

FINANCIAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022-23

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NARRATIVE REPORT

INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Accounts for Hastings Borough Council for the year ended 31st March 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23 ("the Code") issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards, as adapted for the UK public sector under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Body.

The Council's accounts for the year of 2022-23 are set out on the following pages. The information contained in these accounts can be technical and complex to follow. This narrative report provides a brief explanation of the financial aspects of the Council's activities and draws attention to the main characteristics of the Council's financial position and performance for the year and opportunities and risks for the years ahead. The narrative report is broken down into the following areas:

1. Introduction to Hastings
2. Governance
3. Strategy, Risk and Resource Allocation
4. Performance Review
5. Explanation of the Financial Statements
6. Further Information

1. Introduction to Hastings

Hastings is a beautiful and vibrant coastal cosmopolitan town that is steeped in rich history and culture. With a coastline of 7.5 miles that is overlooked by the remains of William the Conqueror's first English castle and is home to the largest beach launched fishing fleet in Europe, Hastings has become a much-loved coastal destination for thousands of tourists and a sought-after place to live.

In addition to the blue flag beach and award-winning pier the over 92,600 residents of Hastings enjoy a large country park, award winning galleries, museums and theatres that regularly host events through the year.

Hastings is also home to many festivals and events such as the Seafood and Wine Festival and Jack in the Green to name a couple.

In order to ensure that Hastings continues to be a wonderful place to live and work the Council set out its objectives and measures its performance against those objectives, continually striving to improve.

GENERAL INFORMATION

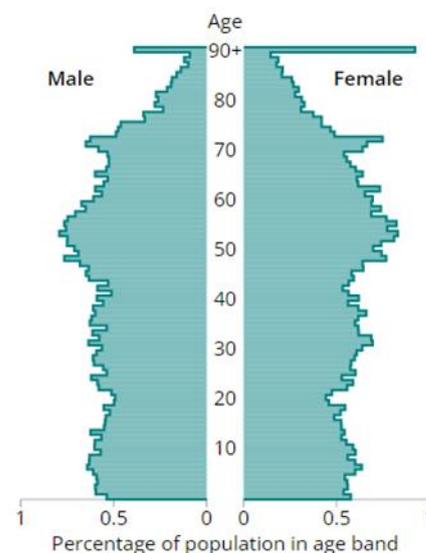
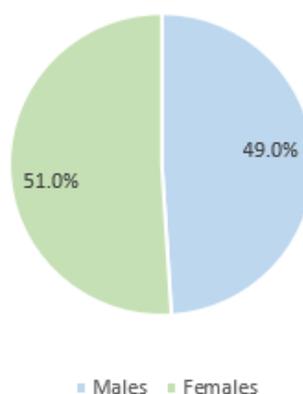
PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Hastings covers an area of **3,079 hectares**.
- The Council owns land amounting to approximately **1,000 hectares**.
- The length of the coastline is **12 kilometres/7.5 miles**.

POPULATION

The Town's estimated population taken from the 2021 Mid-year Population Estimate produced by the Office for National Statistics was 90,622 and is broken down as follows:

	Population	Percentage
Males	44,146	48.6%
Females	46,850	51.4%
Total	90,996	100%



The split of the population between male and female by age in shown in the charts above

The registered electorate in March 2022 was 65,196.

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COUNCIL TAX & BUSINESS RATING INFORMATION

Rateable value of business premises at 31 March 2023	£62,828,825
Council Tax Base (31 March 2023)	26,237
Council Tax at Band D - includes all preceptors (31 March 2023)	£2,219.29

EMPLOYEES

The average number of persons (FTE's) employed by the Council during the period was:

	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	
	2021-22	2022-23
Full time	255	243
Part time (full time equivalents)	41	41
Total	<u>296</u>	<u>284</u>

The direct cost of employment during the year was:

	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Wages and Salaries	10,149	10,256
National Insurance	938	999
Pension Contributions	1,628	1,627
Total	<u>12,715</u>	<u>12,882</u>

2. Governance

Hastings Borough Council sits within the County of East Sussex. The Council has 32 elected Councillors, also referred to as Members, and is split into 16 Wards with each Ward electing two Councillors. Councillors are not paid a salary for their work, but they do receive allowances. By law, all members of the Council are required to complete a declaration of interest form, the details of which are published annually. The council operates a Cabinet system of governance.

