Merton Council

General Purposes Committee

17 September 2014

Supplementary agenda

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Addendum to Appendices 1&2

This addendum sets out amendments to the Council's Statement of Accounts and Summary Accounts, since dispatch to General Purposes Committee on 08/09/2014.

No.	Explanation of amendment	Impact of adjustment	Accounting entries
1	**Provision for NDR Appeals** In the balance sheet, the Council's £1.644m provision for NDR appeals had been presented as a reduction in short term debtors, rather than within provisions. Consequently, both short term debtors and provisions were understated by £1.644m. This presentation has been corrected in the Council's revised appendices 1 & 2.	Balance sheet – both short term debtors and long term provisions increase by £1.644m. The Council's net assets and reserves remain unchanged. The following disclosures have been updated to reflect the amended balance sheet: Note 7 – Debtors Note 11 – Provisions Note 15 – Cash flow disclosure Note 47 – Assumptions made about the future	Balance Sheet Debit: Short term debtors £1.644m Credit: Long term provisions £1.644m
2.	**Pension Fund Accounts – Events After The Reporting Date** The external auditors requested that the Council include a disclosure to explain new Local Government Pension Scheme regulations, which took effect from 1st April 2014.	Disclosure note 6 in the pension fund accounts has been updated to include a "non adjusting" post balance sheet event (PBSE) to explain the new regulations. A "non adjusting" PBSE requires only a disclosure. Consequently, there is no impact on any figures contained in the pension fund accounts.	None

Statement of Accounts

For the year ending 31st March 2014

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Explanatory Foreword

1. Introduction

This is the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2013/14. This statement summarises the financial performance of the Council during 2013/14 showing expenditure on all services during the year and the financial position as at 31st March 2014.

The explanatory foreword provides a guide to the most significant matters reported in the Council's 2013/14 Statement of Accounts. The Statement of Accounts is comprised of the following statements:

- **The Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)** – shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council 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 Council's General Fund.

- **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services for the functions for which the Council is responsible and demonstrates how they have been financed.

- **The Balance Sheet** - summarises the Council'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.

- **Accounting Policies** - explains the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of figures in the accounts.

- **The Collection Fund** - reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate account that shows the transactions of the Council 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.

- **Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts –** sets out the different responsibilities of the Council and the Director of Corporate Services.

2. Financial Performance

The Council's financial performance is summarised in the table below.

	2013/14 Budget £000	2013/14 Actual £000	2013/14 Variation £000
Net Service Expenditure	155,402	153,582	(1,820)
Corporate Provisions including net transfers to earmarked reserves	8,858	11,287	2,429
Sub-Total	**164,260**	**164,869**	**609**
Grants	(55,576)	(56,185)	(609)
Council Tax and Collection Fund	(108,684)	(108,684)	0
Funding	**(164,260)**	**(164,869)**	**(609)**
Net over/underspend- transfer to General Fund Balances			**0**

Net service expenditure was underspent by £1.820m in the year due to a number of variances, the largest variance being £1.116m in the area of Waste and corporate grants exceeded the budgeted figure by 0.609m. These created a total underspend of £2.429m in respect of service expenditure and corporate grants.

However, corporate provisions were overspent by £0.378m after allowing for agreed and statutory transfers to earmarked revenue reserves and this reduced the overall underspend to a net £2.051m. This £2.051m underspend was then transferred to earmarked revenue reserves as part of corporate provisions so that in total corporate provisions exceeded budgeted sums by £2.429m.

The net nil variance against budget means that General Fund Balances are unchanged. Monthly Financial Monitoring reports to Cabinet and Council Committees have fully detailed these variances throughout the financial year and are available on the Council's website for review.

3. Fund Balances and Reserves

During 2013/14 the Council's Usable Reserves increased by £9.097m.

This was composed of an increase of £0.416m in the Schools' General Fund balance, an increase of £1.592m in Earmarked Revenue Reserves (including grants and contributions reserves), a £3.306m increase in the Capital Receipts Reserve and an increase of £3.783m in Capital Grants Unapplied.

The increase in Earmarked Revenue Reserves of £1.592m was composed of an increase in grants' and contributions' reserves of £0.802m (of which £0.35m was in respect of Dedicated Schools Grant which must be passed to further education schools) and an increase in other earmarked reserves of £0.790m. The main reason for the increase in other earmarked reserves was the £1.664m underspend on the Public Health grant, leaving a net reduction of £0.874m on all other Earmarked Revenue Reserves.

General Fund balances have remained at £18.838m.

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
General Fund Balances	18,838	18,838
General Fund Balances held by schools	11,674	12,090
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	48,300	49,892
Sub Total-Fund Balances and Revenue Reserves	**78,812**	**80,820**
Capital Receipts Reserve	22,752	26,058
Capital Grants Unapplied	4,393	8,176
Usable Reserves	**105,957**	**115,054**

4. Capital Summary

Capital investment amounted to £31.6m in 2013/14 (£40.5m in 2012/13). The programme was financed through internal borrowing (£9.4m), capital receipts (£0.6m), capital grants (£15.2m) and revenue contributions (£6.4m). Capital receipts received in year totalled £3.9m.

It is anticipated that capital expenditure will continue to be funded primarily from a mixture of grants, contributions, and unsupported borrowing. Suitable opportunities to utilise some direct revenue contributions and capital receipts will continue to be reviewed.

5. Investments and Borrowing

At the year end the Council held short term deposits (some classified as cash equivalents) in the sum of £75.2m, an increase of £7.5m on the figure as at 31st March 2013. The Council generated £0.8m of investment income from this source.

At the year end the Council had long term borrowing of £116.976m, the same as at 31st March 2013. The Council paid £7.0m in interest on these borrowings.

6. Pensions

The actuarial valuation of the pension fund, of which the Council is predominantly the largest employer, is carried out every three years. It determines the impact on Council Tax of the cost of paying for pensions.

The last applicable actuarial valuation for the whole fund was carried out as at 31st March 2013 with the assets of the Fund found to represent 89% of the accrued liabilities for the Fund; this compares with 84% at the 2010 actuarial valuation. The latest actuarial valuation will be applicable from the 2014/15 financial year. The focus of the triennial valuation is the long-term financial health of the Pension Fund and to set a contribution rate to maintain this.

For accounting purposes a valuation under IAS19 is carried out to produce an accounting figure of surplus or deficit as at the date of the Balance Sheet. The methodology used is affected by current assumptions and short-term economic market conditions. The deficit attributable to the Council on an IAS19 basis increased from £195m to £224m, an increase of £29m. The authority's actuary estimated that as at 31st March 2014, future liabilities amount to £654m (£613m as at 31st March 2013) with assets of £430m (£418m as at 31st March 2013).

7. Accounting Changes

1. **Investment Property Assets**: The Council has reclassified all Investment Property Assets, (including certain Industrial Estates, Allotments & Retail Premises) as Property, Plant and Equipment. As at 1st April 2012, these assets had a total value of £54m. The reason for the change is that an internal review found that the assets were not held solely for investment purposes (the only criterion for being an investment property) but for the dual and in many cases, main, purpose of regeneration. The 2012/13 figures have been restated.

2. **IAS19 Employee Benefits**: Amendments to the accounting standard IAS 19 Employee Benefits require changes to the presentation of Actuarial Gains & Losses relating to the Pension Fund within its Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES). Full details of the presentation changes are set-out in Disclosure Note 35 (page 69). The 2012/13 figures have been restated.

3. **Education & Children's Services**: In 2012/13, gross income and gross expenditure were overstated by £5.14m in the CIES. To correct this, 2012/13 figures have been restated. Net expenditure is unaffected and consequently there is no change in respect of this restatement to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and the level of reserves is also unaffected.

4. **Cash Flow Statement: T**he Council has amended the 2012/13 presentation to ensure that the presentation of Capital Grants and agency balances is correct according to the Code and consistent with their presentation in 2013/14. The net increase in cash and cash equivalents during the year is unchanged.

The impact of the Prior Period Adjustments (PPA) in respect of investment property assets on the Council's Balance Sheet is shown in the following table:

Balance Sheet Impact						
	2011/12 Audited Balance Sheet	Investment Properties PPA impact	2011/12 Restated Balance Sheet	2012/13 Audited Balance Sheet	Investment Properties PPA impact	2012/13 Restated Balance Sheet
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Property, Plant & Equipment	382,501	52,796	435,297	394,752	50,737	445,489
Investment Properties	54,144	(54,144)	0	54,905	(54,905)	0
Unusable Reserves	(46,426)	1,348	(45,078)	(52,024)	4,168	(47,856)

The impact of the Prior Period Adjustments (PPA) in respect of investment property assets and IAS19 on the Council's CIES is shown below.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) Impact				
	2012/13 Audited CIES	Investment Properties PPA Impact	IAS 19 PPA Impact	2012/13 Restated CIES
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost of Services	144,033	(1,186)	170	143,017
Other Operating Expenditure	5,451	15	0	5,466
Financing & Investment I&E	6,979	3,990	4,202	15,171
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(180,347)	0	0	(180,347)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**(23,884)**	**2,819**	**4,372**	**(16,693)**
(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of PPE	(7,442)	**0**	**0**	(7,442)
Actuarial Gains & Losses	4,499	0	(4,372)	127
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	**(26,827)**	**2,819**	**0**	**(24,008)**

8. CHAS 2013 Ltd

The Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) is a service offering health and safety pre-qualification assessments to nationally recognised standards. Prior to June 2013, CHAS operated within the Council as a Trading Account. On 3rd June 2013, CHAS became a private limited company (CHAS 2013 Ltd), wholly owned the Council.

The change in status has enabled CHAS to embrace the significant opportunities that recent changes to local government legislation have permitted with regards powers to trade, significantly supplemented by the enactment of the General Power of Competence in the Localism Act 2011.

CHAS 2013 Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of LBM. The Council has not published Group Accounts in 2013/14, on the grounds that they are not materially different to the Council's single entity statements, and therefore the CHAS 2013 Ltd reserve is not shown within the Council's Balance Sheet. Instead, the Council has published disclosure note 38 (page 76) to present the key information regarding CHAS 2013 Ltd.

9. Local Taxation Changes

Local Council Tax Support
Up to and including 2012/13, council tax benefit expenditure was financed by a specific government grant (£13.8m in 2012/13). The expenditure and grant income were both included in the CIES as part of Central Services to the Public.

From 1st April 2013, council tax benefit has been abolished, and replaced by a new, local scheme to provide residents with assistance to pay council tax. Resources for the new scheme are still provided by Central Government, but are now paid as part of the Revenue Support Grant, which is credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the CIES. The Government reduced the resources provided for council tax support by a national average of 10% compared to 2012/13. The funding reduction for council tax support for 2013/14 was fully absorbed by the Authority, as agreed by Council in November 2012.

Furthermore, as part of the localisation of council tax support, discounts and exemptions were withdrawn for empty homes in April 2013. The aim of the changes to discounts and exemptions is to minimise Council Tax charges for Merton residents and to encourage property owners to bring homes into use more quickly.

Non-Domestic Rates - Business Rates Retention Scheme
A new Business Rates Retention Scheme was introduced for 2013/14 as part of the Local Government Finance Act 2012; the Council now retains a 30% share of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) income. Precepts are paid from NDR income to the Greater London Authority (20%) and Central Government (50%). Prior to 2013/14, all NDR proceeds were paid into a national pool administered by the Government.

10. Future Development

Local Land Charges
In 2014, the Queen's Speech to Parliament included a proposed new Infrastructure Bill. Part of the Bill would transfer statutory responsibility for the local land charges register and searches from Local Authorities to the Land Registry. The Bill supports the delivery of digital services, and extends Land Registry's powers to enable it to provide information and register services relating to land and other property.

Core Financial Statements

1. Movement in Reserves Statement

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

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2012 (Restated)	(25,637)	(40,258)	(15,199)	(3,635)	(84,729)	(45,076)	(129,805)
Movement in reserves during 2012/13 (Restated)							
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(16,693)	0	0	0	(16,693)	0	(16,693)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	(7,315)	(7,315)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(16,693)	0	0	0	(16,693)	(7,315)	(24,008)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	3,776	0	(7,553)	(758)	(4,535)	4,535	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	(12,917)	0	(7,553)	(758)	(21,228)	(2,780)	(24,008)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 16)	8,042	(8,042)	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in Year	(4,875)	(8,042)	(7,553)	(758)	(21,228)	(2,780)	(24,008)
Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward (Restated)	**(30,512)**	**(48,300)**	**(22,752)**	**(4,393)**	**(105,957)**	**(47,856)**	**(153,813)**

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 01 April 2013 (Restated)	(30,512)	(48,300)	(22,752)	(4,393)	(105,957)	(47,856)	(153,813)
Movement in reserves during 2013/14							
(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	15,092	0	0	0	15,092	0	15,092
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	4,540	4,540
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	15,092	0	0	0	15,092	4,540	19,632
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	(17,100)	0	(3,305)	(3,783)	(24,188)	24,188	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfer to Earmarked	(2,008)	0	(3,305)	(3,783)	(9,096)	28,728	19,632
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 16)	1,592	(1,592)	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in Year	(416)	(1,592)	(3,305)	(3,783)	(9,096)	28,728	19,632
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	**(30,928)**	**(49,892)**	**(26,057)**	**(8,176)**	**(115,054)**	**(19,128)**	**(134,182)**

2. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

2012/13 Gross Expenditure Restated £000	2012/13 Gross Income Restated £000	2012/13 Net Expenditure Restated (See Explanatory Foreword) £000		2013/14 Gross Expenditure £000	2013/14 Gross Income £000	2013/14 Net Expenditure £000
			Continuing Operations			
20,773	(17,066)	3,707	Central services to the public	6,843	(3,619)	3,224
10,744	(2,253)	8,491	Cultural and Related Services	11,318	(1,901)	9,417
27,883	(5,734)	22,149	Environmental & Regulatory Services	26,332	(4,066)	22,266
6,719	(5,332)	1,387	Planning Services	7,349	(5,740)	1,609
199,728	(157,310)	42,418	Education and children's services	219,571	(152,125)	67,447
25,493	(13,488)	12,005	Highways and transport services	26,634	(14,611)	12,023
93,531	(91,150)	2,381	Other housing services	98,722	(94,731)	3,991
71,297	(28,385)	42,912	Adult social care	70,112	(16,915)	53,197
5,735	0	5,735	Corporate and Democratic Core	5,451	(86)	5,365
7,825	(5,993)	1,832	Non distributed costs - Other	7,890	(6,545)	1,345
			Acquired Operations			
0	0	0	Public Health	8,190	(9,851)	(1,661)
469,728	**(326,711)**	**143,017**	**Cost of services**	**488,413**	**(310,190)**	**178,223**
		5,466	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 3)			3,386
		15,171	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 4)			17,103
		(180,347)	Taxation and non-specific grant income (Note 5)			(183,620)
		(16,693)	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**			**15,092**
		(7,442)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and equipment (Note 17)			(15,622)
		127	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset) (Notes 17 & 35)			20,162
		(7,315)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**4,540**
		(24,008)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**19,632**

3. Balance Sheet

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

1 April 2012 Restated £000	31 March 2013 Restated £000		Notes	31 March 2014 £000
435,297	445,489	Property, Plant & Equipment	19	447,000
669	669	Heritage Assets	22	669
0	0	Investment Property	20	0
0	0	Long Term Investments	9	5,000
1,682	1,800	Intangible Assets	21	1,896
231	231	Assets Held for Sale	23	231
6,060	8,663	Long Term Debtors	7 & 9	7,763
443,939	**456,851**	**Long Term Assets**		**462,558**
57,349	65,037	Short Term Investments	9	75,202
181	243	Inventories	40	211
26,905	30,014	Short Term Debtors	7	28,303
21,019	24,082	Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	22,714
105,454	**119,375**	**Current Assets**		**126,431**
(9,700)	(9,654)	Short Term Borrowing	9	(1,170)
(47,345)	(49,115)	Short Term Creditors	8	(61,457)
(1,594)	(1,274)	Current Provisions	11	(861)
(58,639)	**(60,043)**	**Current Liabilities**		**(63,488)**
(5,398)	(4,858)	Provisions	11	(5,941)
(116,976)	(116,976)	Long Term Borrowing	9	(116,976)
(38,081)	(36,910)	Other Long Term Liabilities	9	(35,201)
(189,686)	(194,875)	Pension Liability	35	(224,327)
(10,806)	(8,750)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	6	(8,873)
(360,947)	**(362,370)**	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(391,319)**
129,807	**153,813**	**Net Assets**		**134,182**
(84,729)	(105,957)	Usable Reserves	16	(115,054)
(45,078)	(47,856)	Unusable Reserves	17	(19,128)
(129,807)	**(153,813)**	**Total Reserves**		**(134,182)**

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements authorised at the meeting of General Purposes Committee on 26th June 2014.

Signed: Date: 17th September 2014

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.

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
(16,693)	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	15,092
(32,938)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements (note 15)	(62,708)
37,715	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (note 15)	19,612
(11,914)	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities (note 15)	(28,004)
7,543	Investing Activities (note 15)	22,632
1,308	Financing Activities (note 15)	6,740
(3,063)	Net Increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	1,368
(21,019)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(24,082)
(24,082)	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 14)**	**(22,714)**

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (IFRS)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

Other than that disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement, there were no material items of Income and Expenses.

2. AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS

The income and expenditure of the authority's principal directorates recorded in the budget reports for the year is as follows:

2013/14	Corporate Services £000	Children, Schools & Families £000	Adult Social Care £000	Libraries £000	Housing £000	Public Health £000	Environment & Regeneration £000	Total £000
INCOME								
Fees, charges and other service income	(10,501)	(6,770)	(16,370)	(873)	(175)	(866)	(25,754)	**(61,310)**
Government grants	(93,648)	(143,326)	(132)	(1,907)	(1,179)	(8,985)	(616)	**(249,794)**
Total income	(104,149)	(150,096)	(16,502)	(2,780)	(1,354)	(9,851)	(26,370)	**(311,103)**
EXPENDITURE								
Employee expenses	23,606	119,104	12,800	3,268	1,105	660	22,655	**183,199**
Other service expenses	108,287	71,632	60,427	1,527	2,059	7,431	21,972	**273,336**
Support Service Recharges	10,109	10,134	6,915	1,178	245	98	9,232	**37,911**
Total expenditure	142,003	200,870	80,142	5,973	3,409	8,190	53,859	**494,445**
Net Expenditure	37,854	50,774	63,639	3,193	2,055	(1,661)	27,489	**183,342**

2012/13 Restated	Corporate Services £000	Children, Schools & Families £000	Adult Social Care £000	Libraries £000	Housing £000	Environment & Regeneration £000	Total £000
INCOME							
Fees, charges and other service income	(8,625)	(7,343)	(18,885)	(931)	(170)	(25,845)	**(61,799)**
Government grants	(103,480)	(147,804)	(7,668)	(1,889)	(1,504)	(2,478)	**(264,824)**
Total income	(112,105)	(155,147)	(26,553)	(2,820)	(1,674)	(28,323)	**(326,623)**
EXPENDITURE							
Employee expenses	21,747	119,807	12,913	3,251	1,066	22,001	**180,784**
Other service expenses	118,941	66,000	60,426	1,528	910	25,525	**273,329**
Support Service Recharges	10,780	8,795	6,965	1,117	291	9,434	**37,382**
Total expenditure	151,468	194,601	80,304	5,895	2,267	56,959	**491,494**
Net Expenditure	39,362	39,453	53,750	3,075	593	28,636	**164,871**

Reconciliation of Directorate Income and Expenditure to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:
This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of directorate income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
164,871	Net Expenditure: Segmental Analysis	183,342
18,198	Amounts in the I&E not in the Segmental Analysis	35,647
(40,051)	Allocation of Recharges	(40,766)
143,017	Cost of Service in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	**178,223**

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of directorate income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2013/14	Net Expenditure: Segmental Analysis £000	Amounts in the I&E not in the Segmental Analysis £000	Allocation of Recharges £000	Cost of Services £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
INCOME						
Fees, charges and other service income	(61,310)	0	0	(61,310)	0	(61,310)
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0	(1,468)	(1,468)
Taxation and non-specific grant income	0	0	0	0	(183,620)	(183,620)
Government grants	(249,794)	0	0	(249,794)	0	(249,794)
Total income	**(311,103)**	**0**	**0**	**(311,103)**	**(185,088)**	**(496,191)**
EXPENDITURE						
Employee expenses	183,199	0	(18,305)	164,893	0	164,893
Other service expenses	273,336	914	(13,354)	260,895	0	260,895
Support service recharges	37,911	0	(6,340)	31,571	0	31,571
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	0	34,733	(2,767)	31,966	0	31,966
Interest payments	0	0	0	0	10,244	10,244
Precepts and levies	0	0	0	0	914	914
Other financing and investment expenditure	0	0	0	0	8,327	8,327
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	2,472	2,472
Total expenditure	**494,445**	**35,647**	**(40,766)**	**489,326**	**21,957**	**511,283**
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	**183,342**	**35,647**	**(40,766)**	**178,223**	**(163,131)**	**15,092**

2012/13 Restated	Net Expenditure: Segmental Analysis £000	Amounts in the I&E not in the Segmental Analysis £000	Allocation of Recharges £000	Cost of Services £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
INCOME						
Fees, charges and other service income	(61,799)	0	0	(61,799)	0	(61,799)
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0	(952)	(952)
Taxation and non-specific grant income	0	0	0	0	(180,347)	(180,347)
Government grants	(264,824)	0	0	(264,824)	0	(264,824)
Total income	**(326,623)**	**0**	**0**	**(326,623)**	**(181,299)**	**(507,922)**
EXPENDITURE						
Employee expenses	180,784	0	(16,464)	164,320	0	164,320
Other service expenses	273,329	17	(14,372)	258,974	0	258,975
Support service recharges	37,382	0	(6,642)	30,740	0	30,740
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	0	18,181	(2,575)	15,606	0	15,606
Interest payments	0	0	0	0	9,272	9,272
Precepts and levies	0	0	0	0	880	880
Other financing and investment expenditure	0	0	0	0	6,851	6,851
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	4,586	4,586
Total expenditure	**491,494**	**18,198**	**(40,052)**	**469,640**	**21,589**	**491,232**
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	**164,871**	**18,198**	**(40,052)**	**143,017**	**(159,710)**	**(16,693)**

A reconciliation between figures reported to Cabinet at year end and figures in the Statement of Accounts is shown below:

2013/14	Cabinet (Draft Accounts)	Budgetary control presentation	Services in corporate in Sercop	IFRS Adjustments	Statement of Accounts
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Services	153,582	3,251	(300)	21,690	178,223
Corporate	11,287	9,389	300	(487)	20,489
Cost of services	**164,869**	**12,640**	**0**	**21,203**	**198,712**
Corporate Funding	(164,869)	(12,640)	0	(6,111)	(183,620)
(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	**0**	**0**	**0**	**15,092**	**15,092**
Unrealised Gains and Losses	0	0	0	4,540	4,540
(Surplus)/deficit	**-**	**-**	**-**	**19,632**	**19,632**

