	482.4		486.2	478.6

Asset type	31 March 2018 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
Cash and cash equivalents	148.7	0%	148.7	148.7
Cash balances	(2.8)	0%	(2.8)	(2.8)
Bonds	367.7	1%	371.4	364.0
	513.6		517.3	509.9

Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of financial instruments when expressed in Sterling (£) will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

A high proportion of the Fund's equity portfolio is held in global stock markets. Any short term volatility associated with fluctuating currencies is balanced by the long term nature of investments in equity markets.

Foreign currency risk - sensitivity analysis

Following consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange movements to be 10%.

On the assumption that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant, a 10% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Asset type	31 March 2019 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
Global corporate bonds	204.2	10%	224.6	183.8
Global equities	648.3	10%	713.1	583.5
Overseas pooled investments	1,952.6	10%	2,147.9	1,757.3
Private equity	179.8	10%	197.8	161.8
Private debt	206.5	10%	227.2	185.9
Hedge funds	89.6	10%	98.6	80.6
	3,281.0		3,609.2	2,952.9

Asset type	31 March 2018 £m	Percentage change (+/-) %	Value on increase £m	Value on decrease £m
Global corporate bonds	208.5	10%	229.4	187.7
Global equities	578.4	10%	636.2	520.6
Overseas pooled investments	1,731.5	10%	1,904.7	1,558.4
Private equity	141.6	10%	155.8	127.4
Private debt	134.5	10%	148.0	121.1
Hedge funds	88.2	10%	97.0	79.4
	2,882.7		3,171.1	2,594.6

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to meet an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The biggest exposure the Fund has is through its investment in corporate bonds and private debt.

The Fund is also exposed to credit risk through other investment managers that hold assets and the custodian. The Fund minimises credit risk through the careful selection and monitoring of high quality counterparties. Assets and cash held by the custodian are held in individual accounts in the Pension Fund's name, clearly segregated from the assets of other clients and the custodian.

Through the stock lending programme, operated by the Fund's custodian, the Fund is exposed to the collateral provided by the borrower against the securities lent. To manage this risk the collateral permitted is restricted to government obligations (such as Gilts) and equities. Collateral is held in excess of the securities lent.

Foreign exchange contracts are subject to credit risk in relation to the counterparties of the contracts. The maximum credit risk exposure on foreign currency contracts is the full amount of the foreign currency the Fund pays when settlement occurs, should the counterparty fail to pay the amount which it is committed to pay the Fund.

Another source of credit risk for the Fund is the cash it holds to meet short-term commitments. The cash is managed by the Staffordshire County Council Treasury and Pensions Fund team in line with the Pension Fund's Annual Investment Strategy which sets out the permitted counterparties and limits.

Summary	Rating	31 March 2018 £m	31 March 2019 £m
Bank current account			
Lloyds Bank	A+	(2.8)	2.4
Loan			
LGPS Central	N/A	0.7	0.7
Money market funds			
Aberdeen Ultra Short Duration Sterling Fund (formerly Standard Life Investments Short Duration Managed Liquidity Fund)	AAA	20.0	20.0
Deutsche Managed Sterling Platinum	AAA	18.0	0.0
Federated (PR) Short-Term GBP Prime Fund Class 3	AAA	15.0	16.0
Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Reserve Institutional Inc	AAA	5.0	5.0
JPMorgan Sterling Liquidity Capital	AAA	7.0	5.0
Morgan Stanley Sterling Liquidity Inst	AAA	3.0	5.0
Royal London Cash Plus Fund	AAA	20.0	20.0
Local Authority Loans			
Birmingham City Council	N/A	20.0	0.0
Cornwall Council	N/A	0.0	10.0
Eastleigh Borough Council	N/A	10.0	0.0
Isle of Wight Council	N/A	0.0	5.0
Mid Suffolk District Council	N/A	0.0	3.0
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	N/A	5.0	0.0
Slough Borough Council	N/A	5.0	0.0
Telford and Wrekin Borough Council	N/A	10.0	0.0
Thurrock Borough Council	N/A	10.0	5.0
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	N/A	0.0	5.0
		148.7	99.7
		145.9	102.1

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. To manage this risk the Fund holds an allocation of its assets in cash, the majority of which Staffordshire County Council Treasury and Pensions Fund team have same day access to. This is to ensure short term commitments can be met.

