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Merton Council

Standards and General Purposes Committee

25 July 2019

Supplementary Agenda

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Committee: Standards and General Purposes

Date: 25 July 2019

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Audited Final Accounts 2018/19

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead Member: Cllr Mark Allison – Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officer: Roger Kershaw: Assistant Director of Resources 0208-545-3458

Key decision reference number: This report is written and any decisions taken are within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as laid out in Part 4-C of the Constitution.

Recommendations:

1. That Committee approve the audited Statement of Accounts, including the Group Accounts and the Pension Fund Accounts (Appendix 2), subject to any further comments from the External Auditor.
 2. That Committee note any comments made by the Pensions Fund Advisory Panel regarding the Pension Fund Accounts.
 3. To note EY's Audit Results Report (Appendix 4) for the Pension Fund accounts under the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260.
 4. To note EY's Audit Results Report (Appendix 3) for the Statement of Accounts under the ISA 260.
 5. That the Chair signs the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts (Appendix 2).
 6. That the Chair signs Letters of Representation (Appendices 3 and 4) for the Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts.
-

1 Purpose of report and executive summary

- 1.1. This report presents the audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 for adoption by Standards and General Purposes Committee in accordance with the statutory requirements contained in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the ISA 260.
- 1.2. A summary of the Statement of Accounts is attached as Appendix 1. The full draft accounts are attached as Appendix 2 to this report. Appendices 3 and 4 contain Ernst & Young's (EY's) Audit Results Reports on the main accounts and Pension Fund respectively, including two Letters of Representation, one for the main accounts and one for the Pension Fund. Appendix 5 contains the Council's revenue account, extracted from its Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) submission.

2 Details

- 2.1. The Accounting Code of Practice: Section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003 requires local authorities in the United Kingdom to keep their accounts in accordance with “proper practices”. This is defined, for the purposes of local government legislation, as meaning compliance with the terms of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, prepared by the CIPFA/LASAAC Joint Committee. The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to give a “true and fair” view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority. In particular, it prescribes the accounting treatment and disclosures for all normal transactions of a local authority.
- 2.2. The Code involves adaptations of International Financial Reporting Standards and other pronouncements by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) subject to such adaptations as are necessary for local government.
- 2.3. **Accounts and Audit Regulations:** These specify the timetable for producing the Council’s accounts which is as follows:
- 2.4. That the Council's statement of accounts must be ready for audit by no later than 31st May 2019 and in particular that the responsible financial officer must sign and date the accounts and certify that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the body at the year end and of that body’s income and expenditure for that year. There is no requirement for approval by committee at that stage. This target has been met.
- 2.5. That the committee of members must approve the Statement of Accounts by the 31st July 2019. The accounts must be signed and dated by the chairman of that committee and then published on the Council’s website. Subject to satisfactory completion of the audit by this date, this target has been met.
- 2.6. **Audit of the Council’s accounts:** Progress: Ernst & Young expect to complete all their work by the date of the committee. Until the audit work is fully complete, it is possible that amendments may arise. If they do, they will be reported to this committee. Subject to satisfactory completion of the remaining audit work, the results of the audit are that the accounts are unqualified, that is, the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.
- 2.7. Members being satisfied with the audited accounts, Members are requested to recommend that the Council approve the audited accounts.
- 2.8. Audit Results Reports: Ernst & Young has issued its draft Audit Results Reports (ARRs), under ISA 260. The auditors are required to comply with the Auditing Standards contained under ISA 260, which covers ‘Communications of Audit Matters with those charged with governance’. The auditor is required to report relevant matters relating to the audit to those

charged with governance. There is one ARR for the Statement of Accounts and a separate ARR for the Pension Fund accounts.

- 2.9. Audit Adjustments: In carrying out their audit work, the external auditors, EY, identify amounts in the financial statements which they consider are misstated. These are referred to under the “Audit Differences” page in the Audit Results Report (pages 22) and are summarised below..
- 2.10. (a) Unadjusted Difference: DSG reserve EY consider that a voluntary earmarked balance should not be presented in a deficit position, i.e. as a debit not a credit balance. Officers do not agree and will not be correcting for this.
- 2.11. (b) Adjusted Difference 1: Schools PFI accounting scheme. This is a misstatement which had been reported as part of the 2017/18 audit (SGPC November 2018) and which has already been corrected in the draft 2018/19 statements presented to EY at the start of the audit.
- 2.12. This authority has an accounting model for the schools’ PFI scheme. It enables the authority to account for the sums paid to its PFI provider, New Schools, as the cost of services, principal repayment of loans used to finance the building of the schools and interest on those loans, as required by the relevant accounting standard. The accounting adjustments under this standard are not part of budgetary control reporting. Their impact is purely in terms of presentation and they have nil net effect on the General Fund.
- 2.13. The specific accounting change recommended by EY was to increase the value of the loan outstanding which EY considered had been understated and to alter the profile of the loan repayment over the term of the scheme. The effect of the accounting changes up to the 31st March 2018 are set out below. These were not large enough to justify a prior period adjustment.
- 2.14. Balance Sheet: To increase the amount of the loans outstanding by £2.498m (i.e. Other Long Term Liabilities CR £2.498m) with a contra adjustment to the Capital Adjustment Account (Unusable Reserves) i.e. £2.498m DR.
- 2.15. General Fund Revenue: See summary in Table 1 below.

Table 1 PFI Accounting- General Fund Adjustment up to 31st March 2018.

Item	£000
Cost of Services (Childrens’ Schools and Families)	(2,070)
Provision of services-Financing and investment income- Interest on Loans to finance PFI schools	4,568
Movement in Reserves- reduction in amounts deemed to be loan repayments (shown as a reduction in the MRP) (*)	(2,498)
Net to General Fund	0

(*) EY estimate to November SGPC £3.1m

- 2.16. (c) Adjusted Difference 2: McCloud ruling: This matter relates to a recent legal ruling regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension

scheme transitional arrangements. This has been adjusted for during the audit in accordance with the relevant accounting standard. The accounting adjustment is shown in Table 2. This adjustment affects Unusable Reserves only.

Table 2 Estimated effect of McCloud ruling

General Fund revenue	£000
Cost of Services-additional pension fund liability under IAS19	6,550
Movement in Reserves-Transfer to Pensions Reserve	(6,550)
Net to General Fund	0
Balance Sheet	
Pensions Liability	(6,550)
Unusable Reserves	6,550

- 2.17. Letters of Representation: ISA 580, covering Management Representation, requires that the auditor be provided with written representation from management with appropriate responsibilities and knowledge of the financial statements. This applies to the main accounts and the Pension Fund Accounts.
- 2.18. ISA 260 requires that those charged with governance should sign agreement to the Letter of Representation. After the Committee has discussed and agreed the Letter of Representation, it has to be signed by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chair of the Committee is then required to sign agreement to the Letter of Representation. Copies of the letters to be signed for the main accounts and the Pension Fund accounts are included in Appendices 3 & 4.
- 2.19. **Financial Summary:** The audit work to date has not changed Usable Reserves but it has led to one change to Unusable Reserves.
- 2.20. Reserves: Table 3 contains a breakdown of all reserves, divided into Usable Reserves and Unusable Reserves.
- 2.21. Usable Reserves: Revenue reserves and fund balances are £67.070m as at 31st March 2019 (£60.720m as at 31st March 2018). This represents an increase of £6.350m.
- 2.22. Unusable Reserves: These are £184.373m as at 31st March 2019 (£198.252m as at 31st March 2018).

Table 3: Reserves

Reserves	2018/19 Draft Accounts as amended by external audit adjustment and still subject to audit £000	2017/18 Audited Accounts £000
1. Usable reserves		
General fund balance	13,778	12,778
General fund-schools	8,096	7,820
Earmarked reserves (excluding schools)	42,475	33,574
Earmarked reserves- schools	2,721	6,548
Revenue reserves and balances	67,070	60,720
Unapplied capital receipts	9,228	15,513
Unapplied capital grants	17,006	10,479
Other usable reserves	26, 234	25,992
Total usable reserves	93,304	86,712
2. Unusable reserves		
Collection fund	(476)	1,171
Other unusable reserves	184,949	197,081
Total unusable reserves	184,473	198,252
Total reserves	277,777	284,964

- 2.23. Outturn Table 4 shows the final outturn for the year. The departmental figures are those reported to the Cabinet. Net service expenditure was underspent by £1.995m There was an overall underspend on the General Fund (£7.656m) and this, together with the surplus on the Business Rates Retention Scheme (£3.852m), has been transferred to General Fund Balances (£1m) and earmarked revenue reserves (£10.508m).

Table 4: 2018/19 Outturn and Budget Variances

Cabinet Outturn Report	2018/19 Current Budget £000	2018/19 Outturn £000	2018/19 Variance £000
Department			
Corporate Services	10,433	7,465	(2,968)
Children, Schools & Families	59,083	61,535	2,452
Community & Housing	63,019	62,914	(105)
Environment & Regeneration	18,111	16,737	(1,374)
Net Service Expenditure	150,646	148,651	(1,995)
Corporate Provisions	(1,889)	(7,550)	(5,661)
Total General Fund	148,757	141,101	(7,656)
Grants	(9,855)	(9,855)	0
Business Rates	(51,463)	(55,315)	(3,852)
Council Tax and Collection Fund	(87,439)	(87,439)	0
Funding	(148,757)	(152,609)	(3,852)
Net underspend transferred to General Fund balances			1,000
Net underspend transferred to earmarked reserves			10,508

3 Alternative options

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

4 Consultation undertaken or proposed

- 4.1. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council is required to make available, for a 30 working day period, copies of the Statement of Accounts and related information for inspection by any interested person. During this period, interested persons also have the right to question the auditor, by prior appointment, about the accounts. The inspection period ran from 3rd June to 12th July 2019 and was advertised on the Council's website at www.merton.gov.uk/finance.
- 4.2. During the inspection period officers responded to two people who had made formal enquiries about the accounts. There were no requests to question the auditors about the accounts.

5 Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

- 5.1. The Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) process consolidates the audited accounts of around 4,000 organisations across the public sector in order to produce a comprehensive picture of the financial position of the UK public sector. WGA is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and is independently audited.

- 5.2. As an organisation within the WGA boundary, the Council is required each year to complete a WGA return in order that HM Treasury can produce the consolidated WGA accounts.
- 5.3. Ernst and Young provide an assurance statement to the National Audit Office in respect of the WGA return as part of their audit work on the Council's accounts, EY expect to provide the assurance statement by the 13th September 2019.
- 5.4. The Council's draft (pre audit) revenue account, extracted from the unaudited WGA return, is attached as Appendix 5.

6 Audit of Council's subsidiary companies

- 6.1. The Council has two wholly-owned subsidiaries, CHAS2013 Ltd and Merantun. CHAS2013 Ltd will be audited by Ernst & Young from the week beginning 2nd September 2019. Merantun will be audited from the week beginning 12th August 2019. It is not expected that this work will have any material impact on the Council's accounts.

7 Finance, resource and property implications

- 7.1. EY have advised that there will be additional audit fees for (a) additional work on Property, Plant and Equipment (£5,000 to £15,000) (b) additional work arising from changes in materiality and clearance of audit queries (£15,000 to £25,000). This will bring the cost of the audit to a figure in the range of £130,500 to £150,500. This compares to the scale figure previously notified of £110,500 (SGPC 14th March 2019).
- 7.2. This Council's 2018/19 accounts made provision for these sums which were funded from the approved 2018/19 budget for audit fees.

8 Legal and statutory implications

- 8.1. These are contained within the report, Members are referred to the Council's Constitution, and in particular the Financial Regulations, which are set out in Part 4f.

9 Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 Risk management and health and safety implications

- 11.1. None for the purposes of this report.

Appendices

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix 1: Summary Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019
- Appendix 2: Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019
- Appendix 3: Draft Ernst & Young Audit Results Report and Letter of Representation – Statement of Accounts
- Appendix 4: Draft Ernst & Young Audit Results Report and Letter of Representation - Pension Fund Accounts
- Appendix 5: Draft Whole of Government Accounts Revenue Account 2018/19

Background Papers

The papers used to compile this report are held within the Corporate Services Department. Specifically, they include:-

- Statement of Accounts 2018/19
- Working papers for the accounting entries
- Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.
- CIPFA- technical bulletins

Summary Statement of Accounts

31st March 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this explanatory paper is to provide Council stakeholders with a guide to the full Statement of Accounts and to give clear answers to the following key questions:

- What did our services cost in the year?
- Where did the money come from?
- What are our assets and liabilities?

It is both a summary and an interpretation of the accounts, highlighting the key issues that have arisen during the financial year. The full set of accounts are available on the Council's website at:

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/council/finance.htm>.

THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts, which has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Code of Accounting Practice, is the source of information for this paper, which focuses on the following key areas:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - Shows the net cost of Council services and the income received from fees and charges and specific grants from Central Government.

Balance Sheet - Shows the Council's assets and how they have been financed.

Pension Scheme (Defined Benefit Pension Scheme)- Shows member contributions to the scheme and the benefits paid from it, together with details of investment activity during the year. It excludes Pension Fund liabilities.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2018/19

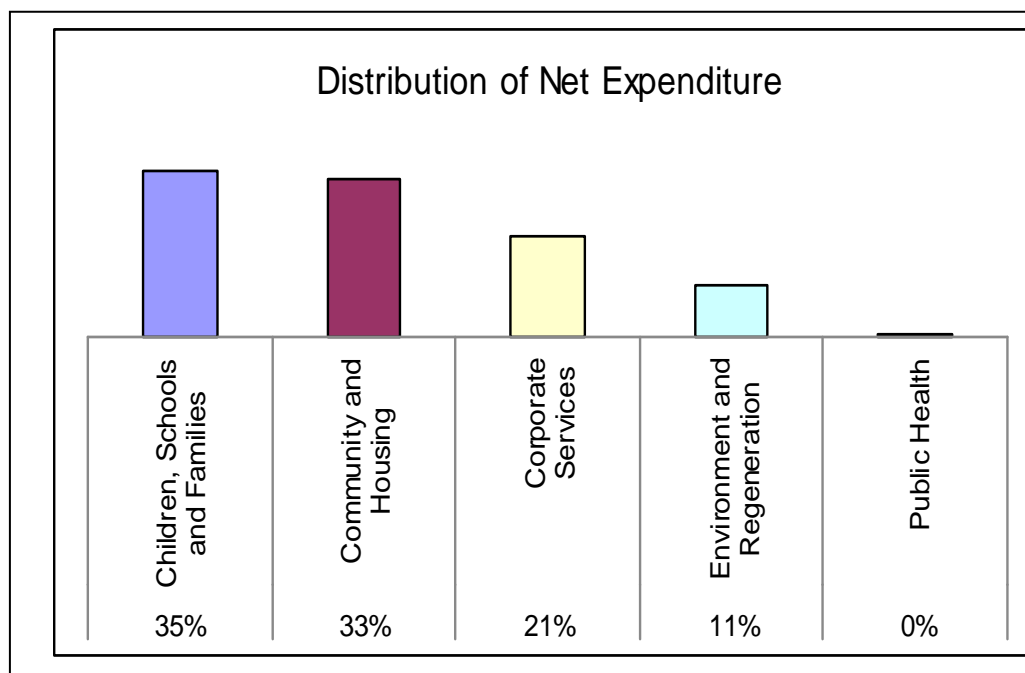
- Total net assets decreased by £7m, comprising a £13m decrease in unusable reserves and a £6m increase in usable reserves. The £13m decrease in unusable reserves was due to a £19m decrease in capital reserves; increase in the pensions reserve and Collection Fund adjustments totalling £6m.
- Borrowing remained unchanged at £113m at 31/03/19.
- The Council had a net underspend of £7.6m against its budget in 2018/19, which has been added to earmarked revenue reserves.

REVENUE SPENDING

Merton's net cost of services was £179.4m, attributable to services as shown below:

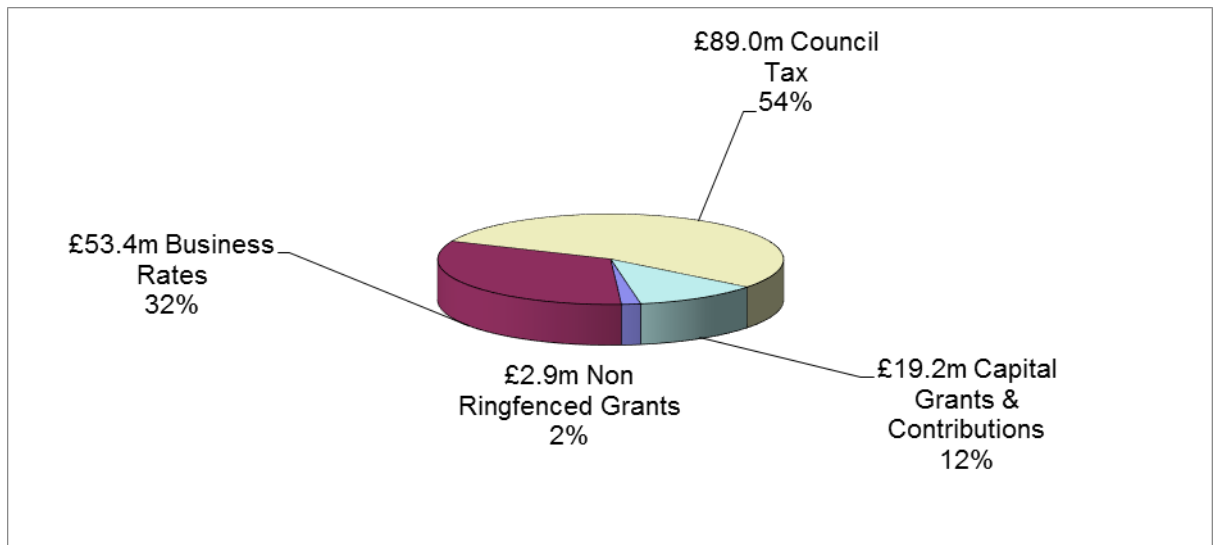
Service Areas	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Children, Schools and Families	231.7	(168.4)	63.3
Community and Housing	82.6	(23.2)	59.4
Corporate Services*	132.5	(94.6)	37.9
Environment and Regeneration	59.1	(40.3)	18.8
Public Health	10.1	(10.1)	0.0
Net Cost of Services	516.0	(336.6)	179.4

* Includes Housing Benefits



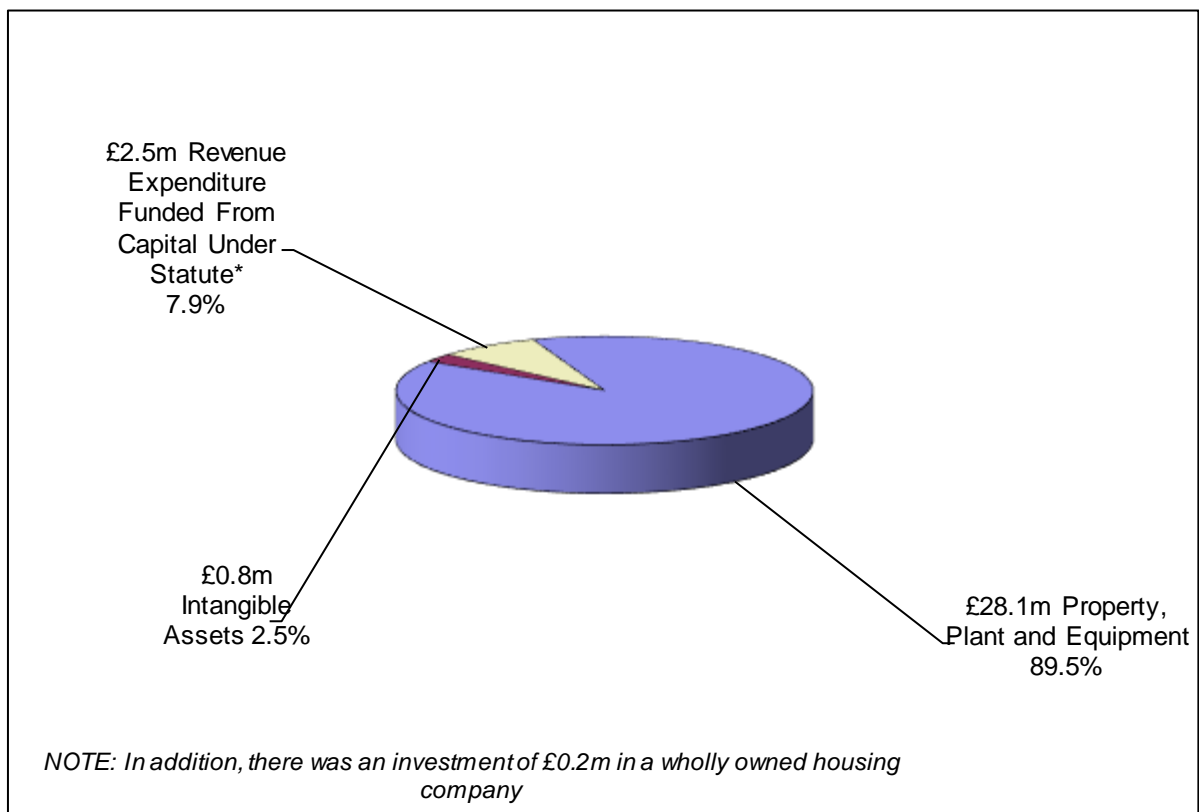
How was expenditure funded?

Other than income collected by departments from fees, charges and specific government grants, services are paid for from contributions from the business rates pool, council tax and special grants for specific purposes. The following chart shows the actual funding of the net cost of services from local taxation and non-specific grant income:



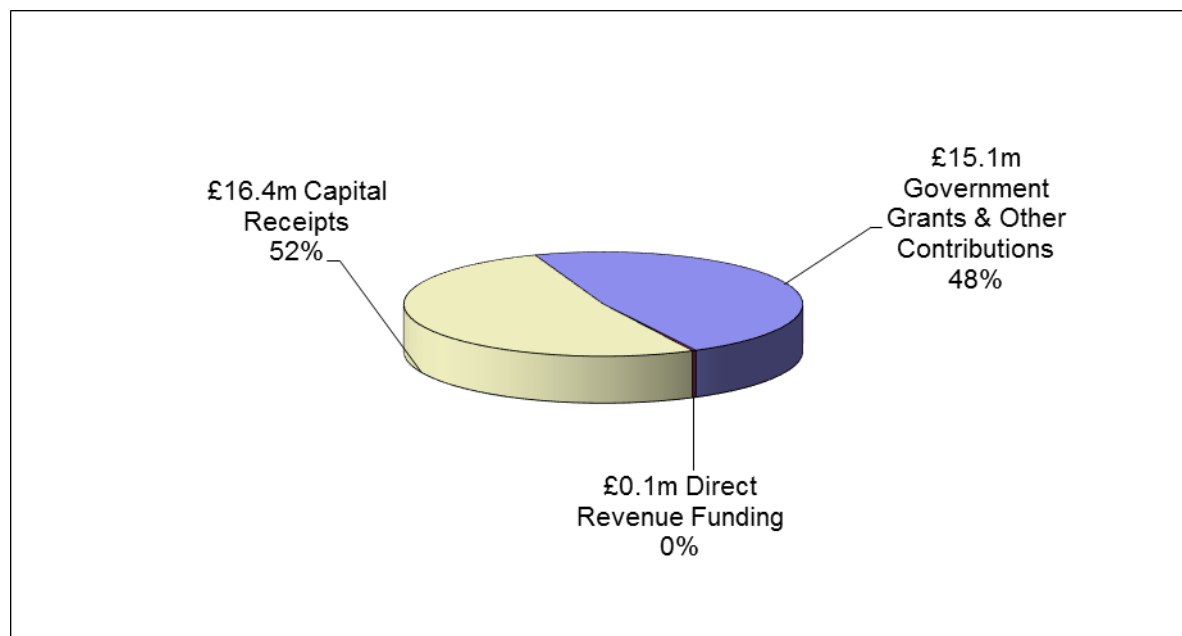
CAPITAL SPENDING

Capital expenditure relates to spending on fixed assets such as buildings and equipment where the benefits to the Authority last for more than one year. The Council spent £31.6m in 2018/19 as shown below.



*This is revenue expenditure, which can be funded from capital resources under statutory requirements.

Capital spending was financed from a variety of resources as shown below.



Capital expenditure and the budget for the next four years, is shown by department in the following table. The budget is based upon the budget approved on 6 March 2019 plus slippage:

Department	Outturn 2018/19 £000s	Capital Budget (£000's)			
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Corporate Services	4,918	28,857	4,270	3,870	14,167
Community and Housing	893	971	1,118	913	882
Children, Schools & Families	8,333	10,203	5,618	3,150	1,900
Environment & Regeneration	17,280	13,498	7,782	7,504	4,401
Total	31,424	53,529	18,788	15,437	21,350

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The Balance Sheet gives a snapshot of the Council's financial position at the year-end (i.e. 31st March 2019). It shows what the Council owns (its assets) and what it owes (its liabilities) and the funds which support them.

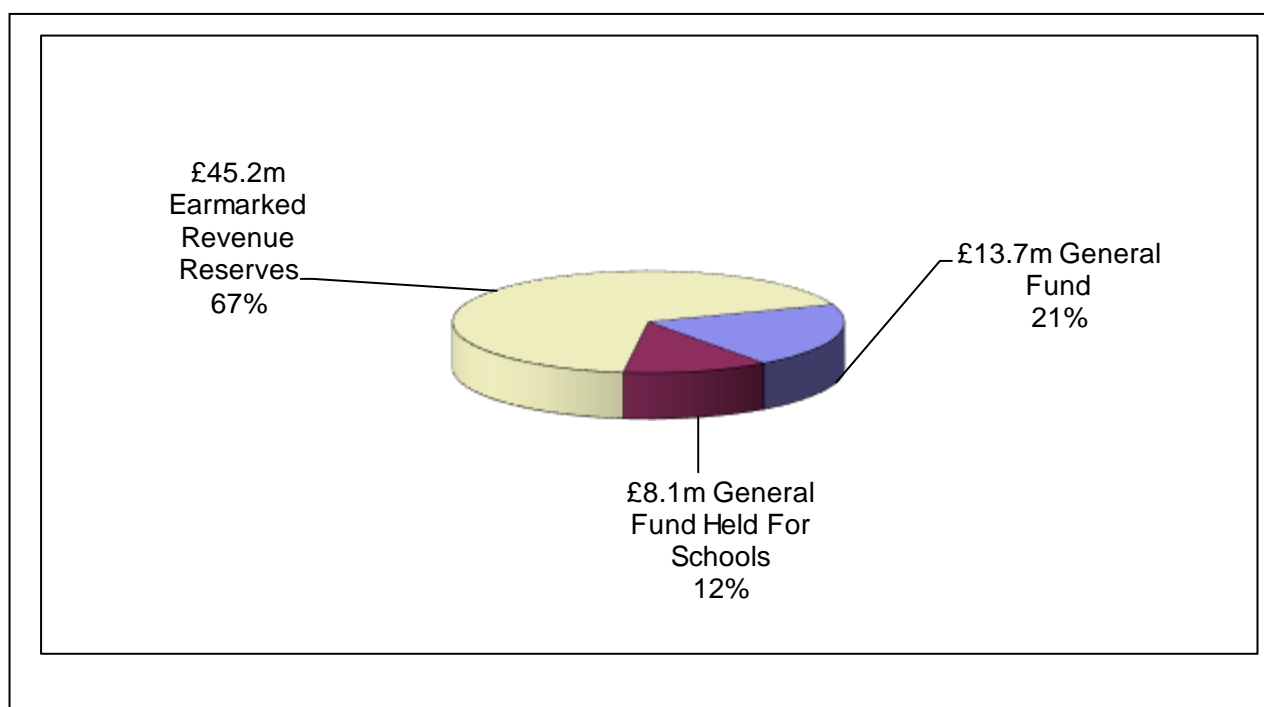
Summary Balance Sheet

Assets	As at 31 st March 2018 £m	As at 31 st March 2019 £m
Fixed and Other Long Term Assets	741	713
Current Assets including investments, cash and debtors	118	141
Current Liabilities including creditors and short term borrowing	(65)	(68)
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	794	786
Long term borrowings	(113)	(113)
Other liabilities and provisions	(46)	(52)
Pension Fund Liability	(350)	(343)
Total Long Term Liabilities	(509)	(508)
Total Net Assets	285	278
Represented by:		
Reserves and balances which can be spent	(87)	(93)
Reserves and balances which cannot be spent	(198)	(185)
Total Net Worth	(285)	(278)

RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES

In total, the Council now has usable reserves and fund balances amounting to £93m, being £26m capital receipts and grants, and £67m fund balances and revenue reserves which are broken down below.

Breakdown of Fund Balances and Revenue Reserves



PENSION SCHEME

The pension scheme is financed by contributions from employees and the employer, together with income and proceeds from investments administered by the Council. The Council is required to report where the assets and liabilities stand on an IAS19 commitment basis. On this basis, the assets in the scheme increased by £54m during the year to £665m and the estimated pension liability increased by £46m to £1,007m, leading to an £8m increase in the pension deficit, which stands at a notional £342m. Although this is a significant notional liability, the basis on which the pension deficit is valued for funding purposes is determined by a separate triennial actuarial valuation. Under the latest actuarial valuation, the Council has a 12-year plan to eliminate the deficit.

CABINET REPORTING

The revenue outturn in the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice, which is based on IFRS accounting. A reconciliation of the Cabinet reporting, which is used for management purposes, to the CIPFA Code of Practice reporting is provided within the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts as disclosure note 1.

Disclaimer: - All of the figures in this summary have been compiled having due regard to proper accounting practice. In order to provide simplified and meaningful summary information, some figures have been combined.



Statement of Accounts

For the year ending
31 March 2019

Statement of Accounts

For the year ending 31st March 2019

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Narrative Statement

This Narrative Statement gives an overview of the Authority's financial and service delivery performance in the year.

It follows approved accounting standards and where complex language is required a glossary of key terms can be found at the end of this publication.

Introduction

Welcome to the London Borough of Merton's 2018/19 Statement of Accounts, which reports the Authority's financial performance during the year and its financial position at 31st March 2019. The format and content of the financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2018/19.

Organisational overview

Merton Council is going through a transformation phase with a number of change projects which will maximise the use of information technology and streamline processes and service provision. Providing value for money services to residents is at the heart of Merton's business and the priority is to continue to find innovative solutions to maximise future efficiency.

Continued discussions about reshaping the way local authorities are financed, and changes to business rates retention will have a significant impact on the services that the council provides. In addition to further anticipated reduction in Government funding the Council expects to see rising demand for services from an increasing demographic in adult social care and children's services in particular.

The financial reality facing local government dominates the choices the Council will make for the future of the borough. The strategic priorities and principles are:

- To continue to provide a certain level of essential services for residents. The priorities of 'must' services are:
 - Continue to provide everything that is statutory
 - Maintain services – within limits – to the vulnerable and elderly

- After meeting these obligations Merton will do all that it can to help residents who aspire. This means addressing the following as priorities:
 - Maintain clean streets and keep council tax low.
 - Keep Merton as a good place for young people to go to school and grow up.
 - Be the best it can for the local environment.

The top priority continues to be to provide safe services of the best possible quality within financial constraints, delivering services that customers want and need.

Key Achievements in 2018/19

Despite the financial pressures the Council have in the last financial year opened:-

- a new leisure centre in Morden,
- a new day centre for adults with learning difficulties at Leyton Road and
- the Colliers Wood library.

The new waste contract with Veolia, shared with three other boroughs, has led to an increase in recycling rates as well as saving the Council money.

Collection of council tax improved again in 2018/19 and in year collection is at a record high for Merton.

Business rates collection remained static but collectable debt for business rates increased from the prior year. This is the result of the Council's ongoing dedication to pursuing collection from the minority of taxpayers and businesses that try to avoid paying. In these circumstances the approach is to make full use of legal powers to pursue these debts.

Universal Credit has now been rolled out fully across the borough for all new claims.

CHAS 2013 Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, provides supply chain risk management and compliance services. The company continues to grow with an increase in turnover and profit year on year. Building on its safety pre-qualification assessments, delivered to nationally recognised standards, the company increased the number of services offered to compete in the marketplace in the face of the increasing competition.

Merantun Developments Limited is a wholly owned housing subsidiary company of LB Merton, incorporated to deliver a mix of housing on small sites to contribute to Merton's housing targets and generate a revenue return to the Council's general fund. Four sites were identified for development and the company is making good progress on the design, site capacity, planning strategy and community engagement programme.

Operational Model

The Council delivers some services itself, commissions others to provide some services on its behalf and works in partnership with other boroughs and organisations to deliver services. The voluntary sector is a key partner in the Borough.

The Council is organised into four directorates:

- Children, Schools and Families
- Community and Housing
- Corporate Services
- Environment and Regeneration

Financial performance

Revenue Summary

Outturn

The Authority's financial performance is summarised by the table below

	2018/19 Current Budget £000	2018/19 Outturn £000	2018/19 Variance £000
Department			
Corporate Services	10,433	7,465	(2,968)
Children, Schools & Families	59,083	61,535	2,452
Community & Housing	63,019	62,914	(105)
Environment & Regeneration	18,111	16,737	(1,374)
Net Service Expenditure	150,646	148,651	(1,995)
Corporate Provisions	(1,889)	(7,550)	(5,661)
Total General Fund	148,757	141,101	(7,656)

Net General Fund underspend		(7,656)
Net underspend transferred to Earmarked Reserves		7,656

Grants	(9,855)	(9,855)	0
Business Rates	(51,463)	(55,315)	(3,852)
Council Tax and Collection Fund	(87,439)	(87,439)	0
Funding	(148,757)	(152,609)	(3,852)
Funding transferred to Earmarked Reserves			3,852

Net service expenditure was underspent by £1.995m. There was an overspend on children's placements costs as the demand for these services remains high and these pressures are expected to continue. This was offset by underspends on Corporate Services and Environment and Regeneration. The Corporate Services underspend was mainly due to a reduction in the provision for housing benefits, additional income from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) and an overachievement of fee income from the bailiffs service. Environment and Regeneration underspend was mainly due to higher penalty charge notice (PCN) income and a reduction in waste disposal costs.