2012/13 Restated	Cabinet (Draft Accounts)	Budgetary control presentation	Reserves transfers reported*	Other reserve transfers*	Services in corporate in Sercop	IFRS Adjustments	Original Audited Statement of Accounts	Impact of Prior Period Adjustments	Restated Statement of Accounts
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Services	139,524	6,888	0	(2,558)	5,738	(5,559)	144,033	(1,016)	143,017
Corporate	10,840	(5,931)	(7,209)	2,055	(5,738)	18,413	12,430	8,207	20,637
Cost of services	**150,364**	**957**	**(7,209)**	**(503)**	**0**	**12,854**	**156,463**	**7,191**	**163,654**
Corporate Funding	(155,568)	(958)	0	0	0	(23,821)	(180,347)	0	(180,347)
(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	**(5,204)**	**(1)**	**(7,209)**	**(503)**	**0**	**(10,967)**	**(23,884)**	**7,191**	**(16,693)**
Unrealised Gains and Losses	0	0	0	0	0	(2,943)	(2,943)	(4,372)	(7,315)
(Surplus)/deficit	**(5,204)**	**(1)**	**(7,209)**	**(503)**	**0**	**(13,910)**	**(26,827)**	**2,819**	**(24,008)**

* Net £7.712m movement = Increase in earmarked reserves £8.042m - reduction in schools' reserves £0.331m (See Note 16)

3. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
880	Precepts and Levies	914
4,586	(Gains)/ losses on the disposal of non-current assets	2,472
5,466	**Total**	**3,386**

4. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
9,272	Interest payable and similar charges (Note 9)	10,244
8,337	Net interest on defined pension liability (Note 35)	8,027
(952)	Interest receivable and similar income (Note 9)	(1,468)
(1,486)	Other (income)/expenditure- trading accounts not related to services (Note 39)	300
15,171	**Total**	**17,103**

5. TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOMES

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
(86,813)	Council tax income	(76,123)
(60,842)	Non domestic rates (see Note 6)	(23,841)
(10,692)	Non-ringfenced government grants (see Note 6)	(67,622)
(22,000)	Capital grants and contributions (see Note 6)	(16,034)
(180,347)	**Total**	**(183,620)**

6. GRANT INCOME

The London Borough of Merton credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2013/14:

	2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Collection Fund	(86,813)	(76,123)
Revenue Support Grant	(1,179)	(47,470)
Business Rates	(60,842)	(23,841)
Top-up Grant	0	(7,547)
Capital Grant Income	(22,000)	(16,034)
PFI Contribution	(4,797)	(4,797)
New Homes Bonus Grant	(1,136)	(2,724)
Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (Refund)	(1,295)	0
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,070)	(848)
Education Services Grant	0	(3,246)
Grant towards Wimbledon Magistrates Court capital financing*	0	(268)
Total grants under £1 million	(214)	(723)
Total	**(180,347)**	**(183,620)**
Credited to Financing and Investment Income		
Grant towards Wimbledon Magistrates Court capital financing*	**(262)**	**0**
Credited to Services		
Grants over £1million		
Schools Delegated Budget	(132,697)	(135,940)
Housing Benefits Subsidy	(87,067)	(90,864)
Public Health Grant	0	(8,985)
Council Tax Benefits	(13,846)	0
REFCUS related grants for voluntary aided schools	(1,396)	0
Children's Centres	(1,435)	0
Benefits Administration	(1,485)	(1,396)
LD Crossroads & NHS Grant	(6,799)	0
Pupil Premium	(3,401)	(4,959)
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation	(1,004)	(1,179)
Nursery Grant - (2 year olds)	(1,159)	0
Adult Education Main	(1,889)	(1,907)
	(252,178)	(245,231)
Total grants under £1million	(12,646)	(4,563)
Total Grants	**(264,824)**	**(249,794)**
Contributions over £1million		
LD Residential Care External	(1,610)	(1,542)
Registered Nursing Care Contribution	(1,160)	(1,386)
Retention in Drug Treatment Services	(1,129)	0
Local Taxation Services	(1,045)	(1,285)
Shared Legal Service	(1,252)	(2,851)
Non Delegated Statements	(983)	(1,051)
Provider Service	(2,962)	(2,677)
	(10,142)	(10,792)
Total contributions under £1million	(8,784)	(8,605)
Total Contributions	**(18,925)**	**(19,397)**
TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	**(283,749)**	**(269,191)**

*In 2013/14 the authority re-classified the Wimbledon Magistrates Court capital financing grant as Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income, in order to aid simplification of the accounts.

The authority has received a number of 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 as follows:

Current Liabilities

	2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
Total of grants under £1million	(74)	(82)
Total	**(74)**	**(82)**
Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance		
Grants over £1million:	0	(7,551)
Total grants under £1million	(1,686)	(1,827)
Total	**(1,686)**	**(9,379)**

Long Term Liabilities - Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

	2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
1. Government Grants and other contributions		
Standards Fund	(211)	(902)
Other Grants and Contributions	(1,454)	(654)
	(1,665)	(1,556)
2. Section 106	(6,190)	(6,642)
3. Schools Capital Grants	(895)	(675)
Total	**(8,750)**	**(8,873)**

DEBTORS, CREDITORS AND CASH FLOWS

7. DEBTORS

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Long Term Debtors	
882	Other Local Authorities	847
7,781	Bodies external to general government	6,916
8,663	**Total Long Term Debtors**	**7,763**
	Short Term Debtors	
10,306	Central government bodies	5,842
19,708	Bodies external to general government	22,461
30,014	**Total short term debtors**	**28,303**
38,677	**Total Debtors**	**36,066**

Financial Instruments in Debtors

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Long Term Debtors	
882	Other Local Authorities	847
6,651	Bodies external to general government	6,728
7,533	**Total Long Term Debtors**	**7,575**
	Short Term Debtors	
16,510	Bodies external to general government	19,865
16,510	**Total short term debtors**	**19,865**
24,043	**Total Financial Instruments in Debtors**	**27,440**

8. CREDITORS

31 March 2013 Restated £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Short Term Creditors	
(756)	Central government bodies	(10,184)
(625)	Other local authorities	(1,779)
(302)	NHS bodies	(310)
(47,432)	Bodies external to general government	(49,184)
(49,115)	**Total Short Term Creditors**	**(61,457)**

Financial Instruments within Creditors:

31 March 2013 Restated £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Short Term Creditors	
(302)	NHS bodies	(310)
(43,100)	Bodies external to general government	(41,027)
0	Other local authorities	(579)
(43,402)	**Total Financial Instruments in Short Term Creditors**	**(41,916)**

9. 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

	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2014	31 March 2013	31 March 2014	31 March 2013
		Restated		Restated
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	5,000	0	75,202	65,037
Total investments	**5,000**	**0**	**75,202**	**65,037**
Debtors				
Loans and receivables	7,575	7,533	19,865	16,510
Total debtors	**7,575**	**7,533**	**19,865**	**16,510**
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	116,976	116,976	1,170	9,654
Total borrowings	**116,976**	**116,976**	**1,170**	**9,654**
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PFI and Finance Lease LT Liabilities	35,201	36,910	0	0
Total other long term liabilities	**35,201**	**36,910**	**0**	**0**
Creditors				
PFI and Finance Lease ST Liabilities	0	0	1,553	1,187
Other Financial liabilities at amortised cost	0	0	40,363	42,215
Total creditors	**0**	**0**	**41,916**	**43,402**

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, reported to cabinet and the authority 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 report also proposes for the authority's approval, criteria for the minimum creditworthiness required for investment counter parties.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2012/13			2013/14		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense – Borrowings & Finance Leases	9,272	0	9,272	10,244	0	10,244
Total Expenses in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**9,272**	**0**	**9,272**	**10,244**	**0**	**10,244**
Interest Income – Investments & Finance Leases	0	(952)	(952)	0	(1,468)	(1,468)
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**0**	**(952)**	**(952)**	**0**	**(1,468**	**(1,468)**
Net gain/loss for the year	**9,272**	**(952)**	**8,320**	**10,244**	**(1,468)**	**8,776**

Investments

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

Investment Profile			31 March 2013	31 March 2014
			£000	£000
Long term			0	5,000
Short term			67,470	75,000
Accrued Investment Income			137	202
Total			**67,607**	**80,202**
Investments - Movement in year				**£000**
Investments at 1 April 2013				**67,607**
Change in investment managed internally				12,530
Change in accrued investment income				65
Investment at 31 March 2014				**80,202**
Long term investment (book value)				5,000
Short term investment (book value)				75,202
	Book Value		Market Value	Unrealised Profits/(Losses)
	£000		£000	£000
Managed Internally	80,202		80,202	0
Managed Externally	0		0	0
Total	**80,202**		**80,202**	**0**

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is defined as the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, assuming that the transaction was negotiated between parties knowledgeable about the market in which they are dealing and willing to buy/sell at an appropriate price, with no other motive than to secure a fair price.

The fair value of the authority's investment portfolio is not materially different to the book value, which is disclosed in the above table.

In line with FRS25 and IFRS7 on 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 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.

- For PWLB (Public Works Loan Body) debt, fair values as at 31 March 2014 published by PWLB have been used.

Borrowing at source - Fair Value	31 March 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000
Public Works Loan Board	69,759	64,224
Market Loan	83,583	78,940
Temporary Loan	8,028	0
Stock Loan	2,838	2,605
Total	**164,208**	**145,769**

Borrowing - Maturity Profile	31 March 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000
Less than 1 year	8,000	0
Between 1 and 2 years	0	0
Between 2 and 5 years	3,966	3,966
Between 5 and 10 years	4,310	4,310
More than 10 years	108,700	108,700
Total over 1 year	**116,976**	**116,976**
Total Borrowings	**124,976**	**116,976**
Accrued Interest	1,654	1,170
	126,630	**118,146**

The Balance Sheet figures are based upon the maturity profile of borrowings.

10. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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 2013/14 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	AAAmmf	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 2014 the disposition of investments was:

Category	£000	%	Spread (number of counterparties)	Fitch Rating
UK Clearing Banks	20,000	25.00%	1	A, F1, a, 1
UK Nationalised Banks	30,000	37.50%	2	A, F1, a-, 1
UK Building Society	15,000	18.75%	1	A, F1, a, 1
Local Authority	15,000	18.75%	3	N/A
Money Market Funds	0			AAAmmf
Total	**80,000**	**100.00%**	**7**	

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.

Long Term Debtors

The authority's remaining housing advances (mortgages) are secured on the properties and the Business Investment Fund is funded by a non-repayable government loan. For all debts there are formal repayment arrangements.

Current Deposits and Trade Debtors

No losses or impairments were incurred in 2013/14, 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 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000
< 3 months	4,453	5,067
3 to 12 months	2,288	2,417
> 1 year	2,293	3,554
Total	**9,034**	**11,038**

Cash

The authority's cash balances are held in UK Clearing banks and when the balance is significant, deposits are spread across a number of institutions to reduce risk.

The authority's maximum potential exposure to credit risk is with its trade debtors for which prudent provision has been made.

Liquidity Risk

The authority's ability to pay its financial commitments as and when due is supported by substantial resources. It plans a balanced annual budget that provides sufficient revenue to cover annual expenditure, and has access to borrowings from the Money Markets and the Public Works Loans Board.

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 March 2013		31 March 2014	
	£000	%	£000	%
Under 12 months	8,000	6.4	0	0.0
1yr to 2yrs	0	0.0	0	0.0
2yrs to 5yrs	3,966	3.2	3,966	3.4
5yrs to 10yrs	4,310	3.4	4,310	3.7
10yrs and over	108,700	87.0	108,700	92.9
Total	**124,976**	**100.0**	**116,976**	**100.0**

The above represents the nominal exposure to debt maturities, but some Lenders Option (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 levels. 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 Option exposure when market rates in range of:	Prospectively repayable / requiring Re-finance	Proportion of total debt
	£000	%
4.00 - 4.99%	5,000	4.3
5.00 - 5.99%	34,000	29.1
6.00 - 6.99%	15,500	13.3
7.00 - 7.99%	2,000	1.7
8.00 - 8.99%	6,500	5.6

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 31 March 2014 the sources of potential borrowing appear unimpaired, and the maturity profile of investments, available to support liquidity going forward, is as follows:

	£000	%
April to June 2014	14,500	18.1
July to September 2014	14,400	18.0
October to December 2014	12,600	15.8
January 2015 to March 2015	33,500	41.9
April 2015 to June 2015	0	0.0
June 2015 to September 2015	5,000	6.3
Total	**80,000**	**100.0**

Given the resources available, the authority did not experience any significant liquidity problems in 2013/14 and does not anticipate any for 2014/15.

Interest Rate 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 Income and Expenditure Account will rise or fall.

- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Income and Expenditure Account 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 they 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:

	£000	0.5% £000	1.0% £000	Mitigation
Borrowings	116,976	315	630	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 council is locked into its investments until maturity. A premium will be payable to unwind the fixed deposits.
Investment Deposits	80,000	272	411	
Impact on CIES		43	219	

	£000	0.50% £000	1.00% £000	Comment
Borrowings	145,769	395	789	Interest rates are currently at all time low
Investment Deposits	80,341	274	413	

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.

Prudential Indicator Limits

Maximum % exposure to	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Fixed rates	100	100	100	100
Variable rates	50	50	50	50

At 31st March 2014 exposure to variable rates on borrowings is exclusively through future maturities and the risk of LOBO options being exercised. The prospect of the latter is currently not considered significant. The market risk is, therefore, through the spread of debt maturities, and an estimate of a possible financial consequence is shown in the following table. The prospective refinance rate is a normal level of Public Works Loans Board interest rate for long-term finance. This is considered an appropriate and cautious rate to use at present although this may change over time.

Maturity in	Actual at 31 March 2014 £000	Current average interest rate %	Prospective re-finance rate %	Margin %	Effect (Saving) £000 pa
Under 12 months	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
1yr to 2 yrs	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
2yrs to 5yrs	3,966	9.6	2.3	-7.4	(291)
5yrs to 10yrs	4,310	6.7	3.2	-3.5	(151)
10yrs to 15yrs	30,700	6.3	3.7	-2.6	(797)
15yrs to 20 yrs	1,000	4.3	4.2	-0.1	(1)
20yrs to 25yrs	11,500	5.5	4.3	-1.2	(137)
25 to 30 yrs	13,500	6.6	4.3	-2.3	(312)
30yrs to 35 yrs	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
35yrs to 40yrs	7,000	4.4	4.3	-0.1	(6)
40yrs to 45 yrs	25,000	4.8	4.3	-0.5	(116)
45yrs to 50 yrs	20,000	5.0	4.3	-0.8	(151)
	116,976	**5.7**	**4.0**	**-1.7**	**(1,962)**

At the currently forecast re-financing rate, which is considered reasonable in an environment where the Bank of England effects efficient control over inflation, re-financing is expected to be at lower cost.

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.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Maximum investment over 1 year as percentage of total investments	50%	50%	50%	50%

At 31st March 2014, the investment portfolio's exposure to interest rate change is set out in the following table. The effective reduction of income relative to the interest rates being earned on the portfolio at 31st March 2014 is calculated in proportion to the period in 2013/14 over which it would apply, (i.e. investments maturing in the 0-3 month period would be re-invested at lower rates for 3 months).

Deposit Maturity in:	Actual at 31 March 2014 £000	Current average interest rate %	Prospective re-finance rate at 31 March 2014 %	Margin %	Reduction of income relative to 31 March 2014 £000 pa
0-3 months	14,500	0.7	0.4	0.3	8
3-6 months	14,400	0.8	0.5	0.4	22
6-9 months	12,600	0.8	0.6	0.2	18
9-12 months	33,500	0.9	0.8	0.1	35
over 12 months	5,000	1.0	1.0	0.0	-2
	80,000	**0.8**	**0.6**	**0.3**	**81**

PFI Borrowing

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

Price Risk

The authority, (excluding its Pension Fund, which is subject to separate reporting), 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.

11. PROVISIONS

	Injury and damage compensation claims £000	Other provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2013	4,735	1,396	6,131
Additional provisions made in 2013/14	1,302	2,091	3,393
Amounts used in 2013/14	(1,650)	(748)	(2,399)
Unused amounts reversed in 2013/14	(324)	0	(324)
Balance at 31 March 2014	**4,063**	**2,739**	**6,802**

Outstanding Legal Cases
The authority is not involved in any legal cases other than those already disclosed as contingent liabilities.

Injury and Damage Compensation Claims:

- **Insurance Fund £4.063m**
  The authority, in line with most other authorities, 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 limits recommended by the authority's actuaries.

Other Provisions:

- **Housing £0.234m**

As part of the stock transfer agreement made on 22 March 2010, the authority paid £1.85m to Merton Priory Homes in order for them to complete the 2009/10 capital programme. Due to health and safety and various design issues, the cost of the programme increased by £0.24m. The work has been completed and a provision of £0.343m was made for final settlement of this and other outstanding housing contracts. In 2012/13, a £0.109m charge was made against the provision. As at 31/03/2014, £0.234m remains in the provision for settlement of outstanding contracts.

- **Single Status £0.591m**

Single Status is a national agreement reached in 1997 aimed at modernising pay and rewards in Local Government. The agreement covers the introduction of a single job evaluation (JE) scheme for all Council workers, a standardised working week and a pay and grading review which recognises equal pay for work of equal value. A further national implementation agreement was reached in 2004 under which local authorities would complete and implement local pay reviews. In 2013/14, the authority made payments totalling £0.396m against the provision. The remaining £0.145m provision was increased by £0.446m to £0.591m, which is the estimated outstanding liability for single status allowances.

- **Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme £0.271m**

The authority has made a provision of £0.271m to meet its obligations under the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme.

- **NDR Appeals £1.644m**

The authority has made a provision of £1.644m for appeals against NDR (Business Rates) charges. The amount represents an estimate of the potential effects of appeals and proposals that may be settled in future years.

Of the above provisions, those for single status and the carbon reduction commitment scheme are classified as current provisions, expected to fall due within one year of the balance sheet date. The remainder of the provisions, totalling £5.941m are long-term provisions, expected to fall due more than one year after the balance sheet date.

12. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Local Land Charges

LB Merton, along with many local authorities in the country, is a defendant in proceedings brought by a group of Property Search Companies for the refund of fees paid to councils for access to land charges data. The Council faces approximate claims of £250,000 plus interest and costs. The Local Government Association is co-ordinating the claims, the outcome of which is unpredictable. There is a hearing scheduled for 5th November 2014, when more information may become available regarding the amount and timing of any settlement. At present, it is unclear whether Central Government will reimburse Local Authorities for any claims settled and costs incurred.

Employment Disputes

There are three current employment disputes where compensation and/or costs are involved. The maximum liability for these is estimated to be £50,000. However, due to the inherent uncertainties surrounding their outcome, the Council has not made a provision for these in the accounts.

Education

There are two Special Educational Needs tribunal cases of note. The first is a claim from parents for the additional cost of a school placement which, if successful, would result in a cost to the Council of approximately £50,000. The second case is a new instruction, again for alternative school provision. It is too early to estimate the additional cost.

Due to the inherent uncertainties surrounding their outcome, the Council has not made a provision for these in the accounts.

Social Services

Following an unsuccessful judicial review, the Council is negotiating cost settlement. The maximum potential cost to the Council is £12,000.

Civil Litigation

There are currently three judicial reviews in respect of the expansion of Dundonald Primary School and the related appropriation of part of the adjoining Dundonald Recreation Ground.

The Council is defending its position, but if unsuccessful, would expect to incur court costs up to £50,000. Furthermore, up to 31st March 2014, the Council had already incurred £300,000 capital expenditure on the project. If the school expansion is halted, this expenditure would be taken to revenue.

Traffic Management

The Council has one contract dispute with a contractor regarding the cost of minor road repairs. The contractor claims it is owed £184,000 by the Council, but the Council maintains that the contract does not allow the sum to be legitimately claimed. The Council has sought professional advice to this effect and has written to the contractor stating its position. The dispute is on-going.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Council has a PFI scheme whereby six secondary schools were rebuilt in 2003 by a PFI operator. Four schools remain in the scheme and make an annual contribution to the Council towards the scheme's cost. The schools' annual contributions are calculated using a formula set-out in Governing Body Agreements. Following a review of the Governing Body Agreements and changes to the schools' Dedicated Schools Grant funding, the schools' contribution formula needs to be re-negotiated. As part of this re-negotiation, the Council may have to contribute up to £245,000 towards agreeing a mutually beneficial formula with the schools.

CHAS

CHAS 2013 Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the London Borough of Merton, although formerly it operated as part of the Council as a trading account. It is the established market leader for health and safety pre-qualification in the UK.

A dispute has arisen, pre-dating the formation of CHAS 2013 Ltd, which may result in a damages claim and potential injunction against a third party, in respect of the use of the Council's registered trademark and name "CHAS Contractors Health & Safety Assessment Scheme". A Letter Before Action has been served by the Council threatening injunctive proceedings and recovery of damages in the High Court. It is always possible that the Council may not succeed in obtaining the injunction and/or with its claim for damages, although the evidence indicates clear trade mark infringement and passing off.

The Council itself has been served a Letter Before Action claiming an unsubstantiated sum exceeding £720,000 plus legal costs, arising from a contract to provide CHAS client details to a third party, for it to sell insurance products to those CHAS customers. In response, the Council had served a formal response alleging cross contractual claims for unpaid commission and potential fraud against the third party. It is unclear whether the Council's claim will outweigh the third party's claim.

Investigations are continuing but court proceedings have not been commenced and a settlement date cannot be predicted at this stage. Neither claim is reflected in the accounts.

13. CONTINGENT ASSETS

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)

The Council currently has a POCA application following an LBM trading standards prosecution of a betting scam. A confiscation order of £6.1m was made in May 2014, to be paid by 14th November 2014, of which the Council would receive 37.5%, less the costs of the financial investigator.

However, the Defendants have made no offer and may be willing to serve a prison sentence instead of paying the Order sum. The assets are “hidden” and consequently not identifiable.

The Council has one other outstanding POCA application for an Order of £32,000. If successful, the Council would receive 37.5% of this sum.

14. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
(530)	Main bank account	(182)
853	Cash in transit (held by agents)	976
21,122	Cash advanced to schools	21,869
2,570	Cash equivalents	0
67	Cash advanced to establishments (Cash imprests)	51
24,082	**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents**	**22,714**

15. CASH FLOWS

Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
(20,529)	Employee running costs and income	(37,319)
(1,165)	Interest received	(1,402)
6,299	Interest paid	7,190
3,480	Interest element of finance lease	3,527
(11,914)		**(28,004)**

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

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
	Non Cash Movements	
(15,540)	Depreciation	(15,761)
(2,462)	Impairment & downward valuations	(18,408)
(534)	Amortisation	(606)
(13,297)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(6,652)
(5,062)	Movement in Pension Liability	(9,290)
3,070	(Increase)/decrease in provision for the impairment of bad debts	(5,331)
858	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	(670)
(32,967)		**(56,718)**
	Accruals Adjustments	
62	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	(31)
2,643	Increase/(decrease) in Debtors	2,145
(213)	Increase/(decrease) in Interest Debtors	65
(2,445)	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	(8,653)
(17)	(Increase)/decrease in Interest Creditors	484
30		**(5,990)**
(32,938)	**Total**	**(62,708)**

Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
35,041	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	26,434
64,900	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	80,000
(12,389)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(3,320)
(57,000)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(64,900)
(23,008)	Other receipts from investing activities	(15,582)
7,543	**Net cash flows from investing activities**	**22,632**

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

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
12,389	Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	3,320
25,326	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	16,292
37,715	**Total**	**19,612**

Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
(262)	Other receipts from financing activities	(2,373)
840	Cash payments for the reduction of finance leases (PFI)	1,103
63	Repayment of short- and long-term borrowing	8,000
277	Cash payments for the reduction of finance leases (Other)	10
390	Other payments	0
1,308	**Net cash flows from financing activities**	**6,740**

RESERVES

16. USABLE RESERVES

Usable Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2012 £000	Transfers out 2012/13 £000	Transfers in 2012/13 £000	Balance at 31 March 2013 £000	Transfers out 2013/14 £000	Transfers in 2013/14 £000	Balance at 31 March 2014 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	(12,005)	1,702	(1,371)	(11,674)	598	(1,014)	(12,090)
General Fund Balances	(13,632)	0	(5,206)	(18,838)	0	0	(18,838)
Earmarked reserves	(40,258)	7,282	(15,324)	(48,300)	4,605	(6,197)	(49,892)
Total General Fund	**(65,895)**	**8,984**	**(21,901)**	**(78,812)**	**5,203**	**(7,211)**	**(80,820)**
Capital:							
Capital Receipts Reserves	(15,199)	0	(7,553)	(22,752)	600	(3,905)	(26,058)
Capital Grants Unapplied	(3,635)	0	(758)	(4,393)	2,162	(5,945)	(8,176)
Total Capital	**(18,834)**	**0**	**(8,311)**	**(27,145)**	**2,762**	**(9,850)**	**(34,234)**
Total Usable Reserves	**(84,729)**	**8,984**	**(30,212)**	**(105,957)**	**7,965**	**(17,061)**	**(115,054)**

Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Balance at 31st March 2012	Net Transfer to/from Reserve Restated	Balance at 31st March 2013 Restated	Net Transfer to/from Reserve	Balance at 31st March 2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Outstanding Council Programme Board Reserve	(7,703)	(2,086)	(9,789)	(1,317)	(11,105)
For use in future years' budgets	(2,052)	(7,700)	(9,752)	1,500	(8,252)
Revenue Reserve for Capital/Revenuisation	(6,291)	2,022	(4,269)	(1,091)	(5,360)
Energy renewable reserve	(841)	(600)	(1,441)	0	(1,441)
Repairs and Renewals Fund	(2,000)	576	(1,424)	0	(1,424)
Transforming families reserve	0	(1,318)	(1,318)	534	(784)
Pension Fund additional contribution	(1,250)	172	(1,078)	0	(1,078)
Local Land Charges	(850)	(225)	(1,075)	(185)	(1,260)
Apprenticeships	(1,500)	500	(1,000)	51	(949)
Community Care Reserve	(996)	(795)	(1,791)	58	(1,733)
Local Welfare Support Reserve	0	0	0	(315)	(315)
Performance Reward Grant	(1,656)	1,005	(651)	386	(265)
Economic Development Strategy	(339)	(284)	(623)	(698)	(1,322)
Used or eliminated reserves	(1,237)	1,237	0	0	0
Other	(671)	338	(333)	49	(284)
Sub total earmarked reserves	**(27,386)**	**(7,158)**	**(34,544)**	**(1,029)**	**(35,573)**
Adult social care contributions	(724)	(758)	(1,482)	812	(670)
Culture & Environment contributions	(1,251)	320	(931)	(273)	(1,204)
Culture & Environment Grants	(991)	139	(852)	105	(747)
Childrens & Education Grants	(812)	32	(780)	72	(708)
Adult social care Grants	(801)	700	(101)	101	0
Housing planning development Grants	0	(345)	(345)	46	(299)
Housing GF Grants	(222)	116	(106)	0	(106)
Public Health Grant Reserve	0	0	0	(1,664)	(1,664)
Sub total IFRS earmarked reserves	**(4,801)**	**204**	**(4,597)**	**(801)**	**(5,398)**
Insurance reserves	(1,954)	0	(1,954)	0	(1,954)
Sub total fixed to contract reserve	**(1,954)**	**0**	**(1,954)**	**0**	**(1,954)**
DSG Reserve	(1,710)	(668)	(2,378)	(350)	(2,728)
Schools Reserve	(515)	(545)	(1,060)	892	(168)
Schools PFI Fund	(3,892)	125	(3,767)	(304)	(4,071)
Sub total Schools reserves	**(6,117)**	**(1,088)**	**(7,205)**	**238**	**(6,967)**
Grand Total	**(40,258)**	**(8,042)**	**(48,300)**	**(1,592)**	**(49,892)**

17. UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2013 Restated £000		31 March 2014 £000
(57,840)	Revaluation Reserve	(71,054)
(178,620)	Capital Adjustment Account	(167,021)
194,875	Pensions Reserve	224,327
(5,338)	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(5,555)
(4,986)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(3,814)
4,052	Accumulated Absences Account	3,989
(47,856)	**Total Unusable Reserves**	**(19,128)**

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 in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

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

	2012/13 £000			2013/14 £000
	(50,901)	**Balance at 1 April**		**(57,840)**
(8,520)		Upward revaluation of assets	(26,670)	
1,078		Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	11,048	
	(7,442)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(15,622)
380		Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	807	
123		Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	1,601	
	503	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		2,408
	(57,840)	**Balance at 31 March**		**(71,054)**

Capital Adjustment Account

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

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

	2012/13 Restated £000			2013/14 £000
	(177,428)	**Restated Balance at 1 April**		**(178,620)**
	(503)	Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		(2,408)
		Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
15,541		Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	15,761	
2,462		Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	18,407	
534		Amortisation of intangible assets	606	
4,117		Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	3,334	
13,297		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	6,652	
	35,951			44,760
	35,448	**Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year**		**42,352**
		Capital financing applied in the year:		
(1,002)		Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(600)	
(24,251)		Application of grants and contributions to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(14,976)	
(8,460)		Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(8,815)	
(2,936)		Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(6,421)	
	(36,649)			**(30,812)**
	9	Loan Repayments		59
	(178,620)	**Balance at 31 March**		**(167,021)**

Pensions Reserve

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

2012/13 Restated £000		2013/14 £000
189,686	**Balance at 1 April**	**194,875**
127	Actuarial (gains) and losses on pensions assets and liabilities	20,162
22,652	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	26,245
(17,590)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(16,955)
194,875	**Balance at 31 March**	**224,327**

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.

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
(5,355)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(5,338)**
0	Correction of balance relating to previous years	(236)
11	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	8
6	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	11
(5,338)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(5,555)**

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.

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
(4,853)	**Balance at 1 April**	**(4,986)**
(133)	Amount by which council tax and NDR income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and NDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements. (2012/13 council tax only)	1,172
(4,986)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(3,814)**

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.

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
3,773	**Balance at 1 April**	**4,052**
(3,773)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(4,052)
4,052	**Amount accrued at 31 March**	3,989
279	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	(63)
4,052	**Balance at 31 March**	**3,989**

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.

2013/14

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(15,761)			15,761
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(18,407)			18,407
Amortisation of intangible assets	(606)			606
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,334)			3,334
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	(6,651)			6,651
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	8,815			(8,815)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	6,421			(6,421)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grant Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	18,759		(5,945)	(12,814)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account			2,162	(2,162)
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	3,835	(3,835)		

	Usable Reserves			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure		600		(600)
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash		(11)		11
Repayment of debt		(59)		59
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(8)			8
Correction of balance relating to previous years	236			(236)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 34)	(26,245)			26,245
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	16,955			(16,955)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustments Account:				
Amount by which council tax and NDR income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and NDR income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,172)			1,172
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	63			(63)
Total Adjustments	**(17,100)**	**(3,305)**	**(3,783)**	**24,188**

2012/13 Comparative Figures (Restated)

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(15,541)			15,541
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(2,462)			2,462
Amortisation of intangible assets	(534)			534
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(4,117)			4,117
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	(13,297)			13,297
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	8,460			(8,460)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	2,936			(2,936)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grant Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	25,009		758	(24,251)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account			0	0
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	8,627	(8,627)		

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure		1,002		(1,002)
Contribution to Housing Pool	(11)	11		
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non current asset disposals	(76)	76		
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash		(6)		6
Repayment of debt		(9)		9
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(10)			10
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 34)	(22,652)			22,652
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	17,590			(17,590)
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	133			(133)
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	(279)			279
Total Adjustments	**3,776**	**(7,553)**	**(758)**	**4,535**

CAPITAL

19. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements on Balances

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
As at 31st March 2014, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2014/15 and future years totalling an estimated £24m. Similar commitments for 2012/13 were approximately £27m.

Effects of Changes in Estimates

There are no material changes to the basis of estimation.

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2013	331,598	21,926	143,307	0	2,000	14,055	512,886	53,340
Additions	11,664	1,775	7,082	471	0	5,996	26,988	0
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,996	0	0	0	0	0	1,996	897
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(17,872)	0	0	(536)	0	0	(18,408)	(235)
Derecognition - Disposals	(6,363)	(165)	0	0	0	0	(6,528)	0
Derecognition - Other	(360)	(458)	0	0	0	0	(818)	0
Completed assets under construction	11,867	0	28	0	0	(11,895)	0	0
Other	(69)	0	0	65	0	(272)	(276)	0
At 31 March 2014	332,461	23,078	150,417	0	2,000	7,884	515,840	54,002
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2013	9,639	7,800	49,957	0	0	0	67,397	2,056
Depreciation Charge	6,518	3,595	5,651	0	0	0	15,764	1,034
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(13,626)	0	0	0	0	0	(13,626)	(644)
Derecognition - Disposals	(81)	(142)	0	0	0	0	(223)	0
Derecognition - Other	(14)	(457)	0	0	0	0	(471)	0
Other changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2014	2,436	10,796	55,608	0	0	0	68,841	2,446
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2014	**330,025**	**12,282**	**94,809**	**0**	**2,000**	**7,884**	**447,000**	**51,556**
At 31 March 2013	**321,959**	**14,126**	**93,350**	**0**	**2,000**	**14,055**	**445,489**	**51,285**

Restated Comparative Movements in 2012/13:

	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2012	261,794							
Investment Asset Reclassification	52,796							
Restated at 1 April 2012	314,590	21,042	136,650	0	2,000	18,545	492,827	65,012
Additions	14,607	3,287	6,657	677	0	8,827	34,055	617
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	6,151	2	0	0	0	0	6,154	0
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,785)	0	0	(677)	0	0	(2,462)	0
Derecognition - Disposals	(13,721)	(3,864)	0	0	0	0	(17,585)	(12,288)
Derecognition - Other	(103)	0	0	0	0	0	(103)	0
Recognition								
Completed assets under construction	12,370	0	0	0	0	(12,370)	0	0
Other	(511)	1,459	0	0	0	(947)	0	0
At 31 March 2013	331,598	21,926	143,307	0	2,000	14,055	512,886	53,340
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2012	5,175	7,780	44,574	0	0	0	57,529	1,288
Depreciation Charge	6,361	3,796	5,383	0	0	0	15,540	1,314
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(1,288)	0	0	0	0	0	(1,288)	0
Derecognition - Disposals	(571)	(3,810)	0	0	0	0	(4,381)	(546)
Derecognition - Other	(4)	0	0	0	0	0	(4)	0
Other changes	(35)	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2013	9,639	7,800	49,957	0	0	0	67,397	2,056
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2013	**321,959**	**14,126**	**93,350**	**0**	**2,000**	**14,055**	**445,489**	**51,285**
At 31 March 2012	**309,413**	**13,262**	**92,076**	**0**	**2,000**	**18,545**	**435,296**	**63,724**

20. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

During 2013/14, the Council reclassified all of its Investment Assets, which as at 1st April 2012 had a total value of £54m, to Property, Plant, and Equipment.

An internal review had found that the assets were not held solely for investment purposes, but for the dual and in many cases, main, purpose of regeneration.

The re-classification involved a Prior Period Adjustment, details of which are set-out in the Explanatory Foreword.

21. 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, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the London Borough of Merton. The useful life assigned to the major software suites used by the London Borough of Merton is 5 years.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £0.607m charged to revenue in 2013/14 (£0.534m in 2012/13) was charged to the IT Administration cost centre and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Net Expenditure of Services. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

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

	2012/13 Intangible Assets £000	2013/14 Intangible Assets £000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	2,671	3,324
Accumulated amortisation	(989)	(1,524)
Net carrying amount at start of year	**1,682**	**1,800**
Additions:		
Purchases	653	703
Amortisation for the period	(534)	(607)
Net carrying amount at end of year	**1,800**	**1,896**
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	3,324	4,027
Accumulated amortisation	(1,524)	(2,131)
	1,800	**1,896**

22. 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. The valuations were carried out during 2011/12 by qualified external valuers, Webb Valuations Fine Art Ltd, who specialise in Fine Art and Jewellery. There are four items within the Art collection and six 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 £84,000.

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

	Art Collection £000	Regalia & Ceremonial £000	Total Assets £000
Cost or Valuation at:			
31 March 2011	197	472	**669**
31 March 2012	197	472	**669**
31 March 2013	197	472	**669**
31 March 2014	197	472	**669**

It is not practicable to provide the above analysis of information for any period before 1 April 2010.

23. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Non Current	
	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	231	231
The balance relates to property, plant and equipment- Eastfields Road property to be sold to developer.		
Balance outstanding at year end	**231**	**231**

24. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

The authority carried out an impairment review in 2013/14, the result of which was that there were no impairment losses recognised in 2013/14.

25. 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 second part of this note.

	2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	210,349	213,525
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	34,055	26,987
Intangible Assets	652	703
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	4,117	3,334
Loans to public sector organisations	1,002	600
REFCUS Adjustment	0	(277)
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	(1,002)	(600)
Government grants and other contributions	(24,251)	(15,253)
REFCUS Adjustment	0	277
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct revenue contributions	(2,936)	(6,421)
MRP	(8,460)	(8,815)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	**213,525**	**214,060**
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	3,177	535
Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	**3,177**	**535**

26. CAPITALISATION OF BORROWING COSTS

Borrowing costs are expensed as incurred and included in interest payable (Note 4).

27. LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases
In the past the Council 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 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
2,665	Other Land and Buildings	2,616
0	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	59
2,665	**Total**	**2,675**

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 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value minimum lease payments):	
116	- current	71
484	- non current	468
5	Finance costs payable in future years	1
605	**Total minimum lease payments**	**540**

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Payments	
	31 March 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000	31 March 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000
Not later than one year	121	72	116	71
Later than one year and not later than five years	190	180	189	180
Later than five years	294	288	295	288
Total	**605**	**540**	**600**	**539**

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 2013/14 £0.072m contingent rents were payable by the authority (2012/13 £0.053m).

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 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
126	Not later than one year	172
502	Later than one year and not later than five years	519
885	Later than five years	760
1,513	**Total**	**1,451**

The expenditure charged to the Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
126	Minimum lease payments	126
126	**Total**	**126**

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 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
10	- current	10
5,554	- non current	5,340
23,391	Unearned finance income	21,325
5	Unguaranteed residual value of property	2
28,960	**Gross investment in lease**	**26,677**

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 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000	31 March 2013 £000	31 March 2014 £000
Not later than one year	360	338	360	338
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,444	1,357	1,444	1,357
Later than five years	27,156	24,982	27,151	24,980
Total	**28,960**	**26,677**	**28,955**	**26,675**

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2013/14, £0.389m contingent rents were receivable by the authority (£0.352m in 2012/13).

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:

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
2,541	Not later than one year	3,360
8,402	Later than one year and not later than five years	10,650
29,898	Later than five years	31,205
40,841	**Total**	**45,215**

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

SCHOOLS

28. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The authority's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008. 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 2013/14 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £'000	Individual Schools Budget £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Final DSG for 2013/14 before Academy recoupment			135,219
Academy figure recouped for 2013/14			(4,435)
Total DSG figure after Academy recoupment for 2013/14			130,784
Plus: Brought forward from 2012/13			2,378
Less: Carry-forward to 2014/15 agreed in advance			(1,890)
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2013/14	17,181	114,091	131,272
In year adjustments	0	0	0
Final budgeted distribution for 2013/14	**17,181**	**114,091**	**131,272**
Less: Actual central expenditure	(15,593)		(15,593)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(114,841)	(114,841)
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2013/14	0	0	0
Carry forward for 2013/14	**1,588**	**(750)**	**838**
Carry-forward to 2014/15 agreed in advance			1,890
Total carry forward 2014/15			**2,728**

The balance carried forward is held in the earmarked revenue reserves: DSG Reserve £2.728m (see Note 16).

29. 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, NewSchools. Following a partial termination of the contract in 2006, two schools were transferred to academies. In 2012/13, a third school also became an academy, but remains within the PFI contract. The PFI scheme provides for an annual payment to NewSchools, the PFI operator.

Value of Assets Held

The authority's accounts include school buildings constructed under the PFI scheme.

	31 March 2013	31 March 2014
	£000	£000
Gross Value	53,340	54,002
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,056)	(2,446)
Net	**51,284**	**51,556**

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.

	Capital	Interest	Services	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Mar 2015	1,482	3,619	3,511	8,612
Mar 2016 - 2020	8,043	17,825	20,857	46,726
Mar 2021 - 2025	9,511	17,032	27,322	53,865
Mar 2026 - 2030	17,179	19,850	26,958	63,987
Liability at 31st March 2014	**36,216**	**58,326**	**78,649**	**173,190**
Liability at 31st March 2013	**37,286**	**61,389**	**81,914**	**180,589**
Liability at 1st April 2012	**38,125**	**63,982**	**84,687**	**186,794**

Partial Termination

	Capital	Interest	Services	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Mar 2015	557	1,102	0	1,659
Mar 2016 - 2020	3,446	4,849	0	8,295
Mar 2021 - 2025	4,873	3,422	0	8,295
Mar 2026 - 2030	6,891	1,404	0	8,295
Liability at 31st March 2014	**15,767**	**10,777**	**0**	**26,544**
Liability at 31st March 2013	**16,287**	**11,916**	**0**	**28,203**
Liability at 1st April 2012	**16,772**	**13,090**	**0**	**29,862**

Three Schools and One Academy

	Capital	Interest incl. Contingent Rent	Services	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Mar 2015	925	2,517	3,511	6,953
Mar 2016 - 2020	4,597	12,976	20,857	38,431
Mar 2021 - 2025	4,638	13,610	27,322	45,570
Mar 2026 - 2030	10,288	18,446	26,958	55,692
Liability at 31st March 2014	**20,449**	**47,549**	**78,649**	**146,646**
Liability at 31st March 2013	**20,999**	**49,473**	**81,914**	**152,386**
Liability at 1st April 2012	**21,353**	**50,892**	**84,687**	**156,932**

MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND RELATED PARTIES

30. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The London Borough of Merton paid the following amounts to members of the authority during the year:

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Allowances	766	766
Total	**766**	**766**

31. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The table below 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, exceed £50,000 in bands of £5,000.

Remuneration Band £	2012/13 Teaching Staff	2012/13 Other Staff	2013/14 Teaching Staff	2013/14 Other Staff
50,000 – 54,999	85	28	83	41
55,000 – 59,999	33	15	34	23
60,000 – 64,999	14	11	14	14
65,000 – 69,999	23	9	15	5
70,000 – 74,999	10	12	12	18
75,000 – 79,999	8	3	8	3
80,000 – 84,999	4	1	5	2
85,000 – 89,999	4	3	2	2
90,000 – 94,999	0	2	2	3
95,000 – 99,999	0	2	0	1
100,000 – 104,999	3	0	2	0
105,000 – 109,999	0	0	1	1
110,000 – 114,999	0	0	0	0
115,000 – 119,999	1	0	1	0
120,000 – 124,999	1	0	0	0
125,000 – 129,999	0	0	0	0
130,000 – 134,999	0	1	0	1
135,000 – 139,999	0	3	0	3
140,000 – 144,999	0	0	0	0
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	1
Total	**186**	**91**	**179**	**118**

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

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	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	
£	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13 £	2013/14 £
0 - 20,000	20	21	17	27	37	48	315,543	360,954
20,001 - 40,000	5	4	8	10	13	14	371,808	390,909
40,001 - 60,000	1	1	1	3	2	4	91,948	187,732
60,001 - 80,000	1	0	1	0	2	0	156,074	0
TOTAL	**27**	**26**	**27**	**40**	**54**	**66**	**935,373**	**939,595**

In accordance with Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2009, there is a legal requirement to increase transparency and accountability in Local Government for reporting the remuneration of senior employees.

- Senior employees whose salary is £150,000 or more per year must be identified by name

- 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 2013/14 and also the 2012/13 comparative year data with supporting sub-notes.

2013/14 Post holder information	Sub-Notes	Remuneration (Including fees & Allowances) 2013/14 £	Employer's Pension contributions £	Total £
Chief Executive Ged Curran	1	185,000	26,085	211,085
Director of Corporate Services Caroline Holland	2	135,000	19,035	154,035
Director of Community and Housing Simon Williams	3	136,096	19,190	155,286
Director of Children, Schools and Families Yvette Stanley	4	135,000	19,035	154,035
Director of Environment & Regeneration Chris Lee	5	134,750	19,035	153,785

2012/13 Post holder information	Sub-Notes	Remuneration (Including fees & Allowances) 2012/13 £	Employer's Pension contributions £	Total £
Chief Executive Ged Curran	6	185,000	26,085	211,085
Director of Corporate Services Caroline Holland	7	135,000	19,035	154,035
Director of Community and Housing Simon Williams	8	136,096	19,190	155,286
Director of Children, Schools and Families Yvette Stanley	9	135,000	17,901	152,901
Director of Environment & Regeneration Chris Lee	10	134,042	19,035	153,077

<u>Sub-notes</u>

<u>2013/14</u>

1. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, remuneration for 2013/14 was a salary of £185,000. Two additional separate payments were received, totalling £1,300, for Local Authority Gold Team duties.

2. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, remuneration for 2013/14 was a salary of £135,000. Two additional separate payments were received, totalling £1,128, for Local Authority Gold Team duties.

3. Mr S. Williams, Director of Community and Housing, remuneration for 2013/14 was a salary of £136,096.

4. Ms Y. Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families, remuneration for 2013/14 was a salary of £135,000.

5. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration for 2013/14 comprised of salary of £135,000 less a salary sacrifice scheme payment of £249.99. A separate payment of £172 was received for Local Authority Gold Team duties.

<u>2012/13</u>

6. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, received an additional separate payment of £5,015.06 for Deputy Constituency Returning Officer duties at the GLA election and Wimbledon Park by-election on 3rd May 2012.

7. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, received an additional separate payment of £1,000 for Deputy Constituency Returning Officer duties at the GLA election and Wimbledon Park by-election on 3rd May 2012.

8. Mr S. Williams, Director of Community and Housing, received an additional separate payment of £318.95 for Polling Station Inspector and Returning Officer's Assistant duties at the GLA election and Wimbledon Park by-election on 3rd May 2012.