The majority of the stocks held by the Fund's investment managers are quoted on major stock markets and may be realised quickly if required. Less liquid investments such as property, private equity, hedge funds and private debt currently make up a smaller proportion of the Fund's assets.

In the short-term the Fund can borrow money on the money markets to cover any shortfall that may arise. Overall there is very little risk that the Fund will not be able to raise cash to meet its commitments.

18. Long term assets

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Contributions due – employers (see note 22)	2.0	1.0
Total	2.0	1.0

18a. Current assets

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Short term debtors		
Contributions due - employers	8.0	9.6
Contributions due - members	2.1	2.6
Cash balances	0.0	2.4
Other	2.2	3.9
Total	12.3	18.5

19. Long term liabilities

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Income received in advance (see note 23)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Total	(0.1)	(0.1)

19a. Current liabilities

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Cash overdrawn	(2.8)	0.0
Investment management expenses	(1.1)	(1.3)
Income received in advance	(2.2)	(1.5)
Benefits payable	(4.4)	(4.0)
Other	(0.8)	(12.8)
Total	(11.3)	(19.6)

20. Additional voluntary contributions

As well as joining the Fund, scheme members can pay into an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme run by external providers. Contributions are paid directly from scheme members to the providers.

The contributions are not included within the Fund accounts, in line with regulation 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2017. The table below shows the activity for each AVC provider in the year.

	Scottish Widows £m	Equitable Life £m	Standard Life £m
Opening value	0.8	0.5	2.0
Income	0.1	0.0	0.2
Expenditure	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.3)
Change in market value	0.0	0.0	0.1
Closing value	0.8	0.5	2.0

21. Related-party disclosure

- Staffordshire Pension Fund is administered by Staffordshire County Council. During the reporting period the County Council incurred costs of £2.1m (£2.1m in 2017/2018) in relation to the administration of the Pension Fund. The County Council was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses.
- The Pension Fund holds a proportion of its assets in cash to meet short term commitments. This cash is managed by the Staffordshire County Council Treasury and Pension Fund team in line with the Fund's Annual Investment Strategy, which sets out the permitted counterparties and limits. At 31 March 2019 the Fund held £102.1m in cash (£145.9m at 31 March 2018).
- New regulations stopped Staffordshire County Councillors from joining the scheme from 1 April 2014. Only Councillors who were members of the scheme at 31 March 2014 could continue to accrue benefits in the scheme up until the end of their term of office, which occurred when the local elections were held in May 2018. At 31 March none of the members of the Pensions Committee and the Pensions Panel remained members of the scheme.

LGPS Central Limited

- LGPS Central Limited has been established to manage investment assets on behalf of nine Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds across the Midlands. It is jointly owned in equal shares by the eight administering authorities participating in the LGPS Central Pool, of which Staffordshire County Council, as the administering authority for Staffordshire Pension Fund, is one of the shareholders.

The Pension Fund incurred no set-up costs in relation to LGPS Central Limited in 2018/19, and the Pension Fund's total share of set-up costs amounted to £0.514m cumulative for the last three years. £0.502m set-up costs were subsequently reimbursed by LGPS Central Limited to the Pension Fund in 2018/19. The Pension Fund invested £1.315m in share capital and £0.685m in a loan to LGPS Central Limited in 2017/18. These are both balances at the year end.