Corporate provisions underspent by £5.7m which was primarily due to underspends on contingencies set aside for unforeseen service pressures and potential overspends, the provision for the pay award, excess inflation, and pension costs of early retirement and some additional credits arising from previous years.

There was an overall underspend of £7.656m against the budget which was transferred to various earmarked reserves.

Reserves

During 2018/19 the Authority's overall usable reserves increased by £6.592m. This was composed of a £6.350m increase in revenue reserves and fund balances and a £0.242m increase in capital balances.

The increase in revenue reserves was composed of a net increase in schools' general fund balances of £0.276m and a net £5.074m increase in earmarked revenue reserves. The general fund balance increased by £1m to £13.778m. The earmarked revenue reserves include the underspend of £7.656m and the additional income from the Business Rates Retention London Pilot Pool.

The net increase in capital reserves was composed of a net reduction in usable capital receipts (£6.285m) and a net increase in usable capital grants of £6.527m.

Usable Reserves	2018/19 Opening Balance £000	2018/19 Movement £000	2018/19 Closing Balance £000
General Fund Balances	12,778	1,000	13,778
General Fund Balances held by schools	7,820	276	8,096
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	40,122	5,074	45,196
Sub Total-Fund Balances and Revenue Reserves	60,720	6,350	67,070
Capital Receipts Reserve	15,513	(6,285)	9,228
Capital Grants Unapplied*	10,479	*6,527	17,006
Capital Reserves	25,992	242	26,234
Total Usable Reserves	86,712	6,592	93,304

* Movement in 2018/19 reflects 2019/20 grants recognised as income but not yet applied to finance capital projects.

Risks

A key risk affecting the Council relates to its financial position. Local government continues to be affected by reductions in the level of funding it receives from central government. Strong financial management is vital to ensure that the Council is financially resilient and prepared to meet any future challenges.

Whilst the Council has managed to set a balanced budget for each year in accordance with statutory requirements, there continues to be a significant budget

gap over the four year period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. At the same time, delivery of the annual budget is also dependent upon the delivery of savings which have been identified and agreed by Council as part of the annual budget process.

Economic Outlook

The uncertainty about future funding makes effective medium term financial planning extremely challenging.

Some government funding, often in response to particular issues identified over the short term does not enable the long term strategic planning which is essential to enable local authorities to function effectively. There is also currently a key dependence on funding sources such as the Better Care Fund but considerable uncertainty about their continuity and longevity.

Cost pressures as well as demand pressures are significant elements in local authority financial pressures.

Since 2010 local government finance issues have been dominated by cuts in government funding and pressure to keep council tax increases down with a recent change in emphasis to allow council tax increases to help alleviate service pressures, particularly in adult social care.

It is one of the Council's stated priorities to keep council tax low. To achieve this, the Council must have regard to the major risks to its financial position and in particular:

- The current economic position including future risks relating to Brexit
- Demand pressures on the budget
- Identifying and achieving cost and income improvements
- Risks to Government funding levels, particularly in light of the impending Spending Review 2019 and the Fair Funding Review currently both due to take effect in 2020/21
- Risks to other income streams including Business Rates Retention

Major Issues impacting over the medium term financial strategy and areas of uncertainty

Brexit

Since the UK voted to leave the European Union in 2016 it has become clear that Brexit will create both risks and opportunities for local government but the biggest issue at the current time is the uncertainty that it is creating and the resulting pressure on all aspects of government policy. This is having an impact on future funding certainty.

With this in mind, the council is putting processes in place and has a Brexit task group who meet regularly to identify the possible issues and strengthen its resilience and

develop contingency plans in key areas such as workforce, regeneration, funding, legislation and community cohesion.

Spending Review 2019

A Spending Review is a Treasury-led process to allocate resources across all government departments, according to the Government's priorities. Historically, Spending Reviews have usually covered a period of at least three years which are preferential as they give departments' greater certainty over their future budgets, which can aid long term planning and make for better policymaking. However, given heightened uncertainty particularly concerning the potential economic impact of Brexit, the Government may decide to have a review that covers a shorter period, perhaps even a one-year review. This lack of clarity makes forward planning extremely difficult.

Fair Funding Review

Central government funding for local authorities is based on an assessment of its relative needs and resources. The overarching methodology that determines how much funding each authority receives each year was introduced over ten years ago and has not been updated since funding baselines were set at the start of the 50 per cent business rates retention scheme in 2013/14.

The government is therefore undertaking the Fair Funding Review to update the needs formula and set new funding baselines for the start of the new 75 per cent business rates retention scheme, from April 2020.

Business Rates Baselines Reset 2020

The business rates retention system is due to be "re-set" for 2020-21.

Notwithstanding the wider reforms to the local government finance and business rates retention systems, the Government currently envisage that the re-set will establish new baseline funding levels and business rates baselines for each local authority that is party to the rates retention system.

Business Rates Retention

In 2018/19, Merton, along with all other London boroughs participated in the 100% London Pilot Pool. This had some financial advantages to London. However, the Government has subsequently decided to reduce the level of local government Business Rates Retention to 75% and London is piloting this in 2019/20 ahead of the Government's plan to fully implement 75% Business Rates Retention for all local authorities in 2020/21. There are risks around estimating the level of Business Rates income that can support the Council's budget. These can emanate from the pressures on the high street from online retail and possibly the repercussions from Brexit, leading to an increase in empty properties, rates relief defaults appeals and late payments.

Business Rates and the High Street

In the Autumn Budget 2018, the government announced a business rates discount scheme for small-sized high street properties in England which have a rateable value below £51,000. This means that small businesses will receive a one-third discount on their rates bills from April 1 2019 for the next two years.

The Government is still under pressure to reform business rates to help high streets.

Use of Reserves

Reserves have been used to protect services and although unsustainable in the medium term, it has helped in the management of the significant underlying financial pressure and its ultimate impact on service users and residents. The Council maintains a minimum level of general fund reserves to protect against uncertainty and fluctuations in demand led budgets.

The Authority's full Business Plan including performance indicators is published at: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/finance/budgets>

Capital Summary

Capital investment amounted to £31.6m in 2018/19 (£32.7m in 2017/18), this sum comprises £31.4m capital expenditure and £0.2 million investment in a wholly owned housing company. The programme was financed through the application of capital grants/contributions (£15.1m), capital receipts (£16.4m) and revenue contributions (£0.1m). Capital receipts received in year totalled £10.1m (£4.5m in 2017/18), this included £5.9m from the Department of Education for the development of a new secondary school site.

Of the total £31.6m capital expenditure, £28.1 million was spent on the purchase/enhancement of property, plant and equipment, £0.8 million on the purchase/enhancement of intangible assets, £0.2 million investment in a wholly owned housing company and £2.5 million was revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

Capital Investment Plans

The Authority's capital investment budget for the next four years, as at March 2019, is shown in the following table, alongside 2018/19 outturn. Capital investment is required both to maintain existing levels of service and to expand service provision in some areas.

Department	Outturn 2018/19 £000s**	Capital Budget (£000's)			
		2019/20*	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Corporate Services	4,918	28,857	4,270	3,870	14,167
Community and Housing	893	971	1,118	913	882
Children, Schools & Families	8,333	10,203	5,618	3,150	1,900
Environment & Regeneration	17,280	13,498	7,782	7,504	4,401
Total	31,424	53,529	18,788	15,437	21,350

* Excludes any proposed slippage from 2018-19 ** Excludes investment in the Housing Company

The following projects, whose cost is included in the previous table, are expected to expand service provision:

Capital projects aimed at service expansion	Capital Budget (£000's)			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Secondary school expansions	3,154	6,352	2,552	0
Special Educational Needs school expansions	4,852	3,178	1,250	0
Replace Morden Leisure Centre and Lake De-silting	1,517	0	0	0
Total	9,523	9,530	3,802	0

Further information about capital investment plans can be found in the Authority's Business Plan, located at:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/finance/budgets>

Investments and Borrowing

The Authority's Treasury activities are managed in accordance with Councils' Treasury Management Strategy (approved by full Council in March 2019).

The Authority manages its cash in-house, placing investments for periods ranging from overnight to over 12 months depending on anticipated cash flow requirements.

As at 31 March 2019 the Authority held all its investments in short-term deposits totalling £60m (2017/18 £59m) and none in long term deposits (2017/18 £5m). In the year the Authority earned £1.123m of income from these deposits (2017/18-£0.78m). This represents a 44% increase from 2017/18 and £223k above the budgeted interest income (£900k) for the year.

As at 31st March 2019 Long-term borrowing remained at £113.0m and no short term borrowing. In the year the Authority paid £6.315m in interest (£6.420m in 2017/18) on these borrowings.

Pensions

The Merton Pension Fund is a LGPS defined benefit pension scheme administered by London Borough of Merton. The scheme is managed in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. As at 31 March 2019 the Fund's net asset value was £721.3m and it had 13,668 members in total.

The Council is the largest employer of the Fund (95%) and, as at 31 March 2019, there were 12,473 Council employees in the Fund. At the 2016 Triennial valuation, the Fund was 94% funded with the assets of £525m against its liability of £558m. Currently the Fund is carrying out its 2019 Triennial valuation which is scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2020.

Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts is comprised of the following statements:

- **Core Financial Statements**
 - **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services for the functions for which the Authority is responsible and demonstrates how they have been financed.
 - **The Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)** – shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority and is used to adjust the net surplus or deficit on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) to the amount chargeable under statute to the Authority's general fund.
 - **The Balance Sheet** - summarises the Authority's financial position at year-end.
 - **The Cash Flow Statement** - summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.
- **Notes to the Core Financial Statements** - provides additional information which supports and explains the figures in the core financial statements. It also includes a technical annex which contains the accounting policies.
- **The Collection Fund** - reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate account that shows the transactions of the Authority in relation to non-domestic rates and council tax.
- **Pension Fund Accounts** - shows the contributions to and the benefits paid from the pension fund and identifies the investments which make up the assets of the fund.
- **Group Financial Statements** which combine the core financial statements of this authority with those of its subsidiaries, CHAS and Merantun Developments Limited, comprise the following -
 - **Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**
 - **Group Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)**
 - **Group Balance Sheet**
 - **Group Cash Flow Statement**

- **Statements of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts** – set out the different responsibilities of the Authority and the Director of Corporate Services.

1. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

2017/18				Note	2018/19		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net			Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net
£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	£000
			Continuing Operations				
224,986	(164,367)	60,619	Children, Schools and Families	1	231,684	(168,368)	63,316
87,178	(18,914)	68,264	Community and Housing	1	82,659	(23,237)	59,422
114,394	(102,129)	12,265	Corporate Services	1	132,485	(94,618)	37,867
59,649	(37,356)	22,293	Environment and Regeneration	1	59,149	(40,340)	18,809
11,511	(11,002)	509	Public Health	1	10,143	(10,118)	25
497,718	(333,768)	163,950	Cost of services		516,120	(336,681)	179,439
		(3,068)	Other operating income and expenditure	3			15,904
		17,009	Financing and investment income and expenditure	4			19,513
		(167,481)	Taxation and non-specific grant income	5			(164,486)
		10,410	Deficit on Provision of Services				50,370
		(21,449)	(Surplus) on revaluation of non-current assets	17			(292)
		0	Impairment losses on non-current assets	17			0
		(41,898)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability/ (asset)	17, 32			(42,891)
		0	Surplus or Deficit on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				0
		(63,347)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(43,183)
		(52,937)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				7,187

2. Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in year of the authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The net increase/decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	Note	General Fund Balances £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2017		(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(232,027)
<i>Movement in reserves during 2017/18</i>							
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		10,410			10,410	(63,347)	(52,937)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	18	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	(4,756)	4,756	0
(Increase)/Decrease in Year		1,409	7,473	(3,228)	5,654	(58,591)	(52,937)
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward		(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(284,964)

	Note	General Fund Balances £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied Note	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2018		(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(284,964)
Rounding amendment between Usable Reserves at 1 April		(2)	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Movement in reserves during 2018/19</i>							
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		50,370	0	0	50,370	(43,183)	7,187
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	18	(56,718)	6,285	(6,528)	(56,962)	56,962	0
(Increase)/Decrease in Year		(6,348)	6,285	(6,528)	(6,592)	13,779	7,187
Balance at 31 March 2019 carried forward		(67,070)	(9,228)	(17,005)	(93,304)	(184,473)	(277,777)

3. Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the Authority's assets and liabilities as at 31st March. The Authority's net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the Authority's reserves.

31 Mar 2018	Balance Sheet		31 Mar 2019
£000		Notes	£000
724,092	Property, Plant & Equipment	19	701,323
802	Heritage Assets	21	802
4,500	Long Term Investments	9&10	0
0	Investment in Subsidiaries	34	161
4,301	Intangible Assets	20	4,012
7,590	Long Term Debtors	7	6,850
741,285	Long Term Assets		713,148
55,193	Short Term Investments	9&10	60,239
1	Inventories	36	1
31,373	Short Term Debtors	7	37,250
1,183	Assets Held for Sale	22	700
30,434	Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	42,377
118,184	Current Assets		140,567
(1,487)	Short Term Borrowing	9&10	(1,495)
(62,964)	Short Term Creditors	8	(63,608)
(641)	Current Provisions	11	(2,868)
(65,092)	Current Liabilities		(67,971)
(5,368)	Provisions	11	(9,828)
(113,010)	Long Term Borrowing	9&10	(113,010)
(29,778)	Other Long Term Liabilities (i)	9	(30,129)
(350,088)	Pension Liability	32	(342,678)
(11,169)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	6	(12,322)
(509,413)	Long Term Liabilities		(507,967)
284,964	Net Assets		277,777
(86,712)	Usable Reserves	16	(93,304)
(198,252)	Unusable Reserves	17	(184,473)
(284,964)	Total Reserves		(277,777)

(i) Other Long Term Liabilities include PFI Liabilities (£29.385m), finance lease liabilities (£790) and other Liabilities relating to cash Received in Advance, totalling £54k.

Signed

Caroline Holland
 Director of Corporate Services
 25th July 2019

4. Cash Flow Statement

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

2017/18 £000	Cash Flow Statement	Note	2018/19 £000
10,410	Net deficit on the provision of services		50,370
(42,875)	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	15a	(88,051)
24,917	Adjustments for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	15b	30,840
(7,548)	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	15c	(6,841)
(6,056)	Investing Activities	15d	(5,376)
13,580	Financing Activities	15e	274
(24)	Net (increase) in cash and cash equivalents		(11,943)
30,410	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		30,434
30,434	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	14	42,377

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

NOTE 1: EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the authority (i.e. government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's departments. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2017/18			2018/19			
Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES	DEPARTMENT	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
57,123	3,496	60,619	Children, Schools and Families	61,535	1,781	63,316
65,654	3,119	68,773	Community and Housing (including Public Health)	62,914	(3,467)	59,447
8,963	3,302	12,265	Corporate Services	7,465	30,402	37,867
16,810	5,483	22,293	Environment and Regeneration	16,737	2,072	18,809
148,550	15,400	163,950	Sub-total - Cost of Services	148,651	30,788	179,439
(147,141)	(6,399)	(153,540)	Other income and expenditure	(154,999)	25,930	(129,069)
1,409	9,001	10,410	Deficit	(6,348)	56,718	50,370
(62,129)			Opening General Fund Balances	(60,722)		
1,409			Less deficit /(surplus) in year	(6,348)		
(2)	(i)		Closing General Fund Balances	(67,070)		
(60,722)						

NOTE 1: EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

(i) Rounding adjustment between Usable Reserves see Movement in Reserves Statement

Analysis of Differences between General Fund and CIES 2018/19

Department	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for pensions adjustments	Other statutory adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments
<i>Note</i>	(1) £000	(2) £000	(3) £000	(4) £000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	9,875	8,902	(208)	(16,788)	1,781
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	93	2,935	49	(6,544)	(3,467)
Corporate Services	2,634	11,734	6	16,028	30,402
Environment and Regeneration	12,632	2,935	66	(13,561)	2,072
Sub-total of adjustments within net cost of services	25,234	26,506	(87)	(20,865)	30,788
Other income and expenditure	(5,558)	8,975	1,648	20,865	25,930
Total adjustments	19,676	35,481	1,561	0	56,718

Analysis of Differences between General Fund and CIES 2017/18

Department	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for pensions adjustments	Other statutory adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments
<i>Note</i>	(1) £000	(2) £000	(3) £000	(4) £000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	(1,568)	9,535	(315)	(4,156)	3,496
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	407	2,798	23	(109)	3,119
Corporate Services	1,760	(778)	7	2,313	3,302
Environment and Regeneration	11,205	2,604	3	(8,329)	5,483
Sub-total of adjustments within net cost of services	11,804	14,158	(282)	(10,281)	15,400
Other income and expenditure	(26,622)	9,718	224	10,281	(6,399)
Total adjustments	(14,818)	23,877	(58)	0	9,001

NOTE 1: EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

Column 1: Adjustments for capital purposes

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

- Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory Minimum Revenue Provision charge for capital financing and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Column 2: Net change for the pensions adjustments

This column adjusts for the difference between pension contributions paid in year and the cost of pensions as calculated on an IAS 19 basis:

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Column 3: Other statutory adjustments

This column adjusts for other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute, including:

- The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund.
- An adjustment for any unused employee holiday balances at year-end, which must be charged to the CIES, but is not chargeable to the General Fund (the charge is transferred to the accumulated absences reserve).

Column 4: Presentational differences

This column adjusts for presentational differences, such as for leases and certain grants, between internal management reporting and reporting as per the Code of Practice.

NOTE 2: EXPENDITURE AND INCOME BY NATURE

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

2017/18		2018/19
£000	Note	£000
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
206,851	Employee expenses*	211,991
274,986	Other service expenses	277,848
15,791	Depreciation, Impairment losses and revaluation increases within Cost of Services (i)	27,091
(379)	Support Services Recharges	(810)
497,249		516,120
6,592	Interest Payments relating to Financial Instruments	6,315
3,491	Other Interest Payments inc PFI and Leases	8,482
933	Precepts & Levies	938
9,718	Interest on net defined benefit liability (asset)	8,975
0	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	14,966
178	Trading accounts deficit/(surplus)	(98)
518,161	Total Expenditure	555,698
	<u>INCOME</u>	
(73,609)	Fees, charges and other service income	(80,273)
(259,691)	Government grants	(256,408)
(333,300)		(336,681)
(1,630)	Interest & investment income receivable	(2,056)
(4,001)	(Gain) on disposal of fixed assets	0
(1,340)	Other finance and investment income	(2,105)
(167,481)	Taxation & non-specific grant income	(164,486)
(507,752)	Total Income	(505,328)
10,409	Deficit on the Provision of Services	50,370

(i) In addition, depreciation of £0.680m was charged to Trading services.

*Includes the following expenditure on staff employed at voluntary-aided and foundation schools:

NOTE 2: EXPENDITURE AND INCOME BY NATURE

Employee Expenditure	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
VA Schools	31,852	30,575
Foundation Schools	5,953	6,063
Total	37,805	36,638

A segmental analysis of certain types of income and expenditure within Cost of Services shown below.

2017/18 Segmental Analysis				2018/19 Segmental Analysis		
Fees Charges and Other service income £000	Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority £000	Depreciation amortisation and revaluations £000	Department	Fees Charges and Other service income £000	Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority £000	Depreciation amortisation and revaluations £000
(4,097)	5,247	1,775	Children, Schools and Families	(3,944)	5,186	10,606
(17,414)	4,710	476	Community and Housing (including Public Health)	(18,255)	4,496	960
(16,236)	(15,513)	2,000	Corporate Services	(18,781)	(15,237)	2,718
(35,862)	5,177	11,540	Environment and Regeneration	(39,292)	4,745	12,807
(73,609)	(379)	15,791	Total	(80,272)	(810)	27,091

NOTE 3: OTHER OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
933	Precepts and Levies	938
(4,001)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	14,966
(3,068)	Total	15,904

The loss on the disposal of current assets shown in the table includes £9m (representing 1.3% of total Property Plant and Equipment assets of £701m) relating to Aragon Primary School which transferred to Academy status in 2017/18. It was not considered necessary to make a Prior Period Adjustment for this because the asset continues in use as a school but now under Central Government control. The transfer had no impact on Usable Reserves.

NOTE 4: FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2017/18 £000		Note	2018/19 £000
10,083	Interest payable and similar charges	9	14,797
9,718	Net interest on defined pension liability	32	8,975
(1,630)	Interest receivable and similar income (i)	9	(2,056)
178	Trading accounts not related to services	35	(98)
(1,340)	Other (income)/expenditure including income from subsidiaries (ii)		(2,105)
17,009	Total		19,513

Notes

(i) This figure includes receivable income from finance leases

(ii) Includes dividend payment and Intellectual Property licence fee payment from subsidiary CHAS Limited.

NOTE 5: TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOMES

2017/18		Note	2018/19
£000			£000
(84,579)	Council tax income	6	(88,980)
(26,174)	Non domestic rates	6	(53,413)
(40,651)	Non-ringfenced government grants	6	(2,936)
(16,077)	Capital grants and contributions	6	(19,157)
(167,481)	Total		(164,486)

NOTE 6: GRANT INCOME

The London Borough of Merton credited the following grants, contributions, donations and taxation income to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2018/19:

Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Council Tax	(84,579)	(88,980)
Revenue Support Grant (i)	(15,519)	0
Business Rates	(26,174)	(53,413)
Top-up Grant (ii)	(8,901)	0
NDR Pool Tariff (ii)	n/a	9,567
Net NDR Pool Benefit (iii)	n/a	(512)
Capital Grant Income	(16,077)	(19,157)
PFI Contribution	(4,797)	(4,797)
New Homes Bonus Grant	(4,148)	(2,371)
Section 31 Grant	(1,706)	(4,210)
Other grants under £1 million	(491)	(613)
	(162,392)	(164,486)
Education Service Grant	(1,592)	n/a
Adult Social Care Grant	(3,497)	n/a
Total	(167,481)	(164,486)

Grants and Contributions Credited to Services	£000	£000
Credited to Services		
Schools Delegated Budget	(142,860)	(145,603)
Housing Benefits Subsidy	(82,137)	(73,995)
Public Health Grant	(10,727)	(9,876)
Benefits Administration	(909)	(811)
Pupil Premium	(5,921)	(5,921)
Sixth Form Funding	(5,530)	(5,502)
Education Service Grant (iv)	see above	0
Adult Social Care Grant	see above	(2,265)
Universal Infant Free School Meals	(2,306)	(2,310)
Adult Education Main	(1,111)	(745)
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (previously within grants under £1m)	(329)	(1,163)
Total grants under £1million (v)	(7,861)	(8,217)
Total Grants	(259,691)	(256,408)
Contributions over £1million and material items		
Contributions from CCG	(2,552)	(3,346)
Local Taxation Services	(925)	(1,061)
Shared Legal Service	(3,390)	(3,717)
Recharge for out of borough SEN support	(469)	(485)
Other contributions	(8,007)	(11,044)
Total Contributions	(15,343)	(19,653)
TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	(275,034)	(276,061)

NOTE 6: GRANT INCOME

Notes

(i) L B Merton did not receive Revenue Support Grant in 2018/19 as it was part of the 100% London Pilot Pool.

(ii) In 2018/19 L B Merton entered into the 100% London Pilot Pool for Business Rates and Merton became a tariff authority.

(iii) NDR Pool

Councils contribution to NDR Pool based upon difference between 100% and 67% Business Rates Retention schemes 2,444

Councils net pooling adjustment (2,956)

(512)

(iv) refers to internal contribution towards support overheads and has been removed in 18/19 as a requirement of the Code of Practice

(v) includes grant income credited to services to fund REFCUS.

The Authority has received a number of capital grants that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them which, if not met, will require the monies to be returned. The balances at the year-end are shown are in the following table:

Long Term Liabilities - Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(357)	(828)
Section 106	(10,380)	(10,401)
Schools Capital Grants	(432)	(1,093)
Total	(11,169)	(12,322)

DEBTORS, CREDITORS AND CASH FLOW

NOTE 7: Debtors

31-Mar 2018			31-Mar 2019			
Gross Debt £000	Impairment £000	Net Debt £000		Gross Debt £000	Impairment £000	Net Debt £000
			Long Term Debtors			
705	0	705	Other local authorities	670	0	670
11,759	(4,874)	6,885	Bodies external to general government	10,386	(4,206)	6,180
12,464	(4,874)	7,590	Total Long Term Debtors	11,056	(4,206)	6,850
			Short Term Debtors			
4,902	0	4,902	Central government bodies	6,721	0	6,721
454	0	454	NHS bodies	2,164	0	2,164
1,700	0	1,700	Other local authorities	3,318	0	3,318
36,297	(11,980)	24,317	Bodies external to general government	37,498	(12,451)	25,047
43,353	(11,980)	31,373	Total Short Term Debtors	49,701	(12,451)	37,250
55,817	(16,854)	38,963	Total Debtors	60,757	(16,657)	44,100

Financial Instruments in Debtors

31-Mar 2018			31-Mar 2019			
Gross Debt £000	Impairment £000	Net Debt £000		Gross Debt £000	Impairment £000	Net Debt £000
			Long Term Debtors			
705	0	705	Other local authorities	670	0	670
6,324	(354)	5,970	Bodies external to general government	5,557	(257)	5,300
7,029	(354)	6,675	Total Long Term Debtors	6,227	(257)	5,970
			Short Term Debtors			
454	0	454	NHS bodies	2,164	0	2,164
1,669		1,669	Other Local Authorities	2,206	0	2,206
19,979	(3,087)	16,892	Bodies external to general government	20,223	(3,184)	17,039
22,102	(3,087)	19,015	Total Short Term Debtors	24,593	(3,184)	21,409
29,131	(3,441)	25,690	Total Financial Instruments in Debtors	30,820	(3,441)	27,379

NOTE 8: CREDITORS

31/03/2018 £000		31/03/2019 £000
	Short Term Creditors	
(8,341)	Central government bodies	(9,805)
(10,080)	Other local authorities	(8,275)
(872)	NHS bodies	(1,479)
(98)	Public Corporations and Trusts	(101)
(43,573)	Bodies external to general government	(43,948)
(62,964)	Total Short Term Creditors	(63,608)

Financial Instruments in Creditors

31/03/2018 £000		31/03/2019 £000
	Short Term Creditors	
(9,962)	Other local authorities	(8,245)
(837)	NHS bodies	(1,479)
(98)	Public Corporations and Trusts	(101)
(27,206)	Bodies external to general government	(24,695)
(38,103)	Total Financial Instruments in Short Term Creditors	(34,520)

NOTE 9a: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Instruments are contractual arrangements for the transfer of cash and include all debtors and creditors arising other than from statutory requirements. They do not include debtors and creditors that arise through statutory requirements such as local taxes and government grants.

The Authority is required to disclose the risks inherent in its usage of financial instruments in its treasury activities, their significance, and how they are managed (Note 10). The following tables show the location of financial instruments within the Authority's accounts.

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

	Non current		Current		Total 31 Mar 2019 £000
	Investments	Debtors	Investments	Debtors	
	31 Mar 2019 £000	31 Mar 2019 £000	31 Mar 2019 £000	31 Mar 2019 £000	
Financial Assets					
Fair Value through Profit and Loss	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Amortised Cost	0	6,227	50,239	24,593	81,059
Total	0	6,227	60,239	24,593	91,059

	Non current		Current		Total 31 Mar 2018 £000
	Investments	Debtors	Investments	Debtors	
	31 Mar 2018 £000	31 Mar 2018 £000	31 Mar 2018 £000	31 Mar 2018 £000	
Financial Assets					
Amortised Cost	4,500	7,029	55,193	22,102	88,824
Total	4,500	7,029	55,193	22,102	88,824

NOTE 9a: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Liabilities

	Non current		Current			Total
	Borrowings	PFI & Finance Leases	Borrowings	PFI and Finance Leases	Creditors	
	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2019	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities						
Amortised Cost	113,010	30,075	1,495	2,338	32,182	179,100
Total	113,010	30,075	1,495	2,338	32,182	179,100

	Non current		Current			Total
	Borrowings	PFI & Finance Leases	Borrowings	PFI and Finance Leases	Creditors	
	31 Mar 2018	31 Mar 2018	31 Mar 2018	31 Mar 2018	31 Mar 2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities						
Amortised Cost	113,010	29,851	1,487	1,455	36,648	182,451
Total	113,010	29,851	1,487	1,455	36,648	182,451

The Authority's policy is to undertake its treasury activities within the scope of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management. The annual treasury strategy, which is approved by Council, is developed with recognition of treasury risks, and includes Prudential Indicator limits for the overall amount of borrowing. The term (maturity) and fixed/variable interest rate characteristics of borrowing and investment are also considered. The treasury strategy also sets out the Authority's criteria for the minimum creditworthiness required for investment counter parties.

NOTE 9a: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Items of Income, Expense, Gains or Losses

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

2017/18		2018/19		
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
		Interest Revenue		
(1,630)	0	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(2,056)	0
0	0	Other Financial Assets measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0
(1,630)	0	Total Interest Revenue	(2,056)	0
6,592	0	Interest Expense - Borrowings	6,315	
3,473	0	Interest Expense - Finance Leases	8,482	
10,065	0	Interest Expense	14,797	0
18	0	Fee Expense Financial Assets or financial liabilities that are not at fair value through profit or loss	0	0
18	0	Total Fee Expense	0	0

NOTE 9b: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Investments

All short and long-term investments are in compliance with the Authority's investment policy.

Investment Profile	31 Mar 2018 £000	31 Mar 2019 £000
Long term	4,500	0
Short term	55,000	60,000
Accrued Investment Income	193	239
Total	59,693	60,239

Investments - Movement in year	£000
Investments at 1 April 2018	59,693
Change in investment managed internally	500
Change in accrued investment income	46
Investment at 31 March 2019	60,239
Long term investment (book value)	0
Short term investment (book value)	60,000

	Book Value	Fair Value	Unrealised Profits/ (Losses)
	£000	£000	£000
Managed Internally	60,000	60,000	0
Managed Externally			0
Total	60,000	60,000	0

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is defined as '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'. Fair value has been assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments (Level 2 in the IFRS fair value hierarchy). (Note 40 - Accounting Policy (xxv) refers).

The fair value of the Authority's internally managed investment portfolio is not materially different to the book value, and is disclosed in the table above.

NOTE 9b: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority has calculated the fair value of its borrowing portfolio in the following table. The calculation of fair value involves estimating the premium payable on each loan if it were redeemed at year end, and adding this to the outstanding principal. All loans are at fixed rates and do not include derivatives, to which the Authority is directly exposed. The Authority is not able to package its debt as a marketable security and no adjustment is required to the book value of these loans on the balance sheet.

The methods and assumptions used in the valuation technique were:

For Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) debt, fair values as at 31st March 2019 published by PWLB have been used.

For other market debt, Net Present Value (NPV) methodology has been used, which provides an estimate of the value of future payments in today's terms. The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is usually equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender and would be the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation, for an instrument with the same duration date to maturity.

NOTE 9b: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Borrowing at source - Fair Value	31 March 2018		31 March 2019	
	Fair Value £000	Book Value £000	Fair Value £000	Book Value £000
Public Works Loan Board	68,400	52,010	68,933	52,010
Market Loan	102,239	61,000	103,453	61,000
Temporary Loan	0	0	0	0
Stock Loan	0	0	0	0
Total	170,639	113,010	172,386	113,010

Borrowing - Maturity Profile	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Less than 1 year	0	0
Between 1 and 2 years	0	2,000
Between 2 and 5 years	4,310	16,010
Between 5 and 10 years	30,700	17,000
More than 10 years	78,000	78,000
Total Borrowings	113,010	113,010
Accrued Interest (Short Term Borrowings)	1,487	1,495
	114,497	114,505

The balance sheet figures are based upon the maturity profile of borrowings. No early repayment or impairment is recognised. For instruments with maturity of less than 12 months or trade or other receivables, their fair value is assessed as the carrying or billed amount. The fair value of the Council's total liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's loans portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This comparison demonstrates a notional future loss as at 31st March 2019 as a consequence of a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of PWLB loans of £68.933m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the balance sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the Authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates. The Authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets.

NOTE 9b: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Statutory Override on Pooled Investments

The Council holds a £10m pooled investment in a property fund. As a result of the change in accounting standards for 2018/19 under IFRS 9, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have agreed to allow English Authorities time to adjust their portfolios of all pooled investments by announcing a statutory delay to the implementation of IFRS 9 for five years commencing from April 2018. The Council will use the statutory override to account for any changes in the fair value on its pooled investments.

Investments in Equity Instruments

The Council has no investments in equity instruments to be treated under IFRS 9 as fair value through other comprehensive income.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Councils holds units in CCLA Property Fund. The Fair Value calculated on the quoted share price is not materially different from the value in the balance sheet.

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises in the lending of surplus funds to banks, building societies and other local authorities as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers.

Lending and Investments

In the case of lending/investing surplus funds, risk is minimised through the Authority's credit policy that seeks to ensure that invested funds (deposits) are at relatively low risk of deposit-taker default. The policy sets a minimum level of creditworthiness for deposits in individual financial institutions, assessed by reference to data from commercial credit rating agencies and credit default swap data. The minimum credit criteria for 2018/19 were as follows:

Category	Fitch	Moody's	Standard & Poor's	Definition
Banks and Building Societies				
Short Tem	F1	P-1	A-1	Highest credit quality on a 12 month view
Long Term	A-	A3	A-1	Very low expectation of credit risk developing
Viability/Rating	bbb+	c-	n/a	Adequate institution with limited weakness
Support		1 n/a	n/a	Expectation of central government support
Money Market Funds	AAAmf	Aaa-mf	AAAm	

In addition to deposits in higher rated deposit-takers, the Authority may use an AAA rated Money Market Fund, (which spreads risk taking across deposit takers), and may also place deposits in UK public sector institutions, such as local authorities.