9. Ms Y. Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families, received an additional separate payment of £305 for Polling Station Inspector and Returning Officer's Assistant duties at the GLA election and Wimbledon Park by-election on 3rd May 2012.

10. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration for 2012/13 comprised of salary of £135,000 less a salary sacrifice scheme payment of £958.29. A separate payment of £215 was received for Polling Station Inspector duties at the GLA election and Wimbledon Park by-election on 3rd May 2012.

32. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The authority terminated the contracts of 66 employees in 2013/14, incurring liabilities of £0.940m (£0.935m in 2012/13) (Note 31).

33. RELATED PARTIES

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

Central Government
Central Government has significant influence over the operations of the authority. It provides the statutory framework within which the authority operates, 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 as well as grant receipts outstanding at 31st March 2014. The following table provides a summary of the main amounts arising in the accounts:

	2012/13 Payments / (Receipts) £000	2013/14 Payments / (Receipts) £000
Central Government		
- Revenue Support Grant	(1,179)	(47,470)
- Receipts from NDR Pool	(60,842)	(23,841)
- Levy by the Environment Agency	146	157
Precepting Authorities and Other Bodies		
- Greater London Authority precept	25,127	37,349
Levying Bodies – Levies paid		
- London Pensions Fund Authority	253	268
- Lee Valley Authority	215	220
- Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators	267	269

Members

Members of the authority have direct control over the financial and operating decisions of the authority. The total of members' allowances paid in 2013/14 is shown in Note 30.

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 who held office in 2013/14; all 60 Members have responded.

During 2013/14, 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 £1.350m (net £0.290m). The amounts disclosed below are those material to either party of the related party transaction (i.e. the London Borough of Merton (LBM) or the other entity) and therefore explains the large variance in the amounts identified for disclosure.

Organisation	Nature of transaction	2013/14 £000
Deen City Farm	Grant Received from LBM	123
Endeavour Youth Club	Grant Received from LBM	31
Friends in St Helier	Grant Received from LBM	36
Homestart Merton	Grant Received from LBM	99
Asian Elderly	Grant Received from LBM	85
Merton and Morden Guild	Grant Received from LBM	96
Merton Priory Homes (MPH)	Capital receipts paid to LBM as part of VAT sharing agreements with MPH	(820)
North East Mitcham Community Association	Funding received from LBM	50
South Wimbledon Community Association	Funding received from LBM	9
Wimbledon Park Community Trust	Funding received from LBM	1
Total		**(290)**

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 28 standard letters to current senior officers; there have been 28 responses.

Two senior officers are directors of CHAS 2013 Ltd (see note 38). One senior officer holds the positions of Governor at South Thames College and Director of London Grid for Learning. During 2013/14 the authority made payments and grants to these organisations of £184,000 and £690,000 respectively. In all instances the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. 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 £0.530m 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 above disclosure 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 2013/14 an administration fee of £0.436m was paid by the Fund to the authority (£0.283m in 2012/13, Reference Pension Fund, Note 11).

PENSION FUND

34. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

The Teachers Pension Scheme is a funded, defined benefit final salary scheme administered by the Department for Education (DfE). However, as the authority only acts as an intermediary, passing on the contributions to the DfE, it is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities, which is why it is not included as a pension liability in the balance sheet. Instead, the authority pays an employers' contribution, which is supported by a five-yearly actuarial review and charged to the accounts, of 14.1% (unchanged from 2012/13) to the DfE. There were no material prepaid or accrued pension contributions at the Balance Sheet date.

The Council also pays an employers' contribution to the NHS Pension Scheme, of 14.0%, for staff who have transferred to the Council but remain in the NHS pension Scheme.

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

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Council's contribution to DfE teacher's pension scheme	6,463	6,036
Council's contribution to NHS pension scheme	99	143

35. 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 2013/14. This is a defined benefit, final salary 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 scheme accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2013/14, 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 amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the 31 March 2014 is a loss of £20.162m (a loss of £0.127m in 2012/13).

			Local Government Pension Scheme
	2012/13		2013/14
	Original	Restated	
	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			
Cost of Services:			
Current service cost	14,181	-	-
Service Cost	-	14,145	17,760
Past service cost	345	-	-
Settlements and curtailments	(381)	-	-
Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure			
Interest cost	25,115	-	-
Expected return on scheme assets	(20,980)	-	-
Net interest on defined liability	-	8,337	8,027
Administration	-	170	458
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**18,280**	**22,652**	**26,245**
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			
Actuarial (gains) and losses	4,499	127	20,162
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**22,779**	**22,779**	**46,407**
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	(18,280)	(22,652)	(26,245)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:			
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	17,590	17,590	16,955

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme		
	2012/13		
	Original	Restated	2013/14
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	**552,938**	**552,938**	**612,841**
Service Cost	14,181	-	-
Current Service Cost	-	14,181	17,363
Interest Cost	25,115	25,115	25,987
Change in financial assumptions	-	35,612	12,719
Change in demographic assumptions	-	-	14,320
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	-	-	(11,226)
Actuarial losses (gains)	35,612	-	-
Losses (gains) on curtailment	162	-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(1,020)	(1,020)	(846)
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(16,331)	(16,331)	(19,736)
Past service cost	345	-	-
Past service costs including curtailments		507	702
Contributions by Scheme participants	4,079	4,079	4,423
Unfunded pension payments	(2,240)	(2,240)	(1,849)
Defined Benefit Obligation at end of period	**612,841**	**612,841**	**654,698**

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme 2012/13		
	Original £000	Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Opening fair value of Scheme assets	**363,253**	**363,253**	**417,967**
Expected return on scheme assets	20,980	-	-
Interest on assets	-	16,778	17,960
Return on assets less interest	-	35,485	(2,707)
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	-	-	(1,642)
Actuarial gains (losses)	31,113	-	-
Administration expenses	n/a	(170)	(458)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	17,590	17,590	16,955
Contributions by Scheme participants	4,079	4,079	4,423
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(18,571)	(18,571)	(21,585)
Settlement prices received/(paid)	(477)	(477)	(541)
Fair value of Scheme assets at end of period	**417,967**	**417,967**	**430,372**

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	31st March 2013 £000	31st March 2013 %	31st March 2014 £000	31st March 2014 %
Equities	296,756	71	314,172	73
Gilts	104,492	25	98,986	23
Property	12,539	3	12,911	3
Cash	4,180	1	4,303	1
Total	**417,967**	**100**	**430,372**	**100**

Scheme History

	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Present value of scheme liabilities					
The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)	(533,352)	(443,887)	(529,492)	(589,722)	(630,064)
Unfunded Liabilities	(25,544)	(10,491)	(23,447)	(23,119)	(24,634)
Fair value of assets in the LGPS	316,496	351,387	363,253	417,967	430,372
Surplus / (Deficit) in the scheme	(242,400)	(102,991)	(189,686)	(194,875)	(224,327)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £224m 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 fifteen 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.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

	2012/13	2013/14
Mortality Assumptions	Years +	Years +
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners retiring today at 65:		
Men	20.1	22.3
Women	24.1	25.5
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners retiring in 20 years at 65:		
Men	22.1	24.5
Women	26	27.9
	%	%
Rate of Inflation	2.5	2.8
Rate of increase in salaries	4.7	4.6
Rate of increase in pensions	2.5	2.8
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.3	4.4
Take up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	50.0	50.0

The current estimate of the duration of the Council's liabilities is 18 years. In 2012/13, the duration of the Council's liabilities was estimated as 19 years.

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	643,242	654,698	666,369
Projected service cost	16,105	16,480	16,864
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	656,364	654,698	653,042
Projected service cost	16,480	16,480	16,480
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	664,874	654,698	644,710
Projected service cost	16,870	16,480	16,099
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption	+1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present value of total obligation	631,491	654,698	678,121
Projected service cost	15,912	16,480	17,053

Estimation of Contributions to be paid 2014/15

The table below shows the estimated contributions to be paid to the plan during 2014/15, assuming a 1% staff pay award for 2014/15.

	2013/14	2014/15
	£000	£000
Employers contributions -normal	8,760	8,847
Employers contributions - Deficit Funding Contributions (Additional)	4,848	4,896
Early Retirements (Additional)	144	144
Employees Contributions	4,121	4,162
Total	**17,873**	**18,050**

Associated Risks

Participating in a defined benefit pension scheme means that the Council 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.

All of the risks above may also benefit the Council 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

36. EVENTS AFTER BALANCE SHEET DATE

Non-Adjusting Event
In June 2014, the Council sold property on Eastfield Road for a total consideration of £210,000. At 31st March 2014, the property had been included in the Council's Balance Sheet as a Non-Current Asset Held For Sale, at £231,000 valuation.

37. ACQUIRED AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Public Health

As a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Merton Council assumed responsibility for Public Health services on the 1st April 2013. With an annual budget of £8.9m the public health teams commission a wide range of public health interventions in areas such as sexual health, healthy living and smoking cessation. In addition, the public health team provide high quality public health advice to the newly formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and to the council and act as an advocate for considering the impact of all Council services on public health.

38. INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARIES & JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

Subsidiary

The Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) is a service offering health and safety pre-qualification assessments to nationally recognised standards.

Prior to June 2013, CHAS operated within London Borough of Merton (LBM) as a Trading Account. In LBM's Statement of Accounts, the annual CHAS surplus was credited to 'Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure' on the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

On 3rd June 2013, CHAS commenced trading as a private limited company (CHAS 2013 Ltd), wholly owned by LBM. The CHAS 2013 Ltd Board of Directors is headed by LBM's Director of Corporate Services. CHAS 2013 Ltd remains based in LBM's offices at the Civic Centre in Morden.

LBM's investment in CHAS 2013 Ltd is recognised and measured at cost in the Council's Balance Sheet. The profit after tax in CHAS 2013 Ltd was £0.8m in 2013/14. Dividends received by LBM from CHAS 2013 Ltd will be recognised within the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. No dividend was declared in 2013/14.

Audited accounts of CHAS 2013 Ltd are filed with Companies House and available on request from:

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

On the grounds of materiality, it is considered unnecessary to produce Group Accounts which consolidate CHAS 2013 Ltd with the single entity accounts of the Council. This is because they would not have a material effect on the overall financial statements and therefore their inclusion would not provide any further benefit to the users of the Statement of Accounts.

Jointly Controlled Entity

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

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 as a debtor. At 31/03/2014, there was a net debtor balance for MSJCB of £0.176m (£1.240m in 2012/13).

On the grounds of materiality, consolidated Group Accounts for MSJCB and LB Merton have not been produced.

Audited accounts of MSJCB are available on request from:

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

39. 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
- Contractors Health and Safety Assessment (CHAS): provides health and safety assessments for other local authorities and bodies. In 2013/14, CHAS turnover and expenditure relates to the period 1st April 2013 to 2nd June 2013. On 3rd June 2013, CHAS commenced trading as a private limited company (see Note 38).

Included within Other Operating Expenditure		2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Printing and Graphic Design	Turnover	(326)	(359)
	Expenditure	201	259
	(Surplus)/Deficit	**(125)**	**(99)**
Translation Services	Turnover	(355)	(422)
	Expenditure	332	368
	(Surplus)/Deficit	**(23)**	**(55)**
Transport	Turnover	(9,260)	(8,555)
	Expenditure	9,181	9,184
	(Surplus)/Deficit	**(78)**	**630**
Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS)	Turnover	(3,544)	(689)
	Expenditure	2,284	514
	(Surplus)/Deficit	**(1,260)**	**(175)**
All trading operations		**2012/13 Restated £000**	**2013/14 £000**
	Turnover	(13,485)	(10,025)
	Expenditure	11,998	10,325
Total	**(Surplus)/Deficit**	**(1,486)**	**300**

Prior to 2013/14, the Council had reported Industrial Estates as a trading account. However, during the year the Council undertook a review of its Industrial Estates (see Explanatory Foreword, Section 7), which concluded that they should be re-classified as Property, Plant & Equipment rather than Investment Properties. Consequently, Industrial Estates are no longer managed as a trading account. Related income & expenditure is now reported in Cost of Services. In 2012/13, the Council had reported a £3.955m surplus on the Industrial Estates trading account.

40. INVENTORIES

The stock balance of £0.211m in 2013/14 (£0.243m in 2012/13) represents the complete stock relating to the Partnership Agreement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES).

	Consumable Stores	
	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	181	243
Purchases	538	751
Recognised as an expense in the year	(476)	(782)
Balance outstanding at year end	**243**	**211**

41. POOLED BUDGETS – Partnerships - Section 75

During 2013/14 the authority has continued to operate the Partnership Agreements 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 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2014	Total 2012/13	Total 2013/14
	£000	£000
INCOME		
PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTIONS		
Brought forward	28	302
LB Merton	441	341
Merton CCG	330	255
Additional From LB Merton	0	200
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	**799**	**1,098**
EXPENDITURE		
Community Equipment Services	538	751
Stock Adjustment	(62)	31
Management & Support Costs	21	6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**497**	**788**
NET (UNDER) / OVERSPEND CARRIED FORWARD	(302)	(310)

The pooled budget net underspend is included within Creditors.

42. 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 statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the authority's external auditors:

	2012/13 Restated £000	2013/14 £000
Fees payable to the External Auditor with regard to audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	189	205
Rebate received from the Audit Commission	(48)	0
Sub total	**141**	**205**
Fees payable to the External Auditor for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	51	55
Total	**192**	**260**

In 2013/14, the Council received a £25,000 rebate from the Audit Commission, relating to the 2012/13 audit fee. This rebate was in addition to £23,000 that had already been received in 2012/13. 2012/13 figures have been restated to show the revised £48,000 rebate.

43. TRUST FUNDS

Funds for which the authority acts as custodian trustee are displayed in the tables below.

	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
LBM Funds				
Tamworth Rec External Investments				
The Investment with Black Rock Merrill Lynch investment managers held on behalf of Tamworth Recreation Grounds. This is the investment's market value.			148	
Tamworth Rec Ground & Allotment				
This Trust Fund was set up to fund works at Tamworth Recreation Ground and allotments. Amount shows all internal funds held by LBM on behalf of Tamworth. Established by the authority pre 1990s			15	
Maintenance of Graves				
This Trust Fund was set up for the maintenance of graves in perpetuity. The amount shows all internal funds held in LBM bank accounts. Established pre 1990s from residence estates naming LBM as a beneficiary	1		23	
Allotments for Working Men				
Established in 1922 to provide allotment gardens for working men at the frontage to Cambridge Road situated in Cottenham Park, Wimbledon. The area covered being 10.5 acres.			1	
Rock Terrace Trust				
Established under the indenture dated 19th March 1925. LBM holds the premises "to the intent that the same shall be held used and enjoyed as an open space for the use and recreation of the public"	1		59	
Total	**2**	**0**	**246**	**0**

The £246,000 total comprises £148,000 held in an external investment fund, which is shown at market value, and £98,000 cash held in the authority's bank account. The £98,000 is shown within Short Term Creditors on the Balance Sheet.

2012/13 Restated

	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
LBM Funds				
Tamworth Rec External Investments The Investment with Black Rock Merrill Lynch investment managers held on behalf of Tamworth Recreation Grounds. This is the investment's market value.			150	
Tamworth Rec Ground & Allotment This Trust Fund was set up to fund improvement works at Tamworth Recreation Ground and allotments. Amount shows all internal funds held by LBM on behalf of Tamworth. Established by the authority pre 1990.	1		15	
Maintenance of Graves This Trust Fund was set up for the maintenance of graves in perpetuity. The amount shows all internal funds held in LBM bank accounts Established pre 1990 from residence estates naming LBM as a beneficiary.	1		22	
Allotments for Working Men Established in 1922 to provide allotment gardens for working men at the frontage to Cambridge Road situated in Cottenham Park, Wimbledon. The area covered being 10.5 acres.			1	
Rock Terrace Trust Established under the indenture dated 19th March 1925. LBM holds the premises "to the intent that the same shall be held used and enjoyed as an open space for the use and recreation of the public".	3		58	
Total	**5**	**0**	**246**	**0**

The 2012/13 figures have been restated to show the External Investment at its £150,000 market value. It was previously shown at its £110,000 book value.

TECHNICAL ANNEX – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

44. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the authority's transactions for the 2013/14 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2014. The authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2013/14, 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 the sale of goods is recognised when the authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the authority.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where 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.

iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.
In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the authority's cash management.

iv. Exceptional Items

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

v. 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.

vi. 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.

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

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. nursery vouchers, bicycles), 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, if these are available, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. If these are not available, the accrual is made at the wage and salary rates of the year of account. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. 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 of an officer or group of officers 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 Merton.

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

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 – ie 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 projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 4.4% (based on the annualised yield at the 18 year point on the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate bond curve).
- The assets of the Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are measured at fair value:

    – quoted securitie: 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 Non Distributed Costs
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie 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.

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.

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 into two types:

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

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

Where premiums and discounts are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, the Council charges the whole amount incurred in the year.

In respect of soft loans, where the interest foregone is material, the Council will recognise it in the CIES.

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-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

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 two active BIDs and accounts for income received and expenditure incurred (including contributions to the BID project) within the relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

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.

xiii. Interest in Subsidiaries and Other Entities

The authority has reviewed its relationships with companies and external organisations in accordance with the Code guidelines. In 2013/14, the authority has one subsidiary and one jointly controlled entity. The authority has not published Consolidated Group Accounts on the grounds of materiality. Details of the subsidiary and jointly controlled entity are disclosed in Note 38.

xiv. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

The inventory balance is the Council 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.

xv. Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

The authority undertakes jointly controlled operations in conjunction with other bodies. Under these jointly controlled operations, each body uses its own property, plant and equipment and carries its own inventories. These operations do not involve the setting up of an entity or structure that is separate from the individual bodies in the jointly controlled operation. These arrangements are set out below:-

<u>Shared Human Resources Service:</u> this is a cost sharing arrangement with the London Borough of Sutton which administers the service and recharges this authority. This recharged cost is accounted for as a rechargeable overhead in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

South London Waste Partnership (SLWP): the SLWP is a joint venture with the Royal Borough of Kingston for the collection and disposal of waste. RB Kingston recharges the authority for its share of the cost and this is accounted for as part of the Cultural, Environmental and Planning Service 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.

South London Legal Partnership: this is a cost-sharing arrangement with the London Borough of Richmond, London Borough of Sutton, and the Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames. The London Borough of Merton administers the service and recharges the other authorities with their share of the cost.

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

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL): the authority pays GLL to run its leisure centres but retains ownership of those assets. The contribution to GLL is accounted for in the Cultural and Related Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account and the assets are held in the Balance Sheet. The authority has no control over the strategic, financial or operating decisions of the entity.

NewSchools: This company is the authority's PFI provider for its school PFI project. This authority makes an annual unitary payment to NewSchools, which is recorded in the Children's and Education Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (as payment for services) and in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (as payment for loans taken out by NewSchools to finance the building of the schools under the scheme). The arrangement with NewSchools is purely contractual.

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.

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 between :

- 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 lease).

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 are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA *Service Code of Practice 2013/14* (SerCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the net cost of overheads and support services is shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

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

These two cost categories are defined in SerCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

xviii. Plant, Property 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 (PPE).

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, with effect from 1st April 2013. This represents a policy change from previous years, when the de minimis level was set at £1,000. The change will not have a material impact on the relevance and reliability of information disclosed in the accounts.

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 construction.

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

- infrastructure and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- all other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (Existing Use Value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair 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.

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 an internal valuer who is a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Revaluations are undertaken as at 1st April. A review is then conducted at year-end to ensure the revaluations remain materially correct at 31st March. Where a material movement has occurred in-year, a further revaluation of affected properties is undertaken 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. Community Assets are carried at fair value.
Assets regarded by the authority as non-operational such as Assets Held For Sale were valued on the basis of fair value as defined by The International Valuation Standard Council. Assumptions for fair value are similar if not identical to market value. Fair value represents the price that would be reasonably agreed between two specific parties for the exchange of an asset. Although the parties may be unconnected and negotiating at arm's length, the asset is not necessarily exposed in the wider market. In addition, the price agreed may be one that reflects the specific advantages (or disadvantages) of ownership to the parties involved rather than the market at large.

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.

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.

Componentisation
Componentisation is a method used for accounting and financial reporting purposes, to ensure assets are accurately included on the Balance Sheet and that the consumption of economic benefit of these assets is accurately reflected over their individual useful lives through depreciation charges.

The Code of Practice on Local authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 requires the separate recognition of two or more significant components of an asset for depreciation purposes – i.e. as if each component was a separate asset in its own right.

The authority will follow these requirements where significant components of material items of assets have been identified.
A component is defined as such part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, where the value of the component is 5% or more of the total gross carry value of the asset.

Even if the cost of a component is significant in relation to the total cost of an item of PPE, from an accounting perspective it is not necessary to identify the value of that component if its useful life and required method of depreciation is in line with the overall asset.
Where there are a number of parts of the same asset which have the same useful life and depreciation method, such parts will be grouped in determining the depreciation charge.

Componentisation has not been applied retrospectively. It will be considered only for new revaluations carried out after 1st April 2010, when enhancement and/or acquisition expenditure is incurred after that date.

Component accounting will only be considered and applied in cases where the omission to recognise and depreciate a separate component may result in material differences in the statement of accounts.

Componentisation will not be applied to items of PPE where the depreciation of the item as a single asset is unlikely to result in a material misstatement of either the depreciation charges or the carrying amount of the PPE.

The authority recognises two primary components of a property asset which will be accounted for separately namely:

- Land
- Buildings

Componentisation is not applicable to land as land is non-depreciable and has an infinite life.

The authority also recognises three secondary components of the buildings primary component; namely:

- Structure (including the building sub-elements of substructure, superstructure, finishes, sanitary-wares, disposal installation, but excluding fittings and furnishings)
- Services (including sub-elements of mechanical and electrical services installation such as plant and lifts)
- External Work (including sub-elements of hard landscaping, but excluding playground equipment and soft landscaping)
- In addition, there may be cases where the Valuer feels a particular asset contains unusual components that are deemed material. In these

instances specific components would be created specifically for that asset.

On the grounds of materiality, the authority has determined that any building with a gross carry amount of less than £1,000,000 will not be recognised as having secondary components of the building.

At revaluation the basis for componentisation is fair value (EUV) for the relevant asset class.

Where a component is replaced or restored (i.e. enhancement) the carrying amount of the old component shall be derecognised before reflecting the enhancement (applicable from 1st April 2010). In respect of property, on grounds of materiality and practicality, this is applied where the new part of the component is greater than £100,000 or, in the case of lesser amounts, where the existing component is specifically identifiable. In respect of all infrastructure expenditure, the equivalent depreciated carrying amount is derecognised.

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, or recoverable amount. 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 or recoverable amount. The carrying amount used is that before the assets 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. The recoverable amount of the asset is at the date of the decision not to sell. Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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.

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)

- Lifecycle replacement costs – a proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

xx. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

1. General

The Council 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 council does not 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.

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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement. 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement 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, financial instruments, 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.

xxiv. Acquired Operations

Where the authority acquires an operation during the financial year, the gross income and expenditure for the acquired operation will be disclosed separately on the face of the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement, where material.
In the following financial year, the operation will be consolidated into the relevant Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line, as directed by SeRCOP.

45. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

1. The 2014/15 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting will include amendments to five standards introduced by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2011:

    - IFRS10 Consolidated Financial Statements
    - IFRS11 Joint Arrangements
    - IFRS 12 Disclosure of Interest in Other Entities
    - IAS27 Separate Financial Statements
    - IAS28 Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures

    The amendments will not alter the classification of CHAS 2013 Ltd (subsidiary) but MSJCB will become a joint arrangement, whereas currently it is classified as a jointly controlled entity. Both should still be consolidated with

LB Merton subject to materiality. In 2013/14, LB Merton has not published Consolidated Group Accounts on materiality grounds. Details of the subsidiary are disclosed in Note 38. It is expected that this disclosure will be retained in the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts.

2. The 2014/15 Code also includes an update to IAS32 Financial Instruments (Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities), which now specifies that an authority shall disclose information to enable users of its financial statements to evaluate the effect or potential effect of netting arrangements on its financial position. The amendments do not change the current offsetting model in IAS32 which requires an entity to offset a financial asset and financial liability in the balance sheet only when the entity currently has a legally enforceable right of set off and intends either to settle the asset and liability on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The amendments clarify that the right of set off is not contingent on a future event. The amendments primarily affect financial institutions, and do not apply to LB Merton's financial instruments.

3. The 2014/15 Code includes amendments on the presentation of financial statements to reflect amendments to IAS1 as required by Annual Improvements to IFRS 2009-2012 Cycle issued in May 2012.

   A complete set of financial statements will now include the following in addition to the 2013/14 requirements:

   - Comparative information in respect of the preceding period.
   - Statements, or other financial reports or disclosures, which are required by statute to be included in the Statements of Account for the period, where relevant to the authority.

   The authority already includes comparative information for preceding periods and meets the Code of Practice requirements. Consequently all additional requirements arising under these changes will also be met.

46. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying certain polices set out in Note 44, 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:

- 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.
- CHAS 2013 Ltd and MSJCB excepted, the authority's relationships with other bodies does not fall within the scope of group accounts.
- Apart from those already declared there are no further service concessions.

- The potential outcomes from legal claims are not expected to be material to the authority's accounts.
- As part of the voluntary stock transfer agreement, which was reached with Merton Priory Homes (MPH) in March 2010, VAT that can be reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs in respect of specific qualifying works is shared. This arrangement is unique to authorities and registered social landlords upon transfer. The authority's share of reclaimable VAT amounted to £0.8m in 2013/14 and according to MPH's latest forecast, could amount to a further £19.2m over the next 11 years. The authority accounts for the income as it becomes due in accordance with VAT returns submitted by MPH.
- The authority has agreed to share any proceeds of former house sales if they are subsequently sold by Merton Priory Homes. The agreement lasts until 31 March 2040 and the amount received will depend on the number of sales each year. The authority's share of the proceeds for each sale is treated as a capital receipt in the year that the property is sold.
- The authority has given a number of warranties to Merton Priory Homes and Circle Anglia Treasury, the Prudential Trustee Company Ltd and others in conjunction with the stock transfer. The warranties relate to various legal, property and other issues, including public liabilities in relation to exposure to asbestos up to 2050 with no financial limit. These warranties were taken into consideration in setting the level for the Council's insurance fund.

47. 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 2014 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item:
Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Uncertainty:
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.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
PPE of £447m is included in the accounts. Therefore a 1% movement in value would result in a change of £4.47m. The average PPE depreciation period is 28 years. A difference of one year would result in a change in the depreciation charge of approximately £0.5m.

Item:
Provisions

Uncertainty:
The authority has made provisions of £4.063m for insurance claims. The fund is used to pay claims for which the authority is self insured. The 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.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
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 £0.04m charge to the General Fund.

Item:
Provision for NDR appeals

Uncertainty:
The authority has made provision of £1.644m for 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.

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Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
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 Council'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 Council's NDR funding baseline.

Item:
Pension Liability

Uncertainty:
Estimation of the net £224m 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.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:
The assumptions interact in complex ways and changes in assumptions cannot be easily measured. Refer to Note 35 for further detail.

Collection Fund

This statement represents the transactions of the Collection Fund, a statutory fund separate from the General Fund of the Council. 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 Council, the Greater London Authority and central government. The costs of administering collection are accounted for in the General Fund.

This statement reflects the changes to the Collection Fund resulting from the Business Rates Retention Scheme introduced in 2013/14. Prior to 2013/14 proceeds from rates collected from business ratepayers were paid into a pool administered by the Government for re-distribution to local authorities' General Funds. From 2013/14, the Council is entitled to retain a share of the proceeds with precepts being paid to central government and the Greater London Authority, details are provided in Note 2.

2012/13				2013/14		
Business Rates	Council Tax	Total		Business Rates	Council Tax	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
			A) INCOME			
0	110,607	110,607	Council Tax Receivable	0	99,225	99,225
82,217	0	82,217	Business Rates Receivable	83,938	0	83,938
2,613	0	2,613	Business Rates Supplements Receivable	2,600	0	2,600
84,830	**110,607**	**195,437**		**86,538**	**99,225**	**185,763**
			B) EXPENDITURE			
			Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus			
0	0	0	Central Government	0	0	0
0	3,891	3,891	Billing Authority (LBM)	0	2,545	2,545
0	1,090	1,090	Greater London Authority	0	739	739
0	**4,981**	**4,981**		**0**	**3,284**	**3,284**
			C) Precepts, Demands and Shares			
78,388	0	78,388	Central Government (DCLG): NDR	40,787	0	40,787
0	82,789	82,789	Billing Authority (LBM): NDR & Council Tax	24,472	74,119	98,591
0	22,948	22,948	Greater London Authority: NDR & Council Tax	16,315	20,295	36,610
2,613	0	2,613	Greater London Authority: Business Rates Supplement	2,600	0	2,600
81,001	**105,737**	**186,738**		**84,174**	**94,414**	**178,588**
			D) Charges to Collection Fund			
3,548	264	3,284	Less: increase/(decrease) in bad debt provision	(1,294)	2,223	929
0	0	0	Less: increase/(decrease) in provision for appeals	5,479	0	5,479
281	0	281	Less: cost of collection	281	0	281
0	0	0	Less: disregarded amounts	0	0	0
3,829	**264**	**3,565**		**4,466**	**2,223**	**6,689**
0	**153**	**153**	**Surplus/(Deficit) arising during the year (=A-(B+C+D))**	**(2,102)**	**(696)**	**(2,798)**
0	**6,212**	**6,212**	**Surplus/(Deficit) b/fwd 1st April**	**0**	**6,365**	**6,365**
0	**6,365**	**6,365**	**Surplus/(Deficit) c/fwd 31st March**	**(2,102)**	**5,669**	**3,567**

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.

In 2013/14 the Council Tax Base calculation is affected by the introduction of the new local council tax support scheme and technical reforms to council tax. On 30th November 2012, new regulations set out in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914) came into force. These regulations ensured that new local council tax support schemes, to be implemented under the Local Government Finance Act 2012, can be fully reflected in the council tax base for all authorities.

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	
	2012/13	2013/14	2012/13	2013/14		2012/13	2013/14
A adjust	2	2	2	2	5/9	1	1
A	1,055	1,017	865	826	6/9	577	551
B	8,058	8,111	6,789	6,851	7/9	5,281	5,329
C	21,251	21,727	18,770	19,111	8/9	16,685	16,987
D	27,346	27,412	24,906	25,032	9/9	24,906	25,032
E	12,919	12,903	11,873	11,889	11/9	14,511	14,531
F	4,999	5,112	4,584	4,718	13/9	6,623	6,814
G	3,900	3,924	3,596	3,619	15/9	5,994	6,032
H	1,570	1,591	1,474	1,494	18/9	2,948	2,989
Total						**77,526**	**78,266**
Defence properties						5	5
Council Tax Base (before adjustments for localisation of Council Tax Support, technical reforms to Council Tax, and allowance for non-collection)						**77,531**	**78,271**

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 2013/14 before adjustments for localisation of Council Tax Support, technical reforms to Council Tax, and allowance for non-collection is 78,271 (77,531 for 2012/13). The derivation of this is shown in the table above.

As indicated above, there were changes to the Council Tax Base as a result of the introduction of the new local council tax support scheme and technical reforms to council tax. The support scheme has reduced the amount of funding available to assist residents with council payments. Council tax benefit has been abolished and the shortfall has been met in the form of additional central government grant, although the grant reflects a 10% reduction in Government funding towards assisted payments. Technical reforms to Council Tax consist of the withdrawal of exemptions and discounts for empty homes.

Therefore, the introduction of local council tax support schemes has had the effect of reducing the council tax base. In accordance with the authority's council tax reduction scheme, a deduction on a band by band basis was applied for the estimated total of foregone council tax benefit. Similarly, reductions in discounts under the technical reforms to council tax had the effect of increasing the council tax base.

The Council Tax base calculation also includes an allowance for the collection rate. This should reflect previous and current collection experience and be realistic and achievable to avoid large surpluses and deficits accumulating on the Collection Fund. For 2013/14 it was estimated that this would be 96.5%. There is no transitional relief for payments and the Council does not give discounts for prompt payments.

Council Tax Band	Equivalent Number of Band D Properties	
	2012/13	2013/14
A adjust	1	1
A	577	551
B	5,281	5,329
C	16,685	16,987
D	24,906	25,032
E	14,511	14,531
F	6,623	6,814
G	5,994	6,032
H	2,948	2,989
Total	**77,526**	**78,266**
Defence properties	5	5
Council Tax Base (before adjustments for localisation of Council Tax Support, technical reforms to Council Tax, and allowance for non-collection)	**77,531**	**78,271**
Less: Reduction in CT Base for CT Reduction Scheme	0	(9,982)
Add: Increase for Technical Reform Adjustments		1,122
Sub-total	**77,531**	**69,411**
Allowance for non-collection	(2,715)	(2,430)
Council Tax Base	**74,816**	**66,981**

The average Council Tax charge for a Band D property (including the GLA) was £1,409.56 in 2013/14 compared to £1,413.28 in 2012/13. From this an income yield of £94.4m was expected (£105.7m in 2012/13). In 2013/14 the income generated was £99.225m (£110.61m in 2012/13) and includes changes to liabilities, exemptions and discounts incurred in the current year but which relate to previous years. This income is received from Council Taxpayers and prior to 2013/14 also through Council Tax benefit transferred to the Collection Fund.

2. Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The Council is responsible for collecting rates due from the business ratepayers in its area. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) sets the rateable value. These values are then multiplied by a Uniform Business Rate, which is set by Central Government. Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme introduced in 2013/14 as part of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, the Council now retains a 30% share of NDR Income. Precepts are also paid from NDR Income to the Greater London Authority (20%) and central government (50%) as shown in the Collection Fund statement. Prior to 2013/14, NDR proceeds were paid into a national pool administered by the Government. The Government then redistributed the sums paid into the pool back to local authorities' General Funds.

	31st March 2013	31st March 2014
Non-domestic rateable value at year end	£205m	£204m
Number of Hereditaments	5,363	5,428
Uniform Business Rate (in the £)	45.8p	47.1p

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

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Gross Rates payable (including net amounts for previous years)	92,083	94,372
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs including transitional protection payments	(10,094)	(10,604)
Transitional Protection Payments	228	170
Business Rates Receivable	**82,217**	**83,938**
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	(3,548)	1,294
Provision for losses on appeals	0	(5,479)
Cost of collection	(281)	(281)
Net Income		**79,472**
Net Contribution to NDR Pool	**78,388**	

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 £55,000 pay an additional 2p in the pound.

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

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Gross Rates payable	2,856	2,849
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs	(243)	(249)
Net contribution to GLA	**2,613**	**2,600**

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. Following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in April 2013, the Council is liable for its proportionate share of successful appeals against NDR charges made in the period to 2013/14. A provision based on best information available has been made for appeals that are outstanding with the Valuation Office Agency (VoA).

	Balance at 1st April 2013	Allowance for Impairment	Amounts charged against Allowance	Balance at 31st March 2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax: Impairment of Bad Debts	5,200	2,223	(623)	6,800
Non-Domestic Rates: Impairment of Bad Debts	4,500	(1,294)	(252)	2,954
Non-Domestic Rates: Losses on Appeals	0	5,479	0	5,479
TOTAL	**9,700**	**6,408**	**(875)**	**15,233**

4. Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

Council Tax

There is an accumulated surplus of £5.668m on the Collection Fund (£6.365m in 2012/13). 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.

	2012/13	2013/14	Change in the Year
	£000	£000	£000
London Borough of Merton Council Tax (surplus)/deficit	(4,987)	(4,446)	541
Greater London Authority Council Tax (surplus)/deficit	(1,378)	(1,222)	156
Total	**(6,365)**	**(5,668)**	**697**

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

	Greater London Authority	London Borough of Merton	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Accumulated (surplus)/deficit as at 1st April 2013	(1,378)	(4,987)	(6,365)
Paid to GLA in 2013/14	739	0	739
Transfer to General Fund in 2013/14	0	2,545	2,545
(Surplus)/Deficit in 2013/14	(583)	(2,004)	(2,587)
Total	**(1,222)**	**(4,446)**	**(5,668)**

NDR

There is a deficit of £2.102m on the Collection Fund (£0m in 2012/13). 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.

	2012/13	2013/14	Change in the Year
	£000	£000	£000
London Borough of Merton NDR (surplus)/deficit	0	631	631
Greater London Authority NDR (surplus)/deficit	0	420	420
DCLG NDR (surplus)/deficit	0	1,051	1,051
Total	**0**	**2,102**	**2,102**

In the Council's Balance sheet, the Collection Fund balance contains the Council'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. This treatment is in accordance with the Code. A detailed analysis of the balances is given below.

	Greater London Authority £000	DCLG £000	London Borough of Merton £000	Total £000
Accumulated surplus/deficit as at 1st April 2013	0	0	0	0
Paid to GLA in 2013/14	0	0	0	0
Transfer to General Fund in 2013/14	0	0	0	0
(Surplus)/Deficit in 2013/14	420	1,051	631	2,102
Total	**420**	**1,051**	**631**	**2,102**

5. 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 £76.664m Council Tax income and the £23.841m NDR income in the CIES show the Council'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 Council's share of the Collection Fund surplus (generated from income of the previous year).

Income and Expenditure: Council Tax	2012/13	2013/14
	£000	£000
Demand on the Fund	82,789	74,119
Transfer of Surplus 2012/13	3,891	2,545
Total included in CIES under Collection Fund Regulations	**86,680**	**76,664**
Adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)	133	(541)
Council Taxation Fund Income	**86,813**	**76,123**
Movement in Reserves Statement: Council Tax	**2012/13**	**2013/14**
	£000	**£000**
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code	(133)	541
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements	**86,680**	**76,664**

Income and Expenditure: NDR	2012/13	2013/14
	£000	£000
Retained Business Rates: London Borough of Merton	n/a	24,472
Transfer of Surplus 2012/13		0
Total included in CIES under Collection Fund Regulations		**24,472**
Adjustment of Collection Fund Deficit under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)		(631)
NDR Fund Income		**23,841**
Movement in Reserves Statement: NDR	**2012/13**	**2013/14**
	£000	**£000**
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Deficit under 2011 Code	n/a	631
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements		**24,472**

Balance Sheet

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

In 2013/14, the net cash paid to major preceptors was less than their proportionate share of net cash collected from Council Tax and NDR debtors/creditors in the year. The Council has therefore recognised a credit adjustment for the amount underpaid to its major preceptors in the year.

The following table summarises the Council Tax and NDR cash balances for the Collection Fund and the Council'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 figure of proportionate share of the surplus/deficit and their proportionate share of arrears, provisions and receipts in advance.

	Collection Fund 2013/14 £000	Balance Sheet 2013/14 £000
Council Tax		
Arrears	8,741	6,879
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(6,800)	(5,352)
Receipts in Advance	(4,971)	(3,912)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(4,446)	(4,445)
GLA	(1,222)	(1,868)
Cash	**(8,698)**	**(8,698)**
Business Rates		
Arrears	4,377	1,313
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(2,954)	(886)
Provision for Loss on Appeals	(5,479)	(1,644)
Receipts in Advance	(1,584)	(475)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	631	631
GLA	420	(708)
DCLG	1,051	(1,769)
Cash	**(3,539)**	**(3,539)**

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement of the Council, includes within operating activities only its own share of Council Tax net cash collected from Council Tax and NDR debtors in the year; and excludes amounts paid to major preceptors. The difference between the major preceptors' share of the net cash collected from Council Tax and NDR debtors and net cash paid to major preceptors as precepts and settlement of the previous year's surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund is included within financing activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

Pension Fund Accounts

Fund Account	Notes	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the fund			
Contributions	7	(20,627)	(20,863)
Transfers in from other pension funds	8	(2,330)	(765)
Total Income		**(22,957)**	**(21,628)**
Benefits	9	19,261	20,265
Payments to and on account of leavers	10	654	1,524
Administration Expenses	11	348	521
Total Expenditure		**20,263**	**22,310**
Net (additions)/withdrawals from dealing with members		**(2,694)**	**682**
Returns on Investments			
Investment and other income	12	(9,787)	(9,512)
Taxes on Income	13	205	296
Gains and losses on disposal and change in the market value of investments:	15.3	(47,557)	(8,351)
Investment Management Expenses	14	586	854
Net Returns on Investments		(56,553)	(16,713)
Net (increase)/decrease in the fund during the year		**(59,247)**	**(16,031)**

As at 31st March 2013, the net assets totalled £456.2m. During 2013/14, the fund's net assets increased by £16.0m to £472.2m at 31st March 2014.

Net Assets Statement

2012/13 £000		Notes	2013/14 £000
452,582	Investment assets	15	469,578
2,226	Cash deposits	15	2,535
454,808			**472,113**
(1,479)	Investment liabilities	15	(2,163)
4,038	Current assets	20	3,170
(1,155)	Current liabilities	21	(877)
456,212	**Net assets of the fund available to fund benefits at period end**		**472,243**

Note1: The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund and the net assets. 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 dealt with in the statement by the consulting actuary in the annual report and these accounts should be read in conjunction with that.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts

1. Description of Fund

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations require the authority to maintain specified pension arrangements for eligible employees, and to act as the Administering Body for these arrangements.

The fund is governed by the Superannuation Act 1972. The fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 (as amended)
- the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 (as amended)
- the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.

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 Body. The Admitted and Scheduled Bodies that currently contribute to the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund are:

Admitted Bodies	Scheduled Bodies
• Greenwich Leisure • Merton Priory Homes • Central and Cecil Housing Trust • CHAS (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme) • Environmental Waste Control (Until July 2013)	• Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators • Harris Academy Merton • Harris Academy Morden • St Mark's Academy • Benedict Academy

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

The rates of contribution paid by employees and employers are determined by national regulations, as are the scheme's benefits, including final salary based pensions, death grants and lump sum payments.

A Pension Fund Advisory Committee (PFAC) oversees and advises on investment of the Fund. This Committee 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 Committee is not a full Committee and is ordinarily referred to as a Panel.

The contribution rates in the following table are from the 2010 valuation.

London Borough of Merton Pension Fund	**2012/13 No.**	**2013/14 No.**
Contributors	3,196	3,265
Pensioners	3,330	3,408
Deferred Pensioners	3,293	3,344
Employers' contribution rates as included in the certificate of adequacy of the contribution rate:	**2012/13**	**2013/14**
Scheduled bodies:		
• LB Merton	14.1% plus £4.8m	14.1% plus £4.8m
• Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators	25.4%	25.4%
• Harris Academy Merton	15.6%	15.6%
• Harris Academy Morden	n/a	21.4%
• St. Mark's Academy	14.1%	14.1%
• Benedict Academy	n/a	21.4%
Admitted bodies:		
• Moat Housing Association	24.1%	24.1%
• Greenwich Leisure	16.8% plus £12.6k	16.8% plus £12.6k
• Merton Priory Homes	13.8%	13.8%
• Central and Cecil Housing Trust	24.2%	24.2%
• Environmental Waste Control	15.1%	15.1%
• CHAS (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme)	12.9%	12.9%
Since April 2008, member's contributions have been set by reference to the whole time pay for their post and fall in the range 5.5% to 7.5%, as set by the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. Moat Housing Association ceased to have any active members in the Fund since 2013.		

2. Basis of Preparation

The Pension Fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14, which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

3.1 Investments

The Pensions SORP requires that investments should be included at their market value at the date of the Net Assets Statement, where such a value is available. Changes in market value are debited or credited to the Fund Account. The SORP promotes the use of bid values for market values but only where they are quoted prices in an active market. If a market is not active or has not been active since significant change in economic circumstances, then fund managers may provide an alternative valuation, which in their professional opinion provides a more reliable basis for market value. Based upon these principles, investments are valued as follows:-

- Quoted securities are valued at current market “bid” price.

- Unquoted securities are valued using professional estimates of fair value provided by investment managers, or otherwise at the lower of estimate or book value where considered more prudent.

- Pooled investment vehicles are valued at bid price where available in an active market or otherwise at a single closing price.

- The two UBS Property Holdings are valued as follows: The UBS Triton Property Unit Trust (UBS Triton Trust) price is based upon the UBS Triton Property Fund (the Partnership) price after taking into account management fees and expenses, tax, income and cash balances. The UBS Life Triton Property Fund (UBS Life Triton) price is based upon the UBS Triton Property Fund (the Partnership) price after taking into account management fees and expenses, income and cash balances. UBS Life Triton Is valued at Bid Price.

- Property investments are in pooled vehicles rather than direct investments in property. Property investments (i.e. managed funds) are valued at bid prices where available and representative, or at a single price provided by the fund manager where there are no representative bid/offer spreads and the chosen single price better represents fair value.

- Derivatives are used to effect efficient management of the investment portfolio, and not as an investment class. These are valued from prices set by independent participants in the market, with variance margins calculated against published FTSE indices. The value of futures is determined using fair value for the asset and book cost for the liability.

3.2 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.

The figure shown as investment income is made up of different types of income (dividend income for equity, rental income for property, interest income for the bond yields).

3.3 Interest income

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

3.4 Dividend income

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.

3.5 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.

3.6 Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are converted into Sterling by the investment managers. This is done at London rates prevailing at close of business on the 31 March 2014.

3.7 Cash

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits.

3.8 Contributions

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 fifteen years).
Refunds 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.

3.9 Benefits

Benefits are accounted for on the basis of the date of leaving or the date of decision on the type of benefit, if later.

3.10 Transfers

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.

3.11 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).

3.12 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.

3.13 Investment Management Expenses
All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.
Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. They are deducted from fund asset by the fund managers.

The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants is included in investment management charges.

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

3.14 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 Merton Council being the Administering authority, VAT input tax is generally recoverable on all fund activities.

3.15 Provisions
Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount. Provision is made for unusual items which meet the definition of a provision but only when these are judged to be material to the accounts.

3.16 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 two AVC providers appointed by Merton are the Prudential PLC and the Royal Bank of Ireland.

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 as a note only (note 22).