LGPS Central Limited launched its first products on 1 April 2018. During 2018/19, Staffordshire Pension Fund transferred £502.2m into the LGPS Central Active External Global Equity Multi Manager Sub-Fund from existing passive investments with Legal and General Investment Management. In total, the transition involved the restructuring of ten mandates (from five Partner Funds) to three active global equity mandates within the LGPS Central Authorised Contractual Scheme. The portfolios were funded to the new managers on 12 March 2019 and £0.002m was paid to LGPS Central for oversight of the assets to 31 March 2019.

The Pension Fund incurred £0.802m in respect of Governance, Operator Running and Product Development in connection with LGPS Central Limited in 2018/19 (£nil in 2017/18). The accounts payable in respect of these services at 31 March 2019 was £0.066m (£nil at 31 March 2018).

21a. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Staffordshire County Council County Treasurer (Section 151 Officer), Director of Corporate Services, and the Head of Treasury and Pensions. Total remuneration payable to key personnel in respect of the Pension Fund is set out below:

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£m	£m
Short Term Benefits	0.1	0.1
Post-employment Benefits	0.1	0.1
	0.2	0.2

22. Deferred debtor

A transfer was made from the Fund to the Civil Service Pension Scheme on 1 April 2005 in respect of Magistrates Courts. As at 31 March 2011 agreement had been reached that the Fund was due a payment that represented the shortfall between the assets held and the liabilities retained within the Fund. The shortfall of £8.512 million, including an allowance for the delay in receipt of 3.765%, meant ten payments were due to the Fund of £1.004m. At 31 March 2019, the remaining balance was £1.004m as per the long term assets in note 18.

23. Deferred liability

A cash transfer of £0.188m was made to the Fund in 2011/2012 by the Environment Agency. The transfer was in respect of Pre-1974 Water Company Pensions increase recharges and represents income received in advance. £0.013m has been transferred to the revenue account in 2018/2019 and £0.013m will be released per year until 2025/2026. At 31 March 2019 the remaining balance was £0.075m as per the long term liabilities in note 19.

24. Accounting Standards issued but not yet adopted

At the balance sheet date the following interpretations, new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code:

- **IAS 40** Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property provides further explanation of the instances in which a property can be classified as investment property. This will have no impact on the Fund's accounts.
- **IFRS 9** Financial Instruments: prepayment features with negative compensation amends IFRS 9 to make clear that amortised cost should be used where

prepayments are substantially lower than the unpaid principal and interest. The Fund has no loans to which this will apply.

- **IFRS 16 Leases:** will require local authorities that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheets as right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities. Implementation of IFRS 16 has been deferred until 1st April 2020 for Local Government. This will have no impact on the Fund's accounts.
- **IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration:** clarifies the treatment of payments in a foreign currency made in advance of obtaining or delivering services or goods. The Fund does not have any material transactions within the scope of this amendment.
- **IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments:** provides additional guidance on income tax treatment where there is uncertainty. This will have no impact on the Fund's accounts.
- **IFRS 12 Disclosure of Interests in other Entities:** states that an entity need not provide summarised financial information for interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures that are classified or included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale. This will have no impact on the Fund's accounts.
- **IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures:** clarifies that the option for a venture capital organisation and other similar entities to measure investments in associates and joint ventures at FVTPL is available separately for each associate or joint venture and that election should be made at initial recognition of the associate or joint venture. This is not expected to impact on the Fund's accounts.

Staffordshire Pension Fund (“the Fund”)

Actuarial Statement for 2018/19

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 57(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. It has been prepared at the request of the Administering Authority of the Fund for the purpose of complying with the aforementioned regulation.

Description of Funding Policy

The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority’s Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated March 2017 and updated March 2019. In summary, the key funding principles are as follows:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund using a prudent long term view. This will ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet all members’/dependants’ benefits as they fall due for payment;
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are reasonably stable where appropriate;
- to minimise the long-term cash contributions which employers need to pay to the Fund by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy which balances risk and return (this will also minimise the costs to be borne by Council Tax payers);
- to reflect the different characteristics of different employers in determining contribution rates. This involves the Fund having a clear and transparent funding strategy to demonstrate how each employer can best meet its own liabilities over future years; and
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the Council Tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable. For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to return their portion of the Fund to full funding over 20 years if the valuation assumptions are borne out. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrate that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is still around a 66% likelihood that the Fund will return to full funding over 20 years.

Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 was as at 31 March 2016. This valuation revealed that the Fund’s assets, which at 31 March 2016 were valued at £3,753 million, were sufficient to meet 78% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit at the 2016 valuation was £1,059 million.

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving full funding within a time horizon and probability measure as per the FSS. Individual employers’ contributions for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 were set in accordance with the Fund’s funding policy as set out in its FSS.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the 2016 valuation report.

Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date, and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2016 valuation were as follows:

Financial assumptions	31 March 2016
Discount rate	3.8%
Salary increase assumption	2.6%
Benefit increase assumption (CPI)	2.1%

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2013 model, assuming the current rate of improvements has reached a peak and will converge to long term rate of 1.25% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	22.1 years	24.4 years
Future Pensioners*	24.1 years	26.4 years

*Aged 45 at the 2016 Valuation.

Copies of the 2016 valuation report and Funding Strategy Statement are available on request from the Administering Authority to the Fund.

Experience over the period since 31 March 2016

Since the last formal valuation, real bond yields have fallen placing a higher value on the liabilities and there have been strong asset returns, particularly during 2016/17. Both events are of broadly similar magnitude with regards to the impact on the funding position.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2019. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time.



Douglas Green FFA

12 April 2019

For and on behalf of Hymans Robertson LLP

Pension Fund Accounts Reporting Requirement

Introduction

CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2018/19 requires Administering Authorities of LGPS funds that prepare pension fund accounts to disclose what IAS26 refers to as the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. I have been instructed by the Administering Authority to provide the necessary information for the Staffordshire Pension Fund ("the Fund").

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is to be calculated similarly to the Defined Benefit Obligation under IAS19. There are three options for its disclosure in the pension fund accounts:

- showing the figure in the Net Assets Statement, in which case it requires the statement to disclose the resulting surplus or deficit;
- as a note to the accounts; or
- by reference to this information in an accompanying actuarial report.

If an actuarial valuation has not been prepared at the date of the financial statements, IAS26 requires the most recent valuation to be used as a base and the date of the valuation disclosed. The valuation should be carried out using assumptions in line with IAS19 and not the Fund's funding assumptions.

Present value of promised retirement benefits

Year ended	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Active members (£m)	3,808	3,102
Deferred members (£m)	1,593	1,418
Pensioners (£m)	2,274	2,261
Total (£m)	7,675	6,781

The promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2019 have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31 March 2016. The approximation involved in the roll forward model means that the split of benefits between the three classes of member may not be reliable. However, I am satisfied that the total figure is a reasonable estimate of the actuarial present value of benefit promises.

Note that the above figures include an allowance for the "McCloud ruling", i.e. an estimate of the potential increase in past service benefits arising from this case affecting public service pension schemes.

The above figures include both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. Further, I have not made any allowance for unfunded benefits.

It should be noted the above figures are appropriate for the Administering Authority only for preparation of the pension fund accounts. They should not be used for any other purpose (i.e. comparing against liability measures on a funding basis or a cessation basis).

Assumptions

The assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority's IAS19 report and are different as at 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018. I estimate that the impact of the change in financial assumptions to 31 March 2019 is to increase the actuarial present value by £605m. There is no impact from any change in the demographic and longevity assumptions because they are identical to the previous period.

Financial assumptions

Year ended (% p.a.)	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Pension Increase Rate	2.5%	2.4%
Salary Increase Rate	2.9%	2.8%
Discount Rate	2.4%	2.7%

Longevity assumptions

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2013 model, assuming the current rate of improvements has reached a peak and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25% p.a.. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	22.1 years	24.4 years
Future pensioners (assumed to be aged 45 at the latest formal valuation)	24.1 years	26.4 years

Please note that the longevity assumptions have not changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund.