At 31st March 2019 the disposition of investments was:

Category	£000	%	Spread (number of counterparties)	Fitch Rating
UK Clearing Banks	30,000	50.00%	6	F1, A, a-,1
UK Building Society	0	0.00%	0	F1, A, a-,1
Local Authority	20,000	33.33%	4	n/a
Pooled Property Fund	10,000	16.67%	1	AAAmf
Non UK Banks	0	0.00%	0	AAA
Total	60,000	100.00%	11	

A high credit standard increases concentration of deposits in fewer institutions than would ideally be the case. However, it is considered that, in prevailing market circumstances, high credit quality is crucial, and outweighs the alternative of a wider spread of deposits across less well-rated counterparties. As and when credit ratings allow, efforts will be made to spread investment across additional deposit-takers.

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Current Deposits and Trade Debtors

No losses or impairments were incurred in 2018/19, nor are expected for the duration of current deposits. The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers. The Authority's maximum potential exposure to credit risk is with trade debtors, which are reviewed individually to assess risk of default and need for a provision. Factors taken into account in the assessment include the stability of the organisation, the size of the debt, the age of the debt and what, if any, security such as a charge on property has been provided. The past-due amount of trade debts can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2019 £000
< 3 months	6,547	11,153
3 to 12 months	5,361	1,307
> 1 year	4,251	2,292
Total	16,159	14,752

Cash

The Authority's cash is held in a UK clearing bank and when the balance is significant, deposits are spread across a number of institutions to reduce risk.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority's ability to pay its financial commitments as and when due is supported by substantial resources. Also, it has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. It plans a balanced annual budget that provides sufficient revenue to cover annual expenditure, and has access to borrowings from money markets and the Public Works Loans Board.

There is no significant risk that the Authority will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments, although there is risk the Authority may be bound to replenish some of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The maturity profile is designed to limit the consequence of significant amounts of finance being required when market conditions are difficult or expensive. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is set out in the following table:

	31/03/2018 £000	%	31/03/2019 £000	%
Under 12 months	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
1yr to 2yrs	0	0.00%	2,000	1.77%
2yrs to 5yrs	4,310	3.80%	16,010	14.17%
5yrs to 10yrs	30,700	27.20%	17,000	15.04%
10yrs and over	78,000	69.00%	78,000	69.02%
Total	113,010	100.00%	113,010	100.00%

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The above represents the nominal exposure to debt maturities, but some Lender's Options, Borrower's Options (LOBO) debt, allows the Lender to prompt a repayment by requesting an interest rate change that is unacceptable to the Authority. The risk of this occurring is limited by the current rate of interest on such debt, which is higher than current and forecast market rates. The Authority is therefore not exposed to immediate refinancing risk. In addition, if redemption were required, the Authority has adequate resources to finance it, and its occurrence would currently offer the prospect of cost saving.

LOBO debt exposure with market rates of:		Pro-spectively repayable / requiring Re-finance £000	Proportion of total debt %
4.00 - 4.99%		5,000	9.80%
5.00 - 5.99%		24,000	47.06%
6.00 - 6.99%		15,500	30.39%
7.00 - 7.99%		2,000	3.92%
8.00 - 8.99%		4,500	8.82%
Total		51,000	100.00%

None of the above debt is reasonably in prospect of option exercise. Liquidity is supported by the significant funds the Authority has under short-term cash investment. Fixed interest rate deposits (investments) are placed in maturities that balance the need to support liquidity for day-to-day cash flow needs with the spreading of investments over a range of periods to optimise investment return.

At 31st March 2019 the sources of potential borrowing appear unimpaired, and the maturity profile of investments, available to support liquidity going forward, is as follows:

Maturity Profile of Investments	£000	%
April to June 2019	5,000	8.33
July to September 2019	25,000	41.67
October to December 2019	5,000	8.33
January 2020 to March 2020	15,000	25.00
April 2020 to June 2020	0	0.00
June 2020 to September 2020	0	0.00
October 2020 and beyond	10,000	16.67
	60,000	100.00

The Authority did not experience any liquidity problems in 2018/19 and does not anticipate any for 2019/20.

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Interest Rate (or Market) Risk

The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments as follows:

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement can rise or fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise or fall accordingly.
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall if market rates rise and increase if rates fall.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall if rates rise and increase if rates fall.

If market interest rates move by 0.5% and 1.0%, with other variables held constant, the financial effect on the portfolio is estimated to be:

	2018/19 £000	0.5% £000	1.0% £000
Borrowings	113,010	565	1,130
Investments	(60,000)	(300)	(595)
Impact on CIES	N/A	265	535

Mitigation

In the short term, a 0.5% or 1.0% rise in market interest rate is unlikely to have any impact on the existing debt portfolio because of the LOBO rates in the portfolio. On the other hand, should a 0.5% or 1.0% change in market interest rate be translated directly into a corresponding increase in investment rates, the existing investment portfolio will be affected to the extent by which the Authority is locked into its investments until maturity. A premium would be payable to unwind the fixed deposits.

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Borrowings

The Authority's portfolio of borrowings is effectively on long-term fixed rates, and the consequence of exposure to short-term rate movements is very limited. Prudential Indicators, incorporated into treasury strategy, set limits to control exposure to this prospective risk and the policy of maintaining a spread of transaction maturities over time acts to average and moderate the consequences of interest rate movements.

Maturity in	At 31st March 2018		At 31st March 2019		
	£000	Interest Rate %	£000	Interest	Rate %
Under 12 months	0	0.0	0		0.0
1 to 2 years	0	0.0	2,000		7.0
2 to 5 years	4,310	6.7	16,010		6.6
5 to 10 years	30,700	6.2	17,000		6.0
10 to 15 years	0	0.0	1,000		4.3
15 to 20 years	12,500	5.2	11,500		5.4
20 to 25 years	0	0.0	13,500		6.6
25 to 30 years	13,500	6.6	0		0.0
30 to 35 years	0	0.0	7,000		4.4
35 to 40 years	32,000	4.6	25,000		4.6
40 to 45 years	0	0.0	20,000		5.0
45 to 50 years	20,000	5.0	0		0.0
	113,010	5.6	113,010		5.6

Prudential Indicator Limits

Maximum % exposure to	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021
	%	%	%	%
Fixed rates	100	100	100	100
Variable rates	50	50	50	50

Investments

Investment strategy seeks to exploit the forecast trend in interest rates. If rates are expected to rise, then investments tend to be placed on variable rate terms or short fixed period to allow early re-investment at higher rates. If they are expected to fall, an extended fixed period will maintain income at a higher rate for longer. However, interest rate forecasts do not imply certainty, and optimising investment returns has to be balanced with the need to maintain adequate liquidity. Against this background a Prudential Indicator controls the balance between short-term investments, influenced by liquidity, and longer strategic investment.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022
	5	%	%	%
Maximum investment over 1 year as percentage of total investments	50	50	50	50

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

At 31st March 2019, the investment portfolio's exposure to interest rates is set out in the following table.

Deposit Maturity in:	At 31st March 2018		At 31st March 2019	
	£000	Interest Rate %	£000	Interest Rate %
0-3 months	8,000	0.6	5,000	1.10
3-6 months	18,000	0.6	25,000	1.04
6-9 months	5,000	0.9	5,000	1.17
9-12 months	14,000	0.8	15,000	1.19
over 12 months	14,500	2.4	10,000	4.12
	59,500	0.90	60,000	1.72

Note: Time deposits incur penalties if called before the end date, while the pooled property would incur selling fees.

PFI Borrowing

The PFI loans or liabilities and rate of interest payable are derived from the unitary payment schedule with New Schools and do not change.

Price Risk

The Authority (excluding its Pension Fund, which is subject to separate constraints) does not currently invest in financial instruments that are subject to market price volatility. If this were to change then the treasury strategy would be developed to manage these risks.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Authority has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies (other than in respect of its Pension Fund), and thus has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

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

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

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and

NOTE 10: NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer-term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer-term cash flow needs.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets, and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services.

NOTE 11: PROVISIONS

Current Provisions		
2017/18 NDR Appeals £000		2018/19 NDR Appeals £000
(757)	Balance at 1 April	(641)
n/a	Pooling Re-Distribution	(726)
(138)	Additional provisions made during the year	(1,929)
254	Amounts used during the year	428
(641)	Balance at 31 March	(2,868)

Long Term Provisions						
2017/18				2018/19		
Insurance Fund	NDR Appeals	Total		Insurance Fund	NDR Appeals	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
(4,175)	(1,343)	(5,518)	Balance at 1 April	(4,228)	(1,140)	(5,368)
0	0	0	NDR Pooling Re-distribution	0	(1,290)	(1,290)
(935)	(248)	(1,183)	Additional provisions made during the year	(956)	(3,429)	(4,385)
882	451	1,333	Amounts used during the year	455	760	1,215
(4,228)	(1,140)	(5,368)	Balance at 31 March	(4,729)	(5,099)	(9,828)

Insurance Fund:

The Authority self-insures for claims up to a certain value. As part of this it maintains an Insurance Fund to cover claims. The Authority tops up the fund at year end, so it is maintained within the suggested limits recommended by the Authority's actuaries and addresses any further risks.

NDR Appeals:

The Collection Fund contains a provision of £12.450m for the estimated cost of appeals against NDR (Business Rates) charges which may be settled in future years.

The Authority's share of this provision (64%) is £7.967m, £2.868m current and £5.099m non-current. During 2018/19, the Authority's share charged against this sum was £1.188m and its share of money set aside to cover future appeals was £5.358m.

The balance of the appeals provision (36%, £4.482m) is held within the Collection Fund as part of consolidated balances for the GLA and MHCLG.

NOTE 12: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Employment Cases

There are four employment disputes with a maximum potential liability of £0.074m. These cases are subject to the outcome of litigation.

Social Care

There is a potential liability of £0.061m plus ongoing liability for weekly care costs of £600, relating to an Adult Social Care matter. The case is currently with the Secretary of State for determination.

Other

There is also one claim for loss of earnings and damage to property (£0.261m) following a flood at council premises.

Mitigation of Risk

Where appropriate, the Authority defends itself against claims. Due to the inherent uncertainties surrounding the outcome of disputes, the Authority has not made provision for these in the accounts.

Synthetic Sports Pitch - Agreement

In 2019, the Council entered into an agreement with The Wimbledon Club in regard to provision of a replacement synthetic pitch at Raynes Park High School.

In the event of the Council terminating the lease without the consent of the school it is required to make payment to the Governing Body. The amount of the payment, which equalled the Agreement amount of £0.501m reduces by 1/15 each year until 2033/34.

Whilst the above does theoretically place a liability on the Council, this would only arise if the council needed to develop the land which, with Section 77 requirements protecting playing fields, could only happen if the school were to close.

NOTE 13: CONTINGENT ASSETS

There are three employment matters that may give rise to total income of £22,000.

This amount is subject to the outcome of litigation.

NOTE 14: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
(4,444)	Main bank account	(4,438)
1,477	Cash in transit (held by agents)	437
17,382	Cash advanced to schools	18,360
16,000	Short Term Deposits	28,000
19	Cash advanced to establishments (Cash imprests)	18
30,434	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	42,377

NOTE 15: CASH FLOWS

15a Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
	Non Cash Movements	
(19,246)	Depreciation	(21,832)
3,947	Revaluation loss (net)/(Surplus)	(4,858)
(492)	Amortisation	(1,081)
(435)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(24,990)
(23,877)	Movement in Pension Liability	(35,481)
(1,023)	(Increase)/ Decrease in provision for the impairment of bad debts	198
266	(Increase)/Decrease in Provisions	(6,688)
(40,860)		(94,732)
	Accruals Adjustments	
(34)	(Decrease) in Inventories	0
1,427	Increase in Debtors	4,938
63	Increase in Interest Debtors	46
(3,779)	(Increase) in Creditors	1,689
308	Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors	8
(2,015)		6,681
(42,875)	Total	(88,051)

15 b. Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
5,247	Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	10,365
19,670	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	20,475
24,917	Total	30,840

NOTE 15: CASH FLOWS

15c. Operating Activities

2017/18	OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2018/19
£000		£000
(15,722)	Cost of Services less Receipts	(19,676)
(1,583)	Interest received from investments and finance leases	(1,954)
6,284	Interest paid on borrowings	6,307
3,473	Interest paid in respect of finance leases	8,482
(7,548)	Net cash flows from operating activities	(6,841)

15d. Investing Activities

2017/18	INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2018/19
£000		£000
32,555	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment, property and intangible assets	25,956
323,200	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	97,661
(334,600)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(97,000)
(11,400)	Net	661
(5,247)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(10,365)
(21,964)	Other receipts from investing activities	(21,628)
(6,056)	Net cash flows from investing activities	(5,376)

15e. Financing Activities

2017/18	FINANCING ACTIVITIES	2018/19
£000		£000
1,138	Cash payments/ (receipts) for the reduction of finance leases	(1,200)
13,351	Repayment / (receipt) of short- and long-term borrowing	(17)
(909)	Other payments/(receipts) from financing activities	1,491
13,580	Net cash flows from financing activities	274

RESERVES

NOTE 16: USABLE 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 2019/20

Usable Reserves	Balance 31st Mar 2017 £000	Transfers out 2017/18 £000	Transfers in 2017/18 £000	Balance at 31st Mar 2018 £000	Transfers out 2018/19 £000	Transfers in 2018/19 £000	Balance at 31st Mar 2019 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools	(8,246)	426	0	(7,820)	351	(627)	(8,096)
General Fund Balances	(12,778)	0	0	(12,778)	0	(1,000)	(13,778)
Earmarked reserves	(41,105)	3,183	(2,200)	(40,122)	18,489	(23,563)	(45,196)
Total General Fund	(62,129)	3,609	(2,200)	(60,720)	18,840	(25,190)	(67,070)
Capital:							
Capital Receipts Reserves (CRR)	(22,986)	12,001	(4,528)	(15,513)	16,360	(10,075)	(9,228)
Capital Grants Unapplied (CGU)	(7,251)	185	(3,413)	(10,479)	7,018	(13,545)	(17,006)
Total Capital	(30,237)	12,186	(7,941)	(25,992)	23,378	(23,620)	(26,234)
Total Usable Reserves	(92,366)	15,795	(10,141)	(86,712)	42,218	(48,810)	(93,304)

General Fund Balance - This fund includes any surplus after meeting net expenditure on Council services.

Earmarked Reserves - Earmarked Reserves are amounts set aside from the General Fund to provide financing for future expenditure plans. Also included in this note are amounts held by schools under delegated schemes and amounts set aside to meet future insurance claims. (see Note 11 for detail)

Capital Receipts Reserve - This represents receipts from the sale of land and other assets. The reserve can be used for the repayment of external loans, or transferred to the capital adjustment account to finance capital expenditure.

Capital Grants Unapplied - These are unapplied capital grants set aside for future capital expenditure. The balance includes unapplied Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Balance at	Net	Balance at	Net	Balance at
	31st Mar	Transfer	31st Mar	Transfer	31st Mar
	2017	(to)/from	2018	(to)/from	2019
	£000	Reserve	£000	Reserve	£000
		£000		£000	
Outstanding Council Programme Board	(4,919)	374	(4,545)	113	(4,432)
For use in future years' budgets	(7,789)	(2,472)	(10,261)	581	(9,680)
Revenue Reserve for Capital/Revenuisation	(6,815)	3,317	(3,498)	(1,112)	(4,610)
Renewable energy reserve	(1,522)	1	(1,521)	0	(1,521)
Repairs and renewals fund	(1,147)	57	(1,090)	(1,000)	(2,090)
Pension fund additional contribution	(497)	44	(453)	0	(453)
Local land charges	(1,903)	(135)	(2,038)	(220)	(2,258)
Apprenticeships	(302)	42	(260)	(833)	(1,093)
Community care reserve	(1,386)	(1)	(1,387)	0	(1,387)
Local welfare support reserve	(443)	67	(376)	0	(376)
Economic development strategy	(101)	99	(2)	2	0
Corporate services reserves	(776)	(995)	(1,771)	(479)	(2,250)
Spending Review Reserve	0	0	0	(3,100)	(3,100)
Wimbledon tennis courts renewal	(127)	(23)	(150)	0	(150)
Governor support reserve	(42)	14	(28)	0	(28)
Redundancy costs reserve	(600)	600	0	0	0
BRS Reserve	(870)	0	(870)	0	(870)
New homes bonus scheme	(291)	169	(122)	0	(122)
Adult social care contributions	0	(2,160)	(2,160)	(2,033)	(4,193)
Culture & environment contributions	(14)	0	(14)	(389)	(403)
Culture & environment grants	(250)	(267)	(517)	251	(266)
Children & education grants	(306)	(119)	(425)	(49)	(474)
Housing GF grants	(106)	0	(106)	(598)	(704)
Public health grant reserve	(347)	347	0	0	0
Insurance reserves	(1,955)	0	(1,955)	0	(1,955)
DSG reserve	(3,664)	2,736	(928)	3,837	2,909
Refund of school PFI contributions	(100)	100	0	0	0
School standard Fund	(6)	(366)	(372)	372	0
Schools PFI fund	(4,827)	(421)	(5,248)	(382)	(5,630)
CFS Reserves	0	(25)	(25)	(35)	(60)
Grand Total	(41,105)	983	(40,122)	(5,074)	(45,196)

Purpose of Earmarked Reserves

Outstanding Council Programme Board: This reserve is held to fund the transformation of services for the Council.

For use in future years' budgets: These funds are used to balance any budgetary gaps, as identified in the medium term financial strategy, until agreed savings are achieved.

Revenue reserve for capital/revenue: The reserve provides revenue support towards funding capital expenditure and, where necessary, funds revenue expenditure which has been re-classified from the capital programme.

Renewable energy: To fund the cost of implementing renewable energy measures with lower carbon impact in Council buildings, as part of the Authority's strategy to reduce its environmental impact.

Repairs and renewals fund: To support day-to-day revenue expenditure, such as maintenance work, on fixed assets.

Pension fund additional contribution: This reserve is used to fund the costs of any enhanced early retirement benefits, which must be borne by the general fund.

Local Land Charges: The reserve will be used to fund any liability arising from potential legal challenges in relation to local land charges.

Apprenticeships: The reserve is used to fund the Authority's apprenticeship scheme.

Community care reserve: Used to fund learning and disability transition expenditure, including TUPE and redundancy cost from the NHS, and other learning and disability related expenditure.

Local Welfare Support Reserve: Reserve holds any underspend arising from the local welfare support scheme.

Economic Development Strategy: For projects that support economic development in the Borough.

Corporate services reserves: This reserve funds corporate projects, LPFA former GLC contributions and also provides a contingency to cover any Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant that may be clawed back from the Council by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Spending Review Reserve: This reserve is to provide for funding risk arising from measures that may be implemented as part of the Government's forthcoming Spending Review

Wimbledon tennis courts renewal: Funds held in accordance with the agreement for the upkeep of Merton's tennis courts.

Governor Support Reserve: Service provided jointly with LB Sutton. This reserve holds an underspend from prior years. Expenditure must be agreed jointly by the two Boroughs

BRS reserve: This holds the difference between sums received in respect of Business Rates Supplement and sums paid to the GLA pending confirmation as to whether there is a liability for this balance.

New homes bonus scheme: Top-slice funding received from the Greater London Authority. The funds must be used to deliver three specific projects that contribute to London - Brighter Business: Resilience through energy efficiency; Morden Master planning; and Morden Retail Gateway.

Adult Social Care grants: To ensure that government grant provided for Adult Social Care is utilised efficiently and effectively.

Culture & Environment contributions: The grants and funds will mainly be spent on the weekly collection support scheme.

Culture & Environment grants: To hold unspent funds from various grants, including: Trees for Cities, Air Quality, Heat Networks Delivery Unit and Sports Blast.

Children & Education grants: The reserve holds unspent receipts from the following grants: Social Work Improvement Fund Training, Troubled Families, Adoption Reform, and SEN Reform.

Housing GF grants: This reserve is used to manage the rent guarantor scheme. Grant is received to provide rent deposits for homeless people and LBM are required to refund a deposit at the end of the agreed lease period (in line with defined conditions). Also, government grants for housing, awarded late have been carried forward for use in 2019/20.

Public health grant reserve: Carry forward of unspent public health grant. The funds will be spent on public health related services

Insurance reserves: The Authority, in line with most other local authorities, self-insures for claims up to a certain value. The insurance reserve is held for this purpose.

DSG reserve: The reserve holds prior year underspends on the Dedicated Schools Grant. It is used to fund projects determined by the Schools Forum, but has now gone into deficit.

Refund of schools' PFI contributions: To fund the reimbursement of previous overpayments, made by three schools to the Authority, towards the Private Finance Initiative Scheme (see Note 27).

Schools PFI fund: Programmed reserve to balance general fund contributions to the PFI scheme evenly over the contract term.

Schools Standards reserve: Resources to support inspections preparation, project support, capacity building for transformation and commissioning post funding.

NOTE 17: UNUSABLE RESERVES

The Council keeps a number of reserves in the Balance Sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice.

31-Mar-18		31-Mar-19
£000		£000
(317,688)	Revaluation Reserve	(302,267)
(228,718)	Capital Adjustment Account	(224,524)
350,088	Pensions Reserve	342,678
(5,465)	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(5,450)
(1,171)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	476
4,701	Accumulated Absences Account	4,614
(198,253)	Total Unusable Reserves	(184,473)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

31-Mar-18		31-Mar-19
£000		£000
(300,386)	Balance at 1st April	(317,688)
(48,821)	Upward revaluation of assets	(51,919)
27,372	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	51,628
(21,449)	Sub Total: Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of services	(291)
4,101	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	5,741
46	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	9,971
4,147	Sub Total: Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	15,712
(317,688)	Balance at 31st March	(302,267)

NOTE 17: UNUSABLE RESERVES

Capital Adjustment Account

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

The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

31-Mar-18			31-Mar-19	
£000	£000		£000	£000
	(205,491)	Balance at 1st April		(228,718)
	(4,147)	Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		(15,712)
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
19,246		Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	21,832	
3,250		Revaluation losses charged to CIES for Property, Plant and Equipment where there is no prior Revaluation Reserve balance	5,930	
(7,197)		Reversal of impairment charges to the CIES of non-current assets in prior years where the non-current assets have had an upward revaluation in year	(1,072)	
492		Amortisation of intangible assets	1,081	
3,620		Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,496	
435		Amounts of non-current assets written off on derecognition or sale as part of gain/loss on disposal	24,990	
	19,846	Sub Total		55,256
	15,699	Net reversal of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		39,544
		Capital financing applied in the year:		
(12,001)		Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital	(16,360)	
(16,442)		Application of grants and contributions to capital financing or the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(15,125)	
(6,789)		Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund (i)	(3,801)	
(3,786)		Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(99)	
	(39,018)	Sub Total		(35,385)
	92	Loan Repayments		35
	(228,718)	Balance at 31st March		(224,524)

(i) This is composed of a charge for 2018/19 of £6.299m less an adjustment relating to earlier years of £2.498m. This adjustment relates to changes to the PFI accounting model. (See Note 27).

NOTE 17: UNUSABLE RESERVES

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements

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

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
368,109	Balance at 1st April	350,088
(41,898)	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/asset	(42,891)
40,466	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit in the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive and Expenditure Statement	52,217
(16,589)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(16,736)
23,877	<i>Sub Total included in CIES</i>	35,481
350,088	Balance at 31st March	342,678

NOTE 17: UNUSABLE RESERVES

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
(5,481)	Balance at 1st April	(5,465)
16	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	15
(5,465)	Balance at 31st March	(5,450)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax and Business Rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from Council Tax and Business Rates payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2017/18		2018/19
£000		£000
(1,395)	Balance at 1st April	(1,171)
224	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,647
(1,171)	Balance at 31st March	476

NOTE 17: UNUSABLE RESERVES

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
4,983	Balance at 1st April	4,701
(4,983)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(4,701)
4,701	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	4,614
(282)	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 statutory requirements accordance with Statutory requirements	(87)
4,701	Balance as at 31st March	4,614

NOTE 18: ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

The following tables detail the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

	2017-18				2018-19			
	Usable Reserves			Note17	Usable Reserves			Note17
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account								
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>								
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(19,246)	0	0	19,246	(21,832)	0	0	21,832
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(3,250)	0	0	3,250	(5,930)	0	0	5,930
Reversal of impairment charges to the CIES of non-current assets in prior years where the non-current assets have had an upward revaluation in year	7,197	0	0	(7,197)	1,072	0	0	(1,072)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(492)	0	0	492	(1,081)	0	0	1,081
Sub Total to agree to Note 2	(15,791)	0	0	15,791	(27,771)	0	0	27,771
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,620)	0	0	3,620	(2,496)	0	0	2,496
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	(435)	0	0	435	(24,990)	0	0	24,990
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>								
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	6,789	0	0	(6,789)	3,802	0	0	(3,802)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	3,786	0	0	(3,786)	99	0	0	(99)
Revaluation gains charged direct to Revaluation Reserve				0				0
Totals	(9,271)	0	0	9,271	(51,356)	0	0	51,356

	2017-18				2018-19			
	Usable Reserves			Note17	Usable Reserves			Note17
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000

Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grant Unapplied Account

Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	19,670	0	(3,228)	(16,442)	21,655	0	(17,603)	(4,051)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,075	(11,075)
Totals	19,670	0	(3,228)	(16,442)	21,655	0	(6,528)	(15,126)

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	4,436	(4,436)	0	0	10,025	(10,025)	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	12,001	0	(12,001)	0	16,360	0	(16,360)
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance debt premium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	0	(15)	0	15
Repayment of debt	0	(92)	0	92	0	(35)	0	35
Totals	4,436	7,473	0	(11,909)	10,025	6,285	0	(16,310)

Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:

Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(17)	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
Correction of balance relating to previous years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(17)	0	0	17	0	0	0	0

	2017-18				2018-19			
	Usable Reserves			Note17	Usable Reserves			Note17
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000

Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:								
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 32)	(40,466)	0	0	40,466	(52,217)	0	0	52,217
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	16,589	0	0	(16,589)	16,736	0	0	(16,736)
Subtotal	(23,877)	0	0	23,877	(35,481)	0	0	35,481

Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustments Account:								
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(224)	0	0	224	(1,648)	0	0	1,648
Sub Total	(224)	0	0	224	(1,648)	0	0	1,648

Adjustment 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	282	0	0	(282)	87	0	0	(87)
Subtotal	282	0	0	(282)	87	0	0	(87)

Total Adjustments	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	(4,756)	(56,718)	6,285	(6,528)	56,962
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CAPITAL

NOTE 19: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Depreciation

The following useful lives and depreciation rates have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Other Land and Buildings 20 - 50 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment 5 - 10 years
- Infrastructure 25 years

Amortisation

Intangible Assets are amortised over 5 years

Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2019, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2018/19 and future years totalling an estimated £4.8m (£11.5m at 31/03/2018)

NOTE 19: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infra-structure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2018	584,348	14,255	167,503	0	22,859	7,969	796,934
Additions	8,483	8,943	4,586	497	0	5,626	28,135
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(2,499)				1,616		(883)
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,004)	0	0	(497)			(7,501)
Derecognition – Disposals	(25,414)						(25,414)
Derecognition – Other	0	(2,393)	(5,156)				(7,549)
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for Sale	483						483
Other – reclassifications	13,139					(13,139)	0
At 31 March 2019	571,536	20,805	166,933	0	24,475	456	784,205

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2018	1,558	5,992	65,292	0	0	0	72,842
Depreciation Charge	12,843	2,289	6,700				21,832
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(1,174)						(1,174)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,644)						(2,644)
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve							0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services							0
Derecognition – Disposals	(532)						(532)
Derecognition – Other		(2,286)	(5,156)				(7,442)
Other- reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2019	10,051	5,995	66,836	0	0	0	82,882

Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2019	561,485	14,810	100,097	0	24,475	456	701,323
At 31 March 2018	582,790	8,263	102,211	0	22,859	7,969	724,092

NOTE 19: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Comparative Movements in 2017/18

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infra- structure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2017	569,717	15,410	164,286	0	7,026	3,536	759,975
Additions	10,734	2,690	7,327	513	0	7,153	28,417
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	9,583	0	0	0	300	0	9,883
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,482	(24)	0	(513)	0	0	3,945
Derecognition – Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Other	(452)	(3,821)	(4,110)	0	0	0	(8,383)
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for Sale	5,817	0	0	0	0	0	5,817
Other – reclassifications	(15,533)	0	0	0	15,533	(2,720)	(2,720)
At 31 March 2018	584,348	14,255	167,503	0	22,859	7,969	796,934
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2017	2,977	7,236	62,897	0	0	0	73,110
Depreciation Charge	10,189	2,552	6,505	0	0	0	19,246
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3,413)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,413)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,152)	(1)	0	0	0	0	(8,153)
Impairment Losses /(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Other	(43)	(3,795)	(4,110)	0	0	0	(7,948)
Other- reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2018	1,558	5,992	65,292	0	0	0	72,842
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2018	582,790	8,263	102,211	0	22,859	7,969	724,092
At 31 March 2017	566,740	8,174	101,390	0	7,026	3,536	686,865

NOTE 19: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all relevant Property, Plant and Equipment to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. Valuations are as at 31st March in the year of valuation.

In 2018/19,

- i) land value of assets deemed to be depreciated replacement costs (DRC) and assets valued at fair value were valued by District Valuer Services (DVS), and
- ii) building values of assets deemed DRC assets were undertaken by our Internal Valuers
- iii) assets deemed to be existing use value (EUV) were carried out by Internal Valuers.

Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

All surplus assets and assets held for sale are valued under IFRS 13. These have been categorised by the valuers as long as being within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, which are based on observable inputs such as market rents and recent sales of similar properties. Further details of fair value can be found within the accounting policies.

Analysis of rolling revaluation programme	Other Land & Buildings £'000	Vehicles Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Infra-structure assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £'000
Valued at historical cost	-	14,811	100,097	-	456	115,364
Valued at current value in :	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018/19 (incl. Schools)	487,673	-	-	24,475	-	512,148
2017/18	34,994	-	-	-	-	34,994
2016/17	27,165	-	-	-	-	27,165
2015/16	11,652	-	-	-	-	11,652
2014/15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value at 31 March 2019	561,484	14,811	100,097	24,475	456	701,323

NOTE 20: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The London Borough of Merton accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include both purchased licences and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life. The useful life assigned to the major software suites used by the London Borough of Merton is 5 years.

The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:

	2017/18	2018/19
	Intangible Assets £000	Intangible Assets £000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	2,431	5,049
Accumulated amortisation	(1,052)	(748)
Net carrying amount at start of year	1,379	4,301
Disposals:		
Gross carrying amounts	(796)	(337)
Accumulated amortisation	796	337
Additions:		
Purchases	694	792
Reclassified from assets under construction	2,720	0
Amortisation for the period	(492)	(1,081)
Net carrying amount at end of year	4,301	4,012
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	5,049	5,504
Accumulated amortisation	(748)	(1,492)
	4,301	4,012

NOTE 21: HERITAGE ASSETS

The Authority's collection of Heritage Assets consists of Regalia and Art. Much of the art is on display within the Civic Centre and Libraries. The Regalia is not generally accessible other than when in use and the higher value items are stored securely. All Heritage Assets are held on the Balance Sheet at insurance value, which is based on market values. Valuations were carried out in February 2017 by qualified external valuers, Denham's, a Sussex based firm of auctioneer's founded in 1884. There are four items within the Art collection and nine items within the Regalia with a valuation of £20,000 or above. The highest value item is the Chain of Office of the Mayor of the former Borough of Wimbledon, which has been valued at £104,000.

The following table shows the carrying value of Heritage Assets held by the authority at the Balance Sheet date:

	Art Collection	Regalia & Ceremonial	Total Assets
	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation			
1 April 2018	191	611	802
31 March 2019	191	611	802

NOTE 22: ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Balance outstanding at start of year	7,000	1,183
Recognition	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Other Land & Buildings	(5,817)	(483)
Balance outstanding at end of year	1,183	700

In accordance with Accounting Policy xviii the Council measures its Assets Held for Sale at Fair Value using Level 2 observable inputs and highest and best use value from a market participants perspective.

NOTE 23: IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

The Council carried out an impairment review of property, plant and equipment in 2018/19, the result of which is that there were no impairment losses in 2018/19. In 2017/18 there were no impairment losses.

NOTE 24: 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/PP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the London Borough of Merton, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the London Borough of Merton that has yet to be financed.

The CFR is analysed in the following table:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	190,000	183,712
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	28,417	28,136
Intangible Assets	694	792
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	3,620	2,496
Other Investments		
Housing Company -Shares	0	161
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	(12,001)	(16,360)
Government grants and other contributions	(16,443)	(15,125)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct revenue contributions	(3,786)	(99)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(6,789)	(3,801)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	183,712	179,912
(Decrease)/Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(6,788)	(3,800)
Assets acquired under finance leases	500	0
(Decrease)/Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	(6,288)	(3,800)

NOTE 25: LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

In the past the Authority has acquired a variety of assets, including operational buildings and IT equipment, under finance leases. The last such lease for IT equipment has now ended and current policy is not to enter into any more. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31/03/2018 £000		31/03/2019 £000
5,492	Other Land and Buildings	7,264
12	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	0
5,504	Total	7,264

The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding.