3.17 Going Concern
The Pension Fund Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

An 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 2014 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.	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions and the judgements used in these estimations are carried out by the actuary, Barnett Waddington. The significant judgements are in regard to the discount rate used, salary increase projections, and retirement age.	The impact of a small change in the discount rate of +0.1% would decrease the closing defined benefit obligation by £11.5m and a -0.1% reduction would increase the obligation by £11.7m. An adjustment to the mortality age rating assumption of -1 yr would increase the obligation by £23.4m.

6. Events After The Reporting Date

Non-Adjusting Event
From the 1st April 2014, a new scheme has been introduced for the LGPS which governs benefits to staff and their contributions into the Pension Fund. The main features of this scheme are as follows-

1. The new LGPS 2014 scheme design is based on career average and actual pay and pensions will accrue at a rate of 1/49th. Career averaged pay is used for normal benefits but final years pay is still used for any additional years of service awarded for death in service or ill health retirement.

2. The definition of pensionable pay has been amended to include voluntary overtime as a pensionable element. Voluntary overtime was previously excluded from pensionable pay. Additionally, the regulations contain a new provision providing that the pay for each year should be increased (for pension purposes only) where it has been reduced on account of any sickness absence.

3. The pension revaluation is in line with a specified price index, currently this is CPI. Normal pension age (NPA) for both active members and members with

deferred pension entitlements is linked to the State Pension Age (SPA) so that if a person's SPA rises, then NPA under the scheme will also rise for all LGPS 2014 service. A pension entitlement is available after 2 years membership (as opposed to 3 months in the LGPS 2008 currently).

4. The Government expects average member contribution yield to be 6.5% (about the same yield as available under the LGPS 2008) with tiered contribution bands ranging from 5.5% of pay to 12.5% of pay rather than 5.5% to 7.5% under the LGPS 2008. Despite the widening of rates the overall yield stays the same because part-time employees will make contributions based on actual pay rather than full time equivalent pay in the LGPS 2008.

7. Contributions Receivable

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
	Employers	
	London Borough of Merton	
8,673	• Normal	9,537
4,800	• Deficit Funding Contributions (Additional)	4,800
1,877	• Early Retirements (Additional)	779
383	• Scheduled Bodies	484
483	• Admitted Bodies	469
16,216		**16,069**
	Members	
	London Borough of Merton	
4,080	• Normal	4,475
125	• Scheduled Bodies	120
206	• Admitted Bodies	199
4,411		**4,794**
20,627	**Total**	**20,863**

8. Transfers In From Other Pension Funds

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
2,330	Individual Transfers	765
2,330	**Total**	**765**

9. Benefits Payable

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
	Pensions Payable	
16,115	London Borough of Merton	16,824
623	Scheduled Bodies	496
276	Admitted Bodies	262
17,014		**17,582**
	Lump Sum Benefits Payable	
	Retirement Benefits	
1,856	London Borough of Merton	2,012
59	Scheduled Bodies	111
97	Admitted Bodies	178
	Death Benefits	
235	London Borough of Merton	382
2,247		**2,683**
19,261	**Total**	**20,265**

10. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
652	Individual Transfers	1,517
2	Refunds of Contribution	7
654	**Total**	**1,524**

11. Administrative Expenses

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
283	Employee cost	154
21	External audit fees	21
0	Actuarial Fees	44
44	Running Costs	302
348	**Total**	**521**

Included in administrative expenses is the pension administration shared service cost.

12. Investment Income

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
2,999	Fixed Interest Securities	1,054
5,677	Equities	7,438
186	Pooled Investments	84
503	Pooled Property Investments	470
422	Other	466
9,787	**Total**	**9,512**

13. Taxes on Income

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
184	Non-Recoverable Tax	269
21	Recoverable Tax	27
205	**Total**	**296**

14. Investment Expenses

2012/13 £000		2013/14 £000
586	Management Fees and Custody	854
586	**Total**	**854**

Management expenses in 2012/13 were based on the best available estimates of expenses, however, these did not provide fully for actual 2012/13 expenditure. The residual has been charged to 2013/14.

15. Investments

15.1 Fund management arrangements

The management of Pension Fund investments is delegated to external investment managers. 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 2014. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

2012/13			2013/14	
£000	%	Fund Manager	£000	%
206,296	46	Aberdeen	202,683	43
242,113	53	UBS	261,859	56
4,920	1	RREEF/Blackrock	5,408	1
453,329	**100**	**Total**	**469,950**	**100**

15.2 Analysis of investment assets and income

An analysis of investment assets at 31 March 2014 is shown below. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

Market Value 31 March 2013 £000		Market Value 31 March 2014 £000
	Investment Assets	
113,623	Fixed Interest Securities	108,064
177,106	Equities	189,623
147,737	Pooled Investments	155,516
11,681	Pooled Property Investments	13,197
	Derivative contracts	
1,461	Futures	2,159
2,226	Cash Deposits	2,535
974	Investment income due	1,019
454,808	**Total Investment Assets**	**472,113**
	Investment Liabilities	
	Derivative contracts	
(1,479)	Futures	(2,163)
(1,479)	**Total Investments liabilities**	**(2,163)**
453,329	**Net Investment assets**	**469,950**

15.3 Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The table below shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2013/2014. 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. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

	Market Value 1 April 2013 £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 2014 £000
Fixed Interest Securities	**113,623**	30,845	(30,121)	(6,283)	**108,064**
Equities	**177,106**	26,803	(20,584)	6,298	**189,623**
Pooled Investments	**147,737**	5,311	(4,815)	7,283	**155,516**
Pooled Property	**11,681**	547	0	969	**13,197**
	450,147	**63,506**	(55,520)	**8,267**	**466,400**
Derivatives (Futures)					
Future contracts	**1,461**			698	**2,159**
Cash Liability	**(1,479)**	9,547	(8,938)	(1,293)	**(2,163)**
	450,129	**73,053**	**(64,458)**	**7,672**	**466,396**
Other Investment Balances					
Cash UK (Fund Managers)	**2,226**			679	**2,535**
Investment Income Due	**974**				**1,019**
	3,200				**3,554**
Total Investments at Market Value	**453,329**			**8,351**	**469,950**

Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The table below shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2012/2013.

	Market Value 1 April 2012 £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 March2013 £000
Fixed Interest Securities	**103,109**	6,353	(3,682)	7,843	**113,623**
Equities	**154,984**	30,619	(21,500)	13,003	**177,106**
Pooled Investments	**120,981**	5,206	(2,998)	24,548	**147,737**
Pooled Property	**14,272**	(5,294)	0	2,703	**11,681**
	393,346	**36,884**	**(28,180)**	**48,097**	**450,147**
Derivatives (Futures)					
Future contracts	**1,203**			258	**1,461**
Cash Liability	**(1,237)**	7,533	(7,470)	(305)	**(1,479)**
	393,312	**44,417**	**(35,650)**	**48,050**	**450,129**
Other Investment Balances					
Cash UK (Fund Managers)	**3,213**			(18)	**2,226**
Investment Income Due	**891**				**974**
	4,104				**3,200**
Cash Adjustment				**(475)**	
Total Investments at Market Value	**397,416**			**47,557**	**453,329**

15.4 Detail analysis of investments (excluding derivative contracts)

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 2013 £000		Market Value 31 March 2014 £000
	Fixed Interest Securities	
85,791	Public Sector : UK quoted	81,495
27,832	: Overseas quoted	26,569
113,623		**108,064**
	Equities (Direct)	
153,153	UK quoted	167,425
23,814	Other European quoted	21,769
0	American	139
139	Other Overseas	290
177,106		**189,623**
	Pooled Investments	
27,694	UK (Equities)	32,376
13,331	Other European (Equities)	15,116
33,772	American (Equities)	36,011
12,896	Japanese (Equities)	12,944
44,592	Other Overseas (Equities)	45,688
15,452	Developing Markets (Equities)	13,381
4,601	Property Managed Fund/Units quoted	5,105
7,080	Property Managed Fund/Units un-quoted	8,092
3,200	Other Investment Balances	3,554
162,618		**172,267**
453,347	**Total**	**469,954**

15.5 Analysis of derivatives

Futures contracts are used to gain exposure to investment markets without the need to purchase underlying stocks and shares. The economic exposure represents the notional value of stock purchased under futures contracts and is therefore subject to market movements.

The derivative instruments, which are used by the fund, are FTSE future contracts, which have been applied to the active and passive sub funds managed by UBS Asset Management. The futures contracts have not been used for speculative purposes but rather to facilitate strategic change in the effective composition of the funds more efficiently than could be obtained through sale or purchase of underlying investments at a point in time. At 31 March 2014, the value of FTSE futures amounted to less than 0.7% (0.5% in 2012/13) of all equity investment in the fund.

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

Type	Expires	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2013 £000	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2014 £000
UK Equities	Three – Six months	1,479	1,461	2,163	2,159

15.6 Stock lending

There were no stock lending arrangements in place during the financial year ended 31 March 2014.

15.7 Value and realisation of investments

The valuation of investments at year-end incorporates the value of purchases, gains/losses realised on the sale of investments, and changes in the assessed market value of investments retained in the portfolio.

The BlackRock property portfolio is valued each quarter with the last valuation being at 31 March 2014.

The majority of investments are quoted and in compliance with our Statement of Investment Principles, easily realised in normal circumstances. Property Unit Trusts may be illiquid and realisation protracted but the allocation to Property investment is less than 5% of the total investment portfolio and it is recognised as being a longer-term investment vehicle.

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

Security	% Market Value
Aberdeen Global II Index Linked	11.58
UBS Life Global Optimal Thirds	6.72
UBS Life USA Equity Tracker	6.62
Aberdeen Global II Global Aggregate	5.65
UBS Life UK Equity Tracker	5.30

The largest single direct holding is in HSBC at 2.15%.

16. Financial Instruments

16.1 Classification of financial instruments

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities (excluding cash) by category and net asset statement heading.

31 March 2013				31 March 2014		
Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000		Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000
			Financial Assets			
113,623			Fixed Interest Securities	108,064		
177,106			Equities	189,623		
147,737			Pooled Investments	155,516		
11,681			Pooled Property Investments	13,197		
1,461			Derivative Contracts	2,159		
	2,223		Cash		2,535	
974			Other Investment Balances	1,019		
	4,038		Debtors		3,170	
452,582	**6,261**	**0**		**469,578**	**5,705**	**0**
			Financial Liabilities			
(1,479)			Derivative Contracts	(2,163)		
		(1,155)	Creditors			(877)
(1,479)	**0**	**(1,155)**		**(2,163)**	**0**	**(877)**
451,103	**6,261**	**(1,155)**		**467,415**	**5,705**	**(877)**

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Financial Assets / Liabilities	
47,389	Fair Value through profit and loss	8,261
168	Loans and Receivables	90
0	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0
47,557	**Total**	**8,351**

16.3 Valuation of financial Instruments carried at fair value

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 – Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Level 2 – those financial instruments where market prices are not available. For example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3 – those financial instruments where at least one input, that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation, is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

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

31 March 2013			31 March 2014	
Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000		Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000
		Financial Assets		
440,718	11,879	Fair Value through profit and loss	456,380	13,197
2,223		Loans and Receivables	2,535	
		Financial Liabilities		
(1,461)		Fair Value through profit and loss	(2,159)	
0		Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	
441,480	**11,879**	**Total**	**456,756**	**13,197**

16.4 Fair value of financial instruments and liabilities

The table below compares the carrying value to the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities. The derivatives (both assets and liabilities) are recognised at market value.

31 March 2013			31 March 2014	
Carrying value £000	Fair value £000		Carrying value £000	Fair value £000
		Financial Assets		
345,477	452,597	Fair Value through profit and loss	361,773	469,578
2,222	2,223	Loans and Receivables	2,532	2,535
		Financial Liabilities		
(1,479)	(1,461)	Fair Value through profit and loss	(2,163)	(2,159)
0	0	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	0
346,220	**453,359**	**Total**	**362,142**	**469,954**

17. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

17.1 Risk and risk management

The fund's main long-term risk is that the fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities of paying benefits to its members. Investment risk management aims to reduce the risk of the overall reduction of the fund while increasing returns. To achieve this, the fund is diversified through its asset allocation thereby reducing its price, currency and interest rate risks. Liquidity risk in the fund is managed by monitoring the cash flow forecast of the fund and ensuring that there is sufficient cash to pay its benefits payable obligations.

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 committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the council's pensions operations. The Statement of Investment Principles and Risk Register are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

The fund also ensures reputable investment managers are used through its rigorous fund manager's selection process. In addition the fund employs an independent advisor who provides advice on investment issues.

17.2 Market risk

The fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities especially through its equity holdings. Equity futures contracts and exchange traded option contracts on individual securities may also be used to manage market risks on equity investments. The Fund has one future valued at £2,159,355 as at 31 March 2014 (£1,460,730 as at 31 March 2013).

17.3 Price risk

Potential price changes are based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. The London Borough of Merton asset allocation is predominantly in equities, the majority of which are priced in Pounds Sterling. Riskier assets in the fund such as equities display greater potential price volatility than bonds.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2014 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	2,440	0.02	2,440	2,440
Investment portfolio assets				
UK Equities	200,763	12.08	225,015	176,511
Overseas Equities	144,477	11.56	161,179	127,775
Bonds and Index Linked	108,064	6.45	115,034	101,094
Property	13,197	4.45	13,784	12,610
Income Due	1,011	0.00	1,011	1,011
Total Assets	**469,952**		**518,463**	**421,441**

Note: The % change for Total Assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2013 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	2,223	0.02	2,223	2,223
Investment portfolio assets				
Total Equities	324,666	12.61	365,606	283,726
Bonds and Index Linked	113,623	6.2	120,611	106,635
Property	11,874	4.22	12,375	11,373
Income Due	974	0.0	974	974
Total Assets	**453,360**		**501,789**	**404,931**

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 2014 asset mix as shown in the following table (Note 17.4):

17.4 Other price risk

Potential price changes are based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. 'Riskier' assets such as equities will display greater potential volatility than bonds as an example, so the overall outcome will depend largely on fund asset allocations. The following table shows the volatility between the asset classes invested in.

Asset Type	Potential market movements (+/-)
UK Equities	12.08%
Overseas Equities	11.56%
Bonds and Index Linked	6.45%
Cash	0.02%
Property	4.45%

17.5 Interest rate risk

Generally fixed interest rate investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market rates. As at 31 March 2014, the fund's fixed rate investments were in pooled investments. There are no internally managed investments.

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 2014.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2014 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	144,477	5.16	151,930	137,025
Overseas Bonds	26,569	5.16	27,939	25,199
Total Overseas Assets	**171,046**		**179,869**	**162,224**

The table below shows the currency exposure by asset type as at 31 March 2013.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2013 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	14,008	5.92	14,838	13,179
Overseas Bonds	27,832	5.92	29,480	26,184
Total Overseas Assets	**41,840**		**44,318**	**39,363**

The following table calculates the aggregate currency exposure within the fund as at 31 March 2014. 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.

Currency	Value at 31 March 2014 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Danish Krone	518	6.26	550	485
EURO	9,271	6.31	9,857	8,686
Norwegian Krone	506	8.79	550	462
Swedish Krona	2,203	7.03	2,358	2,049
Swiss Franc	3,124	7.42	3,356	2,892
US Dollar	131	8.07	141	120
Total	**15,753**		**16,812**	**14,694**

Currency	Value at 31 March 2013 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Danish Krone	391	7.73	422	361
EURO	8,686	7.80	9,364	8,009
Norwegian Krone	418	9.04	456	380
Swedish Krona	1,784	8.13	1,929	1,639
Swiss Franc	2,564	9.36	2,804	2,324
US Dollar	27,997	8.74	30,444	25,550
Total	**41,840**		**45,419**	**38,263**

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 Council's credit criteria.

The average long term credit rating in the bond portfolio is AA as at 31 March 2014. The table below shows the credit quality.

Value at 31 March 2013	Credit Quality	Value at 31 March 2014
4,485	AAA	2,270
85,663	AA	80,838
11,915	A	11,240
8,267	BBB	11,456
721	BB or below	648
111,051		**106,452**

The fund's cash balance under its treasury management arrangements as at 31 March 2014 was held with Lloyds bank with a credit rating of A.

17.8 Liquidity risk

The Council has immediate access to its pension fund cash holdings to enable it to meet its financial obligations when due. Within the bond portfolio, the fund is permitted to hold up to 10% of the fund in cash for this reason and to ensure that the fund has available an element of cash to ensure that settlement of the segregated securities traded in the portfolio do not take the cash accounts overdrawn.
Management prepares quarterly cashflow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the fund's cash; this is reviewed by the Pension Fund Panel on a quarterly basis.

17.9 Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its pension fund financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The council does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

18. Funding Arrangements

18.1 Actuarial position

The assets and liabilities of the Fund are valued at three-yearly intervals by the Council's Actuary (Barnett Waddingham LLP). The main purpose of the actuarial valuation is:

(i) to determine the accrued position of the fund (for which the valuation of assets is based on the 'assessed value approach') and;
(ii) to establish appropriate contribution arrangements required to support accruing benefits (for which the 'projected unit' actuarial method is adopted).

18.2 Actuarial assumption

Barnett Waddingham LLP carried out the last actuarial valuation in 2013. This gave an assessment of the value of the fund as at 31 March 2013. The results of the actuarial valuation showed that the assessed value of assets held by the Fund at 31st March 2013 was £ 451.0m, whilst the liabilities accrued in respect of pensionable service were £504.2m. The assessed actuarial value of £451.0m was different to the market value of the assets at 31 March 2013 (shown in Note 18.4) because the actuarial value is based on the average asset value over 6 months straddling the valuation date.

The valuation of the Fund is underpinned by 'economic' and 'statistical' assumptions. The major 'economic' assumptions relate to the rate of price inflation, general pay escalation and the rate of dividend growth. The 'statistical' assumptions cover matters such as future rates of withdrawal and retirement from service, rates of mortality, the proportion of members married and the progression of pensionable pay from age to age, attributable to increasing responsibility and promotion.

The following tables show financial assumptions used in the actuarial valuations. The format of the 2013 table differs from the 2007 and 2010 as the actuaries have altered the basis upon which they present their assumptions. Only nominal returns are reported in 2013.

Financial Assumptions	2007		2010	
Investment Return	% p.a.	Real % p.a.	% p.a.	Real % p.a.
Equities	7.6	4.3	7.4	3.9
Gilts	4.7	1.3	4.5	1.0
Bonds & Property	5.4	2.0	5.6	2.1
Index Linked Gilt yields	3.4			
Equity Risk Premium	3.0			
Equity Return	7.6			
Discount Rate	6.9	3.5	6.7	3.2
Pay Increases	4.9	1.5	5.0	1.5
Price Inflation	3.4		3.5	
Pension Increase	3.4		3.0	(0.50)

Future Assumed Returns at 2013 % p.a.		Risk Adjusted Discount Rate Weighting %
Equities	6.9	71
Gilts	3.3	25
Cash	3.1	1
Property	6.0	3
Expense allowances	0.1	-
Financial Assumptions	**2013**	**2010**
Discount Rate	5.9	6.7
Retail Price Index (RPI)	3.5	3.5
Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)	2.7	3.0
Pension & Deferred Pension Increases	2.7	3.0
Short Term Pay Increase	In line with the CPI assumption for the 2 yrs to 31 March 2015	Pay freeze for those earning over £21k for the 2 years to 31 March 2012
Long Term Pay Increase	4.5	5.0

18.3 Funding policy

Regulations require the Actuary to set the employer's contribution rate for the authority and Scheduled and Admitted Bodies, so that it is sufficient to meet 100% of existing and prospective liabilities including pension increases. The funding objective is to ensure that the Scheme's assets and income are adequate to finance scheme members' benefits when they fall due.

The actuary has recommended contribution rates that recover any deficiency in the Fund over the next fifteen years from 1st April 2010 (twelve years from 1st April 2014), and this is consistent with the funding strategy.

18.4 Funding position

The overall funding level increased from 84% in 2010 to 89% in 2013.
Investment returns were higher than assumed and pay increases lower than assumed.

The table below shows the funding level and deficit for the past three triennial valuations.

	2007 Valuation	2010 Valuation	2013 Valuation
Funding Level %	90.5	84.0	89.0
Funding (Deficit) £m	**(33.5)**	**(67.2)**	**(53.2)**

The funding deficiency of £53.2 million at the time of the 2013 valuation was equivalent to 11% of accrued liabilities, compared to 16% as at the time of the 2010 valuation.

The Common Rate of Contribution payable by each employing authority under Regulation 36 for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 is 21.4% of pensionable payroll. From 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2017 the Common Rate of Contribution will be 21% of pensionable pay.
Individual employers' rates will vary from the common contribution rate depending on the demographic and actuarial factors particular to each employer. Full details of the contribution rates payable can be found in the 2010 and 2013 actuarial valuation reports.

The table below shows the reconciliation of past service position from the 2007 and 2010 valuations.

	Funding Position £m	
Deficit at 2007 Valuation	**(34)**	
New Liabilities	(50)	
Contributions Paid		59
Interest on Deficit	(6)	
Asset Gain/Loss	(70)	
Liability Gain/Loss	(28)	
Experience		3
Change in Assumptions/CPI		59
Deficit at 2010 Valuation	**(67)**	

The table below shows the reconciliation of past service position from 2010 and 2013 valuations.

	Funding Position £m	
Deficit at 2010 Valuation	**(67)**	
Deficit Funded (Use of Surplus)		18
Financial Loss	(14)	
Experience		11
Change in Assumptions	(1)	
Deficit at 2013 Valuation	**(53)**	

The following tables show the past service funding position for the 2010 and 2013 valuations.

	31 March 2010 £000	
Smoothed Asset Value		**343,541**
Past Service Liabilities		
Active Members	139,683	
Deferred Pensioners	59,740	
Pensioners	211,227	
Value of Scheme Liabilities		410,650
Surplus (Deficit)		**(67,109)**
Funding Level		**84%**
Employer Contribution Rates		**% of Payroll**
Future Service Contribution Rate		14.1
Deficit Recovery (15 years)		7.3
Total Contribution Rate		**21.4**
	31 March 2013 £000	
Asset Value		**450,974**
Past Service Liabilities		
Active Members	165,417	
Deferred Pensioners	87,644	
Pensioner Members	251,112	
Total		**504,173**
Surplus (Deficit)		**(53,199)**
Funding Level		**89%**
Employer Contribution Rates		**% of Payroll**
Future Service Cost		14.0
Deficit Recovery (12 years)		7.0
Total Contribution Rate		**21.0**

The funding position is a statement that encapsulates the liability to finance pension payments over many years, and does not imply that there is any difficulty in financing them in the short term. Investments in support of the Local Government Pension Scheme are long-term investments, and there is an expectation that over the long term the value of the fund will ride-out the cyclical movements of the investment markets, and support an adequate funding level.

19. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The accounting standard IAS 26 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 2014, using a valuation methodology that is consistent with IAS19.