The Council has 7 Lead Councillors who are the leads for areas of strategy and work undertaken by council officers. Their roles include:

- Having a clear understanding of the relevant service areas objectives and performance against targets/project plans.
- Developing/maintaining positive working relationships with relevant senior officers (but not managing or directing the service staff).
- Developing/maintaining effective partnership relationships with relevant organisations e.g., businesses, voluntary, community groups or other public bodies.
- To keep abreast of good practice and national thinking/policy development related to their portfolio.
- To work with the Leader and Deputy Leader and other Lead Councillors team to give effective political leadership to HBC and its communities.

Full Council

All 32 Councillors meet, as Full Council and are responsible for the adoption of the corporate plan, budget and deciding the council's overall policies. Full Council meetings are chaired by the Mayor who is appointed each year at Annual Council. At the Annual Council meeting, Cabinet members are appointed to their portfolios, the composition of committees for the coming year is agreed and the programme for the year is adopted.

Full Council meets on average around seven times a year. All Council meetings are usually held in the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House and are generally open for the public to attend.

Cabinet

There are currently 7 members of cabinet (as at 31st March 2023), all of whom are from the Labour group. Each Cabinet member has a portfolio of responsibilities related to council services.

Cabinet is the main decision-making committee of the council. It also makes recommendations to Full Council on the adoption of the budget and other key documents and policies, including the Corporate Plan, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.

Cabinet meets every month and is chaired by the Leader of the Council. The forward plan lists the decisions Cabinet will be taking over the next four months.

Charity Committee

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Hastings Borough Council is the sole trustee of the Foreshore Trust. The Trust owns a stretch of land on the seafront at Hastings and St Leonards. To minimise and manage any potential conflicts of interest between the council and the charity, decision-making powers for the Foreshore Trust have been delegated to the Charity Committee, which is a Cabinet committee.

The Charity Committee is made up of three members of the council's Cabinet. The Charity Commission required the appointment of a Protector who acts as an independent watchdog over the Trust. Members of the Charity Committee take advice on the management of the Foreshore Trust's land from the Coastal Users Group. An independent Grant Advisory Panel was also set up to advise the Charity Committee on the allocation of grants from the Foreshore Trust's surplus.

The Charity Committee meets every three months.

Appointments committee

Council Appointments Committee is responsible for appointing elected members to represent the council on a variety of statutory bodies, charities and voluntary organisations operating in the town. Council Appointments Committee meets once a year. Extra meetings may be held at other times, if required.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors' performance against the targets set out in the council's corporate plan. The committee also identifies potential areas for improvement and explores options to develop council services. Members also undertake reviews which look at issues of local importance. Overview and Scrutiny Committee meet every three months.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee monitors the council's arrangements for financial governance and stewardship, risk management and audit. The committee also receives advice and reports from the council's external auditors. The Audit Committee produces an annual report to Full Council on the effectiveness of council's internal audit system. The committee has key responsibility for the oversight of the Treasury Management Strategy and approve the council's annual financial statement of accounts. The Audit Committee meets at least four times a year.

Environment and Safety Committee

The Environment and Safety Committee undertakes the council's functions in respect of Hackney carriage and private hire licenses.

Environment and Safety Committee meetings are not usually open for the public to attend because the committee often needs to consider detailed personal information about an applicant when making their decision. However, the minutes of the meeting can be viewed online.

Licensing Committee

The Licensing Committee undertakes the council's functions under the Licensing Act 2003 and gambling legislation.

The Licensing Committee usually delegates its responsibilities to a smaller sub-committee of members, who consider and make decisions on individual applications. The committee meetings are usually held in the Council Chamber at Muriel Matters House and are usually open for the public to attend. Paper copies of the agenda for Licensing Committee meetings are available on request from Democratic Services.

Planning Committee

Planning Committee is responsible for deciding applications for planning permission, listed building consent and conservation area consent. The council has produced a Planning Protocol, which sets out how it will deal with planning matters and this is included in part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

Planning Committee meets every month. The meetings are usually held in the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House and are open for the public to attend.

Standards Committee

Standards Committee promotes and maintains high standards of behaviour by ensuring all elected members comply with the council's code of conduct. A copy of the code of conduct from members can be found in part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

If a complaint is received about a member of Hastings Borough Council the committee may have to assess and investigate the case on advice from the Monitoring Officer. Full Standards Committee meetings are normally open for the public to attend, depending on the sensitivity of the complaint.

Employment Committee

The Employment Committee is responsible for the appointment and dismissal of Chief Officers of the council. In some cases, the committee may also assess and investigate a complaint against a chief officer of the council, acting on advice from the Monitoring Officer.