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

31/03/2018 £000	Finance lease liabilities (net present value minimum lease payments):	31/03/2019 £000
36	- current	29
819	- non current	790
1,340	Finance costs payable in future years	1,275
2,195	Total minimum lease payments	2,094

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

31/03/2018 £000	Minimum Lease Payments	31/03/2019 £000
101	Not later than one year	94
378	Later than one year and not later than five years	284
1,716	Later than five years	1,716
2,195	Total	2,094
31/03/2018 £000	Finance Lease Payments	31/03/2019 £000
36	Not later than one year	29
48	Later than one year and not later than five years	20
770	Later than five years	770
854	Total	819

The finance lease payments represent the long term liability excluding interest costs.

NOTE 25: LEASES

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2018/19, £0.202 m contingent rents were payable by the Authority (2017/18 £0.134m).

Operating Leases

The authority has acquired Land, Buildings and Vehicles by entering into operating leases. The minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31/03/2018 £000		31/03/2019 £000
1,469	Not later than one year	1,437
5,876	Later than one year and not later than five years	5,700
4,494	Later than five years	3,263
11,839	Total	10,400

NOTE 25: LEASES

Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Authority has leased out property at a number of sites across the Borough on a finance lease basis. The Authority has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee and finance income that will be earned by the Authority in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding.

The gross investment is made up of the following:

31/03/2018 £000		31/03/2019 £000
	Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
16	- current	17
5,453	- non current	5,437
19,404	Unearned finance income	19,079
2	Unguaranteed residual value of property	2
24,875	Gross investment in lease	24,535

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

	Gross investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2019 £000	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Not later than one year	340	340	340	340
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,360
Later than five years	23,175	22,835	23,173	22,833
Total	24,875	24,535	24,873	24,533

The minimum lease payments receivable does not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2018/19, £0.487m contingent rents were receivable by the Authority (£0.818m in 2017/18).

NOTE 25: LEASES

Operating Leases

The Authority leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purpose:

For the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres.

For economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
4,757	Not later than one year	3,624
19,029	Later than one year and not later than five years	11,449
13,096	Later than five years	29,964
36,882		45,037

The minimum lease payments receivable does not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews.

SCHOOLS

NOTE 26: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The Authority's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is provided by the Department for Education. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2018. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2018/19 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £'000	Individual Schools Budget £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Final DSG for 2018/19 before Academy recoupment			167,709
Academy figure recouped for 2018/19			(22,106)
Total DSG figure after Academy recoupment for 2018/19			145,603
Plus: Brought forward from 2017/18			928
Less: Carry-forward to 2019/20 agreed in advance			(614)
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2018/19	21,410	124,507	145,917
In year adjustments			
Final budgeted distribution for 2018/19	21,410	124,507	145,917
Less: Actual central expenditure	(26,092)		(26,092)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(123,348)	(123,348)
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2018/19			
Carry forward for 2018/19	(4,682)	1,159	(3,523)
Carry-forward to 2019/20 agreed in advance			614
Total carry forward 2019/20			(2,909)

The £2.909m deficit balance is held in the DSG earmarked revenue reserve (see Note 16).

The following table shows a breakdown of the Authority's schools, by category, and the net surplus/(deficit) attributable to each.

School Category	2017/18		2018/19	
	Number of Schools	Net surplus/ (deficit) £'000	Number of Schools	Net surplus/ (deficit) £'000
Maintained Primary	28	2,776	27	2,653
Maintained Secondary	2	1,586	2	1,498
Voluntary Aided Primary	11	1,202	11	1,204
Voluntary Aided Secondary	2	502	2	638
Foundation	1	325	1	446
Special Schools	4	1,429	4	1,657
Total	48	7,820	47	8,096

NOTE 27: PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Authority has a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme under which six secondary schools were rebuilt by a PFI operator, New Schools Ltd. Following a partial termination of the contract in 2006, two schools were transferred to academies. In 2013, a third school also became an academy, but remains within the PFI scheme. Under the PFI contract, which runs until 2030, New Schools Ltd are contracted to provide soft services (such as caretaking and facilities maintenance) to the remaining three schools and one academy, in return for an annual payment. The contract does not allow for any of the four remaining schools to leave the arrangement before 2030. At the end of the arrangement, the Authority will retain ownership of the school land and buildings.

Value of Assets Held

The Authority's accounts include school buildings constructed under the PFI scheme. The change in value of land follows a recalculation of area of schools.

	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
	£000	£000
Gross Value	132,014	97,333
Accumulated Depreciation	0	0
Net	132,014	97,333

Value of Liabilities

The Authority has two long term liabilities relating to the original PFI scheme of six schools. The first liability is in respect of the capital works on the two schools that became academies in 2006. The second liability is in respect of the capital works incurred on the remaining three schools and one academy within the PFI scheme. The total combined liability is shown in the following table:

	Capital	Interest	Services	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
31st March 2020	2,309	2,908	3,271	8,488
Apr 2020 - Mar 2025	9,987	12,001	25,638	47,626
Apr 2025 - Mar 2030	19,298	5,391	25,148	49,837
Liability at 31st March 2019	31,594	20,300	54,057	105,951
Liability at 31st March 2018	32,949	23,327	58,549	114,825
Liability at 31st March 2017	34,335	26,476	62,635	123,446

NOTE 27: PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

Partial Termination

	Capital £000	Interest £000	Services £000	Total £000
31st March 2020	788	871		1,659
Apr 2020 - Mar 2025	4,873	3,423		8,296
Apr 2025 - Mar 2030	6,891	1,405		8,296
Liability at 31st March 2019	12,552	5,699	0	18,251
Liability at 31st March 2018	13,287	6,623	0	19,910
Liability at 31st March 2017	13,973	7,594	0	21,567

Three Schools and One Academy

	Capital (Restated) '£000	Interest (Restated) '£000	Services '£000	Total £000
31st March 2020	1,521	2,037	3,271	6,829
Apr 2020 - Mar 2025	5,114	8,578	25,638	39,330
Apr 2025 – Mar 2030	12,407	3,986	25,148	41,541
Liability at 31st March 2019	19,042	14,601	54,057	87,700
Liability at 31st March 2018	19,662	16,704	58,549	94,915
Liability at 31st March 2017	20,362	18,882	62,635	101,879

The accounting model for the main (Three Schools and one Academy) PFI has been changed at the request of the Authority's external auditors to reflect current accounting practice. The main effect of the change is to increase the amount of the loan outstanding compared to the previous model. As at 31st March 2018, the outstanding loan was amended to £19.662m, compared to £17.164m reported in the Private Finance Initiative disclosure in the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts, a difference of £2.498m.

The Council's Balance Sheet for 2017/18 has not been restated for these changes. The Partial Termination model is unchanged.

MEMBERS OFFICERS AND RELATED PARTIES

NOTE 28: MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The cost of members' allowances to the Authority is shown in the table below.

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Allowances	723	728
Total	723	728

Further details of Members allowances and expenses are available on our website at:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/councillors/allowances-and-expenses>

NOTE 29: OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The following table shows the number of staff whose total remuneration, excluding pensions contribution but including gross salary, expense allowances, supplements, compensation for loss of office (i.e. redundancy) and benefits, exceeds £50,000 in bands of £5,000.

CIPFA guidance states that the disclosure should exclude staff where the authority is not the employer i.e. teaching staff employed at voluntary aided and foundation schools. Therefore, 65 voluntary aided and foundation school employees have been excluded from 2018/19 and 58 have been excluded from 2017/18 figures.

Remuneration Band £	2017/18 Teaching Staff	2017/18 Other Staff	2018/19 Teaching Staff	2018/19 Other Staff
50,000 – 54,999	80	57	77	67
55,000 – 59,999	32	29	50	33
60,000 – 64,999	20	7	23	15
65,000 – 69,999	13	17	15	14
70,000 – 74,999	3	14	5	16
75,000 – 79,999	10	9	6	7
80,000 – 84,999	4	5	5	8
85,000 – 89,999	1	2	2	1
90,000 – 94,999	3	5	2	2
95,000 – 99,999	3	0	4	2
100,000 – 104,999	0	1	0	2
105,000 – 109,999	0	1	0	1
110,000 – 114,999	0	0	0	0
115,000 – 119,999	1	1	0	0
120,000 – 124,999	0	0	0	2
125,000 – 129,999	1	0	0	0
130,000 – 134,999	0	0	2	1
135,000 – 139,999	0	3	1	0
140,000 – 144,999	0	0	0	2
145,000 – 149,999	0	0	0	0
150,000 – 154,999	0	0	0	0
155,000 – 159,999	0	0	0	0
160,000 – 164,999	0	0	0	0
165,000 – 169,999	0	0	0	0
170,000 – 174,999	0	0	0	0
175,000 – 179,999	0	0	0	0
180,000 – 184,999	0	0	0	0
185,000 – 189,999	0	1	0	0
190,000 – 194,999	0	0	0	1
Total	171	152	192	174

NOTE 29: OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the following table.

Exit package cost band (including special payments) £000	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
0 - 20,000	32	16	42	7	74	23	566,119	155,975
20,001 - 40,000	5	1	6	0	11	1	328,470	34,251
40,001 - 100,000	2	0	1	0	3	0	178,834	0
TOTAL	39	17	49	7	88	24	1,073,423	190,226

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, there is a legal requirement to report the remuneration of certain senior employees:

- (i) Senior employees whose salary is £150,000 or more per year must be identified by name;
- (ii) Senior employees who meet the regulation's definition and whose salary is between £50,000 and £150,000 must be listed by job title. Current Directors have chosen to be named to aid transparency.

The following table provides this detail for 2018/19 and 2017/18 with supporting sub-notes.

Post holder information	2017/18				2018/19			
	Sub-Notes	Remuneration £000	Employer's Pension contrib. £000	Total £000	Sub-Notes	Re-muneration £000	Employer's Pension contrib. £000	Total £000
Chief Executive Ged Curran	6	187,885	28,685	216,570	1	192,492	2,438	194,930
Director of Corporate Services Caroline Holland	7	137,713	20,932	158,645	2	140,468	21,326	161,794
Director of Community and Housing Simon Williams (Left - 31/07/17)	8	36,966	0	36,966	3	0	0	0
Hannah Doody (Started - 10/7/17)		94,283	14,331	108,614		134,783	20,425	155,208
Director of Children, Schools and Families Yvette Stanley (Left - 31/03/18)	9	138,358	20,932	159,290	4	0	0	0
Rachael Wardell (Started - 14/05/18)		0	0			121,608	18,461	140,069
Director of Environment & Regeneration Chris Lee	10	137,713	20,932	158,645	5	140,468	21,326	161,794

NOTE 29: OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

Sub-notes 2018/19

2018/19

1. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, remuneration for 2018/19 was a salary of £192,492
One separate payment of £7,543.38 was received for Acting Returning Officer duties at the Local election on 3 May 2018. A further £342.84 payment was received for Local Authority Gold Team duties.

2. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, remuneration for 2018/19 was a salary of £140,468
One separate payment of £2,485.40 was received for Deputy Acting Returning Officer duties at the Local election on 3 May 2018.

3. Ms H. Doody, Director of Community and Housing, remuneration for 2018/19 was a salary of £134,783
One separate payment of £544.87 was received for Senior Count Supervisor duties at the Local election on 3 May 2018.

4. Ms R. Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families, started on 14 May 2018 on an annualised salary of £137,921
No additional payments were received.

5. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration for 2018/19 was a salary of £140,468
One separate payment of £985.01 was received for Polling Station Inspector and Senior Count Supervisor duties at the Local election on 3 May 2018. A further £342.84 payment was received for Local Authority Gold Team duties.

2017/18

6. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, remuneration for 2017/18 was a salary of £187,885
Two separate payments were received, totalling £7,139.43 for Acting Returning Officer duties at the General election on 8 June 2017, and Returning Officer duties at the St Helier by election on 20 July 2017.

7. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, remuneration for 2017/18 was a salary of £137,713.
One payment of £2,436 was received for Deputy Acting Returning Officer duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.

8. Mr S. Williams, Director of Community and Housing, remuneration for 2017/18 was a salary of £36,966.
During 2017/18 the Director's contracted hours were the equivalent of 0.8 FTE. No additional payments were received. He retired on 31 July 2017 and was replaced by Ms Hannah Doody on 10 July 2017 on an annualised salary of £129,901.

9. Ms Y. Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families, remuneration was a salary of £138,358.

NOTE 29: OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The figure includes untaken leave.

One payment of £804.95 was received for Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.

10. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration was a salary of £137,713.

One payment of £874.63 was received for Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.

MEMBERS OFFICERS AND RELATED PARTIES

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTIES

During the year, transactions with related parties arose as follows:

Central Government

The UK Government has significant influence over the operations of the Authority. It provides the statutory framework within which the Authority operates and the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills, housing benefits). Details of grants received from government departments are set out in Note 6.

Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the financial and operating decisions of the Authority. The total of members' allowances paid in 2018/19 is shown in Note 28.

This disclosure note has been prepared using the Authority's Register of Members' Interest in addition to a specific declaration obtained in respect of related party transactions from members and senior officers. The Authority issued 60 standard letters to members; 58 have responded.

During 2018/19, members of the Authority (or members of their immediate family or household) had links with the following organisations, which undertook related party transactions with LBM to the gross value of £580K). The amounts disclosed below are those material to either party of the related party transaction (i.e. the Authority or the other entity).

Organisation	2018/19 £000
Merton & Morden Guild	36
Faith in Action	10
Wandle Valley Regional Park	4
North East Mitcham Community Association	20
South Wimbledon Community Association	3
Evolve Housing & Support	457
Friends In St Helier (F.I.S.H.)	50
Total	580

Senior Officers

Senior officers of the Authority also have direct control over the financial and operating decisions of the Authority. Senior officers are required to make a specific declaration in respect of related party transactions. The Authority issued 20 standard letters to current senior officers; there have been 20 responses.

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTIES

Three senior officers are directors of CHAS 2013 Ltd and two senior officers are directors of Merantun Development Ltd (See Note 34). Otherwise, senior officers within the Authority did not hold any positions in other organisations which would enable them to significantly influence the policies of the Authority and result in a related party transaction of a material nature.

Voluntary Organisations

The Authority made grants and payments totalling £580K to voluntary and other organisations whose senior management included members of the Authority (or members of their immediate family or household). These payments are summarised in the disclosure within this note on members' related party transactions. In all instances the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The Authority's Register of Members' Interest is open to public inspection on the Authority's website.

Pension Fund

The Pension Fund is a separate entity from the authority with its own Statement of Accounts. In 2018/19 an administration fee of £0.387m was paid by the Fund to the Authority (£0.460m in 2017/18, see Pension Fund Accounts, Note 11).

Entities Controlled by the Authority

Details of the transactions between the Authority and its subsidiary CHAS2013 Ltd and Merantun Developments Ltd are disclosed in Note 34.

PENSION FUND

NOTE 31: PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

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

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. In 2018/19, the employer's contribution was 16.48% (16.48% average in 2017/18). Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

The scheme has in excess of 10,000 participating employers and consequently the Authority is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and 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. As a proportion of the total contributions into the Teachers' Pension Scheme during the year ending 31st March 2019, the Authority's own contributions equate to approximately 0.25%.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. The Authority is not liable to the scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

The Authority also pays an employer's contribution of 14.38% (14.30% in 2017/18) to the NHS Pension Scheme, for staff who transferred to the Authority but remain in the NHS scheme. The NHS scheme was previously a defined benefit scheme, with staff benefits linked to their average earnings in the final ten years of employment. From 1st April 2015, it became a career average revalued earnings scheme.

NOTE 31: PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Contributions to the scheme for the current and previous year are set-out in the table below:

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Authority's contribution to DfE teacher's pension scheme	8,633	8,652
Authority's contribution to NHS pension scheme	101	84

Assuming a 2% staff pay award in 2019/20, an estimate of the contributions to be paid in the next financial year would be:

	2019/20 £000
Authority's contribution to DfE teacher's pension scheme	8,825
Authority's contribution to NHS pension scheme	86

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although the benefits will be payable in the future, (when employees retire), the Authority is required to disclose current payments towards employees' future entitlements.

The Authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme is administered locally by the London Borough of Merton, in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulatory Framework 2015/16. This is a defined benefit scheme, whereby both the Authority and employees make contributions into a fund. The contributions are calculated with the aim of balancing pension liabilities and investment assets. The benefits payable in respect of service from 1st April 2014 are based on career average revalued earnings, rather than final salary.

The scheme accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2018/19, which governs the preparation of financial statements for Local Government Pension Scheme funds.

- Discretionary post-retirement benefits to fund early retirement. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement. Liabilities are recognised when awards are made but there is no accompanying investment built- up to meet these pension liabilities, so cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

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.

The cumulative remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/asset recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is a gain of £42.891m (£41.898m gain in 2017/18).

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Local Government Pensions Scheme	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
Service Cost	30,321	42,888
Administration	427	354
<i>Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
Net interest on defined liability	9,718	8,975
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	40,466	52,217
<i>Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>		
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/asset	(41,898)	(42,891)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,432)	9,326
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(40,466)	(52,217)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	16,589	16,736

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Assets and Liabilities in relation to Post-Employment Benefits

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

Local Government Pension Scheme	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	966,736	960,997
Current Service Cost	30,499	30,862
Interest Cost	25,879	25,164
Change in financial assumptions	(45,331)	45,483
Change in demographic assumptions	0	(57,823)
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(1,620)	18,257
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(19,088)	(24,986)
Past service costs including curtailments (i)	682	6,743
Contributions by Scheme participants	4,912	5,210
Unfunded pension payments	(1,672)	(1,663)
Defined Benefit Obligation at end of period	960,997	1,008,244

(i) 18/19 includes an amount of £6.550m which is the estimate of the possible impact on total liabilities as at 31 March 2019 based on the *Potential impact of McCloud/Sargeant ruling on pensions accounts disclosures* paper prepared by the Government Actuary's Department.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme (plan) assets:

Local Government Pensions Scheme	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of Scheme assets	598,628	610,910
Interest on assets	16,161	16,189
Return on assets less interest	(3,433)	30,551
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	0	0
Administration expenses	(427)	(354)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	16,589	16,736
Contributions by Scheme participants	4,912	5,210
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(20,760)	(26,649)
Settlement prices	(760)	12,974
Fair value of Scheme assets at end of period	610,910	665,567

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The estimated asset allocation for LBM as at 31st March is as follows:

LBM asset share - bid value	2017/18		2018/19	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equities	445,940	73	418,173	63
Gilts	140,946	23	84,101	12
Property	21,188	3	25,112	4
Cash	2,836	1	6,110	1
Multi Asset Credit	0		67,929	10
Diversified Growth	0		64,142	10
Total	610,910	100	665,567	100

The above asset valuations are all based on Level 1 inputs (from the IFRS fair value hierarchy), with the exception of the property, which is valued using Level 1 and Level 2 inputs.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Scheme History

	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Present value of scheme Liabilities						
The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)	(630,064)	(748,920)	(722,265)	(937,022)	(932,840)	(981,934)
Unfunded Liabilities	(24,634)	(26,459)	(23,507)	(29,714)	(28,157)	(26,311)
Total Liabilities	(654,698)	(775,379)	(745,772)	(966,736)	960,997	(1,008,245)
Fair value of assets in the LGPS	430,372	481,560	482,618	598,628	610,910	665,567
Surplus / (Deficit) in the scheme	(224,326)	(293,819)	(263,154)	(368,108)	(350,087)	(342,678)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £343m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the balance sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy. The Authority, through the advice of the actuary, provides additional employers contributions to the fund in support of the recovery of past service deficiencies over a twelve-year period. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

	2017/18	2018/19
Long Term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:		
Mortality Assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners retiring today at 65:		
Men	24.5	23.4
Women	26.1	24.8
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners retiring in 20 years at 65:		
Men	26.8	25.0
Women	28.4	26.6
	%	%
Rate of Inflation	2.55	2.40
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80	3.90
Rate of increase in pensions	2.30	2.40
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.55	2.40
Take up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	50	50

The current estimate of the duration of the Authority's liabilities is 19 years. The following assumptions have also been made:

- Members will retire at one retirement age for all tranches of benefit, which will be the pension weighted average tranche retirement age.
- 10% of active members will take up the option under the new LGPS to pay 50% of contributions for 50% of benefits.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis on the major assumptions used in calculating the Fund liabilities is shown in the following table.

Sensitivity Analysis	£000	£000	£000
Adjustment to discount rate	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	990,021	1,008,244	1,026,822
Projected service cost	31,368	31,399	31,713
Adjustment to long term salary increase	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,009,819	1,008,244	1,006,680
Projected service cost	31,399	31,399	31,399
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	1,025,228	1,008,244	991,568
Projected service cost	32,161	31,399	30,655
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption	+1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present value of total obligation	1,046,374	1,008,244	971,549
Projected service cost	32,400	31,399	30,429

The sensitivity analysis shows the impact of adjusting individual assumptions. The analysis does not show the impact of adjusting combinations of assumptions, as this cannot easily be measured.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

These figures are approximate, as they are pro-rated for the impact of the McCloud judgement on March 2019 figures produced by our actuaries and not based on a full recalculation of the sensitivity impacts on an IAS 19 basis.

Estimation of Contributions to be paid in 2019/20

The table below shows the estimated contributions to be paid to the plan during 2018/20, assuming a 2% staff pay award.

	2018/19 Actual £000	2019/20 Estimated £000
Employers contributions - normal	11,633	11,866
Employers Additional Funding (Deficit Funding)	3,469	3,552
Employers Additional Funding (Pension Strain)	138	141
Employees contributions	5,226	5,333
Total	20,466	20,891

Associated Risks

Participating in a defined benefit pension scheme means that the Authority is exposed to a number of risks:

- Investment risk. The Fund holds investment in asset classes, such as equities, which have volatile market values and while these assets are expected to provide real returns over the long-term, the short-term volatility can cause additional funding to be required if a deficit emerges.
- Interest rate risk. The Fund's liabilities are assessed using market yields on high quality corporate bonds to discount the liabilities. As the Fund holds assets such as equities the value of the assets and liabilities may not move in the same way.
- Inflation risk. All of the benefits under the Fund are linked to inflation and so deficits may emerge to the extent that the assets are not linked to inflation.
- Longevity risk. In the event that the members live longer than assumed a deficit will emerge in the Fund. There are also other demographic risks.

In addition, as many unrelated employers participate in the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund, there is an orphan liability risk where employers leave the Fund but with insufficient assets to cover their pension obligations so that the difference may fall on the remaining employers.

NOTE 32: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

All of the risks above may also benefit the Authority e.g. higher than expected investment returns or employers leaving the Fund with excess assets which eventually get inherited by the remaining employers.

OTHER DISCLOSURE NOTES

NOTE 33: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet Date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the financial year and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. There are potentially two types of events:

- If they provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period, the Statement of Accounts is amended to reflect these events;
- If they are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period, the Statement of Accounts is not amended. If, however, an event would have a material effect, a disclosure is made in the notes to the accounts, outlining the event and its estimated financial effect.

Any event taking place after the accounts are authorised for issue is not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

Adjusting Event

There has been one adjusting event that provides additional information about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period. There has been additional evidence regarding the McCloud case judgement, including the legal ruling by the Supreme Court on 27th June 2019 which rejected the Government's appeal. The impact on the present value of the future retirement benefit obligation is included at Note 32.

NOTE 34: INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARIES & JOINT VENTURES

Subsidiaries

CHAS 2013 Ltd

CHAS 2013 Ltd provides businesses with health and safety pre-qualification assessments to nationally recognised standards.

Governance Arrangements

CHAS 2013 Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, based in the Authority's offices at the Civic Centre in Morden. LBM's Director of Environment & Regeneration chairs its board of directors.

Trading Arrangements with London Borough of Merton

In 2018/19, CHAS 2013 Ltd's total comprehensive income was £1.77m (£1.47m in 2017/18). Dividends received by LBM from CHAS 2013 Ltd are recognised within the Authority's comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES). In 2018/19, £0.87m dividend income was recognised (£0.7m in 2017/18).

Separate from any dividends, CHAS 2013 Ltd also makes an annual licence fee payment to LBM, for use of intellectual property owned by the Authority. In 2018/19, the licence fee was £0.5m (2017/18 £0.5m), which has been recognised within financing and investment income and expenditure in the CIES.

Group Accounting

LBM's investment in CHAS 2013 Ltd is recognised and measured at cost in the Authority's balance sheet. LBM is exposed to variable returns from CHAS 2013 Ltd.

At the year end, the intercompany balance of £0.83m was due from LBM to CHAS 2013 Ltd (2017/18: £0.08m was owed by CHAS 2013 Ltd).

Company Accounts

Audited abbreviated accounts of CHAS 2013 Ltd (company number: 08466203) are filed with Companies House and available on request from:

London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre London Road Morden
SM4 5DX

LB Merton have prepared group accounts consolidating CHAS 2013 Ltd.

NOTE 34: INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARIES & JOINT VENTURES

Merantun Development Ltd

Merantun Development Ltd will specialise in developing high quality housing and commercial property for market rent. LBM will be supplying working capital and development finance on commercial terms for the development and acquisition of sites, council and private. Loan finance will be used by the company to fund construction of sites where schemes have demonstrated being commercially viable.

Governance Arrangements

Merantun Development Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, based in the Authority's offices at the Civic Centre in Morden. Its board of directors is chaired by senior officers within LBM. The company was incorporated on the 5th August 2017.

Trading Arrangements with London Borough of Merton

In 2018/19 the subsidiary has made a loss of £0.31m (£0.14m in 2017/18). At the year end, the intercompany balance due from Merantun Development Ltd to LBM was £0.17m (2017/18: £0.1m). No land transfers had been made.

Group Accounting

LBM's investment in Merantun Development Ltd is recognised and measured at cost in the Authority's balance sheet. At the year-end LBM investment in Merantun Development Ltd was £0.161m.

Merantun has been consolidated into the Group Financial Statements from 1 April 2018.

Accounts

Audited abbreviated accounts of Merantun Development Ltd (company number: 10907028) are filed with Companies House and available on request from:

London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre London Road Morden
SM4 5DX

LB Merton have prepared group accounts consolidating Merantun Development Ltd.

NOTE 34: INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARIES & JOINT VENTURES

Joint Venture

The Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board (MSJCB) oversees the Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery, which is situated on Garth Road in Morden.

Governance Arrangements

MSJCB is jointly controlled by the London Boroughs of Merton and Sutton. Any cash balance belonging to MSJCB is held by LB Merton in its single entity Balance Sheet, with a corresponding creditor to reflect the sum owed to MSJCB. At 31/03/2019, including cash held and loans to MSJCB, there was a net creditor balance of £151k (net creditor balance of £40k at 31/03/2018).

Group Accounting

On the grounds of materiality, MSJCB has not been consolidated in the LB Merton group accounts.

Accounts

Audited accounts of MSJCB are available on request from:
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre London Road Morden, SM4 5DX

NOTE 35: TRADING OPERATIONS

The Authority has established trading units where the service is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance its budget by generating income from other parts of the Authority or from other organisations. A brief description is given below:

- Printing and Graphic Design: design and printing of official documents.
- Translation Services: provides translation and interpreting services.
- Transport: recharged income and expenditure for service department vehicles

Included within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		2017/18	2018/19
		£000	£000
Printing and Graphic Design	Turnover	(319)	(78)
	Expenditure	331	138
	Deficit	12	60
Translation Services	Turnover	(527)	(276)
	Expenditure	453	198
	(Surplus)	(74)	(78)
Transport	Turnover	(4,170)	(196)
	Expenditure	4,410	116
	Deficit	240	(80)
All trading operations		2017/18	2018/19
		£000	£000
	Turnover	(5,016)	(550)
	Expenditure	5,194	452
Total	Deficit / (Surplus)	178	(98)

NOTE 36: INVENTORIES

The stock balance of £1k in 2018/19 represents the complete stock relating to the Partnership Agreement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES).

	Consumable Stores	
	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	35	1
Purchases	1,002	1,124
Recognised as an expense in the year	(1,036)	(1,124)
Balance outstanding at year-end	1	1

NOTE 37: POOLED BUDGETS – Partnerships - Section 75

Community Equipment Services

During 2018/19 the Authority has continued to host a Partnership Agreement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, to provide integrated community equipment services (ICES). This includes the continued operation of the pooled funds in respect of these services.

POOLED FUND FOR COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICES IN MERTON MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT	Total 2017/18 £000	Total 2018/19 £000
INCOME		
PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTIONS		
Brought forward	0	0
LB Merton	377	394
Merton CCG	283	316
Additional From LB Merton (BCF Contribution)	382	420
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	1,042	1,130
EXPENDITURE		
Community Equipment Services	1,002	1,124
Stock Adjustment	34	0
Management & Support Costs	6	6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,042	1,130
NET (UNDER) / OVERSPEND CARRIED FORWARD	0	0

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a major policy initiative between local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS providers. Its primary aim is to drive closer integration of care services and to improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers.

The CCG receives the full BCF allocation from NHS England, then transfers a proportion (£5,591,000 in 2018/19) into a pooled fund, hosted by the Authority, to be spent on services. The Authority makes a £1 contribution to the pool. The gross income and expenditure of the partnership is shown in the following table. As per accounting standards, the Authority records only its £1 share of the pooled funds as expenditure in its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). The CCG's contribution, therefore, is not recognised in the Authority's CIES.

NOTE 37: POOLED BUDGETS – Partnerships - Section 75

Better Care Fund Pooled Budget - Income and Expenditure	Total	Total
	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
INCOME		
Merton CCG contribution to pool	(5,083)	(5,591)
LBM contribution to pool	0	0
Total contributions	(5,083)	(5,591)
Expenditure		
Integrated Locality Teams	773	773
Seven Day Working	505	505
Community Equipment and Adaptions	382	420
Protecting and Modernising Social Care	3,222	3,692
Investing in Integration Infrastructure	144	144
Developing Personal and Health Care Budgets	57	57
Total revenue expenditure	5,083	5,591
Net	0	0

OTHER DISCLOSURE NOTES

NOTE 38: EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and assurance of the Teachers Pensions End of Year Certificate, provided by the authority's external auditors:

	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000
Fees payable to the External Auditor with regard to audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	160	191
Fees payable to the External Auditor for other services provided in year (Teachers Pensions and Housing Benefit audits)	50	64
Total	210	255

NOTE 39: On-Street Parking Account

The Council maintains a memorandum account in respect of on street parking to show how the income from it is spent. In 2018/19 the Council made a surplus of £9.895m (£9.655m in 2017/18), which was applied notionally as a contribution to concessionary fares, the costs of which are in the Community and Housing budget, and the day-to-day carriageway and footway maintenance. This contribution was more than the full cost of concessionary fares. Therefore the excess of £868k was applied notionally to fund carriageway and footway day to day maintenance, the cost of which was £1.1m in 2018/19.

On-Street Parking Account	2017/18				2018/19			
	Parking	Bus Lanes	Moving Traffic Violations	Total	Parking	Bus Lanes	Moving Traffic Violations	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income								
Penalty Charge Notices	(3,242)	(1,430)	(4,100)	(8,772)	(4,132)	(1,285)	(3,764)	(9,181)
Parking Permits	(2,870)	0	0	(2,870)	(3,408)	0	0	(3,408)
On-Street Parking Charges	(3,157)	0	0	(3,157)	(3,638)	0	0	(3,638)
Other Income	(367)	0	0	(367)	(0)	0	0	(0)
Total Income	(9,636)	(1,430)	(4,100)	(15,166)	(11,177)	(1,285)	(3,764)	(16,226)
Expenditure								
On-Street Parking	953	420	1,205	2,578	1,110	432	1,264	2,806
Parking Management & Planning	120	53	151	324	311	0	0	311
Parking Enforcement	964	425	1,220	2,609	1,272	495	1,448	3,215
Contribution to Public Transport Including (Concessionary Fares)	7,599	532	1,524	9,655	8,484	359	1,052	9,895
Total Expenditure	9,636	1,430	4,100	15,166	11,177	1,285	3,764	16,227
NET	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0

Memorandum Items	2017/18 £000	Surplus Applied £000	2018/19 £000	Surplus Applied £000
Total Expenditure on:				
Concessionary fares	9,035	9,035	9,027	9,027
Carriageway & Footway Day-to-Day Maintenance	845	620	1,114	868
Carriageway & Footway Planned Maintenance	1,671	0	3,381	0
Total	11,551	9,655	13,522	9,895

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2018/19 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2019. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

ii. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where income and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Notwithstanding the accrual principle, some items are recorded as received/paid on the basis that there is no material distortion of the 'true and fair view' concept. These items include:

- a) Housing benefit payments and the related subsidy grant are recorded when the payment to housing benefit recipients falls due.
- b) Income received from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) does not equate to the full recorded value of PCNs issued. This is due to prompt payment discounts, disputed notices and other mitigating circumstances. Consequently, income from PCNs is recognised on a cash basis. This accounting treatment is consistent year-on-year, therefore the revenue impact of not accruing PCN income in the CIES is not material.

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iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions (including Money Market Funds invested for up to 3 months). They are repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

iv. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

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

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

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

v. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

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

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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Depreciation is provided for on all non-current assets (other than land) with a determinable finite life, and is calculated on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful economic life.

vi. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of the major preceptors (including government for NDR) and, as principals, collecting council tax and NDR for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (ie the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and NDR. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Authority's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the Authority's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

vii. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual and sick leave and non-monetary benefits in lieu of salary (e.g. childcare vouchers), where material for current employees. They are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlement (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the Surplus of Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the individual services, within the Cost of Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment or has made an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

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

Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of the following separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The National Health Service Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Pensions.
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by the London Borough of Wandsworth.

All schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

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However, the arrangements for the teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

The liabilities of the Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate that is in accordance with actuarial guidance.