The financial assumptions used for the purposes of the calculations are as follows:

	Assumptions as at 31/03/14 %
Inflation/Pension increase rate	2.8
Salary rate increase	4.6
Discount Rate	4.4

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2014 was £685.2m

Year Ended	31/03/13 £m	31/03/14 £m
Present value of promised retirement benefits	637.6	685.2

20. Current Assets

	31/03/13 £000	31/03/14 £000
Debtors		
Contributions due	2,650	2,066
Cash Balances		
Cash in Hand	1,388	1,104
Current Assets	**4,038**	**3,170**

21. Current Liabilities

Creditors	31/03/13 £000	31/03/14 £000
Cash overdrawn	(377)	(217)
Fund Managers Fees	(181)	(160)
Sundry	(597)	(500)
Current Liabilities	**(1,155)**	**(877)**

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 Council's shared payroll service and invested by specialist AVC providers, Prudential PLC and Bank of Ireland independently of the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund.
The amount of additional voluntary contributions paid by members during 2013/14 to AVC schemes outside the authority's responsibility was £0.187m (£0.133m at 31 March 2013). The external providers have reported that at 31 March 2014 the total value of accumulated AVCs is £1.450m (£1.263m at 31 March 2013).

23. Related Parties

Related parties to the pension fund include: -

i) **The London Borough of Merton**, a separate pension fund bank account is in full operation which holds pension fund cash balances. The Council recharges the Fund for incurred overheads while the pension fund recharges the council for any employers recharge to pensioners pay.

ii) **The Admitted and Scheduled bodies** who make employer contributions to the fund.

iii) **Local authority elected members and senior management officers** who sit on the Pension Fund Advisory Panel.

There are two serving Councillor Members on the Pension Fund Advisory Panel who are contributors to the Pension Fund. In addition, there is one Pensioner representative on the Panel who is in receipt of pension benefits.

The relevant senior officer in the financial management of Merton Pension Fund is the Director of Corporate Services who is remunerated by Merton Council as the administering authority. They are not paid directly by the Merton Pension Fund. However the pension fund is recharged by the Administering Authority for officers time spent in the management of the pension fund. Further information on remuneration is available within the financial statements of Merton Council.

There have been no related-party disclosures, or material declarable transactions with the Pension Fund during the financial year other than administrative services and the use of the council's financial systems which may result in occasional cross transactions. The former were undertaken by the Council on behalf of the Pension Fund, at a cost, of £0.521m (£0.348m in 2012/13).

24. Contingent and Contractual Liabilities

There is a contingent liability in respect of the bulk transfer for South Thames College (formerly Merton College). This transfer is particularly difficult to quantify at this stage as neither the data nor the actuarial basis for quantifying the liability have been agreed between the parties.

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 2014.

Signed

C Holland
Director of Corporate Services
17th September 2014

1.3 Approval of Accounts by General Purposes Committee

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts has been approved by resolution of the General Purposes Committee of the London Borough of Merton in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

Signed

Peter McCabe
Chairman General Purposes Committee
17th September 2014

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.

Draft Independent Auditor’s Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON COUNCIL (subject to EY Director review)

Opinion on the Authority’s financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and Collection Fund and the related notes 1 to 47. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

This report is made solely to the members of Merton Council, as a body, in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the authority and the authority’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Director of Corporate Services and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Director of Corporate Services’ Responsibilities set out on page 147, 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 2013/14, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board’s Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority’s circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Director of Corporate Services; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Merton Council as at 31 March 2014 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 2013/14.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007 (updated as at December 2012);
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998;
- we designate under section 11 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 any recommendation as one that requires the Authority to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

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.

We are required under Section 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 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 Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

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.

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

We have undertaken our audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria, published by the Audit Commission in October 2013, as to whether the Authority has proper arrangements for:

- securing financial resilience; and
- challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Audit Commission has determined these two criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

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 Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission in October 2013, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Merton Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of Merton Council in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

Paul King
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Appointed Auditor
Reading
19th September 2014

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON COUNCIL

Opinion on the pension fund financial statements

To be added.

Glossary

ACCOUNTING POLICIES
Rules and practices followed in drawing up the accounts.

ACCOUNTING CODES OF PRACTICE
These are designed to support consistent standards of financial accounting in local authorities. There are two accounting codes :-

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting supports consistent financial reporting at the level of the formal statements of accounts.

The Service Reporting Code of Practice (SerCOP) supports consistent financial reporting between local authorities below the level of the formal statement of accounts. In particular the SerCOP is designed to support consistency and comparability in reporting the cost of individual services and activities.

The IFRS based Code of Practice requires that the analysis of services in the Consolidated Revenue Account should follow that prescribed by the SerCOP.

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.

APPROPRIATIONS
The assignment of revenue balances for specified purposes.

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.

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
Amounts receivable in the future from mortgages granted on the sale of Council houses.

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 Council's financial statements.

CLG
This is the Government department for Communities and Local Government. This was formerly called the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

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 Council'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.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. It has two elements - corporate management and democratic representation and management. The activities within the corporate and democratic core are in addition to those which would be carried out by a series of independent, single purpose bodies managing the same services. There is, therefore, no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

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 APPROVAL

The permission to borrow given to each local authority annually by the Secretary of State. Local authorities can obtain supplementary credit approvals during the year for particular projects.

CREDITORS

Money owed by the Council, which is due immediately or in the short term. Accordingly, it does not include money on taxation to the Council. 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 Council but which has not yet been received. Debtors are an example of the concept of accruals.

DEFERRED CONSIDERATION
This is the value of buildings transferred to NewSchools under the PFI contract and will be amortised over the life of the contract.

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
DEFRA (The Department for the Environment, Fisheries 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.

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.

FAIR VALUE
The fair value is the value of an asset or liability in an arms length transaction between unrelated, willing and knowledgeable parties. In practice this is often taken

as market value but there are acceptable approximations, which can be used when there is no market for the asset or liability. In relation to assets the recorded value would be less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use.

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.

FRED
Financial Reporting Exposure Drafts. These are proposed accounting standards issued by the ASB for comments. The final accounting standard is released once the comments have been incorporated or addressed.

FTSE 100
This is the index of the top 100 UK listed companies by market capitalisation.

GENERAL FUND
The main fund of the Council, 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 Council 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.

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 Council.

LIABILITIES
An entity's obligations to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)
A local area agreement is a set of priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area, which usually comprises of a local authority, the local strategic partnership (LSP) and other key partners. The priorities have objectives and targets, and funding to achieve these comes from central government.

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.

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-DISTRIBUTED COSTS
These are overheads from which no user now benefits and these costs should not be apportioned to services.

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 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.

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 Council 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.

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 Council 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 NewSchools 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.

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.

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE (SORP)

This is the authoritative guidance on the application of accounting standards and incorporates UK GAAP. (See Accounting Codes of Practice). The SORP has now been superseded by the IFRS based Code of Practice.

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.

UK GAAP

UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles cover accounting practices that are regarded as permissible by the accounting profession. These practices may be laid down in accounting standards and/or legislation (such as Local Government Finance Legislation) but it also includes accounting practices that are outside the scope of accounting standards but are generally accepted by practitioners as legitimate. Local Authority accounts are now required to be IFRS compliant.

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.

Summary Statement of Accounts
31st March 2014

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 and this summary are also available on the Council's website at: www.merton.gov.uk/council/finance.

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 Fund - Shows member contributions to the fund and the benefits paid from it, together with details of investment activity during the year. It excludes Pension Fund liabilities.

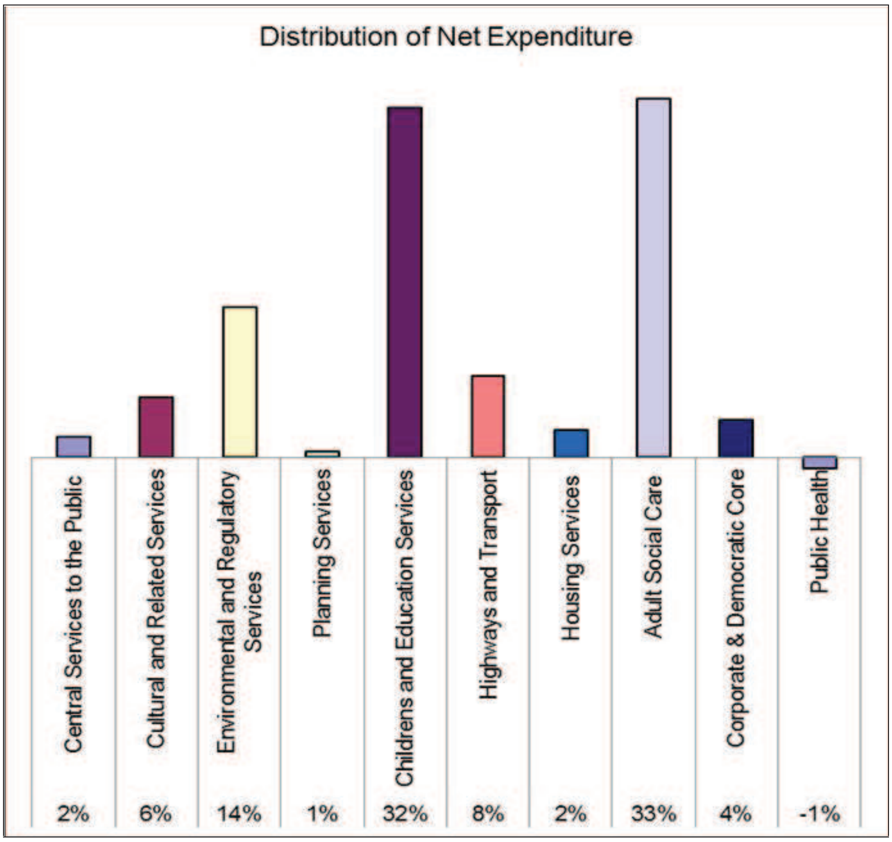
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2013/14
- The Council spent £32m on capital schemes, a reduction of 22% from 2012/13.
- Total net assets decreased by £20m, with usable reserves increasing by £9m.
- Long Term borrowings remained at £117m.
- The Council had a net nil under/over spend against its budget in 2013/14 prior to any transfers to the General Fund Balance.

REVENUE SPENDING

Merton's net cost of services was £178m, attributable to services as shown below.

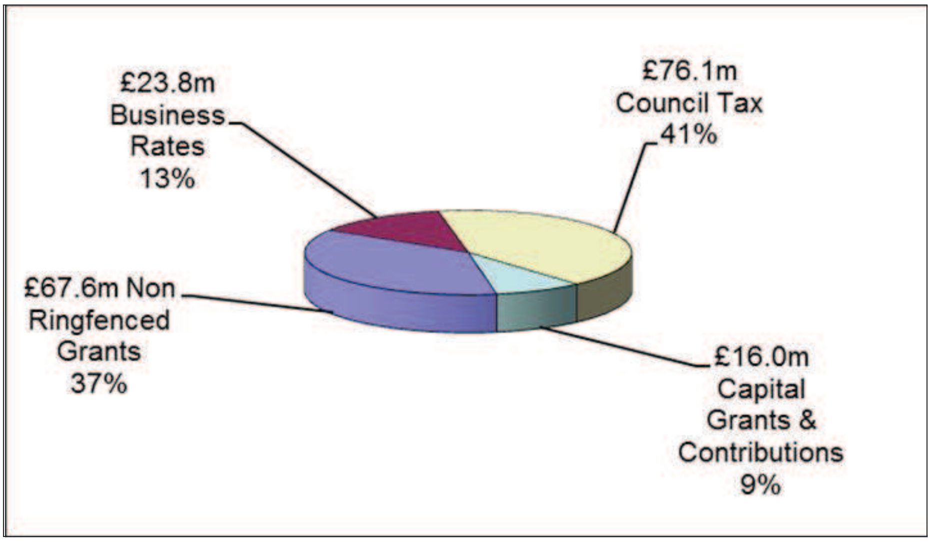
Service Areas	Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
Central Services to the Public	6.8	(3.6)	3.2
Cultural and Related Services	11.3	(1.9)	9.4
Environmental & Regulatory Services	26.3	(4.1)	22.3
Planning Services	7.3	(5.7)	1.6
Education and Children's Services	219.6	(152.1)	67.4
Highways and Transport	26.6	(14.6)	12.0
Housing Services (Note 1)	98.7	(94.7)	4.0
Adult Social Care	70.1	(16.9)	53.2
Corporate & Democratic Core	5.5	(0.1)	5.4
Public Health	8.2	(9.9)	(1.7)
Non Distributed Costs	7.9	(6.5)	1.3
Net Cost of Services	**488.4**	**(310.2)**	**178.2**

Note 1 - Includes Housing Benefits, Homelessness and Supporting People.



How was expenditure funded?

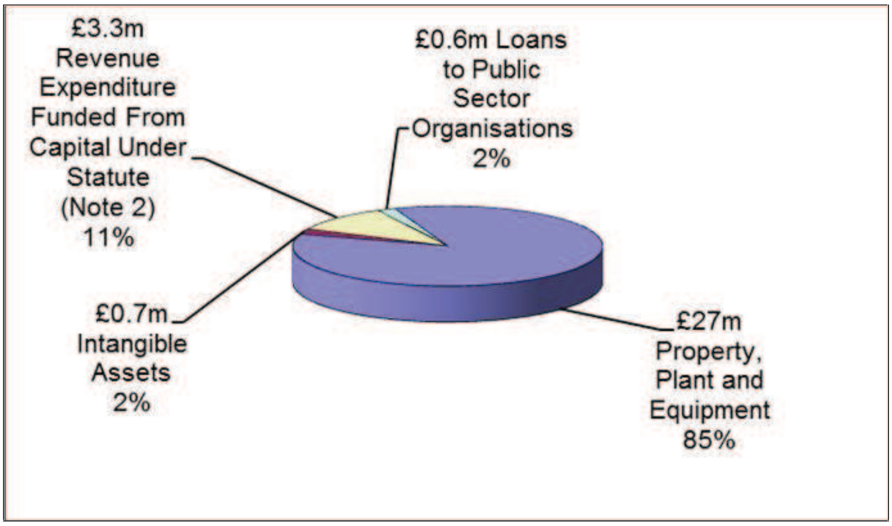
Other than income collected by departments from fees, charges and specific government grants, services are paid for from revenue support grant, which is money from Central Government, contributions from the business rates pool and Council Tax and special grants for specific purposes. The following chart shows the actual funding for 2013/14.



In 2013/14, Merton's Council Tax remains the 9th lowest Council Tax (Band D) of the twenty outer London boroughs.

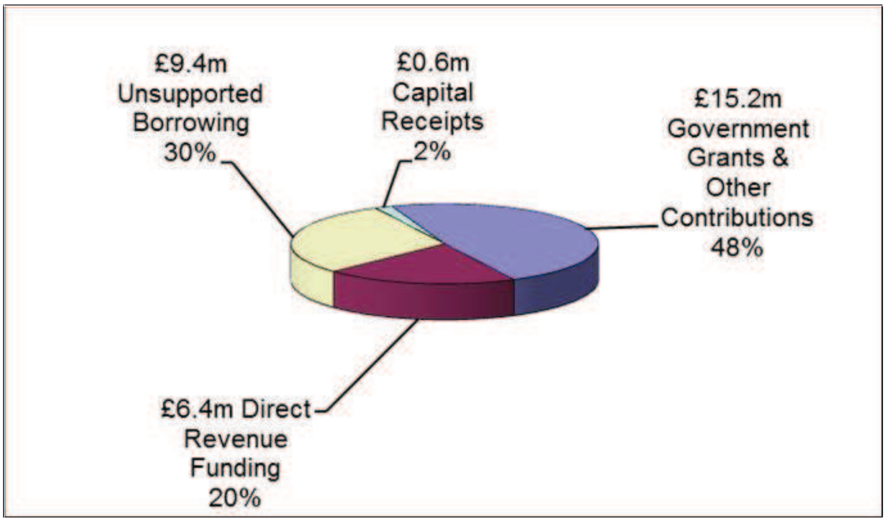
CAPITAL SPENDING

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 £32m in 2013/14 as shown below.



Note 2 - This is expenditure which is classified as revenue expenditure but which can be funded from capital resources under statutory requirements.

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



FINANCIAL HEALTH

The Council's Balance Sheet gives a snapshot of the Council's financial position at the year-end (i.e. 31st March 2014). It shows what the Council owns (its assets) and what it owes (its liabilities) and the funds which support them.

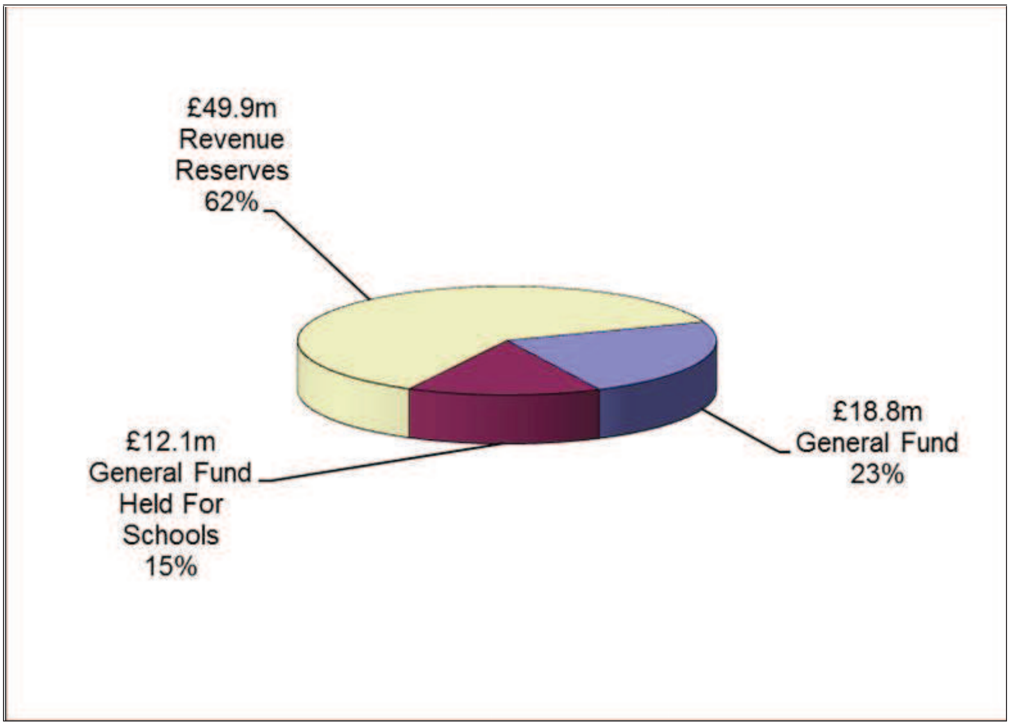
Summary Balance Sheet

Assets	As at 31st March 2013 £m	As at 31st March 2014 £m
Fixed and Other Long Term Assets	457	463
Current Assets including investments, cash and debtors	119	126
Current Liabilities including creditors and short term borrowing	(60)	(64)
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	**516**	**525**
Long term borrowings	(117)	(117)
Other liabilities and provisions	(50)	(50)
Pension Fund Liability	(195)	(224)
Total Long Term Liabilities	**(362)**	**(391)**
Total Net Assets	**154**	**134**
Represented by:		
Reserves and balances which can be spent	(106)	(115)
Reserves and balances which cannot be spent	(48)	(19)
Total Net Worth	**(154)**	**(134)**

RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES

In total, the Council now has usable reserves and fund balances amounting to £115m, £34m capital receipts and grants, and £81m fund balances and revenue reserves which are broken down below.

Breakdown of Fund Balances and Revenue Reserves



PENSION FUND

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 the assets and liabilities on a commitment basis (IAS19). On this basis the assets in the scheme increased by £12m during the year to £430m and the estimated pension liability increased by £41m to £654m, leading to a £29m increase in the pension deficit, which stands at a nominal £224m. Although this is a significant notional liability, it is not the basis on which the real deficit on the fund is valued and against which a deficit recovery plan has to be prepared. The fund was revalued on the real basis at the end of March 2013 and had a deficit of £53m. The Council has a 12 year plan to eliminate the deficit with a substantial one off payment being made in 2014/15 and reported as part of the budget process.

CABINET REPORTING

The revenue outturn in the statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice which sets out a standard form for the reporting of services to enable this authority to compare the gross and net cost of its services with all other local authorities. A reconciliation of the Cabinet reporting, which is used for management purposes, to the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice is provided below.

2013/14	Cabinet (Draft Accounts) £000	Budgetary control presentation £000	Services in corporate in Sercop £000	IFRS Adjustments £000	Statement of Accounts £000
Services	153,582	3,251	(300)	21,690	178,223
Corporate	11,287	9,389	300	(487)	20,489
Cost of services	**164,869**	**12,640**	**0**	**21,203**	**198,712**
Corporate Funding	(164,869)	(12,640)		(6,111)	(183,620)
(Surplus)/deficit on provision of services	**0**	**0**	**0**	**15,092**	**15,092**
Unrealised Gains and Losses	0	0	0	4,540	4,540
(Surplus)/deficit	-	-	-	**19,632**	**19,632**

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.

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Merton Council

General Purposes Committee Summary

For the year ended 31 March 2014

Audit Results Report – ISA (UK & Ireland) 260

17th September 2014

Paul King, Director
Pking1@uk.ey.com

Michael Yeats, Manager
MYeats@uk.ey.com

Contents

Executive summary
Key findings

Audit results and other key matters

The Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code) requires us to report to those charged with governance – the General Purposes Committee - on the work we have carried out to discharge our statutory audit responsibilities together with any governance issues identified.

This report summarises the findings from the 2013/14 audit which is substantially complete. It includes the messages arising from our audit of your financial statements and the results of the work we have undertaken to assess your arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.

Financial statements

- As of 10 September 2014, we expect to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements. Our audit results demonstrate, through the few matters we have to communicate, that the Council has prepared its financial statements adequately.

Value for money

- We expect to conclude that you have made appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

Whole of Government Accounts

- We expect to issue an unqualified confirmation to the National Audit Office (NAO) regarding the Whole of Government Accounts submission.

Audit certificate

- The audit certificate is issued to demonstrate that the full requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice have been discharged for the relevant audit year. We expect to issue the audit certificate at the same time as the audit opinion.

Extent and purpose of our work

The Council's responsibilities

The Council is responsible for preparing and publishing its Statement of Accounts, accompanied by the Annual Governance Statement. In the Annual Governance Statement, the Council reports publicly on the extent to which it complies with its own code of governance, including how it has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period.

The Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Purpose of our work

Our audit was designed to:

- Express an opinion on the 2013/14 financial statements
- Report on any exception on the governance statement or other information included in the foreword
- Consider and report any matters that prevent us being satisfied that the Council had put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the Value for Money conclusion)

In addition, this report contains our findings related to the areas of audit emphasis, our views on the Council's accounting policies and judgments and significant deficiencies in internal control.

As a component auditor, we also follow the group instructions and send to the NAO our group assurance certificate, audit results report and auditor's report on the consolidation schedule.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Council. It is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Addressing audit risks

We identified the following audit risks during the planning phase of our audit, and reported these to you in our Audit Plan. Here, we set out how we have gained audit assurance over those issues.