Commutation assumptions

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

Sensitivity Analysis

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:

Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2019	Approximate % increase to liabilities	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.5% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	9%	659
0.5% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	129
0.5% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate	11%	839

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption. For sensitivity purposes, I estimate that a 1 year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the liabilities by around 3-5%.

Professional notes

This paper accompanies my covering report titled 'Actuarial Valuation as at 31 March 2019 for accounting purposes'. The covering report identifies the appropriate reliances and limitations for the use of the figures in this paper, together with further details regarding the professional requirements and assumptions. This paper replaces that dated 12 April, as it include an allowance for the "McCloud ruling".



Douglas Green FFA

25 July 2019

For and on behalf of Hyman Robertson LLP

Glossary

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts. This is normally 12 months beginning on 1 April.

Accrual

An amount included in the final accounts to cover income or spending during an accounting period for goods or work done, but for which we have not received or made a payment by the end of that accounting period.

Actuarial Strain

This is a charge paid, or due to be paid to the pension fund for paying pensions early.

Actuarial Valuation

This is when an actuary checks what the pension scheme's assets are worth and compares them with what the scheme owes. They then work out how much the contributions from employers must be so that there will be enough money in the scheme when people get their pensions.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

This is an extra amount (contribution) a member can pay to their own pension scheme to increase their future pension benefits.

Admitted Bodies

Organisations which carry out public functions or receive public finance (or both), and are members of our fund (for example, housing associations).

Agency Services

When one organisation (the agent) provides services on behalf of another organisation that will pay for those services.

Amortisation

A charge we make each year in the income and expenditure account to reduce the value of an asset to zero over a period of years.

Balances

The total general balances we have available, including any income built up, which allows us to work without borrowing until we receive the first precept payments in the early part of the financial year. Balances form part of our reserves.

Balance Sheet

This is a summary of all our assets and liabilities, bringing together all our accounts except the pension fund and various trust funds, whose assets we cannot use.

Benchmarks

These are investment performance standards that we expect our investment managers to achieve and against which we measure their investment return.

Bid-Market Price

The price a buyer pays for a stock.

Billing Authority

The local authority responsible for collecting council tax. In shire areas the billing authority is the District Council.

Budget

A statement of our financial plans for a certain period of time. We prepare and approve a budget before the start of the financial year. We prepare our budget on an 'outturn basis', which means that increases for pay and prices during the financial year are contained within the total budget figure.

Budget Requirement

The amount of spending paid for using the council tax and government grant.

Capital Adjustment Account

This mainly represents the balance of the gains or losses arising when we revalue non-current assets to neutralise any effect on the taxpayer.

Capital Charge

A charge to reflect the cost of non-current assets used to provide services.

Glossary

Capital Direction

An instruction from the Government saying what spending can be treated as capital expenditure. This means that instead of having to be counted as revenue, we can pay for it using borrowed money or capital receipts.

Capital Expenditure

Spending to buy significant non-current assets that we will use or benefit from for more than a year (for example, land and buildings).

Capital Financing Requirement

Our need to borrow to pay for capital expenditure.

Capital Programme

Our plan of capital projects and spending over future years, including buying land and buildings, putting up new buildings and work, design fees and buying vehicles and major items of equipment.

Capital Receipts

The proceeds from selling an asset (for example, land or buildings) which we may use to pay for new capital spending or to repay loans we owe.

Capitalised

Spending on assets which carry a future benefit.

Centrally-Controlled Items

Budgets not under the control of chief officers. They include spending relating to property, insurance, repairs and maintenance, interest earned on funds and repaying money borrowed.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This is the professional organisation for accountants working in the public service.

Collateral Holdings

Assets pledged to a lender until the loan is repaid. If the borrower does not pay off the loan, the lender has the legal right to seize the asset and sell it to pay off the loan.

Collection Fund

A fund run by each billing authority into which council tax money is paid.