The assets of the Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are measured at fair value:

- quoted securities: current bid price
- unquoted securities: professional estimate
- unitised securities: current bid price
- property: market value

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

Service cost comprising:

- current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate Services segment.
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

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Remeasurements comprising:

- the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure;
- actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Contributions paid to the Pension Fund:

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

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

Discretionary Benefits

The Authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

viii. Events After Balance Sheet Date

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

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

ix. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

Where financial instruments are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that amounts due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service.

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

Financial Assets

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

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

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The authority recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI), either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the 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. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price;
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

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

- Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the 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.

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- Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

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

x. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the revenue 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.

Sums advanced as revenue grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied and are unlikely to be satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Where conditions are not satisfied but are expected to be met, these are classified as Receipts in Advance. When conditions are satisfied, the revenue grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a precisely defined area within the local authority's boundaries within which the businesses have voted to invest collectively in local improvements to enhance their trading environment. The Authority has 3 BIDS (Wimbledon, Willow Lane and South Wimbledon Business Area). The latter came into operation in from 1st July 2017.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Authority has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Authority) with appropriate planning consent. The Authority charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects (these include transport, flood defences and schools) to support the development of the area. CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure and held in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account until used. However, a small proportion of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure.

xi. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations. They are held by the authority in pursuit of its overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of heritage. The majority of the authority's heritage assets are held in the Civic Centre, with a number of paintings of minor value held in the authority's libraries around the borough. Heritage assets are measured at valuation in accordance with FRS30 but where it is not possible to obtain a valuation at a cost which is commensurate with the benefit to the users of the financial statements, heritage assets are measured at historical cost (less any depreciation, amortisation and impairment). Depreciation or amortisation is not required on assets with indefinite lives.

xii. Intangible Assets

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it can be demonstrated that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the authority will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase. Research expenditure cannot be capitalised. Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the authority's goods or services.

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

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

Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

xiii. Interest in Subsidiaries and Other Entities

The authority has reviewed its relationships with companies and external organisations in accordance with the Code guidelines. The authority has two subsidiaries (CHAS and Merantun) and one joint venture (Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board - MSJCB). From 2017/18 onwards, the authority has published consolidated group accounts. Details of the subsidiaries and joint venture are disclosed in Note 34.

xiv. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

The inventory balance is the Authority and the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's shared value of the aids and adaptations stock owned by the Pooled Account. The stock is maintained in partnership with Croydon Integrated Procurement Hub (IPH). Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

xv. Jointly Controlled Operations

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Authority in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of the assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Authority recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation. These arrangements include: -

South London Waste Partnership (SLWP): the SLWP is a joint operation with the LB Croydon, LB Sutton and RB Kingston for the collection of and disposal of waste. LB Croydon and RB Kingston recharge the authority for its share of the cost and this is accounted for as part of the Environment and Regeneration Department in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The SLWP is managed by a joint committee of officers which cannot contract on its own behalf but must do so through one of the participating boroughs.

The authority has also outsourced the maintenance of its parks and open spaces to a company called Idverde (IDV) in February 2017. The contract includes LB Merton and LB Sutton, but the contract is held by LB Croydon. IDV invoice LB Croydon who then recharge Merton and Sutton for its share of costs.

Shared Internal Audit Service: LB Richmond hosts the service, which provides the internal audit function for LB Merton, RB Kingston, LB Wandsworth and LB Sutton. Each authority makes a financial contribution to LB Richmond. A shared service board with senior representatives from each authority oversees the delivery of the service and arrangements between the boroughs.

South London Legal Partnership: this is a cost-sharing arrangement with the LB Richmond, LB Sutton, RB Kingston and LB Wandsworth. Merton administers the service and recharges the other authorities with their share of the cost.

Pooled Budget for Community Equipment Services: this is a cost-sharing arrangement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. The authority's contribution is accounted for in the Community & Housing line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The Balance Sheet contains the value of the pooled aids and adaptations stock.

Better Care Fund: The Authority hosts a pooled budget, under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, with Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in respect of the Better Care Fund. The CCG receives the allocation from the Department of Health. The CCG then appropriates a proportion to the pooled budget to spend on services. Income and expenditure relating to the Authority's contribution to the pooled budget is reported within the Community & Housing line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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Mental Health Service: This is a delegated Section 75 budget hosted by the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. This is an arrangement where placement and staff costs are shared across the LB Merton and the NHS in the provision of a Mental Health Service.

Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP): The RSP administers key public protection services including Environmental Health, Trading Standards, and Licensing. The partnership is based on a cost-sharing arrangement with LB Richmond and LB Wandsworth. Merton administers the service and recharges LB Richmond and LB Wandsworth with their share of costs. The service is governed via Management Board and Joint Regulatory Committee.

xvi. Leases

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

The key consideration for classifying the authority's leases are as follows: -

- Whether the Present Value of the Minimum Lease Payments amounts to substantially all the fair value of the leased asset.
- The duration of the lease agreement in relation to the anticipated economic useful life of the asset.
- Terms in the lease relating to the transfer (or lack thereof) of risks and rewards in relation to the asset.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

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NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the authority are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred. Lease payments are apportioned

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the PPE – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the authority at the end of the lease period).

The authority is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased PPE. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the authority's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

xvii. Overhead and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services hosted within Corporate Services are re-charged to service segments in accordance with the Authority's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

The Corporate Services segment does not report such overhead recharges as income, but as a reduction of gross expenditure.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

xviii. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

De Minimis

Capital expenditure of under £10,000 is charged directly to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising: the purchase price any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:
infrastructure and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost

- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated using Level 1 observable inputs and highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (Existing Use Value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

Revaluations

The revaluations of the authority's properties, which have been performed during the financial year, were carried out by valuers who are members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Revaluations are undertaken as at 31st March.

Assets regarded by the authority as operational were valued on the basis of Existing Use Value (EUV) or, where this could not be assessed because there was no market for the subject asset, by the Depreciated Replacement Cost method (DRC), subject to the prospect and viability of the occupation and use. Parks, allotments, cemetery land and crematorium land, which are non- operational are classified as Community Assets.

An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all non-current assets (other than land and assets under construction) with a determinable finite life, and is calculated on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful economic life.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of asset in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer;
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 25 years.

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

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

An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

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

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can only be used for new capital investment, to fund debt redemption premiums (or set aside to reduce the authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xix. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Authority is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes, and as ownership of the Property, Plant and Equipment will pass to the Authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Authority carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Non-Current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the authority.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- Fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Finance cost - an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)

xx. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

1. General

The Authority makes provision where it has a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The Authority does not normally create provisions for sums less than £250,000.

2. Insurance Fund

The Insurance Fund provides an integral part of our risk management policy to meet claims excluding catastrophic losses, which are insured by an external provider. The level of the fund is based upon a statistical assessment of claims information. The authority makes provision for its legal obligations for claims as at the 31st March each year. Where there is a possibility of further claims for which at this stage the authority is not legally obligated, on grounds of prudence the authority sets aside further sums in a separate Insurance Reserve. The expected timing of a future transfer of economic benefit depends upon the settlement of claims and no assumption has been made in respect of these.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Contingent Liabilities

These are possible liabilities as a result of a past event that will only materialise as a result of an uncertain future event. The authority's policy is to disclose a contingent liability when this criterion has been met.

Contingent Assets

These are possible assets as a result of a past event that will only materialise as a result of an uncertain future event. The authority's policy is to disclose a contingent asset when this criterion has been met.

xxi. Reserves

The authority sets aside specific amounts as usable reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. These reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure from a Usable Reserve is incurred it is charged to the appropriate service in that year and forms part of the Surplus or Deficit in the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge to Council Tax for the expenditure.

The authority has a protocol for setting up and managing usable reserves. Under this protocol usable revenue reserves require the approval of the Director of Corporate Services.

Unusable Reserves are kept to manage accounting processes for non-current assets, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the authority.

xxii. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

xxiii. VAT

Income and expenditure are shown net of VAT. VAT is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account only where it is irrecoverable.

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NOTE 40: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

xxiv. Local Authority Schools in England and Wales

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore, schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the authority.

xxv. Fair Value Measurement

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

- a) in the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability;

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

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

The authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the authority's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement date;

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

Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

NOTE 41: ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard which has been issued but is yet to be adopted by the 2018/19 Code.

At the balance sheet date, the following standards had been issued but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice for local authority accounting:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014 - 2016 Cycle
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation

These changes are not expected to have a material impact on the Council's single entity statements or group statements.

NOTE 42: CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying certain policies set out in Note 40, the authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Funding

It is expected that future levels of funding will be reduced however this is not expected to influence the authority's ability as a going concern.

Legal Claims

The potential outcomes from legal claims are not expected to be material to the Authority's accounts.

Accounting for Schools

In line with accounting standards and the Code on group accounts and consolidation, all maintained schools in the borough are considered to be entities controlled by the Authority. Rather than produce group accounts, the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school are recognised in the Authority's single entity accounts.

Accounting for Schools – Balance Sheet recognition of schools.

The Authority recognises the land and buildings used by schools in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice. It states that property used by local authority maintained schools should be recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property. The Authority recognises the schools land and buildings on its Balance Sheet where it directly owns the assets, the school or Governing Body own the assets or rights to use the assets have been transferred from another entity. Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Authority, school or Governing Body then it is not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet. The exception is where the entity has transferred the rights of use of the asset to the Authority, school or school Governing Body.

Group Boundaries

The Council carries out a complex range of activities, often in conjunction with external organisations. Where those organisations are in partnership with or under the ultimate control of the Council a judgement is made by management as to whether they are within the Council's group boundary. This judgement is made in line with the provisions set out in the Code and relevant accounting standards. Those entities which fall within the boundary and are considered to be material are included in the Council's group accounts. Profit and loss, net worth, and the value of assets and liabilities are considered individually for each organisation against a materiality limit set by the Council. The assessment of materiality also considers qualitative factors such as whether the Council depends significantly on these entities for the continued provision of its statutory services or where there is concern about the level to which the Council is exposed to commercial risk.

NOTE 42: CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Business Rates Pool

The Council is part of a London-wide business rate pooling pilot which changes from a 100% pilot pool in 2018/19 to a 75% pilot pool in 2019/20. The governance arrangements set in place for the 2018/19 pool guarantee no detriment compared to what the Council's position would have been if it had not entered into such an arrangement over this period – MHCLG supports this. This guarantee does not continue into 2019/20. The potential share of the surplus from the pool pertaining to London Boroughs specifically excludes all financial impacts of events relating to years before 2018/19. The Council's accounts as at 31 March 2019 are unaffected by the changes in 2019/20 nor are they affected by other future decisions of local authorities.

NOTE 43: 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 London Borough of Merton about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the London Borough of Merton's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2019 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item:	Uncertainty:	Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)	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 and funding position may have an impact on the levels of spending on repairs and maintenance, thus impacting on the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. PPE of £701.0m is included in the accounts. Therefore, a 1% movement in value would result in a change of £7.0m. The depreciation charge for PPE in 2018/19 was £21.8m. A movement of 1% would result in a change in the depreciation charge of approximately £0.218m.
Provisions	The authority has made provisions of £4.729m for insurance claims. The fund is used to pay claims for which the authority is self-insured. The suggested level of the fund is calculated by a firm of actuaries and is based on a number of assumptions. The current funding climate for local authorities raises the risk of cut backs on repairs and maintenance works, which could lead to greater incidence of claims against the authority.	If the actuals differ from the assumptions, then it is possible that the Insurance Fund would be insufficient to cover the liabilities of the authority and further demands would be made on the General Fund. If future claims exceeded the insurance fund provision by 1%, this would result in an additional £0.047m charge to the General Fund.

NOTE 43: ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Item:	Uncertainty:	Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
Provision for NDR appeals	The authority has made provision of £7.967m for its share of appeals against business rates charges. The amount represents an estimate of the potential effects of appeals and proposals that may be settled in future years. It is based upon the most recent outstanding Rating List proposals provided by the Valuation Office Agency. The potential effect of the proposals is an estimate based on changes in comparable properties, market trends and other valuation issues including the potential for certain proposals to be withdrawn.	If the actuals differ from the assumptions this will impact on the NDR surplus/deficit of the Collection Fund for following years, as the cash collected from NDR payers will be different to that anticipated in calculated estimates of NDR collection which are used to determine the Authority's retained income. Similarly, there is a potential impact on possible future safety net and levy payments introduced in the business rate retention scheme, these are calculated by comparing actual amounts collected to the Authority's NDR funding baseline.
Pension Liability	Estimation of the net £342.7m pension liability depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Additionally, the actuary has included the impact of the McCloud case judgement on 27th June 2019.	The assumptions interact in complex ways and changes in assumptions cannot be easily measured. Refer to Note 32 for further detail. The impact of the McCloud case judgement is estimated to increase liabilities by £6.550m as at 31 March 2019.

COLLECTION FUND

This statement represents the transactions of the Collection Fund; a statutory fund separate from the General Fund of the Authority. The presentation of these accounts is based on the Collection Fund Regulations alone and does not take into account the requirement of the Code to show as a liability the shares of the fund balance relating to the Greater London Authority and to central government.

Note 5 to this statement contains this information and thus provides the link between the Collection Fund accounts and the core statements. The Collection Fund accounts for income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of the Authority, the Greater London Authority and central government. The costs of administering collection are accounted for in the General Fund.

Collection Fund Income and Expenditure

			2018/19			
Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000	COLLECTION FUND Income and Expenditure	Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
			A) INCOME			
0	106,908	106,908	Council Tax Receivable	0	111,202	111,202
87,467	0	87,467	Business Rates Receivable	89,932	0	89,932
2,526	0	2,526	Business Rates Supplements Receivable	2,556	0	2,556
89,993	106,908	196,901		92,488	111,202	203,690
			B) EXPENDITURE			
			Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus/(Deficit)			
634	0	634	Central Government	(1,714)	0	(1,714)
380	1,386	1,766	Billing Authority (LBM)	(1,223)	1,653	430
254	345	599	Greater London Authority	(1,140)	406	(734)
1,268	1,731	2,999		(4,077)	2,059	(2,018)
			C) Precepts, Demands and Shares			
29,041	0	29,041	Central Government (MHCLG): NDR			0
26,401	82,563	108,964	Billing Authority (LBM): NDR & Council Tax	56,308	87,009	143,317
32,561	20,285	52,846	Greater London Authority: NDR & Council Tax	31,673	21,810	53,483
2,526	0	2,526	Greater London Authority: NDR Supplement	2,556	0	2,556
90,529	102,848	193,377		90,537	108,819	199,356
			D) Charges to Collection Fund			
1,146	1,786	2,932	Less: increase/(decrease) in bad debt provision	(228)	202	(26)
(1,064)	0	(1,064)	Less: increase/(decrease) in provision for appeals	6,514	0	6,514
264	0	264	Less: cost of collection	265	0	265
346	1,786	2,132		6,551	202	6,753
(2,150)	543	(1,607)	Surplus/(Deficit) arising during the year (=A-(B+C+D))	(523)	122	(401)
(898)	2,074	1,176	Surplus/(Deficit) b/fwd 1st April	(3,048)	2,617	(431)
(3,048)	2,617	(431)	Surplus/(Deficit) c/fwd 31st March	(3,571)	2,739	(832)

Collection Fund

1. Council Tax

Council Tax income is derived from charges on the value of residential properties. There are eight separate valuation bands. These bands are based on valuations taken in April 1991 for this specific purpose.

The Council tax base is the total number of properties in each of the eight valuation bands adjusted by a set proportion for each band to convert to the Band D equivalent for that band. The Band D charge is the required income from the Collection Fund divided by the Council Tax base. An individual amount due for each Band is calculated by multiplying the Band D charge by the proportion that is specified for each particular band. The Council Tax base in 2018/19, before allowance for non-collection, is £75,635 (£74,491 for 2017/18). The derivation of this is shown in the table below.

Council Tax Band	Number of Dwellings on Valuation Officers List		Number of Dwellings after Discounts and Exemptions		Ratio to Band D	Equivalent Number of Band D Properties	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19		2017/18	2018/19
A adjust	2	2	1	1	5/9	0	0
A	1,073	1,086	622	648	6/9	415	432
B	8,265	8,385	5,514	5,678	7/9	4,289	4,416
C	22,704	22,884	17,521	17,943	8/9	15,575	15,949
D	27,560	27,657	23,146	23,469	9/9	23,146	23,469
E	13,084	13,140	11,733	11,844	11/9	14,340	14,476
F	5,385	5,432	4,981	5,023	13/9	7,195	7,255
G	3,983	4,010	3,768	3,796	15/9	6,279	6,327
H	1,681	1,716	1,623	1,653	18/9	3,247	3,306
Total						74,486	75,630
Defence properties						5	5
Council Tax Base						74,491	75,635

The average Council Tax charge for a Band D property (including the GLA) was £1,468.06 in 2018/19 compared to £1,419.73 in 2017/18. From this an income yield of £108.8m was expected (£102.8 in 2017/18). In 2018/19 the income generated was £111.2m (£106.9m in 2017/18) and includes changes to liabilities, exemptions, discounts and the council tax support scheme incurred in the current year but which relate to previous years. This income is received from council taxpayers.

Collection Fund

2. Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The Authority is responsible for collecting rates due from the business ratepayers in its area. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) sets the rateable value. These values are then multiplied by a Uniform Business Rate, which is set by Central Government. Under the 2018-19 London Pilot Scheme, the Authority retains a 64% share of 2018/19 NDR Income with 36% being precepted to the Greater London Authority (GLA). Central government do not directly receive a share of 18/19 income, as they have in previous years, but the grant they make to Merton is reduced to offset this (See Note 6 - Grant Income).

	2017/18	2018/19
Non-domestic rateable value at year end	£215m	£213m
Number of Hereditaments	5,475	5,490
Uniform Business Rate (in the £)	47.9p	49.3p

The amounts included in the Collection Fund in respect of non-domestic rates were as follows:

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Gross Rates payable (including net amounts for previous years)	102,069	104,543
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs	(13,232)	(13,719)
Transitional Protection Payments	(1,370)	(892)
Business Rates Receivable	87,467	89,932
Allowance for Provision for bad and doubtful debts	(1,146)	228
Change to Provision for losses on appeals	1,064	(6,514)
Cost of collection	(264)	(265)
Net Income	87,121	83,381

Business Rate Supplements (BRS) were introduced by the Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 and related regulations and statutory guidance. The Act confers powers on relevant local authorities 'to impose a levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on projects expected to promote economic development.'

LBM have a duty under the BRS Act to collect and enforce the Crossrail BRS on behalf of the GLA. All properties with a rateable value greater than £70,000 pay an additional 2p in the pound.

Collection Fund

2. Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The amounts included in the Collection Fund in respect of National Business Rate Supplements were as follows:

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Gross Rates payable	2,772	2,811
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs	(246)	(255)
Net contribution to GLA	2,526	2,556

Collection Fund

3. Provisions for Impairment of Bad Debts and Losses on Appeals

The movements in the provisions for impairments of bad debts and for losses on appeals were as below. The Authority is liable for its proportionate share of successful appeals against NDR charges and alterations of rating lists. A provision based on best information available has been made for appeals that are outstanding with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

	Balance at 1 st April 2018 £000	Allowance for Impairment £000	Amounts charged against Allowance £000	Balance at 31 st March 2019 £000
Council Tax: Impairment of Bad Debts	7,448	202	(493)	7,157
Non-Domestic Rates: Impairment of Bad Debts	3,175	(228)	(379)	2,568
Non-Domestic Rates: Losses on Appeals	5,936	8,370	(1,856)	12,450
TOTAL	16,559	8,344	(2,728)	22,175

Collection Fund

4. Surpluses and Deficits

Council Tax

There is an accumulated surplus of £2.739m on the Collection Fund (£2.617m in 2017/18). This surplus is attributable to the London Borough of Merton and to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and is based on their respective demands upon the Collection Fund. The estimated shares of the fund are shown in the following table.

	2017/18	2018/19	Change in the Year
	£000	£000	£000
London Borough of Merton Council Tax surplus	(2,086)	(2,159)	(73)
Greater London Authority Council Tax surplus	(531)	(580)	(49)
Total	(2,617)	(2,739)	(122)

In the Authority's Balance sheet, the Collection Fund balance contains the Authority's share only. The share owed to the Greater London Authority is included in a net balance owed to that body. A detailed analysis of the balances is given below.

	Greater London Authority	London Borough Of Merton	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Accumulated surplus as at 1 st April 2017	(531)	(2,086)	(2,617)
Paid to GLA in 2017/18	406	0	406
Transfer to/(from) General Fund in 2017/18	0	1,653	1,653
Surplus/Deficit in 2017/18	(455)	(1,726)	(2,181)
Total	(580)	(2,159)	(2,739)

4. Surpluses and Deficits

NDR

There is a deficit of £3.571m on the Collection Fund (£3.048m in 2017/18). This deficit is attributable to the London Borough of Merton, the Greater London Authority and central government; it is based on their respective demands upon the Collection Fund. The estimated shares of the fund are shown in the following table.

	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	Change in the Year £000
London Borough of Merton NDR deficit	914	2,635	1,721
Greater London Authority NDR deficit	759	1,275	516
MHCLG NDR deficit (surplus)	1,375	(339)	(1,714)
Total	3,048	3,571	523

In the Authority's Balance sheet, the Collection Fund balance contains the Authority's share only. The shares owed to the Greater London Authority and central government are included in net balances owed to the Greater London Authority and central government. A detailed analysis of the balances is given below.

	Greater London Authority £000	MHCLG £000	London Borough of Merton £000	Total £000
Accumulated deficit (as 2017-18 Accounts)	1,140	994	914	3,048
Compensating Adjustment	(381)	381	0	0
Revised accumulated deficit as at 1 st April 2018	759	1,375	914	3,048
Paid to/(from) preceptors in 2018/19	(1,140)	(1,714)	0	(2,854)
Transfer to/(from) General Fund in 2018/19	0	0	(1,223)	(1,223)
Deficit in 2018/19	1,656	0	2,944	4,600
Total	1,275	(339)	2,635	3,571

Collection Fund

5. Collection Fund Link to Core Statements

This note provides the link between the Collection Fund accounts, which are based on the Collection Fund Regulations, and the relevant Core Statements, which are based on the Code.

CIES

The £88,736m Council Tax income and the £53,364m NDR income are the Authority's share of Council Tax and NDR income received in the year according to normal accounting rules. The Council Tax and NDR income, which ultimately is credited to the General Fund, includes the Authority's share of the Collection Fund surplus or deficit generated from the previous year's income. This is shown in the following table.

A further £0.244m council tax income and £0.049m NDR income have also been recognised in the CIES in 2018/19. These are receipts which had been over-paid by taxpayers prior to 2012/13 and are now beyond the statutory period during which they could legally be reclaimed.

Income and Expenditure	Council Tax	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Demand on the Fund		82,563	87,009
Transfer of Surplus		1,386	1,653
Total included in I&E under Collection Fund Regulations		83,949	88,662
Adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)		422	73
Council Taxation Fund Income		84,371	88,735
Movement in Reserves Statement		2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code		(422)	(73)
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements		83,949	88,662

Income and Expenditure	Business Rates	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Demand on the Fund		26,401	56,308
Transfer of Deficit		380	(1,223)
Total included in I&E under Collection Fund Regulations		26,781	55,085
Adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)		(645)	(1,721)
Business Rates Fund Income		26,136	53,364
Movement in Reserves Statement		2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code		645	1,721
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements		26,781	55,085

Collection Fund

Balance Sheet

The cash collected by the Authority for Council Tax and NDR belongs proportionately to the Authority and its major preceptors (the GLA and the MHCLG). There will be a debtor/creditor position at the end of year since the net cash paid to each preceptor in the year will not exactly match its share of cash collected from Council Tax and NDR payers. The amounts actually paid to preceptors are based on estimates made prior to the financial year as required by statute.

The following table summarises the Council Tax and NDR cash balances for the Collection Fund and the Authority's Balance Sheet. In the Collection Fund column, the balance relating to each preceptor is their proportionate share of the surplus/deficit. In the Balance Sheet column, the balance relating to each preceptor is a consolidated sum comprising their proportionate share of the surplus/deficit and their proportionate share of arrears, provisions and receipts in advance.

Balance Sheet	Collection Fund 2018/19 £000	Balance Sheet 2018/19 £000
Council Tax		
Arrears	7,630	6,110
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(7,157)	(5,680)
Receipts in Advance	(5,309)	(4,213)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(2,159)	(2,159)
GLA	(580)	(1,633)
Cash	(7,575)	(7,575)
Business Rates		
Transitional Protection	(98)	(98)
Arrears	2,992	1,924
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(2,568)	(1,644)
Impairment for Loss on Appeals	(12,450)	(7,968)
Receipts in Advance	(3,382)	(2,164)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	2,635	2,635
GLA	1,275	(4,281)
MHCLG	(339)	(339)
Cash	(11,935)	(11,935)

Group Financial Statements

The Group Financial Statements consolidate the Authority's single entity accounts with its fully owned subsidiaries, Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) 2013 Limited and Merantun Development Limited.

1. Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2017/18				2018/19		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
224,986	(164,367)	60,619	Children, Schools and Families	231,684	(168,368)	63,316
87,178	(18,914)	68,264	Community and Housing	82,659	(23,237)	59,422
114,394	(99,425)	14,969	Corporate Services	132,485	(92,963)	39,522
59,649	(37,356)	22,293	Environment and Regeneration	59,149	(40,340)	18,809
11,511	(11,002)	508	Public Health	10,143	(10,118)	25
497,718	(331,064)	166,653	Cost of services	516,120	(335,026)	181,094
		(6,744)	Other operating income and expenditure	21,164	(7,535)	13,629
		17,006	Financing and investment income and expenditure			19,513
		(167,481)	Taxation and non-specific grant income			(164,486)
		9,434	Deficit on Provision of Services			49,750
		342	Tax on Subsidiary Profit			464
		9,776		0	0	50,214
		(21,449)	(Surplus) on revaluation of non-current assets			(292)
		(41,994)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit (asset)			(42,927)
		(63,443)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(43,219)
		(53,667)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			6,995

2. Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	Note	General Fund Balances	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Authority share of Subsidiary Reserves	Total Group Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2017		(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(2,229)	(234,256)
<i>Movement in reserves during 2017/18</i>								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		10,410			10,410	(63,347)	(1,471)	(54,409)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	18	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	(4,756)	4,756		
Adjustments between Group Accounts and the Authority's accounts							742	742
(Increase)/Decrease in Year		1,409	7,473	(3,228)	5,654	(58,591)	(729)	(53,667)
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward		(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(2,958)	(287,923)
	Note	General Fund Balances	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Authority share of Subsidiary Reserves	Total Group Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2018		(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(2,958)	(287,923)
Rounding Adjustments Btwn reserves		(2)		2				
<i>Movement in reserves during 2018/19</i>								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		50,370	0	0	50,370	(43,183)	(193)	6,995
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	18	(56,718)	6,285	(6,528)	(56,962)	56,962		
(Increase)/Decrease in Year		(6,348)	6,285	(6,528)	(6,592)	13,779	(193)	6,995
Balance at 31 March 2019 carried forward		(67,070)	(9,228)	(17,005)	(93,304)	(184,473)	(3,151)	(280,928)

3. Group Balance Sheet

31 Mar 2018	Balance Sheet	31 Mar 2019
£000		£000
724,093	Property, Plant & Equipment	701,323
802	Heritage Assets	802
4,500	Long Term Investments	0
5,191	Intangible Assets	4,727
160	Deferred Tax Asset	239
7,590	Long Term Debtors	6,850
742,336	Long Term Assets	713,941
55,193	Short Term Investments	60,239
1	Inventories	1
31,814	Short Term Debtors	36,212
1,183	Assets Held for Sale	700
34,521	Cash and Cash Equivalents	50,206
122,712	Current Assets	147,358
(1,487)	Short Term Borrowing	(1,495)
(64,343)	Short Term Creditors	(66,238)
(422)	Current Tax Liability	(558)
(641)	Current Provisions	(2,868)
(66,893)	Current Liabilities	(71,159)
(5,368)	Provisions	(9,828)
(113,010)	Long Term Borrowing	(113,010)
(29,778)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(30,129)
(350,907)	Pension Liability	(343,923)
(11,169)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(12,322)
(510,232)	Long Term Liabilities	(509,212)
287,923	Net Assets	280,928
(90,489)	Usable Reserves	(96,455)
(197,434)	Unusable Reserves	(184,473)
(287,923)	Total Reserves	(280,928)

4. Group Cash Flow Statement

2017/18	Cash Flow Statement	2018/19
£000		£000
9,776	Net deficit on the provision of services	50,214
(44,465)	Adjustments to net deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(90,764)
24,897	Adjustments for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	30,840
(9,792)	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	(9,710)
(5,796)	Investing Activities	(6,249)
13,599	Financing Activities	274
(1,988)	Net (increase) in cash and cash equivalents	(15,685)
32,534	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	34,521
34,521	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	50,206

Pension Fund Accounts

2017/18 £000	Fund Account	Notes	2018/19 £000
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme		
(22,745)	Contributions	7	(23,453)
(6,748)	Transfers in	8	(18,933)
(29,493)	Total Income		(42,386)
24,695	Benefits	9	25,816
2,746	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	5,242
27,441	Total Expenditure		31,058
(2,052)	Net (additions)/withdrawals from dealings with members		(11,328)
1,869	Management expenses	11	1,133
(183)	Net (additions)/withdrawals including Fund management expenses		(10,195)
	Returns on investments		
(12,605)	Investment income	12	(8,021)
148	Taxes on income	13	7
4	(Profit) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	14.3	(39,893)
(12,453)	Net returns on investments		(47,907)
(12,636)	Net (increase)/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year		(58,102)
(650,516)	Opening net assets of the scheme		(663,152)
(663,152)	Closing net assets of the scheme		(721,254)

Net Assets Statement

2017/18 £000		Notes	2018/19 £000
661,536	Investment assets	14	707,872
(1,348)	Investment liabilities	14	0
660,188	Total Investments		707,872
4,581	Current assets	20	14,679
(1,617)	Current liabilities	21	(1,297)
663,152	Net assets of the Fund available to Fund benefits at period end		721,254

The Fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed in Note 19.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts

1. Description of Fund

The London Borough of Merton Pension Fund (“the Fund”) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by the London Borough of Merton (“the Authority”). The Authority is the reporting entity for this Pension Fund.

The LGPS Regulations require the Authority to maintain specified pension arrangements for eligible employees, and to act as the Administering Authority for these arrangements.

(a) General

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

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

The Pension Fund Advisory Panel (PFAP) oversees and advises on investment of the Fund. This Panel comprises Council Members, a pensioner representative, staff side representative and officers, with the Director of Corporate Services responsible for administration. The Authority takes independent professional advice on investment policy and strategy.

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires each Fund within the Local Government Pension Scheme, to establish and run a Local Pension Board. Merton’s Local Pension Board is responsible for assisting the Council as administering authority to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Fund and to comply with legislation and with any requirement imposed by The Pensions Regulator.

The Board meets quarterly and has no decision-making powers on policy matters but may make recommendations to PFAP. The Board has four members comprising two employers and two scheme member representatives.

(b) Membership

Certain associated organisations, known as Admitted and Scheduled Bodies, may also participate in the Pension Scheme. The Scheduled Bodies have a right to be incorporated, whereas Admitted Bodies require the agreement of the Administering Authority. In addition to the Authority, the Admitted and Scheduled Bodies that currently contribute to the Fund are shown in the following table:

Admitted Bodies	Scheduled Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwich Leisure • Merton Priory Homes • CATCH 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators • Harris Academy Merton • Harris Academy Morden • Harris Academy Primary • Harris Wimbledon • St Mark's Academy • Benedict Academy • Park Community School • CHAS (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme) • Beecholme Academy • Aragon Academy • Stanford Primary Academy

The following table summarises the membership numbers of the scheme.

2017/18		2018/19
	Active Members	
3,565	London borough of Merton	3,717
305	Scheduled bodies	381
63	Admitted bodies	52
3,933		4,150
	Pensioners	
3,571	London borough of Merton	3,643
163	Scheduled bodies	164
115	Admitted bodies	119
3,849		3,926
	Deferred Pensioners	
5,074	London borough of Merton	5,113
302	Scheduled bodies	354
118	Admitted bodies	125
5,494		5,592

(c) Funding

The scheme is financed by contributions from employees and employers, together with income and proceeds from investment of the Pension Fund administered by the Authority in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2013.

Contributions are made by active members of the Fund and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31st March 2019. The employee contributions are matched by the employer contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial Funding valuations. The latest valuation occurred at 31 March 2016. Currently, employer contribution rates range from 12.0% to 26.4%. Employers pay a monetary contribution towards past service costs.

(d) Benefits

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

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service Post 1 April 2008
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary.
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3x pension. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

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 uprated annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits.

Normal Pension Age is no longer assumed to be 65, but rather the State Pension Age, which is subject to change. This would affect survivor benefits and ill health provision.

2. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2018/19 financial year and its financial position at year-end as at 31 March 2019. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19', which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits, which fall due after the end of the Fund year. The actuarial position of the Fund, which does take account of such obligations, is disclosed in Note 19.

The Fund Account is operated on an accruals basis except where otherwise stated.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Fund account – revenue recognition

3.1 Contribution Income

Normal contributions, both from members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer deficit Funding contributions are accounted for on the due date on which they are payable in accordance with the recovery plan under which they are paid. Employers' deficit Funding contributions are made on the advice of the Authority's actuary. Their purpose is to finance the recovery of past service deficiencies over an agreed period (currently twelve years).

Refund of contributions have been brought into the accounts on the basis of all valid claims paid during the year rather than the date of leaving or date of retirement.

Where members of the pension scheme have no choice but to receive a refund or single cash sum on retirement, these accounts have included any material amounts as accruals.