Audit risk identified within our Audit Plan	Audit procedures performed	Assurance gained and issues arising
Significant audit risks (including fraud risks)		
The Council has made material changes to the valuation, classification and completeness of disclosures of its property, plant and equipment in recent years. We also identified material errors and omissions in last year's audit. The Council is proposing further changes in 2013/14 through a reclassification of its investment properties. This will lead to a material change to the financial statements. These indicate wider risks around the completeness of property, plant and equipment disclosed in the financial statements and the accurate classification of these assets.	• Reviewed management controls over the completeness and classification of assets in the asset register and underlying records; • Tested the completeness and classification of assets and corresponding valuations; • Tested reasonableness of the valuation including assessment against central reports provided by the Audit Commission's expert valuer; • We did not need to make use of our own valuation expert.	• Assurance gained over the valuation, classification and completeness of disclosures of your property, plant and equipment; • We reviewed the Council's re-classification of its investment properties and we have no issues to report.
As identified in ISA (UK & Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to directly or indirectly manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.	• Tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements; • Reviewed accounting estimates for evidence of management bias; and • Evaluated the business rationale for any significant unusual transactions.	• All our planned procedures are complete. We have no matters to bring to your attention from our testing.

Financial statements audit

Issues and misstatements arising from the audit

Progress of our audit

- The following areas of our work programme remain to be completed. We will provide an update of progress at the General Purposes Committee meeting:
  - Receipt of a Letter of Representation
  - Receipt and check of the amended financial statements
  - Final audit closing procedures and review procedures.
- Subject to the satisfactory resolution of the above items, we propose to issue an unqualified audit report on the financial statements.

Uncorrected Misstatements

Our audit has not identified any uncorrected misstatements within the financial statements.

Corrected Misstatements

Our audit identified a number of misstatements which we have highlighted to management for amendment. All of these have been corrected during the course of our work.

We do not consider any of these to be significant and therefore we have not provided further details in this report.

Financial statements audit (continued)

Issues and misstatements arising from the audit

Other Matters

As required by ISA (UK&I) 260 and other ISAs specifying communication requirements, we are required to communicate to you significant findings from the audit and other matters that are significant to your oversight of the Council's financial reporting process including the following:

- Qualitative aspects of your accounting practices; estimates and disclosures;
- Matters specifically required by other auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance. For example, issues about fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, external confirmations and related party transactions; and,
- Any significant difficulties encountered during the audit; and
- Other audit matters of governance interest,

We encountered delays in receipt of information from your general ledger to support our work on completeness and review of journals. We will work with your Finance team to integrate this work earlier into the overall closedown process in future.

We have two matters we wish to report.

- We recommended improvements last year in the linkage between internal reporting and the financial statements. Some improvements have been made this year, but further improvements can be achieved by using the management outturn report as the basis for segmental reporting in Note 2. This would ensure full compliance with the Code of Accounting Practice.
- This is the first year councils have been required to include a provision for appeals against business rateable values. We reviewed the adequacy of the provision and concluded that we had sufficient assurance. However, a more structured approach is needed to the work carried out by the Council, the assumptions made and the supporting documentation.

Financial statements audit (continued)

Internal Control, Written Representations & Whole of Government Accounts

Internal Control

It is the responsibility of the Council 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 Council has put adequate arrangements in place to satisfy itself that the systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective in practice.

We have tested the controls of the Council only to the extent necessary for us to complete our audit. We are not expressing an opinion on the overall effectiveness of internal control.

We have reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and can confirm that:

- It complies with the requirements of CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework; and
- It is consistent with other information that we are aware of from our audit of the financial statements.

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.

Request for written representations

We have requested a management representation letter to gain management's confirmation in relation to a number of matters. In addition to the standard representations, we have requested a specific representation as the Council makes use of its own qualified internal valuer for the valuation of property, plant and equipment.

Whole of Government Accounts

Alongside our work on the financial statements, we also review and report to the NAO on your Whole of Government Accounts return. The extent of our review and the nature of our report are specified by the National Audit Office.

We are currently concluding our work in this area and will report any matters that arise to the General Purposes Committee. We expect to issue an unqualified confirmation to the NAO regarding the Whole of Government Accounts submission.

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Code of Audit Practice (2010) sets out our responsibility to satisfy ourselves that Merton Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. In examining the Council's corporate performance management and financial management arrangements, we have regard to the following criteria and focus specified by the Audit Commission.

Criteria 1 - Arrangements for securing financial resilience

- *"Whether the Council has robust systems and processes to manage financial risks and opportunities effectively, and to secure a stable financial position that enables it to continue to operate for the foreseeable future"*

We did not identify any significant risks in relation to this criteria.

We reviewed the Council's systems and processes relevant to this criteria and we have no issues to report.

Criteria 2 - Arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness

- *"Whether the Council is prioritising its resources within tighter budgets, for example by achieving cost reductions and by improving efficiency and productivity."*

We did not identify any significant risks in relation to this criteria.

We also considered the work we carried out in our investigation into whistleblowing allegations about the Council's use of consultants.

We reviewed the Council's systems and processes relevant to this criteria and we have no issues to report.

Independence and audit fees

Independence

- We confirm there are no changes in our assessment of independence since the confirmation in our Audit Plan dated 3 March 2014.
- We complied with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors and the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice and Standing Guidance. 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 confirm that we are not aware of any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of the firm that we are required by auditing and ethical standards to report to you.
- We consider that our independence in this context is a matter that should be reviewed by both you and ourselves. It is therefore important that you consider the facts of which you are aware and come to a view.

If you wish to discuss any matters concerning our independence, we will be pleased to do so at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 17 September 2014.

- We confirm that we have met the reporting requirements to the General Purposes Committee, as 'those charged with governance' under International Standards on Auditing (UK&I) 260. Our communication plan to meet these requirements was set out in our Audit Plan of 3 March 2014.

Audit fees

The table below sets out the scale fee and our final proposed audit fees.

	Proposed final fee 2013-14	Scale fee 2013-14	Variation comments
	£s	£s	
Total audit fee – Code work	TBA(*)	188,730	(*) - see comment below
Certification of claims and returns	TBA	54,500	Work not yet completed
Non-audit work	0		

(*) – we reported the results of our whistleblowing work at the March meeting of the General Purposes Committee. A scale fee variation of £16,500 for this work was subsequently agreed by the Audit Commission. We have experienced difficulties with our data analytics work as part of our final accounts audit and will discuss a scale fee variation with the Council at the conclusion of the audit.

- We confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit work outside of the Audit Commission's Audit Code requirements.

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Ernst & Young LLP

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Ernst & Young LLP, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF.

ey.com

In March 2010 the Audit Commission issued a revised version of the 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' (Statement of responsibilities). It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the Audit Commission's website.

The Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the Audit Commission's 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 Standing Guidance serves as our terms of appointment as auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. The Standing Guidance sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the Code of Audit Practice 2010 (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This Audit Results 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.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Caroline Holland - Director

Ernst & Young LLP
Apex Plaza
Forbury Road
Reading RG1 1YE

London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX

Direct Line: 020 8545 3450
Fax :020 8545 0446
Email: caroline.holland@merton.gov.uk

17/09/2014

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Merton Council ("the Council") for the year ended 31 March 2014. 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 financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Merton Council as of 31 March 2014 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with, the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), 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]

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

2. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Council, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. We believe the financial

[1] We describe management's responsibilities in the manner in which these responsibilities are described in the terms in the engagement letter.

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 Council in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.

3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.

4. As members of management of the Council, we believe that the Council has 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 2013/14 that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

5. There are no unadjusted audit differences identified during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented.

B. Fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.

2. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

3. We have disclosed to you all significant facts relating to any frauds, suspected frauds or allegations of fraud known to us that may have affected the Council (regardless of the source or form and including, without limitation, allegations by "whistle-blowers"), whether involving management or employees who have significant roles in internal control. Similarly, we have disclosed to you our knowledge of frauds or suspected frauds affecting the entity involving others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others, that could affect the financial statements.

C. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

1. We have disclosed to you all known actual or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

D. 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 as agreed in terms of the audit engagement.

   - 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 financial statements.

3. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Council, Cabinet and General Purposes committees (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the year to the most recent meeting on the following date: 26th June 2014.

4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Council'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 period 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 financial statements.

5. We have disclosed to you, and the Council has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

E. 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 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 financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

4. No other claims in connection with litigation have been or are expected to be received.

F. Subsequent Events

1. Other than as described in Note 36 to the financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

G. Accounting Estimates

1. We believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

2. Accounting estimates recognised or disclosed in the financial statements:

- We believe the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, we used in determining accounting estimates is appropriate and the application of these processes is consistent.

- The disclosures relating to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

- The assumptions we used in making accounting estimates appropriately reflects our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.

- No subsequent event requires an adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

H. 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.

I. Segmental reporting

1. We have reviewed the operating segments reported internally to the Council and we am satisfied that it is appropriate to aggregate these as, in accordance with IFRS 8:Operating Segments, they are similar in each of the following respects:

    - The nature of the services

    - The nature of the processes

    - The type or class of customer for the services.

J. Ownership of Assets

1. Except for assets capitalised under finance leases, the Council has satisfactory title to all assets appearing in the balance sheet, and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Council's assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral. All assets to which the Council has satisfactory title appear in the balance sheet.

2. All agreements and options to buy back assets previously sold have been properly recorded and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

3. We have no plans or intentions that will result in any excess or obsolete inventory, and no inventory is stated at an amount in excess of net realizable value.

4. There are no formal or informal compensating balance arrangements with any of our cash and investment accounts. Except as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, we have no other line of credit arrangements.

K. Reserves

1. We have properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements the useable and unusable reserves.

L. Contingent Liabilities

We are unaware of any violations or possible violations of laws or regulations the effects of which should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as the basis of recording a contingent loss (other than those disclosed or accrued in the financial statements).

We are unaware of any known or probable instances of non-compliance with the requirements of regulatory or governmental authorities, including their financial reporting requirements, and there have been no communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives concerning investigations or allegations of non-compliance.

M. Use of the Work of an Expert

1. We agree with the findings of the experts engaged to evaluate the valuation of property, plant and equipment and the assessment of the provision for appeals on non-domestic rates and have adequately considered the qualifications of the experts in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the experts 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 experts.

Yours Faithfully,

____

Director of Corporate Services

I confirm that this letter has been discussed and agreed at the General Purposes Committee on 17 September 2014

____

Chair of General Purposes Committee

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Merton Council Pension Fund

Pension Fund Advisory Committee / General Purposes Committee Summary

For the year ended 31 March 2014

Audit Results Report – ISA (UK & Ireland) 260

17th September 2014

Baldeep Singh, Partner
bsingh@uk.ey.com

Michael Yeats, Manager
myeats@uk.ey.com

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Contents

Executive summary

Key findings

Audit results and other key matters

The Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code) requires us to report to those charged with governance on the work we have carried out to discharge our statutory audit responsibilities together with any governance issues identified.

We regard Merton Council's General Purposes Committee as the member forum ultimately responsible for governance of the Merton Pension Fund; however we also report our findings to the Pension Fund Advisory Panel ahead of the General Purposes Committee meeting.

This report summarises the findings from the 2013/14 audit which is substantially complete. As of 10 September 2014, we expect to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

Our audit results demonstrate that while there were few changes in the financial disclosures in the Pension Fund financial statements, there were a number of areas where additional information and improvements in presentation were required to ensure the Pension Fund has prepared its financial statements appropriately.

Extent and purpose of our work

The Council's responsibilities

- Merton Council as the administering authority of the Pension Fund is responsible for preparing and publishing its Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements of the Pension Fund.

- The Council is also required to prepare a separate Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Pension Fund.

Purpose of our work

- Our audit was designed to:
  - Express an opinion on the 2013/14 financial statements of the Pension Fund
  - Report on any exception in the Annual Report

In addition, where appropriate this report contains our findings related to the areas of audit emphasis, our views on the Pension Fund's accounting policies and judgments and significant deficiencies in internal control.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Council. It is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Addressing audit risks
Significant audit risks

We identified the following audit risks during the planning phase of our audit, and reported these to you in our Audit Plan. Here, we set out how we have gained audit assurance over those issues.

Audit risk identified within our Audit Plan	Audit procedures performed	Assurance gained and issues arising
Significant audit risks (including fraud risks)		
As identified in ISA (UK & Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to directly or indirectly manipulate accounting records 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. We reviewed the nature of the risk during the audit and concluded the risk was covered through our programme of work.	• Tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements; • Reviewed accounting estimates for evidence of management bias; and • Evaluated the business rationale for any significant unusual transactions .	All our planned procedures are complete. We have no matters to bring to your attention from our testing.

Financial statements audit

Issues and misstatements arising from the audit

Progress of our audit

- The following areas of our work programme remain to be completed. We will provide an update of progress at the Pension Fund Advisory Panel and General Purposes Committee meetings:
  - Final review of the financial statements
  - Receipt of a Letter of Representation
  - Final audit closing and review procedures.
- Subject to the satisfactory resolution of the above items, we propose to issue an unqualified audit report on the financial statements.

Uncorrected Misstatements

Our audit has not identified any uncorrected misstatements within the financial statements.

Corrected Misstatements

Our audit identified a number of disclosure errors which were highlighted to management for amendment. These are in Appendix 1 of this report. All of these have been corrected during the course of our work. Any further disclosure changes will be reported on in our final report.

These amendments are to more closely align the Fund's financial statements with the CIPFA example as best practice and to be internally consistent.

Other Matters

As required by ISA (UK&I) 260 and other ISAs specifying communication requirements, we are required to communicate to you significant findings from the audit and other matters that are significant to your oversight of the Pension Fund's financial reporting process including the following:

- Qualitative aspects of your accounting practices; estimates and disclosures;
- Matters specifically required by other auditing standards to be communicated to those charged with governance. For example, issues about fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, external confirmations and related party transactions;
- Any significant difficulties encountered during the audit; and
- Other audit matters of governance interest,

We encountered delays in receipt of information from your general ledger to support our work on completeness and review of journals. We will work with your Finance team to integrate this work earlier into the overall closedown process in future.

We have no other matters we wish to report.

Financial statements audit (continued)

Internal Control and Written Representations

Internal Control

- It is the responsibility of the Council and the Pension Fund 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 Council and Pension Fund has put adequate arrangements in place to satisfy itself that the systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective in practice.
- We have tested the controls of the Council and the Pension Fund only to the extent necessary for us to complete our audit of the Fund. We are not expressing an opinion on the overall effectiveness of 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 the Pension Fund's financial statements of which you are not aware.

Request for written representations

- We have requested a management representation letter to gain management's confirmation in relation to a number of matters. We are not requesting any specific representations in addition to the standard representations.

Independence and audit fees

Independence

- We confirm there are no changes in our assessment of independence since our confirmation in our Audit Plan dated 28 February 2014.
- We complied with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors and the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice and Standing Guidance. 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 confirm that we are not aware of any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of the firm that we are required by auditing and ethical standards to report to you.
- We consider that our independence in this context is a matter that should be reviewed by both you and ourselves. It is therefore important that you consider the facts of which you are aware and come to a view.
- If you wish to discuss any matters concerning our independence, we will be pleased to do so at the forthcoming meetings of the Pensions Fund Advisory Panel and General Purposes Committee.
- We confirm that we have met the reporting requirements to the Audit Committee, as 'those charged with governance' under International Standards on Auditing (UK&I) 260. Our communication plan to meet these requirements were set out in our Audit Plan of 28 February 2014.

Audit fees

The table below sets out the scale fee and our final proposed audit fees.

	Proposed final fee 2013-14	Scale fee 2013-14	Variation comments
	£	£	
Total audit fee - Code work	TBA (*)	21,000	n/a

(*) We have experienced difficulties with our data analytics work as part of our final accounts audit and will discuss a scale fee variation with the Council at the conclusion of the audit.

- We confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit work outside of the Audit Commission's Audit Code requirements.

Appendix 1 - Corrected audit misstatements

The following corrected misstatements have been identified during the course of our audit and warrant communicating to you.

These items have been corrected by management within the revised financial statements. These items refer to those affecting the core statements and those for the supporting disclosure notes

Net Assets Statement and Fund Account

Item of Account	Nature	Type	Balance Sheet	Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure
	Description	F, P, J	Debit/(Credit)	Debit/(Credit)
Fund Account				
Gains and losses on disposal and change in the market value of investments	Consolidation of figures into a single line entitled 'gains and losses on disposal and change in market value of investments'	F	0	0
	Additional narrative to show how the net increase in the Fund Account agrees to the closing balance on the Net Assets Statement	F	0	0
Cumulative effect of uncorrected misstatement	*No effect*		*0*	*0*

Key

- F – Factual misstatement
- P – Projected misstatement based on audit sample error and population extrapolation
- J – Judgemental misstatement

Appendix 1 (contd) - Corrected audit misstatements

- The following misstatements have been identified during the course of our audit and in our professional judgement warrant communicating to you.
- These items have been corrected by management within the revised financial statements.

Disclosures

- These disclosures do not affect the figures in the core statements.

Disclosure	Description of misstatement
Admitted bodies	Inclusion of note on status of Moat Housing Association Additional narrative to clarify reference range of contribution rates
Note 2 – Basis of preparation	Inclusion of reference to all relevant legislation for the accounts
Note 3 - Accounting policies	Inclusion of note to show actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits rather than within Net Assets Statement Additional narrative on the disclosure of derivatives under 3.1 investments Clarification in Note 3.7 that contributions on an accruals basis Inclusion of policy on interest income Alignment of Note 3.13 taxation narrative with CIPFA Example Accounts
Note 6 – Events after balance sheet date	Remove reference to fund managers, custodians and service organisation Include reference to LGPS Regulations coming into effect from 1/4/14
Note 12 – Investment income	Restatement of figures to align with analysis of investments in Note 15 Alignment of disclosure narrative with CIPFA Example Accounts
Note 14 – Investment expenses	Narrative to explain reason for year-on-year increase in expenses
Note 15 – Analysis of investments	Reanalysis of investments to tie in with disclosures in Note 16 Alignment of disclosure narrative with CIPFA Example Accounts

Appendix 1 (contd) - Corrected audit misstatements

Disclosure	Description of misstatement
Note 16 – Financial instruments	Reanalysis of investments to tie in with disclosures in Note 15 and to ensure figures disclosed remain internally consistent Inclusion of narrative to explain level 1,2 and 3 investments in Note 16.3
Note 17 – Nature and extent of risk	Reanalysis for consistency of headings and classification with other notes and Net Assets Statement Narrative confirmation that no internally managed investments in Note 17.5
Note 18 – Funding arrangements	Inclusion of most recent (2013) valuation
Note 19 – Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	Fuller disclosure of financial assumptions used in the overall calculation of benefits
Note 23 – Related parties	Removal of reference to fund managers, custodians and service organisations

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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.

EY

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Caroline Holland - Director

Ernst & Young LLP
Apex Plaza
Forbury Road
Reading RG1 1YE

London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX

Direct Line: 020 8545 3450
Fax :020 8545 0446
Email: caroline.holland@merton.gov.uk

17/09/2014

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Merton Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2014. 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 financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2014, and of the amount and disposition at the end of the year of its assets and liabilities, in accordance with applicable law and CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of the Pension Fund's financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland), 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 for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 and for keeping records in respect of contributions received in respect of active members of the Pension Fund and for making accurate representations to you.

2. We confirm that the Pension Fund is a Registered Pension Fund. We are not aware of any reason why the tax status of the Pension Fund should change.

~~3.~~ We acknowledge, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. We believe the financial statements referred to above show a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial performance of the Pension Fund in accordance with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 , and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements

4. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.

5. We believe that the Pension Fund has a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

6. There are no unadjusted audit differences identified during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented.

B. Fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.

2. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

3. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Pension Fund's internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, we have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving other employees in which the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have no knowledge of any allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud or suspected fraud, (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers") which could result in a misstatement of the financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of the Pension Fund.

C. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

1. We have disclosed to you all known actual or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

2. We have not made any reports to The Pensions Regulator, nor are we aware of any such reports having been made by any of our advisors.

3. We confirm that we are not aware of any breaches of the Payment Schedule/Schedule of Contributions or any other matters that have arisen which we considered reporting to the Pensions Regulator.

4. There have been no other communications with The Pensions Regulator or other regulatory bodies during the Pension Fund year or subsequently concerning matters of non-compliance with any legal duty. We have drawn to your attention all correspondence and notes of meetings with regulators.

D. 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 as agreed in terms of the audit engagement.

   - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.

   - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

2. You have been informed of all changes to the Pension Fund rules.

3. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

4. We have made available to you all minutes of the Pension Fund Advisory Committee and General Purposes Committee (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the year to the most recent meetings on 24 June 2014 and 26 June 2014 respectively..

5. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Pension Fund's related parties and all related parties and related party 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 period 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 financial statements.

6. We have disclosed to you, and the Pension Fund has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

7. No transactions have been made which are not in the interests of the Pension Fund members or the Pension Fund during the Scheme year or subsequently.

E. 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 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 24 to the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

F. Subsequent Events

1. Other than described in Note 6 to the financial statements, there have been no events subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

G. Advisory Reports

We have not commissioned advisory reports which may affect the conduct of your work in relation to the Pension Fund's financial statements and schedule of contributions/payment schedule

H. Independence

We confirm that no trustee of the Scheme is connected with, or is an associate of, Ernst & Young LLP which would render Ernst & Young LLP ineligible to act as auditor to the Scheme.

I. Derivative Financial Instruments

We confirm that all investments in derivative financial instruments have been made after due consideration by the Pension Fund Committee of the limitations in their use imposed by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005; namely that they contribute to a reduction in scheme risk, facilitate efficient portfolio management, and that any such investment has been made so as to avoid excessive risk exposure to a single counterparty and to other derivative operations. The Pension Fund's statement of investment principles has been duly reviewed to ensure that such investments comply with any limitations imposed by its provisions.

The financial statements disclose all transactions in derivative financial instruments that have been entered into during the period, those still held by the trustees at the scheme year end and the terms and conditions relating thereto.

The trustees have duly considered and deemed as appropriate the assumptions and methodologies used in the valuation of 'over the counter' derivative financial instruments which the Pension Fund is holding, and these have been communicated to you.

J. Actuarial valuation

The latest report of the actuary Barnett Waddingham LLP as at 31 March 2013 has been provided to you. To the best of our knowledge and belief we confirm that the information supplied by us to the actuary was true and that no significant information was omitted which may have a bearing on his/her report.

K. Accounting Estimates

1. We believe that the significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

2. Accounting estimates recognised or disclosed in the financial statements:

- We believe the measurement processes, including related assumptions and models, we used in determining accounting estimates is appropriate and the application of these processes is consistent.
- The disclosures relating to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

- The assumptions we used in making accounting estimates appropriately reflects our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, where relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures.

- No subsequent event requires an adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

M Investment managers' control reports ISAE 3402

1. The latest reports available do not cover the whole of the 2013/14 audit year. We can confirm that we are not aware of any issues at the respective investment managers that indicate a reduction in control procedures.

Yours Faithfully,

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Director of Corporate Services

I confirm that this letter has been discussed and agreed at the General Purposes Committee on 17 September 2014.

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Chair of General Purposes Committee

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