Museums Committee

The Museums Committee is responsible for overseeing the council's museum service and the maintenance of its collection. The committee reviews new donations as they are received and considers proposals for how the service could be developed in the future.

The committee has fourteen members, which includes eight councillors and six members of the Museums Association.

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Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership

The Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership brings together representatives from the local statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to address key local issues, discuss strategies and initiatives and shared learning. They aim to encourage joint working and prevent 'silo working' (i.e., different agencies that share aims working in isolation). Involvement of the community is a key aspect of local strategic partnerships.

The Hastings and St Leonards Local Strategic Partnership meets four times a year. The meetings are usually held in the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Hastings and are generally open for the public to attend.

Joint Waste and Recycling Committee

This Committee is made up of elected Member representatives from the Cabinets of each of the following authorities: East Sussex County Council; Hastings Borough Council; Rother District Council and Wealden District Council.

These authorities established the Committee with the intention of facilitating the authorities in working together to improve the quality and effectiveness of the discharge of their waste collection and recycling functions under the relevant provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Hastings Housing Company Ltd

in 2017/18 the Council established a wholly owned Housing Company limited by share - Hastings Housing Company Ltd. The company has been designed to initially acquire, develop, and deliver housing for both market rent, and to provide submarket housing, with the potential to undertake development in the future.

A key objective of the Housing Company is: To acquire existing or newly built property with a view to letting these to local people at market or submarket rents.

The company was in its early stages in 2017/18, having only purchased its first property in February 2018. Due to the immaterial nature of the transaction in 2017/18 Group Accounts were not required however they have been prepared for subsequent years.

To date the company has purchased 7 properties which are mainly residential, comprising of self-contained flats and rooms with shared facilities. There are also some elements of commercial lettings. These properties are managed by a letting agent and let at market rents. The company is not present actively acquiring additional properties.

Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust

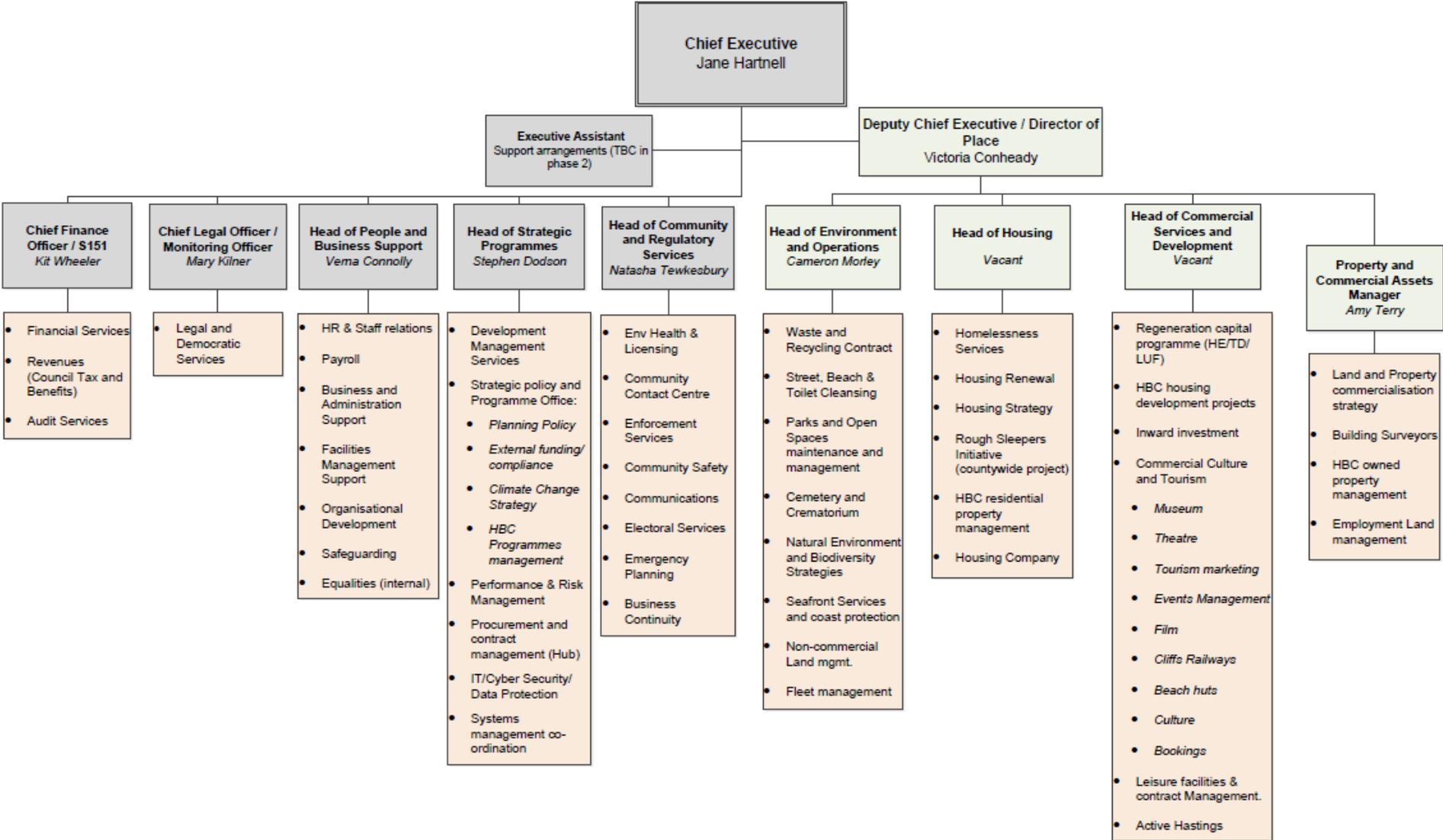
Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust is a charity registered at the Charity Commission under number 1105649 and is known locally as the Foreshore Trust. The foreshore is the area of the beach between high and low water which generally belongs to the Crown. In Hastings's case this area of land has been purchased off the Crown. The purpose of the trust is to hold the land for the 'common use, benefit and enjoyment of Her Majesty's subjects and the public generally for ever'. Hastings Borough Council is the trustee of the charity for all purposes and bound by charity law in the same way as any other charity trustee. When making decisions relating to or affecting the Charity, it must act in its best interests. The council administer the affairs of the Foreshore Trust, but the two separate entities are ring-fenced, and costs incurred by the Council in relation to the foreshore are recharged to the trust. The Foreshore Trust produces its own Statement of Accounts and is not within the Group boundary.