3.2 Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values are sums paid to or received from other pension schemes, relating to periods of previous pensionable employment. These are included on the basis of payments made or receipts received in the case of individual transfers and on an accruals basis for bulk transfers, which are considered material to the accounts.

3.3 Investment income

Investment income is reported gross of taxation, regardless of whether tax may be payable on a portion of that income. Tax paid is reported separately.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

The figure shown as investment income is made up of different types of income (dividend income for equity, interest income for bond and distributions for pooled investments).

Revenue account – expense items

3.4 Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Lump sums are accounted for in the period in which the member becomes a pensioner. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

3.5 Taxation

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

By virtue of LB Merton being the Administering Authority, VAT input tax is generally recoverable on all Fund activities.

3.6 Management Expenses

The code does not require any breakdown of pension Fund administrative expenses. However, in the interests of greater transparency, the Fund discloses its management expenses in accordance with CIPFA's *Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016)*.

(a) Investment Management Expenses

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. They are deducted from Fund assets by the Fund Managers.

A proportion of the Authority's costs representing management time spent by officers on investment management are charged to the Fund.

(b) Oversight and Governance Costs

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the Fund.

The cost of obtaining investment advice from the external advisor is included in oversight and governance costs.

3.7 Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Pension administration has been carried out by the London Borough of Wandsworth on a shared service basis since 1st December 2013.

Net Asset Statement

3.8 Investment Assets

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

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13 (see Note 16). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016).

3.9 Movement in the net market value of investment

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.

3.10 Foreign currency

All foreign currency investment transactions are converted into sterling at spot rate. The year end balances are converted using the 31st March rate to show the fair value of the investment.

3.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Dividends, interest, purchases, and sales of investments are accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End of year spot rate is used to calculate the closing cash balances held in foreign currency, overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

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

The cash balance includes cash held by the Fund managers and within the Funds' bank account.

3.12 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 IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Assets Statement (Note 19).

3.13 Additional Voluntary Contributions

Merton Pension Fund provides an Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Pension Fund. The Fund only uses one provider, the Prudential PLC. AVC's are not included in the accounts in accordance with section 4(2)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3093) but are disclosed in note 22.

3.14 Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

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.

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.

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

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 3 above, the Authority has had to make certain critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

4.1 Pension Fund Liability

Actuarial valuation of the Fund is carried out every three years and there are annual updates in the intervening years. These valuations determine the Pension Fund liability at a given date. There are various assumptions used by the actuary that underpin the valuations, therefore the valuations are subject to significant variances dependent on the assumptions used.

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

The main item in the Fund's Net Asset Statement at 31 March 2019 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year is the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions and the judgements used in these estimations are carried out by the actuary, Barnett Waddingham LLP. The significant judgements are in regard to the discount rate used, salary increase projections, and retirement age.</p> <p>Additionally, the actuary has included the impact of the McCloud case judgement 27th June 2019.</p>	<p>The impact of a small change in the discount rate of +0.1% would decrease the closing defined benefit obligation by £18.1m and a -0.1% reduction would increase the obligation by £18.5m. An adjustment to the mortality age rating assumption of -1 yr. would decrease the obligation by £36.5m.</p> <p>The impact of the McCloud case judgement is estimated to increase liabilities by 0.7% which amounts to £7.1m as at 31st March 2019.</p>

In the IAS26 report previously issued for the Fund as at 31 March 2019 no allowance was made for the recent McCloud judgement, which relates to age discrimination within the New Judicial Pension Scheme. This was due to the uncertainty of how this judgement may affect LGPS members' past or future service benefits.

However before the government lost its appeal at the supreme court the Scheme Advisory Board, with consent of the MHCLG, commissioned GAD to report on the possible impact of the McCloud judgement on LGPS liabilities, and in particular, those liabilities to be included in local authorities' accounts under IAS26 as at 31 March 2019.

The actuary used analysis provided by GAD along with the results of IAS26 disclosure prepared for the Fund at 31 March 2019. The membership data, valuation method, and financial and demographic assumptions adopted for the calculations are set out in the IAS26 disclosure. The key assumption is the assumed rate of future salary increases.

Salaries are assumed to increase at 1.5% p.a. above CPI in addition to a promotional scale. However, the actuary also allowed for a short-term overlay from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2020 for salaries to rise in line with CPI.

6. Events After The Reporting Date

There has been one adjusting event that provides additional information about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period. There has been additional evidence regarding the McCloud case judgement, including the legal ruling by the Supreme Court on 27th June 2019 which rejected the Government's appeal. The impact on the present value of the future retirement benefit is included within Note 19.

7. Contributions Receivable

2017/18 £000	By Category	2018/19 £000
17,026	Employers	17,348
5,719	Members	6,105
22,745	Total	23,453

2017/18 £000	By Authority	2018/19 £000
20,900	Administering	21,371
1,372	Scheduled	1,609
473	Admitted	473
22,745	Total	23,453

2017/18 £000	By Type	2018/19 £000
12,783	Employers normal	13,570
5,719	Employees normal	6,044
3,430	Deficit Funding	3,620
813	Employers additional	219
22,745	Total	23,453

8. Transfers In From Other Pension Funds

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
3,760	Individual Transfers	4,523
2,988	Group Transfer	14,410
6,748	Total	18,933

Note: There were two group transfers in 2018/19. HR Staff from LB Sutton to LB Merton (£5.4m) and SSA Environmental staff to Merton Regularity Services Partnership (£9m).

9. Benefits Payable

2017/18 £000	By Category	2018/19 £000
20,516	Pensions	21,548
3,558	Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	3,755
621	Lump sum death benefits	513
24,695	Total	25,816

2017/18 £000	By Authority	2018/19 £000
22,915	Administering	23,855
861	Scheduled	847
919	Admitted	1,114
24,695	Total	25,816

10. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
2,425	Individual transfers	4,239
250	Group transfers	843
68	Refunds of contribution	112
3	State scheme premiums	48
2,746	Total	5,242

11. Management Expenses

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
460	Administrative costs	387
1,108	Investment management expenses	434
301	Oversight and governance costs	312
1,869	Total	1,133

11a. Investment Management Expenses

2017/18 £000		2018/19 Fees invoiced £000	2018/19 Fees deducted at source £000
788	Management fees	424	961
10	Performance related fees	0	10
10	Custody fees	10	0
300	Transaction costs	0	75
1,108	Total	434	1,046

Note: Fees deducted at source were calculated and deducted as part of the portfolio's daily Net Asset Value calculation.

12. Investment Income

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
2,232	Income from bonds	1,054
8,860	Income from equities	3,361
166	Pooled investments – unit trusts and other managed Funds	2,941
826	Pooled property investments	803
521	Other	(138)
12,605	Total	8,021

13. Taxes on Income

2017/18 £000		2018/19 £000
115	Non-recoverable tax	3
33	Withholding tax	4
148	Total	7

14. Investment

14.1 Asset management arrangements

The management of Pension Fund assets is delegated to external investment managers who are authorised to conduct investment management business in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The table below shows the market value of the assets (including accrued dividends) by Fund Manager and the proportion managed by each manager as at 31 March 2019.

2017/18		Fund Manager	2018/19	
£000	%		£000	%
277,265	42	Aberdeen Asset Management	116,617	16
375,198	57	UBS Asset Management	222,988	31
7,575	1	Blackrock	78,321	11
0	0	Baillie Gifford (LCIV)	103,991	15
0	0	Pyrford (LCIV)	33,671	5
0	0	RBC (LCIV)	74,694	11
0	0	CQS (LCIV)	69,360	10
0	0	Quinbrook	4,389	1
0	0	Macquarie	1,157	0.2
0	0	Churchill	2,534	0.4
660,038	100	Total	707,722	100

14.2 Analysis of investment assets and income

An analysis of investment assets at 31 March 2019 is shown in the following table. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

Market Value 31 March 2018 £000		Market Value 31 March 2019 £000
	Investment Assets	
152,315	Bonds	87,451
244,427	Equities	0
236,156	Pooled investments	587,321
22,896	Pooled property investments	23,749
1,329	Derivative contracts - Futures	0
0	Private Debt and Infrastructure	8,080
2,829	Cash held with Fund managers	991
1,434	Investment income due	129
661,386	Total Investment Assets	707,721
	Investment Liabilities	
(1,348)	Derivative contracts – Futures	0
150	LCIV Subscription	150
660,188	Net investment assets	707,871

4.3 Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The following table shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2018/2019. The reconciliation shows the opening and closing value of investments analysed into major class of assets. The amount of sales and purchases is also shown.

	Market Value 1 April 2018 £000	Purchases during the year and derivative payments £000	Sales during the year and derivative receipts £000	Change in Market Value during the Year £000	Market Value 31 March 2019 £000
Bonds	152,315	1,658	(68,960)	2,438	87,451
Equities	244,427	0	(244,427)	0	0
Pooled Investments	236,156	552,275	(238,696)	37,587	587,322
Private Debt	0	8,847	0	(767)	8,080
Pooled Property	22,896	218	0	635	23,749
	655,794	562,997	(552,083)	39,893	706,602
Derivatives (Futures)					
Future Asset	1,329	0	(1,329)	0	0
Future Liability	(1,348)	0	1,348	0	0
	655,775	562,997	(552,064)	39,893	706,602
Other Investment Balances					
Cash with Fund Managers	2,829	0	0	0	991
Investment Income Due	1,434	0	0	0	129
External Investments at Market Value	660,038				707,722
LCIV Subscription	150				150
Investment Assets	660,188			39,893	707,872

Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The table below shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2017/2018.

	Market Value 1 April 2017 £000	Purchases during the year and derivative payments £000	Sales during the year and derivative receipts £000	Change in Market Value during the Year £000	Market Value 31 March 2018 £000
Bonds	153,178	4,870	(2,974)	(2,759)	152,315
Equities	236,697	64,820	(50,592)	(6,498)	244,427
Pooled Investments	232,468	14,510	(18,655)	7,833	236,156
Pooled Property	21,321	444	(262)	1,393	22,896
	643,664	84,644	(72,483)	(31)	655,794
Derivatives (Futures)					
Future Asset	2,328	8,170	(9,193)	24	1,329
Future Liability	(2,330)	0	0	0	(1,348)
	643,662	92,814	(81,676)	(7)	655,775
Other Investment Balances					
Cash with Fund Managers	3,638	0	0	0	2,829
Investment Income Due	1,310	0	0	0	1,434
Realised Loss on FX	0	0	0	3	0
External Investments at Market Value	648,610				660,038
LCIV Subscription	150				150
Investment Assets	648,760			(4)	660,188

14.4 Detail Analysis of Investments

The table below shows an analysis of investment assets between 'UK' and 'overseas' and between 'quoted' and 'unquoted'. The analysis excludes derivatives.

Market Value 31 March 2018 £000		Market Value 31 March 2019 £000
	Bonds	
114,952	Public Sector : UK quoted	65,843
37,363	: Overseas quoted	21,608
152,315		87,451
	Equities (Direct)	
226,155	UK quoted	0
18,272	Other European quoted	0
0	Global Equities quoted	0
244,427		0
	Pooled Investments	
54,917	UK (Equities)	0
35,927	Other European (Equities)	0
69,087	American (Equities)	0
27,858	Japanese (Equities)	0
26,083	Other Overseas (Equities)	0
22,283	Developing Markets (Equities)	0
0	Global Equities quoted	451,367
0	Diversified Growth	66,595
	Multi Asset Credit	69,360
236,155		587,322
	Pooled Property Investments	
7,561	Property Managed Fund/Units quoted	7,918
15,336	Property Managed Fund/Units unquoted	15,831
22,896		23,749
	Private Debt and Infrastructure	
0	Macquarie	1,157
0	Churchill	2,534
0	Quinbrook	4,389
0		8,080
1,434	Other Investment Balances	129
2,829	Cash with Fund Managers	991
1,329	Derivatives (Futures)	0
661,386	Total Investment Assets	707,722
(1,348)	Derivatives (Futures)	0
150	LCIV Subscription	150
660,187	Total	707,872

14.5 Analysis of derivatives

As at 31 March 2019, the Fund had no exposure to future contracts. The below table shows last year's position for information only.

The following table reflects the Fund's exposure to future contracts.

Type	Expires	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2018 £000	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2019 £000
UK Equities	Three – Six months	1,348	1,329	0	0

14.6 Stock lending

There were no stock lending arrangements in place during the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

14.7 Investments exceeding 5% of net assets

The table below shows investments exceeding 5% of total net assets, (all these investments are pooled).

% Market Value 2017/18	Security	% Market Value 2018/19
11.65	Aberdeen Global II Index Linked	7.2
9.38	UBS Life North America Equity Tracker	0
7.35	UBS Life UK Equity Tracker	12.7
5.69	Aberdeen Global II Global Aggregate	0
5.34	UBS Life Europe Ex UK Equity Tracker	0

15. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

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

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Pooled investments - Property Funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required
Unquoted equities	Level 3	Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines 2012	Not required	Not required

15a Fair Value Hierarchy

The valuation of financial instruments can be classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. All the financial instruments of the Fund are classified as level 1, 2 and 3, as follows:

Level 1 – Where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Comprise quoted equities, quoted bonds and unit trust.

Level 2 – Where quoted market prices are not available, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value based on observable data.

Level 3 – Where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the Instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension Fund grouped into Levels 1, 2 and 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

31 March 2018				31 March 2019		
Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000	Quoted market price Level 3 £000		Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000	Quoted market price Level 3 £000
635,660	22,896	0	Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	674,922	23,749	8,080
2,979	0	0	Loans and Receivables	1,120	0	0
(1,348)	0	0	Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	0	0	0
637,291	22,896	0	Total	676,042	23,749	8,080

16. Financial Instruments

16.1 Classification of financial instruments

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and Net Asset Statement heading.

31 March 2018				31 March 2019		
Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Assets at amortised cost £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000		Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Assets at amortised cost £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000
			Financial Assets			
152,315	0	0	Bonds	87,451	0	0
244,427	0	0	Equities	0	0	0
236,156	0	0	Pooled Investments	587,321	0	0
22,896	0	0	Pooled Property Investments	23,749	0	0
0	0	0	Private Debt & Infrastructure	8,080	0	0
0	150	0	LCIV Subscription	0	150	0
1,329	0	0	Derivative Contracts	0	0	0
0	2,829	0	Cash With Fund Managers	0	991	0
1,434	0	0	Other Investment Balances	129	0	0
0	641	0	Debtors	0	467	0
0	3,698	0	Cash	0	12,607	0
658,557	7,318	0		706,730	14,215	0
			Financial Liabilities			
(1,348)	0	0	Derivative Contracts	0	0	0
0	0	(1,344)	Creditors	0	0	(1,297)
(1,348)	0	(1,344)		0	0	(1,297)
657,209	7,318	(1,344)		706,730	14,215	(1,297)

16.2 Net gains and losses on financial instruments

The table below shows net gains on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss.

31 March 2018 £000		31 March 2019 £000
(4)	Financial Assets	
	Fair Value through profit and loss	39,893
(4)	Total	39,893

17. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

17.1 Risk and risk management

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise opportunity for gains across the whole portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The Fund manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Advisory Panel. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority's pensions operations. The Investment Strategy Statement and Risk Register are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in the Fund's strategy, activity and in market conditions. The Fund also ensures authorised investment managers are used through its rigorous Fund manager selection process. In addition, the Fund employs an adviser, JLT Employee Benefits, who provides advice on investment issues.

17.2 Market risk

The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix. The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, while optimising investment return.

17.3 Price risk

Potential price changes are based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. Riskier assets in the Fund such as equities display greater potential price volatility than bonds and other asset classes. The Fund investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities. Other financial instruments are monitored by the Authority to ensure they are within limits specified in the Fund investment strategy.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2019 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Bonds	87,451	9.6	95,862	79,040
Equities	451,367	8.7	490,463	412,271
Diversified Growth	66,595	3.5	68,902	64,288
Multi Asset Credit	69,360	9.6	76,019	62,701
Pooled Property	23,749	3.4	24,556	22,942
Private Debt and Infrastructure	8,080	5.5	8,522	7,638
Cash	991	0.6	997	985
Income Due	129	0.0	129	129
LCIV Subscription	150	0.0	150	150
Total Assets	707,872		765,599	650,144

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
UK Equities	281,073	9.4	307,494	254,652
Overseas Equities	199,510	9.4	218,264	180,756
Bonds and Index Linked	152,315	10.3	168,003	136,626
Property	22,896	3.5	23,698	22,095
Cash	2,829	0.7	2,849	2,809
Income Due	1,434	0.0	1,434	1,434
LCIV Subscription	150	0.0	150	150
Total Assets	660,207		721,892	598,522

Note: The % change for total assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

The potential volatilities are consistent with one standard deviation movement in the change in value of the assets over three years. This was applied to the 31 March 2019 asset mix as shown in the following table (Note 17.4):

17.4 Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk). Whether those changes are caused by factors specific to individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities represent a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The Fund's investment managers aim to mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments.

The following table shows the volatility between the asset classes invested in.

Asset Type	Potential market movements (+/-) %
Bonds and Index Linked	9.6
Equities	8.7
Diversified Growth	3.5
Multi Asset Credit	9.6
Property	3.4
Private Debt and Infrastructure	5.5
Cash	0.6

17.5 Interest rate risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the council and its investment advisors in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

17.6 Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the GBP. The majority of foreign equities in the UBS portfolio are priced in GBP thereby reducing currency risk fluctuations. The % change has been derived from the measurement of volatility of the Fund over three years.

The table below shows the currency exposure by asset type as at 31 March 2019.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2019 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Bonds	21,608	9.3	23,626	19,590
Private Debt & Infrastructure	8,080	9.3	8,835	7,325
Total Overseas Assets	29,688		32,461	26,915

The table below shows the currency exposure by asset type as at 31 March 2018.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	199,510	8.8	217,067	181,953
Overseas Bonds	37,363	8.8	40,651	34,075
Total Overseas Assets	236,873		257,718	216,028

The following table calculates the aggregate currency exposure within the Fund as at 31 March 2019. In doing this we have applied the single outcome to all non-UK assets where the manager has not priced the security in GBP and multiplied the weight of each

currency by the change in its exchange rate (relative to GBP) and sum to create the aggregate change.

Assets exposed to currency risk	Value at 31 March 2019 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Bonds (US Dollar)	21,608	9.30	23,626	19,590
Private Debt & Infrastructure (US Dollar)	8,080	9.30	8,835	7,325
Total	29,688		32,461	26,915

Assets exposed to currency risk	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities (Danish Krone)	1,287	9.00	1,403	1,171
Overseas Equities (EURO)	13,977	9.00	15,235	12,719
Overseas Equities (Swedish Krona)	1,618	9.70	1,775	1,461
Overseas Equities (Swiss Franc)	4,805	10.30	5,300	4,310
Overseas Bonds (US Dollar)	37,508	9.70	41,146	33,869
Total	59,195		64,859	53,530

17.7 Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Authority's credit criteria. The average long-term credit rating in the bond portfolio is AA as at 31 March 2019. The investment manager reports on the credit quality of the portfolio on a quarterly basis.

The table below shows the credit quality for the Aberdeen Bond portfolio.

Value at 31 March 2018 £000		Value at 31 March 2019 £000
7,768	AAA	4,466
111,342	AA	64,005
14,470	A	8,318
15,536	BBB	8,931
1,219	BB or below	700
1,980	Cash	1,138
38	Settled Cash	8
152,353	Total	87,566

17.8 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The pension Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it always has adequate cash balance to meet its commitments. The Fund's cash holding as at 31 March 2019 was £12.6m (31 March 2018: £3.7m).

17.9 Refinancing risk

This is the risk that the Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its Pension Fund financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Authority does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategy.

18. Funding Arrangements

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the Fund actuary undertakes a Funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2016 and the next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2019.

The key elements of the Funding policy are:

- 1) To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient Funds are available to meet pension liabilities as they fall due for payment;
- 2) To ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible;
- 3) To minimise the long-term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return;
- 4) To reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where it is reasonable to do so, and;
- 5) To use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council taxpayer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 12 years and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the Funds held, plus future expected investment returns and future contributions, are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

As at the 2016 actuarial valuation, the Fund was assessed as 94% Funded. This corresponded to a deficit of £32.7m. at that time.

The table below shows the Funding level and deficit for the past three triennial valuations.

	2010 Valuation	2013 Valuation	2016 Valuation
Funding Level %	84.0	89.0	94.0
Funding (Deficit) £m	(67.2)	(53.2)	(32.7)

The assessed value of assets held by the Fund at 31 March 2016 was £525.5m (2013 valuation: £451.0m), whilst the liabilities accrued in respect of pensionable service were £558.2m (2013 valuation: £504.2m).

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service. The principal assumptions were as follows.

Financial Assumptions

Financial Assumption		31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Discount rate	Long Term Short Term	5.5%	5.9%
Pay increase		3.9%	4.5%
		Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for period from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2020	CPI for period 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2015
Consumer price inflation (CPI)		2.4%	2.7%
Pension increases		2.4%	2.7%
		Funds will pay limited increases for members that have reached Statutory Pension Age (SPA) by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase.	
Pension increases on GMP		For members that reach SPA after this date, we have assumed that Funds will be required to pay the entire inflationary increases.	No allowances for limit in increase for any members

Demographic Assumptions

The main assumptions are detailed below:

Demographic Assumptions	31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Allowance for improvement in life expectancy	2015 Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) Model with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a.	2012 CMI Model with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a.
Allowance for cash commutation	Members will commute pension at retirement to provide a lump sum of 50% of the maximum allowed under HMRC rules and this will be at a rate of £12 lump sum for £1 of pension	Members will commute pension at retirement to provide a lump sum of 50% of the maximum allowed under HMRC rules and this will be at a rate of £12 lump sum for £1 of pension
Allowance for 50:50 membership	Based on members' current section	10% of active members will opt to pay 50% of contributions for 50% of benefits under the new scheme

19. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The accounting standard IAS26 sets out the measurement and disclosure principles for reporting retirement benefit plans. For this purpose, the Code of Practice requires that actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for Funding purposes. In order to meet this requirement, the Fund's actuary has carried out an additional assessment of the Fund as at 31 March 2019, using a valuation methodology that is consistent with IAS19.

The financial assumptions used for the purposes of the calculations are as follows:

Financial Assumptions	Assumptions as at 31/03/19 %
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.40
Salary Rate Increase	3.90
Discount Rate	2.40

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2019 was:

31/03/18 £m		31/03/19 £m
1,002.5	Present value of promised retirement benefits	1,052.8

Based on the calculation carried out by the Fund actuary the estimated increase in promised retirement benefits because of the McCloud case judgment is £7.1m (0.98% of the Net asset value) as at 31 March 2019. This makes the total present value of total promised retirement benefit £1,059.9m.

20. Current Assets

31/03/18 £000	Current Assets	31/03/19 £000
242	Contributions Due	1,605
641	Sundry Debtors	467
3,698	Cash	12,607
4,581	Total	14,679

Analysis of Debtors

31/03/18 £000	Current Debtors	31/03/19 £000
168	Administering Body	1,442
74	Admitted and Scheduled Bodies	163
641	Sundry Debtors	467
883	Total	2,072

21. Current Liabilities

31/03/18 £000	Creditors	31/03/19 £000
(755)	Fund Managers Fees	(184)
(589)	Sundry	(793)
(273)	Payroll	(320)
(1,617)	Total	(1,297)

22. Additional Voluntary Contributions

The scheme provides for members to pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to increase their benefit entitlement at retirement, subject to HMRC limits. Under Regulation 4 (2) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No: 3093), AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund accounts but are paid over by the Authority's shared payroll service and invested by a specialist AVC provider, Prudential PLC, independently of the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund.

The amount of additional voluntary contributions paid by members during 2018/19 to AVC schemes outside the Authority's responsibility was £0.415m (£0.442m at 31 March

2018). The external providers have reported that at 31 March 2019 the total value of accumulated AVCs is £2.47m (£2.36m at 31 March 2018).

23. Related Parties

Merton Pension Fund is administered by London Borough of Merton. During the reporting period, the Council incurred costs of £0.39m (2017/18: £0.41m) in relation to the administration and management of the Fund and was reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The council is also the single largest employer of members of the pension Fund. All monies owing to and due from the Fund were paid in year.

No members of the pension Fund committee are in receipt of pension benefits from the Merton Pension Fund. The three officers and the two staff pensioner reps of the committee are active members of the Fund.

In addition, the four local pension board members are active members of the pension Fund.

Each member of the pension Fund committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting. No other declarations were made during the year.

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Director of Corporate Services, the Assistant Director of Resources and the Head of Treasury and Pensions. Total remuneration payable to key management personnel is shown below:

	31/03/18 £	31/03/19 £
Short-term benefits	103,114	84,068
Total remuneration	103,114	84,068

24. Contingent Liabilities & Contractual Commitments

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2019 were £41.2m (31 March 2018 £0m).

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on Private debt and infrastructure investments. The amounts 'called' by these investments are irregular in both size and timing over a period of between one and three years from the date of each original commitment.

Statements of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

-) To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Director of Corporate Services.
-) To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets.
-) To approve the Statement of Accounts.

1.1. The Director of Corporate Services' Responsibilities

The Director of Corporate Services 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 Director of Corporate Services has:

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

The Director of Corporate Services has also:

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

1.2 Certification of Responsible Finance Officer

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Signed

C Holland
Director of Corporate Services
25th July 2019

1.3 Approval of Accounts by Standards and General Purposes Committee

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts has been approved by resolution of the Standards and General Purposes Committee of the London Borough of Merton in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

Signed

Peter McCabe

Chairman Standards and General Purposes Committee

25th July 2019

Further information about the accounts is available from

Director of Corporate Services
8th Floor
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
MORDEN
Surrey
SM4 5DX

Or, alternatively, please ask for Stephen Bowsher on 020 8545 3531

Independent Auditor's Report

The final Auditors report will be received from Ernst and Young shortly after the Standards and General Purposes Committee on 25th July 2019.

Glossary

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Rules and practices followed in drawing up the accounts.

ACCOUNTING CODE OF PRACTICE

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting supports consistent financial reporting at the level of the formal statements of accounts.

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid. This concept is reflected in the accounts by the inclusion of debtors and creditors.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

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

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

AMORTISED COST

A way of measuring financial instruments that ignores changes in fair value. Defined as the amount at which a financial instrument is measured when it is first brought onto the Balance Sheet, adjusted for

-) Repayments of principal (minus), and
-) Cumulative amortisation of any difference between the initial amount and the maturity amount (using the effective interest method) (plus or minus).

These differences might arise (e.g.) from transaction costs being set off against the principal amount of a loan or interest being payable at less than market rates.

AMORTISED COSTS FINANCIAL ASSETS

Investments for which any gains and losses in fair value are not accounted for until the investment matures or is sold. Defined as financial assets:

-) held within a business model whose objective is to hold investments in order to collect their contractual cash flows, and
-) which have the form of a basic lending arrangement (i.e, contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding).

APPROPRIATIONS

The assignment of revenue balances for specified purposes.

ASSET HELD FOR SALE

An asset is classified as held for sale if its carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. The asset

must be available for immediate sale in its present condition and its sale must be highly probable.

ASSETS

These are rights or access to future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or events.

BALANCES

Balances are maintained to meet expenditure pending the receipt of income and to provide a cushion against expenditure being higher or income lower than expected.

Contributions to balances can be either a planned contribution from the revenue budget or a transfer of any revenue surplus at the year end. The maintenance of an appropriate level of balances is a fundamental part of prudent financial management.

BUDGET

Statement of the spending plans for the year.

BUSINESS MODEL

Arrangements for holding financial assets, whose objectives can involve making a return by either collecting the cash flows payable under the contracts for each investment (e.g, interest) or hoping to sell investments to gain from increases in their value.

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT (CAA)

This reserve is debited with the historical cost of acquiring, creating or enhancing fixed assets over the life of those assets and with the historical cost of deferred charges. It is credited with resources set aside to finance capital expenditure. Where there is a credit balance, capital finance is being set-aside at a faster rate than resources have been consumed. Where there is a debit balance, fixed assets are being consumed in advance of their being financed.

CAPITAL CHARGES

Charges to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

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

CAPITAL RECEIPTS DEFERRED

Capital receipts on the disposal of non-current assets where cash settlement is deferred.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets and repayments of capital grants and loans. These are divided into reserved and usable parts.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA)

The Institute produces standards and codes of practice that must be followed in preparing the Authority's financial statements.

COLLECTION FUND

This is a statutory 'ring fenced' account. It records income and expenditure on Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, payments to the precepting authorities and transfer to the Authority's General Fund.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, which have no determinable useful life and which may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples include parks and historic buildings.

COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW (CSR)

The CSR is a governmental process carried out by HM Treasury which sets out fixed three-year departmental expenditure limits and through public sector service agreements defines key service improvements.

CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

A contingent asset is a possible asset, which may arise in the future if certain events take place. A contingent liability is a possible loss or charge, which may arise in the future if certain events take place. In both cases, these events may not be wholly within the control of the Authority.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the accounts but should be disclosed by way of a note if there is a possible obligation which may require payment or a transfer of economic benefits.

CONTRACT ASSET

An asset arising from a contract for the purchase of goods and/or services from the Council, where the Council has met some of its performance obligations but is not yet entitled unconditionally to receive payment

CONTRACT LIABILITY

A liability arising from a contract for the purchase of goods and/or services from the Council, where the Council has received payment but has yet to meet the performance obligations relating to that payment.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate Governance is the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and communicate to their communities.

COUNCIL TAX

This is the main source of local taxation to local authorities. It is levied on households within the authority's area and the proceeds are paid into the Collection Fund for distribution to precepting authorities and to the authority's own General Fund.

CREDIT-ADJUSTED EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE

The effective interest rate calculated for purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets that takes into account expected credit losses.

CREDIT-IMPAIRED FINANCIAL ASSET

A financial asset for which events have occurred that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows due to the Council (e.g, financial difficulties of the borrower, a breach of contract).

CREDIT LOSSES

A measure of how much the Council would lose if the amounts owed to it by debtors and borrowers are not repaid. Defined as the shortfall between all the cash flows that are due contractually to the Council under a financial asset and those that it actually expects to receive (discounted using the investment's effective interest rate).

CREDITORS

Money owed by the Authority, which is due immediately or in the short term. Accordingly, it does not include money on taxation to the Authority. Creditors are an example of the concept of accruals.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of the liabilities earned by employees in the current period in a defined benefit scheme.

CURTAILMENT COSTS

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- a. termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example, as a restructuring of operations
- b. termination of, or amendment to, the terms of a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEBTORS

Money that is due to the Authority but which has not yet been received. Debtors are an example of the concept of accruals.

DEFICIT FUNDING (Employers Additional Funding)

An agreed additional payment made annually by the employer to the Pension Fund to cover a past service deficiency over a fixed recovery period.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

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

DEFRA

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is a charge to the revenue account to reflect the reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset. The reduction in the value of a fixed asset in the balance sheets is in line with the expected useful life.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Authority's discretionary powers, such as The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996, The Local Government (Discretionary Payments and Injury Benefits) (Scotland) Regulations 1998, or The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.

EFFECTIVE INTEREST METHOD

The method that uses effective interest rates to calculate the amortised cost of a financial instrument and allocates interest revenue or expense to the particular financial years over which the instrument is held.

EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE

The interest rate that exactly discounts future cash payments and receipts over the life of a financial instrument to the carrying amount (gross of any loss allowance) (asset) or to the amortised cost (liability). This might be different from the actual interest rate where (e.g.) transaction costs have been accrued or because of interest at less than market rates being spread over the term of the instrument.

EMOLUMENTS

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

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Material items, which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the authority, but which are not expected to recur frequently or regularly.

Exceptional items should be shown as part of the Net Cost of Services to which they relate or on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account if that degree of prominence is necessary to give a fair representation of the accounts.

EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES (ECLs)

The credit losses that the Council estimates will arise from the amounts that it is currently owed. ECLs are calculated by measuring the losses that would arise from different default scenarios and calculates a weighted average loss based on the probability of each scenario taking place.

12 MONTH EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES

The expected credit losses for a financial asset that are projected for the possible default events that might happen only in the next financial year.

FAIR VALUE

Fair value is defined as '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 IFRS 13 fair value hierarchy has three levels of valuation:

Level One – fair value has been obtained using quoted prices in active markets for identical items.

Level Two - fair value has been obtained using other inputs observable for the item.

Level Three – unobservable inputs have been used to reach fair value.

FAIR VALUE THROUGH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FINANCIAL ASSETS

Investments for which gains and losses in fair value are recognised on the Balance Sheet but do not impact on the Council's income as they arise but only when the investment matures or is sold. Defined as financial assets:

-) held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling investments; and
-) which have the form of a basic lending arrangement (i.e., contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding).

FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS FINANCIAL ASSETS

Defined as financial assets that do not qualify for measurement at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

This account provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which gains and losses are recognized under the SORP and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund. The account is designed to hold the difference between the book value and fair value. It is not used at present because the sums involved are not significant.

FINANCE LEASE

A finance lease is one that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee. It should be presumed that such a transfer of risks and rewards occurs if at the inception of a lease the present value of the minimum lease payments including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all (normally 90% or more), of the fair value of the leased asset.

FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year runs from the 1st April to the following 31st March.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another. In practice, this covers both assets and liabilities and includes bank deposits, investments, debtors, loans and advances, debt premiums, creditors and borrowings.

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. These can be tangible or intangible.

FTSE 100

This is the index of the top 100 UK listed companies by market capitalisation.

GENERAL FUND

The main fund of the Authority, from which all expenditure is met and all income is paid, with the exception of those items, which by statute have to be taken to some other account.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Financial assistance by government and other bodies, in the form of cash transfers to an authority in return for compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

GROSS EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure of a fund or account.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

Accounts that show the total financial results for a group of entities for a particular period, rather than the separate results of each entity.