Combined Code

This represents best practice in corporate governance, as recommended by various reports on the subject.

Community Assets

Assets that we plan to hold onto indefinitely, that have no set useful life and that may have restrictions on being sold. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

Commutations

When a member of the fund gives up part of their pension in exchange for a lump sum.

Contingency

The money we set aside for unexpected spend.

Contingent Liabilities

An amount we could owe when we send the accounts for approval. We will include the liability in the balance sheet if we can estimate it reasonably accurately. Otherwise we would add the liability as a note to the accounts.

Contributors

Employees of authorities who contribute to the pension fund.

Corporate Governance

Issues relating to the way in which a company makes sure that it is giving most importance to the interests of its shareholders and how shareholders can influence how the company is managed.

Glossary

County Fund

Our main revenue fund into which the precept, National Non-Domestic Rates, government grants and other income are paid, and from which we pay the costs of providing services.

Credit Approvals

Authorisations the Government gives to local authorities. They allow the local authorities to pay for capital spending by borrowing or other credit arrangements such as leasing.

Creditors

Amounts we owe for work done, goods received or services provided which have not been paid for by the end of the financial year.

Credit Ceiling

This is a measure of the difference between our total liabilities for capital expenditure paid for using credit and the provision that has been made to meet those liabilities.

Curtailment Costs

Curtailment costs arise when many employees transfer out of the scheme at the same time, such as when an organisation transfers its members to another scheme.

Custody

Where a financial institution holds and manages the assets of the fund.

Debtors

Amounts owed to us for work done or services supplied which have not been paid by the end of the financial year.

Deferred Liabilities

Liabilities which by arrangement are payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or paid off with a yearly amount over a period of time.

Deficit

A situation where spending is more than income.

Depreciation

The loss of value of a non-current asset as it ages, wears out, is used, or comes to the end of its life.

Discontinued Operations

Any operation which meets all of the following conditions.

- a The operation is completed:
 - during a relevant period or within three months of the start of the next period; or
 - on the date on which we approve the accounts;whichever is earlier.

- b All activities have permanently stopped.

- c The assets, liabilities, income and spending of operations and activities are clearly separated for financial reporting purposes.

Fees and Charges

As well as income from council tax payers and the Government, we can charge for a number of services including providing school meals, meals-on-wheels, hiring out school halls and sporting facilities.

Financial Instrument

A contract that provides a financial asset for one organisation and, at the same time, another organisation owes us the same amount. Usually for us this is for long-term loans used to raise funds for capital investment.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

A non-cash reserve where we can balance the different rates at which gains and losses in financial instruments are recognised.

Financial Regulations

A written code of procedures we have approved, aimed at providing a framework for sound financial management.

Glossary

Fixed-interest Investments

Investments, mainly in stocks issued by the Government, which provide a fixed rate of interest.

Futures Contracts

A legally-binding agreement to buy or sell a certain amount of a financial product at an agreed price and on an agreed date in the future.

Hedge Fund

This is an investment fund that uses a number of types of investments to make a consistent and steady return. It aims to make money whether markets are falling or rising.

Impairment

Where an asset's value has been reduced for reasons other than normal wear and tear. The asset's value in the accounts has to be reduced to reflect this impairment.

Index-linked Securities

Investments in stock where the rate of interest and capital value are linked to the rate of inflation.

Infrastructure Asset

A non-current asset that cannot be taken away or transferred, and which we can only continue to benefit from by actually using it. Examples of infrastructure are roads, bridges and footpaths.

Investment Management Expenses

All expenses relating to managing the pension fund's investments.

Investment Managers

Firms we appoint to deal with the pension fund's investments on a day-to-day basis.

Leasing

A way of paying for capital spending where we pay a rental charge for a certain period of time. There are two main types of leasing arrangements.

a) Finance leases, which transfer all the risks and rewards of owning a non-current asset to the person taking out the lease. These assets are included in the non-current assets in the balance sheet.

b) Operating leases, where the leasing company owns the asset and the yearly rental is charged direct to the income and expenditure account.

Local Education Authority (LEA)

The part of the county council responsible for schools in Staffordshire.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The minimum amount we must charge to the income and expenditure account each year and set aside for paying off credit. This is currently 4% of the credit ceiling.

Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

A three-year financial-planning process designed to make best use of our aims within our available resources.

National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR)

This is the charge on non-domestic properties. It is the same for all businesses in England and is set each year by the Government. We pay the amounts we collect to the Government, and we then receive a share of the total paid to the Government.

Non-Current Assets

Assets that give us benefits for more than one year.

Payments in Advance

Amounts actually paid in an accounting period before the period they relate to.

Pension Administrative Expenses

All expenses relating to managing the pension scheme, including working out length of service and benefits and paying pensions.

Glossary

Performance Measurement

Measuring the investment performance of a pension fund. This often leads to comparisons with other funds and market indexes.

Plant

Items of mechanical or electrical equipment which perform specific construction or maintenance tasks, such as equipment used to maintain grass verges on roads.

Pooled Investments

When assets of more than one investor are combined.

Portfolio

A list of all the investments an investor owns.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which happen between the date the balance sheet is produced and the date the statement of accounts is approved.

Precept

We get part of our income from charges on the district councils in our areas. A charge, based on the 'council tax base' of the district council, is made on each district's 'collection fund'.

Provision

An amount we set aside to provide for something we will need to pay, but where we do not know the exact amount and the date on which it will arise.

Provision for Credit Liabilities (PCL)

An amount we must set aside to repay finance leases and for other limited purposes.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A government agency that provides longer-term loans to local authorities.

Realised Gain, Realised Loss

The profit or loss resulting from selling investments during the year.

Receipts and Payments

Amounts we actually pay or receive in a given accounting period, no matter for what period they are due.

Receipt in Advance

Amounts actually received in an accounting period before the period they relate to.

Refunds of Contributions

The amount employees will receive if they stop their pensionable employment within the first three months of working for us (two years in the past).

Reserves

'Earmarked reserves' are amounts set aside for a specific purpose in one financial year and carried forward to meet spending in future years. 'General reserves' are balances generally available to support revenue or capital spending.

Revenue Budget

The estimate of yearly income and spending requirements, which sets out the financial implications of our policies and the basis of the yearly charge we will make.

Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO)

A contribution towards paying for capital spending from the revenue account rather than by borrowing.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

A general government grant to support local authority spending, and fixed each year in relation to the formula spending share (FSS).

Running Expenses

The day-to-day costs we pay in providing services, not including salaries and expenses, capital financing charges and revenue contribution to capital outlay.

Glossary

Scheduled Bodies

Organisations whose membership of the fund is laid down in law.

Securities

Investing in shares of companies and in fixed-interest or index-linked stocks.

Specific Grants

Government grants to local authorities to help with particular projects or services.

Standing Orders

The set of rules we follow which set the procedures we use to carry out our business.

Stock Lending

Lending some securities, such as stocks and shares, corporate bonds and government securities from one investor to another approved investor, in return for a fee.

Tactical Asset Allocation

Using futures to:

- make sure that the fund's assets are invested in the relevant area and in line with the targets set for each type of asset and each country; and
- take views on the markets and currencies we expect to perform the best.

Time-Weighted Return

The total capital and revenue returns on a fund. We give this as a percentage of the opening values of the fund in each investment period. It also takes account of any new money received in that investment period.

Transfer Values

The amount that is available from one pension to buy benefits in another pension when employees join or leave the scheme.

Trust Funds

Funds we handle for such purposes as prizes, charities, special projects and on behalf of people under the age of 16.

Withholding Tax

A tax on the income from dividends. We may be able to recover some of this.

Work in Progress

The cost of work done on a project that is not yet finished and the cost has not been charged to the appropriate account at that date.