HERITAGE ASSETS

These are a class of assets which were formerly categorized as Community Assets. These assets are deemed to contribute to a nation's society, knowledge and/or culture.

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards: these are the standards that have superseded national accounting standards. The Code of Practice which has replaced the SORP is fully IFRS based.

IMPAIRMENT

The loss of value in a fixed asset arising from physical damage, deterioration in the quality of service provided by the asset or from a general fall in prices.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Accounts which show all money receivable or payable by the Authority in the accounting period to which they relate. Accounts that record receipts and payments are converted to income and expenditure by the inclusion of debtors and creditors.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets that have no realistic expectation of being sold but are retained to deliver core services e.g. roads, drainage etc. and in respect of which expenditure cannot be recovered through disposal.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets are defined in IAS38 as 'identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance'.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

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

INVESTMENTS (PENSION FUND)

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

INVESTMENTS (NON-PENSION FUND)

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

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

JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITY

A joint venture that involves the establishment of a corporation, partnership or other entity in which each venturer has an interest.

LCIV (LONDON COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT VEHICLE)

LCIV is a Collective Investment Vehicle for London Local Authorities (LLA) Pension Funds which delivers broader investment opportunities and enhanced cost efficiencies than LLAs can achieve individually and overall better risk adjusted performance.

LEASING

This facility is a means to obtain the use of vehicles, plant and computer equipment without actually owning these items.

LEVY

An amount levied by a local authority or other statutory body which is paid by the Authority.

LIABILITIES

An entity's obligations to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

LIFETIME EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES

The expected credit losses that are projected to arise from all possible default events that might happen in the lifetime of a financial asset.

LOSS ALLOWANCE

An allowance made by setting funds aside to cover the expected credit losses calculated for a financial asset.

MATERIALITY

Materiality sets the threshold for determining whether an item is relevant. This is defined as: an item of information is material to the financial information if its misstatement or omission might reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users of those financial statements, including their assessments of management's stewardship. Whether information is material will depend on the size and nature of the item in question judged in the particular circumstances of the case.

MHCLG

This is the Government department for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

NAV (NET ASSET VALUE)

Net Asset Value is the value of an entity's assets minus the value of its liabilities.

NET ASSETS

The Net Assets of the authority is the amount that the authority owns (its assets) less the amount that it owes (its liabilities).

NET BOOK ASSETS

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

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

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of an asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational asset), less the expenses required realising the asset.

NET WORTH

The Net Worth of the authority shows how the net assets of the authority are allocated between usable resources, resources that have been set aside to finance capital expenditure, unrealised gains from increases in asset values and the reserves which are needed to manage the complexities of local authority accounting.

NON-DOMESTIC RATE (NDR)

The rates paid by businesses. The amount paid is based on the rateable value set by the Valuation Office multiplied by a rate in the £ set by the government, which is consistent throughout the country.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of these assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

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

PAST DUE (FINANCIAL ASSETS)

A financial asset for which a payment that was due contractually to the Council has not yet been paid.

PAST SERVICE COST

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

PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

The amounts that would be paid under a basic lending arrangement. For accounting purposes, they comprise:

-) the repayment of the fair value of a financial asset when it was brought onto the Council's Balance Sheet (principal); and
-) consideration for the time value of money, compensation for credit risk, recovery of basic lending costs and a profit margin (interest).

PENSION STRAIN (Employers Additional Funding)

Payments made to the Pension Fund to cover additional costs to the Pension Fund where a member draws their pension benefits a lot earlier than expected.

PERFORMANCE OBLIGATION

A promise in a contract with a service recipient for the Council to deliver goods and/or services.

POOLED VEHICLES

A pooled vehicle is a single investment whose value and performance is the aggregate of a number of separate investments held within the pooled arrangement. Pooled investments are undertaken to improve the diversification and efficiency of investment activity, particularly where a similar spread of segregated investments would incur higher management costs, and be less economic.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

These are events which arise after the end of the accounting period. They can be divided into

-) Adjusting events, which provide further evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the accounting period and that may require changes to the accounts.

-) Non Adjusting Events, which are indicative of conditions that arose subsequent to period end, that are reported by way of a note to the accounts.

PRECEPTS

An amount collected by the Authority as part of the Council Tax on behalf of another statutory body.

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

PFI contracts are agreements with private sector organisations to refurbish, maintain and operate fixed assets on behalf of public sector organisations such as local authorities.

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

Prior period adjustments are material adjustments relating to the accounts of previous years and which arise from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. Prior period adjustments do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PURCHASED OR ORIGINATED CREDIT-IMPAIRED FINANCIAL ASSET

A financial asset that was credit-impaired when it was first brought onto a Council's Balance Sheet.

PROVISIONS

Amounts set aside for any liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred, but which are uncertain as to the amounts or the dates on which they will arise.

RESERVES

These are amounts set aside for specific purposes. The Authority has discretion in whether it wishes to set aside these amounts as distinct from sums set aside in provisions.

RESIDUAL VALUE

This is the estimate, based on current prices, of the increase in market value of the buildings transferred to New Schools under the PFI contract.

REVALUATION RESERVE

The Revaluation Reserve records increases and reductions in the value of fixed assets when compared to their original book value. Reductions in value can be offset against accumulated revaluation gains before they are charged to the income and expenditure account.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure incurred on day to day running costs and confined to accounts within one financial year.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY CAPITAL RESOURCES UNDER STATUTE

This is expenditure which is classified as revenue expenditure but which can be funded from capital resources under statutory requirements. This expenditure was called deferred charges under the 2007 SORP.

SCHEME LIABILITIES

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

SERVICE RECIPIENT

A person or an organisation that has contracted with the Council (as part of the Council's normal business) to obtain goods and/or services in return for payment (or in exchange of goods/services to the Council).

SETTLEMENT COSTS

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

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

STOCKS

The amount of unused or unconsumed supplies held in expectation of future use.

SUBSIDIARY

An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is controlled by another entity (known as the parent).

SUPPORT SERVICES

These are services that are not statutory local authority services but which give support to those services.

TRANSACTION PRICE

The amount the Council expects to be entitled to under contract in exchange for transferring promised goods and/or services to a service recipient.\

USEFUL LIFE

This is the period over which the local authority derives benefit from the use of a fixed asset.

VESTED RIGHTS

In relation to a defined benefit scheme, these are: -

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

**London Borough of
Merton**
Audit results report
Year ended 31 March 2019

22 July 2019

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22 July 2019



Dear Audit Committee Members

We are pleased to attach our audit results report for the forthcoming meeting of the Standards and General Purposes Committee. This report summarises our preliminary audit conclusion in relation to the audit of the London Borough of Merton for 2018/19. We will issue our final report following the Standards and General Purposes Committee meeting on 25 July 2019.

At the date of drafting this report our audit of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2019 is in progress. Whilst the majority of our audit procedures are in progress, there is a possibility that we will not be in a position to issue our auditor's report by the 31 July. However, subject to concluding the outstanding matters listed in our report, we confirm that we expect to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements in the form at Section 4 of this report. We will also have no matters to report on your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources

This report is intended solely for the use of the Standards and General Purposes Committee, other members of the Authority, and senior management. It should not be used for any other purpose or given to any other party without obtaining our written consent.

We would like to thank your staff for their help during the engagement.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this report with you at the Standards and General Purposes Committee meeting on 25 July 2019.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Patel'.

Suresh Patel

Associate Partner

For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP

Encl

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Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) have issued a 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the PSAA website (www.psa.co.uk). This Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas. The 'Terms of Appointment (updated April 2018)' issued by PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This report is prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities. It is addressed to the Members of the audited body, and is prepared for their sole use. We, as appointed auditor, take no responsibility to any third party.

Our Complaints Procedure - If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, you may take the issue up with your usual partner or director contact. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Steve Varley, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute. We can provide further information on how you may contact our professional institute.



01

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Scope update

In our audit plan presented to the 14 March 2019 Audit Committee meeting, we provided you with an overview of our audit scope and approach for the audit of the financial statements. We carried out our audit in accordance with this plan, with the following exceptions:

- ▶ Changes in materiality - We updated our planning materiality assessment using the draft statement of accounts. Based on our materiality measure of 1.8% of gross expenditure on provision of services, we have updated our overall materiality assessment to £9.9m for the single entity financial statements and £10.0m for the group (audit plan – £9.4m for the single entity financial statements and £9.5m for the group). This results in updated performance materiality, at 50% of overall materiality, of £4.95 million for the single entity financial statements and £5m for the group. Our updated threshold for reporting misstatements of £495,000 for the single entity financial statements and £501,000 for the group.

We include a summary of our approach to the audit of the balance sheet including any changes to that approach from the prior year audit in Appendix A.

Status of the audit

Our audit of the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 is in progress and we are performing the procedures outlined in our audit plan. Subject to satisfactory completion of the following outstanding items we expect to issue an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements in the form which appears at Section 3. However until work is complete, further amendments may arise. The table below outlines the main procedures that are outstanding at the date of this report. We will provide a verbal update of progress to the Committee meeting.

Procedures significantly completed:			
• Income & expenditure (final review)	• Debtors & Creditors	• Journals testing	• CHAS revenue
• PFI (invoice testing to complete)	• Collection Fund (I&E procedures)	• IAS 19 (final checks on McCloud changes)	
Procedures in progress:			
• Grants (receipts in advance)	• Other disclosures	• Related party transactions	
• NDR appeals provision			

Following completion of the above procedures, we will need to review and check the final version of the statement of accounts, carry out a subsequent events review, review management representations and complete our final internal review procedures.

The deadline for audit submission of WGA has recently been revised to 13 September 2019. In light of this we will complete the work to the revised deadline and therefore will not issue the audit certificate at the same time as the audit opinion.

Executive Summary

Audit differences

At the date of this report there is one unadjusted audit difference arising from our audit. At the financial year-end Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services overspent by £3.5m and the year-end earmarked DSG reserve ended in a deficit position of £2.9m. We have concluded, based on the relevant guidance from CIPFA and the Department for Education, that it is not allowable for a voluntary earmarked balance to be presented in a deficit position. We have therefore concluded that the year-end deficit should either have been reflected in the Authority's reported financial performance for the year or charged to available funds in a usable revenue reserve. Management disagrees with our view.

There are two adjusted misstatements that we wish to bring to your attention as at the date of this report.

Firstly, the Authority has made material amendments to its disclosure of PFI assets at Notes 19 and 27 to the financial statements. We are satisfied that revised disclosures meet the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

The second change relates to a national legal ruling regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension scheme transitional arrangements, commonly described as the McCloud ruling. The draft accounts recognised this matter as a contingent liability consistent with the information the Authority knew at the time. However, since the year-end there has been additional evidence, including the legal ruling by the Supreme Court on 27th June 2019 which rejected the Government's appeal, which suggested that the amounts should in fact be able to be fully calculated and so included in the IAS19 liability disclosed within the financial statements. The Authority has since obtained updated information from its actuary and has revised the statements by increasing the net defined benefit pension liability reported in Balance Sheet and Note 23 of the financial statements by approximately £6.6m.

We consider audit differences further in Section 4 of this report.

Executive Summary

Areas of audit focus

Our audit plan identified key areas of focus for our audit of the Authority's financial statements. We summarise below our latest findings.

Significant risk	Findings & conclusions
Inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure.	Our work is well progressed but we have not yet fully completed our work to test journals. To date we have found no indication that revenue expenditure has been inappropriately charged to capital.
Misstatements due to fraud or error	Our work is well progressed but we have not yet completed our work to test journals. We have identified no evidence of management manipulation of either accounting records or the financial statements to misreport the financial position and performance of the Authority.
Valuation of property, plant and equipment assets under depreciated replacement cost model	Our EY Real Estates (EYRE) specialist has completed their review of a sample of valuations. We have not identified any adjustments needed to the financial statements, but EYRE have identified the need for some further refinement of the Authority's valuation approach which we have recently shared with officers.

Area of audit focus	Findings & conclusions
PFI accounting	We have largely completed our procedures including review by our EY PFI specialist and have no issues to report. The Authority has made adjustments to its accounting model which we are satisfied correctly adjust for the unadjusted misstatements reported as part of our 2017/18 audit.
Pension liabilities	We are completing our review including final adjustments made as a result of the McCloud issue before concluding.
Implementation of new accounting standards	We have considered management's impact assessment and are satisfied that the Authority has implemented the new standards appropriately.

This report sets out our observations and conclusions on the above matters, and any others identified, in the "Areas of Audit Focus" section of this report. We ask you to review these and any other matters in this report to ensure:

- ▶ There are no other considerations or matters that could have an impact on these issues; and
- ▶ You agree with the resolution of the issues; and there are no other significant issues to be considered.

There are no matters, apart from those reported by management or disclosed in this report, which we believe should be brought to your attention.

Executive Summary

Control observations

We have adopted a fully substantive approach, so have not tested the operation of controls. We are satisfied that the Authority has made reasonable progress to improve PPE valuation processes and asset management records, and we have identified no further errors in current year valuations. EYRE have identified the need for some further refinement of the Authority's valuation approach in relation to assets carried at existing use value which we have recently reported to officers. We consider this further in Section 2 of the report.

We have also considered progress made in relation to a number of internal control issues raised in our 2017/18 work as part of work to inform the 2018/19 Value for Money Conclusion. We consider these further in Sections 5 and 7 of this report.

Value for money

We have considered your arrangements to take informed decisions; deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and work with partners and other third parties. In our audit plan we identified a significant risk relating to the challenging financial outlook faced by the Authority and its arrangements to deploy the resources available to it in a sustainable way.

We have included in Section 5 the detailed work we carried out in response to this risk. Based on the results of our work we are satisfied that the Authority has proper arrangements in place in respect for taking informed decisions, deploying resources in a sustainable manner and working with partners and other third parties. We have, however, continued to highlight some areas where further improvements are required.

Other reporting issues

We have reviewed the information presented in the draft Annual Governance Statement for consistency with our knowledge of the Authority. We have no matters to report as a result of this work.

The deadline for audit submission of WGA has recently been revised to 13 September 2019. In light of this we will complete the work to the revised deadline and therefore will not issue the audit certificate at the same time as the audit opinion.

Independence

We have no matters relating to our Independence to bring to your attention. Section 10 includes our update.



02 Areas of Audit Focus



Areas of Audit Focus

Significant risk

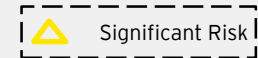
Misstatements due to fraud or error

What is the risk?

The financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.

We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.



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What did we do?

We focused our testing on the inherent risk that management could override controls through making inappropriate journal entries. As a result we:

- Identified specific fraud risks including postings made outside of normal business hours, journals posted by infrequent users, one-sided journals and journals which include the description correction.
- Tested journal entries which showed the fraud risk characteristics we outline above
- Tested a sample of journals used by the Authority to make other adjustments in the preparation of the financial statements.

We undertake similar procedures on all of our audit engagements.

What are our conclusions?

Subject to full completion of our work to test journals we have not identified any evidence of management manipulation of accounting records or the financial statements.



Significant risk

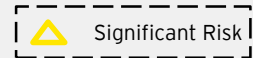
Inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure

What is the risk?

Under ISA 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper revenue recognition. In the public sector, this requirement is modified by Practice Note 10 issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition.

We have identified an opportunity and incentive to capitalise expenditure under the accounting framework, to remove it from the general fund. In arriving at this conclusion we have considered the continuing pressure on the revenue budget and the financial value of its annual capital programme which is many times out materiality level.

This could then result in funding of that expenditure, that should properly be defined as revenue, through inappropriate sources such as capital receipts, capital grants, or borrowing.



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What did we do?

We:

- Tested PPE additions and Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS) to a higher level of risk to ensure that the expenditure incurred and capitalised is clearly capital in nature.
- Sought to identify and understand the basis for any significant journals transferring expenditure from revenue to capital codes on the general ledger at the end of the year.

We utilised our data analytics capabilities to assist with our work, including journal entry testing. We will also assessed journal entries more generally for evidence of management bias and evaluate for business rationale.

What are our conclusions?

- Our sample testing of additions to property, plant and equipment found that they had been correctly classified as capital and included at the correct value.
- Our sample testing of additions to property, plant and equipment did not identify any revenue items that were incorrectly classified.
- Our sample testing of REFCUS transactions found that they had been correctly classified and the expenditure met the definition of allowable expenditure.

As at the date of this report we have yet to fully complete our testing of journals.



Areas of Audit Focus

Significant risk

Valuation of land and buildings

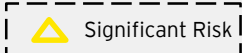
What is the risk?

The fair value of land and buildings represents a significant balance in the Authority's accounts and is subject to valuation changes, impairment reviews and depreciation charges. Management is required to make material judgemental inputs and apply estimation techniques to calculate the year-end balances recorded in the balance sheet.

In 2017/18 we identified significant weaknesses in the approach taken by management to the valuation of assets carried at depreciated replacement cost (DRC) and issues with assets valued using the Existing Use Valuation (EUV) approach.

Our findings led to the carrying value of PPE being increased by approximately £163 million. We considered the weaknesses in arrangements for the valuation of land and buildings assets to be a significant deficiency in internal control at the Authority.

There is a risk that the value of land and buildings in the Authority's accounts is materially misstated for 2018/19.



What did we do?

We disaggregated the Authority's other land and buildings and adopt different testing strategies for specialised assets the Authority values using DRC and non-specialist assets valued using EUV.

- For DRC we sought to confirm that the Authority has used the methodology it revised in the prior year following our audit which include the work of our expert. We also tested a sample of valuations, challenging the Authority on key assumptions and base data such as agreeing floor areas back to original documentation.
- For EUV, due to the extent of subjectivity and professional judgement that management's expert applies we also engaged our own expert to enable us to audit a sample of valuations, challenging management on key assumptions and judgements.

What are our conclusions?

- Based on our work we are satisfied that the methodology established by the Authority in the prior year has been correctly applied in the current year to assets carried at DRC but we have identified some scope for improving the methodology, which we have recently shared with officers.
- Our valuation experts have completed their work on assets carried at EUV and we are satisfied that the Authority's valuations fall with an acceptable range.

As a result of the Authority's ongoing work to improve Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) valuation processes and asset management records it made further amendments to asset valuations at 31 March 2018. These changes, which in aggregate are greater than our overall materiality level, were made by management in the 2018/19 draft financial statements presented for audit. The Authority has determined that there is no requirement for a prior year adjustment because the net value of the changes made to 2017/18 prior year audited figures is not material.



Areas of Audit Focus

Area of audit focus

Pension liability valuation

What is the issue?

The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and IAS19 require the Authority to make extensive disclosures within its financial statements regarding its membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by the Authority.

The Authority's pension fund deficit is a material estimated balance and the Code requires that this liability be disclosed on the Authority's balance sheet. At 31 March 2018 this totalled £350.1 million.

The information disclosed is based on the IAS 19 report issued to the Authority by the actuary to the Pension Fund.

Accounting for this scheme involves significant estimation and judgement and therefore management engages an actuary to undertake the calculations on their behalf. ISAs (UK and Ireland) 500 and 540 require us to undertake procedures on the use of management experts and the assumptions underlying fair value estimates.

What did we do?

- Liaised with the auditors of Merton Pension Fund, to obtain assurances over the information supplied to the actuary in relation to the Authority.
- Assessed the work of the pension fund actuary (Barnett Waddingham) including the assumptions they have used by relying on the work of PWC - Consulting Actuaries commissioned by the National Audit Office for all Local Government sector auditors, and considering any relevant reviews by the EY actuarial team.
- Reviewed and tested the accounting entries and disclosures made within the Authority's financial statements in relation to IAS19.

We also considered outturn information available at the time of the audit after production of the Authority's draft financial statements, for example the year-end actual valuation of pension fund assets. We use this to inform our assessment of the accuracy of estimated information included in the financial statements and whether any adjustments are required.

Finally, we liaised with officers to understand the implications of the McCloud ruling and reviewed the changes made to the statements.

What are our conclusions?

We concluded that we could rely on the work of the actuary and that the values and entries from the actuarial report were correctly reflected in the draft financial statements.

As considered more fully in Section 4 of this report the Authority re-engaged the actuary to estimate the impact of the McCloud ruling on the pensions liability. We reviewed the Authority's assessment of the impact of the McCloud ruling and confirmed that changes made to the accounts were reasonable.

We are satisfied there was no significant difference between the year-end actual value of pension fund assets and the estimate used to inform the actuary's assessment of the IAS 19 liability.



Areas of Audit Focus

Area of audit focus

PFI accounting

What is the issue?

The Authority has a material PFI arrangement in relation to schools. PFI accounting is a complex area, and a detailed review of these arrangements was undertaken by our internal expert in 2016/17 and followed-up in 2017/18.

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What did we do?

We reviewed the accounting entries and disclosures in relation to PFI in detail, with a focus on any significant changes since the expert's follow-up review in the previous year. At the planning stage we noted that the Authority intended to make changes to the detailed accounting model for its PFI in light of our points raised in the previous year and the unadjusted misstatement reported as part of our 2017/18 Audit Results Report. Our PFI specialist considered these amendments as part of their work.

We also undertook testing of in-year inputs to the accounting models and agree relevant entries in the financial statements to year-end output from the accounting model.

What are our conclusions?

Based on our work we are satisfied that:

- Amendments have been correctly made to the accounting model to correct for the issues noted by the PFI specialist in the prior year.
- Disclosures in the financial statements correctly reflect the output from the accounting model at year end. We have yet to fully complete our testing of inputs to the model, but have identified no issues from the work done to date.



Areas of Audit Focus

Area of audit focus

Implementation of new accounting standards

What is the issue?

IFRS 9 (Financial Instruments) and IFRS 15 (Revenue from contracts) apply from 1 April 2018. Based on our understanding at the planning stage we expected the impact of IFRS 15 to have limited impact on your accounts.

IFRS 9 changes how financial assets are classified and measured, how the impairment of financial assets are calculated and the disclosure requirements for financial instruments.

There are transitional arrangements within the standard; and the 2018/19 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting provides guidance on the application of IFRS 9. Central government has indicated following consultation that statutory overrides for certain classes of financial assets will be put in place. However, until these are confirmed there remains some uncertainty on the full accounting treatment

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What did we do?

For IFRS 9 we:

Considered the classification and valuation of financial instrument assets.

- Reviewed the implementation of the new expected credit loss (ECL) model impairment calculations for assets.

For IFRS 15 we:

- Considered application to the Authority's revenue streams, and where the standard is relevant test to ensure revenue is recognised when (or as) it satisfies a performance obligation.

For both standards we:

- Assessed the Authority's implementation arrangements and planned accounting
- Checked additional disclosure requirements for compliance with the CIPFA Code

What are our conclusions?

The Authority was able to show that implementation of IFRS 15 had no material impact on its financial reporting arrangements. At the interim stage we feedback that a non-material consolidation adjustment was needed to CHAS review to ensure compliance with IFRS 15 in the group financial statements. An adjustment was made in the final group accounts.

For IFRS 9 we are satisfied that:

- Required changes to the classification and accounting for financial instruments were made correctly.
- An ECL model has been used to determine any impairment or provision for impairment necessary for financial assets.
- CIPFA Code disclosure requirements have been met.



03 Audit Report



Audit Report

Our draft opinion on the financial statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

Opinion

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

- Authority and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Authority and Group Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Authority and Group Balance Sheet,
- Authority and Group Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 43.
- Collection Fund and the related notes 1 to 5.

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 the London Borough of Merton and Group 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 and Group 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 Director of Corporate Services' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Director of Corporate Services has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to 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.



Audit Report

Our draft opinion on the financial statements

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Corporate Services 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

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, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the London Borough of Merton 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 Authority;
- 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 Report

Our draft opinion on the financial statements

Responsibility of the Director of Corporate Services

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Director of Corporate Services' Responsibilities set out on page 170, the Director of Corporate Services 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.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Corporate Services 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 London Borough of Merton 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 London Borough of Merton put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2019.



Audit Report

Our draft opinion on the financial statements

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 [name of body] had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 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.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the London Borough of Merton, 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 London Borough of Merton and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



04 Audit Differences





Audit Differences

In the normal course of any audit, we identify misstatements between amounts we believe should be recorded in the financial statements and the disclosures and amounts actually recorded. These differences are classified as “known” or “judgemental”. Known differences represent items that can be accurately quantified and relate to a definite set of facts or circumstances. Judgemental differences generally involve estimation and relate to facts or circumstances that are uncertain or open to interpretation.

Summary of unadjusted differences

We report to you any uncorrected misstatements greater than our nominal value of £495,000. There is one uncorrected misstatement at the date of this report to bring to your attention.

At the financial year-end Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services overspent by £3.5m and the year-end earmarked DSG reserve ended in a deficit position of £2.9m. We have concluded, based on relevant guidance from CIPFA and the Department for Education, that it is not allowable for a voluntary earmarked balance to be presented in a deficit position. We have therefore concluded that the year-end deficit should either have been reflected in the Authority’s reported financial performance for the year or charged to a usable revenue reserve. Management disagrees with our view.

Summary of adjusted differences

We highlight adjusted misstatements greater than £4.95 million which have been corrected by management that were identified during the course of our audit. There is one adjustment which we wish to draw to your attention.

The Council has made material amendments to its disclosure of PFI assets at Notes 19 and 27 to the financial statements. We are satisfied that revised disclosures meet the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

McCloud ruling

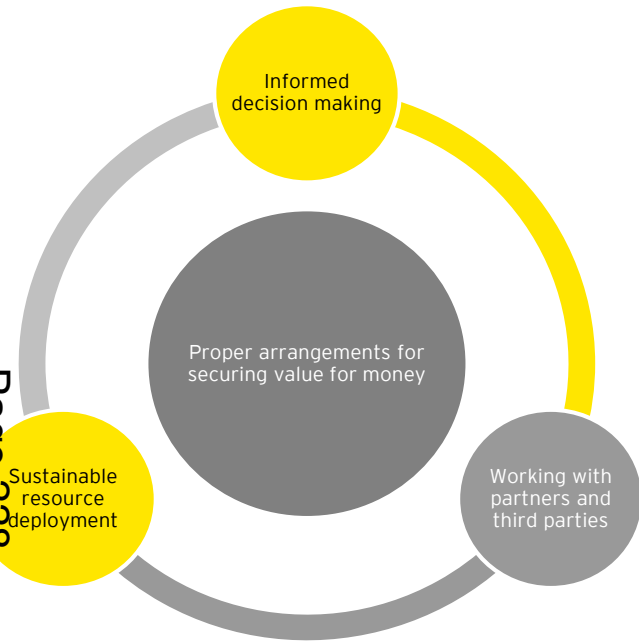
As noted in the Executive Summary a national issue has resulted in a relatively late change to the accounts and IAS19 liability disclosure. It relates to legal rulings regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension scheme transitional arrangements, commonly described as the McCloud ruling. The draft accounts recognised this matter as a contingent liability consistent with the information the Authority had at the time. However, since the year-end there has been additional evidence, including the legal ruling by the Supreme Court on 27th June 2019 which rejected the Government’s appeal, which suggested that the amounts should in fact be able to be fully calculated and so included in the IAS19 liability disclosed within the financial statements. The actuary has now estimated the impact of the McCloud ruling for the Authority.

We are currently considering the work of the actuary but adjustments made to the financial statements in respect are likely to have the impact of increasing the net defined benefit pension liability reported in Balance Sheet and Note 23 of the financial statements by approximately £6.6m. Some other related disclosures changes, including changes to the disclosure of sources of estimation uncertainty and post balance sheet events, will also be made.



05

Value for Money Risks



Background

We are required to consider whether the Authority has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness on its use of resources. This is known as our value for money conclusion.

For 2018/19 this is based on the overall evaluation criterion:

"In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people"

Proper arrangements are defined by statutory guidance issued by the National Audit Office. They comprise your arrangements to:

- Take informed decisions;
- Deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and
- Work with partners and other third parties.

In considering your proper arrangements, we will draw on the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework for local government to ensure that our assessment is made against a framework that you are already required to have in place and to report on through documents such as your annual governance statement.

Overall conclusion

We identified one significant risk around these arrangements and assessed progress against issues we had raised in the prior year audit. The tables below present our findings in response to the risk in our audit plan.

We have no matters to include in the auditor's report about your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources. We have, however, continued to highlight some areas where further improvements are required.

Value for Money Risks

We are only required to determine whether there are any risks that we consider significant within the Code of Audit Practice, where risk is defined as:
"A matter is significant if, in the auditor's professional view, it is reasonable to conclude that the matter would be of interest to the audited body or the wider public"

Our risk assessment supports the planning of enough work to deliver a safe conclusion on your arrangements to secure value for money, and enables us to determine the nature and extent of any further work needed. If we do not identify a significant risk we do not need to carry out further work.

We present below the findings of our work in response to the risks areas in our audit plan as well as the additional risk identified since then.

What is the significant value for money risk?	What arrangements did the risk affect?	What did we do and what our findings?
<p>Financial resilience and sustainable resource deployment</p> <p>The Authority continues to have a challenging financial outlook. To balance the budget over the next four years it is planning to deliver cumulative agreed savings of approximately £9.7 million with further savings of approximately £10.1 million needing to be found to fully balance the budget and avoid further dependence on its reserves.</p> <p>The current business plan 2019-23 shows a cumulative budget gap, including the use of reserves, and assuming no Adult Social Care grant but that Council Tax hypothecation can be used, as follows over the next four years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No budget gap in 2019/20 • £1,108m in 2020/21 • £5,409m in 2021/22 • £6,076m in 2022/23 	<p>Sustainable resource deployment</p>	<p>Our approach focused on reviewing the robustness of the Authority's plans and arrangements to address budget pressures in Children, Schools and Families, and to achieve its savings targets and address budget gaps to deliver sustainable financial balance over the medium term. This will included follow-up of the issues we highlighted as part of our 2017-18 programme of value for money work.</p> <p>Our detailed findings are set out below.</p> <p>Year-end financial performance</p> <p>At the end of the financial year 2018/19 the overall underspend was £7.7m or approximately 1.4% of the gross general fund budget. Net service expenditure was underspent by £2m with the remainder of the underspend being realised from higher than anticipated savings in Corporate provisions. Although there was an overall underspend, the Children's, Schools and Families department outturn position was an overspend of £2.3m. This was mainly due to placements costs as the demand for these services remains high and these pressures are expected to continue. The level of underspending against budget has allowed the Authority to increase the level of earmarked and general fund reserves available to finance revenue expenditure by approximately £5m or 8%. Some of this increase has been taken to the General Fund Reserve, Spending Review Reserve and Balancing the Budget reserve and therefore is available to support the continued pressure on the revenue budget faced by the Authority over the medium term.</p>



Value for Money Risks (continued)

What are our findings?

Total Capital Expenditure for 2018/19 was £31.4m. The Capital Programme for 2018/19 as approved in March 2016 was £61.3 m. Subsequently, slippage from 2017/18 of £7.1 million was added, and new funding of £16.8 million giving an effective opening programme of £72.4 million. However, during the financial year there was a net reduction in the overall programme mainly from budget being re-profiled into subsequent financial years. This resulted in a final revised capital budget of £35.3m. Final capital outturn was therefore 11% lower than the final revised budget. Of the approximate £3.1m underspend against the revised capital programme, £219,000 has been carried forward in approved schemes to 2019/20. The Authority itself recognizes that the forecasting trend during 2018/19 followed the pattern of previous years and there was a continuing problem with the quality of forecasting around November when the Medium Term Financial Strategy is being prepared. Although this is not uncommon for local authorities the Authority has spent considerable time with budget managers to improve the accuracy of capital budgeting and forecasting. This work will continue in 2019-20.

The robustness of the MTFS and savings plans

The current iteration of the MTFS was presented to the Authority on the 6th March 2019 as part of the 2019/23 Business Plan. The MTFS forecasts an adjusted cumulative budget gap of £6 million by 2022/23 after considering the impact of 2019/20 savings and income proposals and transfers from departmental and the Balancing the Budget reserves.

We have considered the reasonableness of pay and price increases built into the MTFS projections and challenged management where an assumption has been made.

When the Authority agreed the pay deal with unions it was estimated that the average cost of the deal was 2.7% in 2018/19 and 2.8% in 2019/20. In the budget/MTFS the Authority provided for 2.7% and 2.8% on the total estimated pay budget. The Authority's actual staffing profile means that most staff received 2% and the few staff at the lower pay grades received the higher increases.

The price inflation assumptions incorporated into the MTFS are cash limited but at a corporate level an 'excess inflation provision' is incorporated into the Council's financial plans. This is intended to assist services that experience price increases greatly in excess of the provision built into the budget. Based on our review we are satisfied that price and pay inflation assumptions built into the MTFS are reasonable.



Value for Money Risks (continued)

What are our findings?

The MTFS also considers:

- Income - there is no assumption around inflation of income from fees and charges built into the MTFS. This is considered to be a prudent approach noting that service departments can treat forecast increases income as part of savings schemes.
- Collection Fund surplus / deficit and the impact of a reduction in retention for Business Rates from 100% to 75% from 2019/20.
- A general contingency for unforeseen cost and demand pressures.
- Bad debt provision, with no allowance for any increase being made over the period covered by the MTFS.
- Revenuisation - this is the cost of expenditure originally included in the capital programme that could not be justified as capital expenditure.
- Employer pension contributions.
- The cost of local elections.
- Other corporate and technical adjustments.

As part of our work we have also considered savings proposals over and above those already delivered in prior years and incorporated into the MTFS forecast. The scale of the challenge the Authority faces to identify and deliver the savings necessary to balance the budget continues to grow. For the four years 2019/20 to 2022/23 a cumulative total of approximately £9.4 million of savings have been proposed by directorates. To balance the budget without calling on reserves to a greater extent than planned directorates still need to identify and deliver a further £10.2 million of savings by 2022/23. To gain assurance on the robustness of projected savings proposals already built into the 2019/20 budget we selected one agreed proposal from the following three council directorates;

- Corporate Services.
- Children, Schools and Families.
- Community and Housing directorates.

We reviewed support for the estimated saving built into the budget and details on progress made on delivery of the saving to date in 2019/20. In all cases we are satisfied that reasonable support exists for the proposed savings.

Overall, we are satisfied that the MTFS is comprehensive and the reporting of it, and detailed assumptions underpinning it, are clear. The assumptions built into the MTFS are reasonable based on external evidence, comprehensive, not unrealistically optimistic, and there is some support available for savings plans and associated actions. The Authority remains financially resilient and in-year performance has been better than budgeted for. However, significant financial challenges remain over the medium term. This is particularly true for demand-led services such as Children's and Adult Social care which have experienced over-spending in the year and where the Council expects cost pressures to continue.



Value for Money Risks (continued)

What are our findings?

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

At the financial year-end DSG funded services overspent by £3.5m and the year-end earmarked DSG reserve ended in a deficit position of £2.9 million. The Authority has produced a deficit recovery plan as required by DfE outlining both the actions it has taken to date and plans to take in the future to reduce the recurrent deficit. Actions taken to date include:

- The provision of extra state school placements.
- Efforts to minimise the use of residential placements.

A reduction in independent provision placements inflation increases through joint working with South London Consortium including use of a Dynamic Purchasing System.

Additional Resourced Provision and Education Health and Care Plan funding allocations only being inflated once since 2013/14.

Future planned actions specifically focused on addressing growing demand and funding pressure on children with high needs include:

- Expanding state school provision of special schools and additionally resourced provision for high needs children. Working collaboratively with state schools to provide support and encourage inclusive practice, hence reducing specialist placements.
- Improving the consistency of identification of children with Special Educational Needs across schools in the Borough.
- More intervention and support for the age 14-25 cohort.

Despite the planned further actions the Authority forecasts that without additional funding the cumulative deficit will continue to grow to approximately £22.4m by the end of 2021-22. This deficit is not integrated into the Authority's medium term financial plans. If the forecast is accurate and the deficit is not addressed through the receipt of additional funding from Government this will reduce the net level of earmarked revenue reserves available to the Authority to support its general revenue spending and increase the budget gap.

Value for Money Risks (continued)

What are our findings?

Follow-up of prior year recommendations

As part of our 2017/18 VFM conclusion work at the Authority we raised the following issues in our Audit Results Report. We concluded the Authority should:

- Continue to review its corporate procurement and contract management arrangements given the known weaknesses in arrangements in those areas.
- Address weaknesses in its CM2000 system raised by Internal Audit in a 'limited assurance' rated review.
- Continue to undertake a control's review following implementation of E5 which remained a work in progress at the end of 2017/18.

We consider each of these areas further below.

Procurement and contract management arrangements

As part of our year-end update of our VFM risk assessment we noted that two limited assurance Internal Audit reviews have been issued in 2018/19 relating to the area of procurement. Those reviews are 'Corporate Procurement' and 'Contract Monitoring of Commissioned Places'. We are aware from our cumulative audit knowledge and work at the planning stage of the existence of some weaknesses in the Authority's corporate procurement and contract management processes. We do not consider these to be a significant risk to our VFM conclusion responsibilities of themselves but, as part of our year-end work, have sought to gain an understanding of the work being done by the Authority to improve its arrangements.

Consistent with our wider knowledge the Authority has been working has been ongoing for the past two years to centralise, standardise, modernise and improve its the Authority's procurement and contract management arrangements. The Authority has identified that these changes are necessary to both improve internal control and identify and deliver cost efficiencies and other value for money improvements from the significant value of goods and services the Authority commissions and procures from external suppliers. Progress is being made, although the speed of change is not at the rate the Authority would ideally like. Many of the changes require significant revisions in custom and practice and the culture of the organisation, particularly where arrangements are devolved, and this is not quick to achieve. Like many other Authority's Merton has also faced challenges in recruiting to key vacancies within its procurement function in what is a highly competitive labour market.

We have concluded the weaknesses in arrangements highlighted by Internal Audit in its reviews in the period are not indicative of an absence of proper arrangements. Based on available performance monitoring information, which has not been formally subject to audit, revisions made to the Authority's arrangements are improving the level of standardisation and control. The number and value of contracts not fully following or partially exempted from the requirements of contract standing orders has significantly decreased, and the completeness of information held on the Authority's corporate contract register has significantly increased. It is, however, vital that the Authority maintains a continued focus is maintained on continuing to developing and embedding the revised arrangements to further improve internal control and secure the value for money improvements potentially realisable from effective procurement and contract management arrangements.



Value for Money Risks (continued)

What are our findings?

CM 2000 system

An Internal Audit review undertaken in 2017/18 of the Authority's CM2000 system received limited assurance. CM2000 is the Authority's electronic care monitoring system, which enables the logging and analysing of home care visits by care providers contracted to use the system. The CM2000 system interfaces with Mosaic, the Authority's main social care system, which in turn interfaces with the E5 general ledger. This process should enable payments to be made to providers automatically and subsequent billing of client invoices to be correct.

As at the end of 2018/19 Internal Audit reported two priority 1 actions arising from its review, which remain in progress. A follow up audit has been included in the 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan to provide assurance on improvements in this area. The two outstanding actions relate to contract extension and ensuring that contracts are in place for all off-contract providers using CM2000. Based on the work of Internal Audit we have concluded that some progress has been made in the year but note that two priority 1 actions have not yet been addressed. As for 2017/18 we have concluded that the weaknesses are not indicative of an absence of proper arrangements, but that a focus addressing the outstanding Internal Audit recommendations needs to be maintained.

E5 controls review

We have reviewed progress on the ongoing work to review controls following implementation of the Authority's E5 general ledger system. The aim of the Authority's review is to capture full process documentation and review and improve system controls. The aim of the review is to ensure systems operate as efficiently as possible and minimise the administrative burden on systems users, while maintaining sufficient controls and adequate separation of duties. Reasonable progress has been made in addressing internal and external audit recommendations and associated actions, although overall progress has not been as quick as the Authority would ideally like. This is consistent with the findings of relevant Internal Audit work and our own review. For example, we have considered the work the Authority has done to improve its Property Plant and Equipment valuation processes and to update and cleanse its asset management records. We also note that Internal Audit has issued 'substantial assurance' conclusions in respect of all financial system assurance audits undertaken in the year, including a review of the general ledger. The Authority accepts, however, that the work remains ongoing and the need to fully complete the review continues to feature as part of the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement action plan. Overall we have concluded that reasonable progress has been made overall in addressing prior year issues and recommendations but further work is required in all of the areas considered and progress has not been as fast as the Authority ideally would have liked.



06 Other reporting issues

Other reporting issues

Consistency of other information published with the financial statements, including the Annual Governance Statement

We must give an opinion on the consistency of the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 with the audited financial statements. We must also review the Annual Governance Statement for completeness of disclosures, consistency with other information from our work, and whether it complies with relevant guidance.

Financial information in the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 and published with the financial statements was consistent with the audited financial statements.

We have reviewed the latest version of the Annual Governance Statement (2 July) and can confirm it is consistent with other information from our audit of the financial statements and we have no other matters to report.

Whole of Government Accounts

Alongside our work on the financial statements, we also review and report to the National Audit Office on your Whole of Government Accounts return. The extent of our review, and the nature of our report, is specified by the National Audit Office.

We have not yet performed the procedures required by the National Audit Office (NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts submission, as at the time of writing, we had only just received the Group Audit instructions from the NAO. We will complete this work in August ahead of the deadline of 13 September 2019.

Other powers and duties

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to consider whether to report on any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit, either for the Authority to consider it or to bring it to the attention of the public (i.e. "a report in the public interest"). We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a report in the public interest.

We also have a duty to make written recommendations to the Authority, copied to the Secretary of State, and take action in accordance with our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. We did not identify any issues.



07

Assessment of Control Environment



Assessment of Control Environment

Financial controls

It is the responsibility of the Authority to develop and implement systems of internal financial control and to put in place proper arrangements to monitor their adequacy and effectiveness in practice. Our responsibility as your auditor is to consider whether the Authority has put adequate arrangements in place to satisfy itself that the systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective in practice.

As part of our audit of the financial statements, we obtained an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed. As we have adopted a fully substantive approach, we have therefore not tested the operation of controls.

Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control we are required to communicate to you significant deficiencies in internal control.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of an internal control that might result in a material misstatement in your financial statements of which you are not aware. However we have identified some areas for improvement as a result of our 2018/19 VFM procedures:

Although there is a positive direction of travel further work is required to continue to improve the completeness of the Authority's corporate contract register and consistency of its procurement and contract management arrangements more generally.

The Authority should seek to fully address the priority 1 recommendations raised by Internal Audit relating to its CM2000 electronic care monitoring system.

- The ongoing review of controls in the E5 General Ledger and associated systems should be fully completed.



08 Data Analytics



Use of Data Analytics in the Audit

Data analytics – Journal Entry Analysis and Payroll Analysis

Analytics Driven Audit

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Data analytics

We used our data analysers to enable us to capture entire populations of your financial data. These analysers:

- ▶ Help identify specific exceptions and anomalies which can then be the focus of our substantive audit tests; and
- ▶ Give greater likelihood of identifying errors than traditional, random sampling techniques.

In 2018/19, our use of these analysers in the Authority's audit included testing journal entries and employee expenses, to identify and focus our testing on those entries we deem to have the highest inherent risk to the audit.

We capture the data through our formal data requests and the data transfer takes place on a secured EY website. These are in line with our EY data protection policies which are designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of business and personal information.

Journal Entry Analysis

We obtain downloads of all the financial ledger transactions posted in the year. We perform completeness analysis over the data, reconciling the sum of transactions to the movement in the trial balances and financial statements to ensure we have captured all data. Our analysers then review and sort transactions, allowing us to more effectively identify and test journals that we consider to be higher risk, as identified in our audit plan.

Payroll Analysis

We also use our journal entry analyser in our payroll testing of the non-schools payroll. We obtain all payroll transactions posted in the year from the general ledger system and perform completeness analysis over the data, including reconciling the total amount to the payroll system. We then analyse the data against a number of specifically designed procedures. These include analysis of payroll costs by month to identify any variances from established expectations, as well as more detailed transactional interrogation.



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09

Independence

Independence

Confirmation

We confirm that there are no changes in our assessment of independence since our confirmation in our audit plan dated March 2019.

We complied with the FRC Ethical Standards and the requirements of the PSAA's Terms of Appointment. In our professional judgement the firm is independent and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff has not been compromised within the meaning of regulatory and professional requirements.

We consider that our independence in this context is a matter which you should review, as well as us. It is important that you and the Standards and General Purposes Committee consider the facts known to you and come to a view. If you would like to discuss any matters concerning our independence, we will be pleased to do this at the meeting of the Standards and General Purposes Committee on 25 July 2019.

We confirm we have not undertaken any non-audit work outside the NAO Code requirements in relation to our work.

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Relationships, services and related threats and safeguards

The FRC Ethical Standard requires that we provide details of all relationships between Ernst & Young (EY) and your Authority, and its directors and senior management and its affiliates, including all services provided by us and our network to your Authority, its directors and senior management and its affiliates, and other services provided to other known connected parties that we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on the our integrity or objectivity, including those that could compromise independence and the related safeguards that are in place and why they address the threats. There are no relationships from 1 April 2018 to the date of this report, which we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and objectivity.

Services provided by Ernst & Young

The table overleaf includes a summary of the fees that you have paid to us in the year ended 31 March 2019 in line with the disclosures set out in FRC Ethical Standard and in statute.

As at the date of this report, there are no future services which have been contracted and no written proposal to provide non-audit services has been submitted.

Independence

Fee analysis

As part of our reporting on our independence, we set out below a summary of the fees paid for the year ended 31 March 2019.

We confirm that we have not undertaken non-audit work outside the NAO Code requirements. We have adopted the necessary safeguards in completing this work and complied with Auditor Guidance Note 1 issued by the NAO.

	Final Fee 2018/19 (£)	Planned fee 2018/19 (£)	Final Fee 2017/18 (£)
Scale Fee - Code work	110,493	110,493	143,498
Additional fees			
- Additional work on PPE	TBC	5,000-15,000*	20,000
- MRP review		-	4,500
Letter from member of the public		-	9,000
Additional work arising from change in materiality and clearance of audit queries	TBC	15,000-25,000*	52,000
Additional work arising from McCloud issue**	TBC	-	-
Total audit	TBC	130,493-150,493	228,998
Non-audit services - Housing Benefits	TBC	40,000	51,227
Non-audit services - Teachers' Pensions limited assurance	TBC	TBC	8,500
Total other non-audit services	TBC	TBC	59,727
Total fees	TBC	TBC	288,725

Notes:

* We include a range of additional fees to reflect the additional work we will need to undertake in respect of the risks we reported in our plan. We will confirm the exact additional fees on final completion of the audit and seek agreement with management and PSAA.

** At the time of writing we are quantifying the cost of the additional procedures we have been required to carry out in response to the McCloud issue. All fees exclude VAT



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10 Appendices

Audit approach update

We are required to summarise our approach to the audit of the balance sheet and any changes to this approach from the prior year audit.




Our audit procedures are designed to be responsive to our assessed risk of material misstatement at the relevant assertion level. Assertions relevant to the balance sheet include:

- ▶ Existence: An asset, liability and equity interest exists at a given date
- ▶ Rights and Obligations: An asset, liability and equity interest pertains to the entity at a given date
- ▶ Completeness: There are no unrecorded assets, liabilities, and equity interests, transactions or events, or undisclosed items
- ▶ Valuation: An asset, liability and equity interest is recorded at an appropriate amount and any resulting valuation or allocation adjustments are appropriately recorded
- ▶ Presentation and Disclosure: Assets, liabilities and equity interests are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated, and classified, described and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework

Our approach to gaining assurance over the Council's balance sheet in to substantively test all relevant assertions for all material balances. This remains unchanged from the previous period.

Appendix B

Summary of communications during 2018/19

Date 	Nature 	Summary 
14 February 2019	Meeting	Suresh and Simon met with the Director of Corporate Services to agree timing of the audit
14 March 2019	Meeting	Suresh attended the Audit Committee to present the audit plan.
29 April 2019	Meeting	Suresh and Simon met with the Director of Corporate Services for an update on the audit
8 June 2019	Meeting	Suresh & Simon met with the Director of Corporate Resources to discuss audit progress
15 July 2019	Meeting	EY attended Audit Committee to present this Audit Results Report (ISA 260 report).

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In addition to the above specific meetings and letters the audit team met with the management team multiple times throughout the audit to discuss audit findings.

We also attend all meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee.




Appendix C

Required communications with the Standards and General Purposes Committee




There are certain communications that we must provide to the Audit Committees of UK clients. We have detailed these here together with a reference of when and where they were covered:

 Our Reporting to you		
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Terms of engagement	Confirmation by the Standards and General Purposes Committee of acceptance of terms of engagement as written in the engagement letter signed by both parties.	The statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the PSAA's appointed auditors and audited bodies
Our responsibilities	Reminder of our responsibilities as set out in the engagement letter.	Audit Plan - March 2019
Planning and audit approach	Communication of the planned scope and timing of the audit, any limitations and the significant risks identified.	Audit Plan - March 2019
Significant findings from the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Our view about the significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures ▶ Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit ▶ Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed with management ▶ Written representations that we are seeking ▶ Expected modifications to the audit report ▶ Other matters if any, significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process 	Audit Results Report - July 2019

Appendix C

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Major Local Authorities	<p>For the audits of financial statements of public interest entities our written communications to the Audit Committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A declaration of independence ▶ The identity of each key audit partner ▶ The use of non-member firms or external specialists and confirmation of their independence ▶ The nature and frequency of communications ▶ A description of the scope and timing of the audit ▶ Which categories of the balance sheet have been tested substantively or controls based and explanations for significant changes to the prior year, including first year audits ▶ Materiality ▶ Any going concern issues identified ▶ Any significant deficiencies in internal control identified and whether they have been resolved by management ▶ Subject to compliance with regulations, any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified relevant to the audit committee ▶ Subject to compliance with regulations, any suspicions that irregularities, including fraud with regard to the financial statements, may occur or have occurred, and the implications thereof ▶ The valuation methods used and any changes to these including first year audits ▶ The scope of consolidation and exclusion criteria if any and whether in accordance with the reporting framework ▶ The completeness of documentation and explanations received ▶ Any significant difficulties encountered in the course of the audit ▶ Any significant matters discussed with management ▶ Any other matters considered significant 	Audit Plan - March 2019 and Audit Results Report - July 2019

Appendix C

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	 When and where
Going concern	<p>Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty ▶ Whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements ▶ The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements 	No conditions or events were identified, either individually or together to raise any doubt about the London Borough of Merton's ability to continue for the 12 months from the date of our report
Misstatements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Uncorrected misstatements and their effect on our audit opinion ▶ The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods ▶ A request that any uncorrected misstatement be corrected ▶ Material misstatements corrected by management 	Audit Results Report - July 2019
Subsequent events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enquiry of the Standards and General Purposes Committee where appropriate regarding whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the 	
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enquiries of the Standards and General Purposes Committee to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the Authority ▶ Any fraud that we have identified or information we have obtained that indicates that a fraud may exist ▶ Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the Authority, any identified or suspected fraud involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Management; b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or c. Others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements. ▶ The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit when fraud involving management is suspected ▶ Any other matters related to fraud, relevant to Standards and General Purposes Committee responsibility. 	Audit Results Report - July 2019




Appendix C

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	What is reported?	When and where
Related parties	<p>Significant matters arising during the audit in connection with the Authority's related parties including, when applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Non-disclosure by management ▶ Inappropriate authorisation and approval of transactions ▶ Disagreement over disclosures, Non-compliance with laws and regulations ▶ Difficulty in identifying the party that ultimately controls the Authority 	Audit Results Report - July 2019
Independence	<p>Communication of all significant facts and matters that bear on EY's, and all individuals involved in the audit, objectivity and independence.</p> <p>Communication of key elements of the audit engagement partner's consideration of independence and objectivity such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The principal threats ▶ Safeguards adopted and their effectiveness ▶ An overall assessment of threats and safeguards ▶ Information about the general policies and process within the firm to maintain objectivity and independence <p>Communications whenever significant judgments are made about threats to objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of safeguards put in place.</p> <p>For public interest entities and listed companies, communication of minimum requirements as detailed in the FRC Revised Ethical Standard 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Relationships between EY, the company and senior management, its affiliates and its connected parties ▶ Services provided by EY that may reasonably bear on the auditors' objectivity and independence ▶ Related safeguards ▶ Fees charged by EY analysed into appropriate categories such as statutory audit fees, tax advisory fees, other non-audit service fees ▶ A statement of compliance with the Ethical Standard, including any non-EY firms or external experts used in the audit 	Audit Plan - March 2019 and Audit Results Report - July 2019

Appendix C

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	What is reported?	When and where
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Details of any inconsistencies between the Ethical Standard and Authority's policy for the provision of non-audit services, and any apparent breach of that policy ▶ Details of any contingent fee arrangements for non-audit services ▶ Where EY has determined it is appropriate to apply more restrictive rules than permitted under the Ethical Standard ▶ The audit committee should also be provided an opportunity to discuss matters affecting auditor independence 	
Internal confirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Management's refusal for us to request confirmations ▶ Inability to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from other procedures. 	We have received all requested confirmations
Consideration of laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Subject to compliance with applicable regulations, matters involving identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, other than those which are clearly inconsequential and the implications thereof. Instances of suspected non-compliance may also include those that are brought to our attention that are expected to occur imminently or for which there is reason to believe that they may occur ▶ Enquiry of the audit committee into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements 	We have asked management and those charged with governance. We have not identified any material instances or non-compliance with laws and regulations
Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit. 	Audit Results Report - July 2019

Appendix C

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Written representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Written representations we are requesting from management and/or those charged with governance 	Audit Results Report - July 2019
Material inconsistencies or misstatements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise 	Audit Results Report - July 2019
Auditors report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Any circumstances identified that affect the form and content of our auditor's report 	Audit Results Report - July 2019
Fee Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Breakdown of fee information when the audit plan is agreed ▶ Breakdown of fee information at the completion of the audit ▶ Any non-audit work 	Audit Plan - March 2019 and Audit Results Report - July 2019

Management representation letter

Management Rep Letter

Ernst & Young LLP
Suresh Patel
Associate Partner
Ernst & Young LLP
1 More London Riverside
London
SE1 2AF

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the consolidated and Authority financial statements of the London Borough of Merton ("the Group and Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2019. We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the consolidated and Authority financial statements give a true and fair view of the Group and Authority financial position of the London Borough of Merton as of 31 March 2019 and of its financial performance (or operations) and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with, for the Group and Authority, the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our consolidated and Authority financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose - all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with, for the Group and Authority the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.
2. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Group and Authority, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the consolidated and Authority financial statements. We believe the consolidated and Authority financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance (or results of operations) and cash flows of the Group and Authority in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19.
3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the Group and Authority financial statements are appropriately described in the Group and Authority financial statements.
4. As members of management of the Group and Authority, we believe that the Group and Authority have a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 for the Group and Authority that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
5. We believe that the effects of any unadjusted audit differences accumulated by you during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the consolidated and Authority financial statements taken as a whole. We have not corrected the difference relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant Earmarked Reserve identified and brought to our attention by the auditor because [specify reasons for not correcting misstatement].

Management representation letter

Management Rep Letter

B. Non-compliance with law and regulations, including fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible for determining that the Group and Authority's activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible for identifying and addressing any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.
2. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the consolidated and Authority financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud that may have affected the Group or Authority (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers"), including non-compliance matters:
 - involving financial statements;
 - related to laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the consolidated or Authority's financial statements;
 - related to laws and regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Group or Authority's activities, its ability to continue to operate, or to avoid material penalties;
 - involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal controls, or others; or
 - in relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

C. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. We have provided you with:
 - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the consolidated and Authority financial statements.
3. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Group and Authority held through the year to the most recent meeting of the Standards and General Purposes Committee on 25 July 2019.
4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Group and Authority's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the year ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the year end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the consolidated and Authority financial statements.
5. We believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
6. We have disclosed to you, and the Group and Authority has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the consolidated and Authority financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

Management representation letter

Management Rep Letter

D. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the consolidated and Authority financial statements.
2. We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.
3. We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in Note 12 to the consolidated and Authority financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

E. Subsequent Events

1. Other than as described in Note 33 to the consolidated and Authority financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to year end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the consolidated and Authority financial statements or notes thereto.

F. Group audits

1. There are no significant restrictions on our ability to distribute the retained profits of the Group because of statutory, contractual, exchange control or other restrictions other than those indicated in the Group financial statements.
2. Necessary adjustments have been made to eliminate all material intra-group unrealised profits on transactions amongst Authority, subsidiary undertakings and associated undertakings.

G. Other information

1. We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the Narrative Statement.
2. We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

H. Use of the Work of a Specialist

1. We agree with the findings of the specialists that we engaged to evaluate the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Property and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the consolidated and Authority financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

I. Estimates

Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Valuation of Pension Fund assets and liabilities

Accounting entries relating to Private Finance Initiative schemes

1. We believe that the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, used to determine the accounting estimates have been consistently applied and are appropriate in the context of the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.
2. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimate(s) are complete and made in accordance with CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.
3. We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimates and disclosures in the financial statements due to subsequent events.



Appendix D

Management representation letter

Management Rep Letter

J, Retirement benefits

1. On the basis of the process established by us and having made appropriate enquiries, we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities are consistent with our knowledge of the business. All significant retirement benefits and all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

Yours faithfully,

Caroline Holland

Director of Corporate Services

Cllr Peter McCabe

Chair of the Standards and General Purposes Committee

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ED None

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Accounts: Net Cost of Services

ER's NIC % 11

	£'000	£'000
Employees		
Direct employee expenses:		
Salaries & wages	137,083	
Employers NICs	14,598	
<i>IAS19 Defined Benefit Pension Costs</i>		
Employers pension current service costs	31,508	
Employers pension past service costs	193	
Recognition of gain/loss on settlement of pension liability	5,637	
Pension contributions defined contribution plans and other external schemes (includes Teachers Pension Scheme)	8,736	
Agency staff	11,521	
Employee expenses	0	
Apprenticeship Levy (should be approx 0.5% of staff costs)	600	
Indirect employee expenses: Other employee expenses	2,115	
Employee-related provisions expense	0	
Debits resulting from soft loans to staff	0	
Total Employee Costs		211,991
Premises		
Business Rates	1,609	
Premises related provisions expense	0	
Other premises related expenditure	4,835	
Total Premises Costs		6,444
Transport		
Transport related provisions expense	0	
Other transport related expenditure	5,092	
Total Transport		5,092
Supplies & Services		
Audit costs	254	
PFI service charge	340	
Provisions expense	951	
Other purchases of supplies & services	86,184	
Total Supplies & Services		87,729
Third-Party Payments		
Independent units within the council	0	
Joint authorities	196	
Other local authorities	4,297	
Health Authorities (incl. NHS Trusts, Primary Care Trusts etc)	123	
Government departments	0	
Levies (included within service lines)	0	
All other bodies	81,767	
Total Third-Party Payments		86,383
Transfer Payments		
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Housing benefit (payments to taxpayers)	73,901	
Other transfer payments	8,628	
[WLG ONLY] Repayment of Grants to WAG	0	WAG
Payment to Welsh Government to buy out HRA subsidy (Settlement payment)	0	WCF
Total Transfer Payments		82,529
Support Services		
Total recharged cost from support functions	28,828	28,828
Depreciation & Impairment Losses		
Depreciation	21,832	
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,081	
Revaluations	4,858	
Impairment		
Movement in fair value of investment property		
Total Depreciation and Impairment Losses		27,771
Other Expenditure		
Miscellaneous expenditure - please analyse in table below	0	
Total other expenditure		0
Income		
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Dwelling rents (gross) within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	
[ELG, WLG ONLY] Cost of NNDR Collection Allowance (treated as income)	-265	
Miscellaneous income	0	
Government Grants and Contributions (received from bodies within WGA boundary)		
[ELG, WLG ONLY] New Homes Bonus / [WLG] Income from other local authorities CLG	-2,371	
[WLG ONLY] Welsh Government Revenue Grant	0	WAG
[ELG, WLG ONLY] PFI Special Grant (component recognised in NCS)	0	
[ELG, WLG ONLY] Public Health Grant	-9,876	PHE
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Rent Allowance: subsidy	-73,995	DWP
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] HRA Rent Rebates: subsidy	0	DWP
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Non-HRA Rent Rebates: subsidy	0	DWP
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Housing Benefit Subsidy Admin Grant	-811	DWP
[ELG ONLY] Pupil Premium	-5,921	DfE
[ELG ONLY] Dedicated Schools Grant	-145,603	DfE
[ELG ONLY] Education Services Grant		DfE
[ELG ONLY] GLA Transport Grant		DfT
EU current grants		
Other revenue grants & contributions (from Government and other WGA bodies)	-20,975	
Other Non-Govt revenue grants & contributions	-14,011	
Capital Grants and Contributions		
Capital grant income (from Govt bodies)	-2,498	
Capital grant income (EU grants)		
Capital grants & contribution income (from non-Govt)		
Amounts released from receipts in advance (deferred income)	-2,245	
Customer & client receipts		
recharge receipts	-29,279	
external receipts (fees & charges for services)	-56,028	
Other Operating Income - please analyse in table below		
Apprenticeship Levy - Notional Income	-114	
Apprenticeship Levy - Notional Expense	114	
Total Income		-363,878
Other items (Group Accounts Only)		
Associates and joint ventures		
[SCOTLAND ONLY] Police, Fire, SESTRAN & Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	0	
Share of Surplus/Deficit of Assocs & JVs (Recognised within NCS, net of tax)	0	
Total Other items (Group Accounts Only)		0
NET COST OF SERVICES		172,889

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CI&E Account: Net Operating Expenditure and Surplus/Deficit for the year

	£'000
NET COST OF SERVICES	172,889
Corporate Income and Expenditure:	
Provisions expense (any amount not in NCS)	0
Trading operation results - Income	-550
Trading operation results - Expense	452
Other corporate income	-735
Other corporate expense	0
(Following Group Accounts Only)	
[SLG ONLY] Police, Fire, SESTRAN & Strathclyde P'ship for Transport	0
Share of Surplus/Deficit of assoc & JVs (not recognised within NCS, net of tax):	0
Taxation payable of subsidiaries	0
Minority interest share of profits or losses of subsidiaries	0
Corporate Income and Expenditure:	-833
Other Operating Expenditure	
Levies (not included in service lines)	938
Net gains/losses on disposal of PPE	14,966
Net gains/losses on disposal of intangibles	0
Net gains/losses on disposal of assets held for sale	0
[ELG, WLG ONLY] Local (Parish Council) Precepts	0
[ELG, WLG ONLY] Amounts payable to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0
Other Operating Expenditure	15,904
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
Interest Payable and similar charges	
Interest element of on-balance sheet PFI contract	2,908
Finance charges for finance leases (non-PFI)	5,574
Impairment losses - debtors	0
Impairment losses on other financial instrumts in the loan & receivables (less debtor impmt shown separately above) & available-for-sale assets categories	0
Losses arising on the derecognition of financial instruments	0
Interest paid - within govt	2,625
Interest paid - bank loans & overdrafts (Non-Govt)	0
Interest paid - other borrowings (Non-Govt)	3,672
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	8,993
Premeasurements of the net defined benefit liability (asset) recognised in the pensions reserve	0
Interest and investment income	-2,056
Income & exp in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	
Rental Income from investment properties	0
Direct operating expenses arising from investment properties	0
Net Gains/Losses on disposal of investment properties	0
Movement in fair value of investment property	0
Dividends receivable - associates, joint ventures & subsidiaries	-1,370
Dividends receivable - other (within Government)	0
Dividends receivable - other (non-Government)	0
Net gains/losses on financial instruments carried at fair value through profit or loss	0
Financial instruments fee income/expense (from sheet Fin Inst (15))	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	20,346
Taxation and Non Specific Grant Incomes	
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Income from Council Tax	-88,980
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Revenue Support Grant	0
[WLG ONLY] Income from police precepts (recognised in PCC accounts as income from council tax)	0
[ELG, WLG ONLY] Non domestic rates retained income (Local Share)	-53,413
[ELG, SLG, NILG ONLY] NDR Top up payments from central government / [SLG] NDR (Distributed NDR Pool) / [NILG] District Rate	0
[ELG ONLY] NDR Tariff payments to central government	9,055
[ELG ONLY] NDR Safety net payments from central government	0
[ELG ONLY] NDR Levy payments to central government	0
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Police Grant	0
[ELG ONLY] Greater London Authority General Grant	0
[ELG, WLG ONLY] PFI Special Grant (not in NCS)	-4,797
Other government grants (non-capital)	-7,194
Other Grant Income & contributions (from non-Govt bodies)	0
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] LA levy income	0
[ELG, WLG, SLG ONLY] Business Rates Supplement Income	0
Amounts released from receipts in advance (deferred income)	-9,435
[WLG ONLY] EU Grants	0
Capital Grants and Contributions	
Capital grant income (from Govt or other WGA bodies)	-105
Capital grant & contribution income (from non-Govt bodies)	-9,617
Taxation and Non Specific Grant Incomes	-164,486
SURPLUS(-)/DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES	43,820
Other comprehensive income and expenditure (as per row 16 to 23 of LP-Reserves worksheet)	-43,183
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	637

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Committee: Standards and General Purposes Committee

Date: 25 July 2019

Wards: All

Subject: Appointment of Independent Person

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair, Standards and General Purposes Committee

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democratic Services Officer, 0208 545 3357

Recommendations:

1. That the Standards and General Purposes Committee agrees that an interview panel comprising one councillor from each political group should be appointed to interview and to recommend to Council the appointment of one Independent Person to serve for a period of three years.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person. The now defunct Standards Committee previously put arrangements in place for the recruitment of two Independent Persons.
- 1.2. The term of office of one of the Independent Persons, Pam Donovan, ends on 24 November 2019.
- 1.3. This report therefore seeks approval to commence the recruitment of a new Independent Person and to appoint an interview panel, comprising one councillor from each political group to interview all candidates and recommend to Council the appointment of the successful applicant.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person. The functions of the Independent Person, set out in the Council's constitution, are:
 - The Independent Person must be consulted and views taken into account before the authority takes a decision on any allegation it has decided to investigate
 - The Independent Person may be consulted by the authority in circumstances where the authority is not taking a decision whether to investigate the allegation
 - The Independent Person may be consulted by a member of the authority against whom an allegation has been made
- 2.2. The Council currently has two Independent Persons. Pam Donovan was appointed in November 2016 and Clive Douglas was appointed in February 2019. Pam Donovan's term of office expires on 24 November 2019.
- 2.3. Independent Persons are appointed for a term of three years and are able to sit for a maximum of two terms. It is noted that the recommendation from

Government is that “the Localism Act 2011 should be amended to require that Independent Persons are appointed for a fixed term of two years, renewable once”, however this has not yet been enacted.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. The Council must appoint at least one Independent Person

3.2. The composition of the interview panel is discretionary

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. Officers will commence the recruitment of a new Independent Person as soon as possible, subject to the agreement of this Committee.

5.2. It is anticipated that an advert will be placed on the Council’s website and distributed through other organisations during early September with a closing date of mid-October and interviews towards the end of October. The outcome will be reported to Council at its meeting on 20 November 2019.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Independent Persons are invited to attend meetings of Standards and General Purposes Committee and are paid £100 per meeting. They are also paid £100 per each consultation meeting with the Council’s Monitoring Officer.

6.2. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. See body of report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None specific to this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None specific to this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None specific to this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None