Management Structure of the Council

A partial senior management restructure was undertaken during 2020/21 which was concluded in the 2022/23 financial year. The delay in concluding the restructure was mainly due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The senior management structure as at 31st March 2023 is shown on the next page.

Phase 2 of the restructure has commenced in 2023/24. The new Heads will be working with colleagues to restructure their teams and ensure that where changes have been made, that we are clear when and where current duties and responsibilities are best re-allocated.

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3. Strategy, Risk and Resource Allocation

Corporate Plan – One council, making the difference.

The corporate plan is an important document that sets out the council's vision and priorities.

The council publishes a Corporate Plan each year. It tells residents, businesses, and our staff about the progress we have made to pursue key opportunities and some of the projects and activities we will be working on to continue to improve the town. It shows how we will ensure our services are available to and accessible by all.

Over the past decade our funding from the government has significantly decreased, making our job harder. Despite this challenge The Council remains as determined as ever to continue delivering the best services possible and the Corporate Plan reflects that determination. Full details of the [Corporate Plan](#) are available on the Council's website. The following section outlines the main areas within the plan:

Our Vision...

"The Renaissance of Hastings through social, economic, cultural and environmental regeneration"

Our mission is to:

"Build upon the town's strong community spirit, culture, diverse population and extraordinary natural environment to create a safer, healthier more prosperous sustainable and more prosperous place with lasting opportunities for everyone."

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Council looks to forecast its financial position over the medium term in order to ensure it can align corporate objectives with available resources. This Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) seeks to identify the financial risks that will affect the annual budgets for the current year and each of the next 3 years, and the anticipated resources that will be available to the Council. The MTFS is a key document in setting out the Council's approach to establishing a financial base to enable the Council's policies and priorities to be delivered.

Good financial management requires councils to properly plan for the future in order to match longer term ambitions and plans with anticipated resources. At present with increased inflation, spiking interest rates, the threat of a recession looming and delays to the government's spending review and the Fair Funding Review there are an even greater number of financial uncertainties than normal. This causes problems when seeking to accurately forecast available resources for the years ahead. The MTFS seeks to identify these uncertainties, and where possible make an informed view of the likely resource implications. Where there is no clarity as yet, generally, a prudent approach is adopted.

Expenditure on homelessness continues to rise and is a key area of concern for the council. The council has setup a homelessness taskforce to identify the drivers of the increased expenditure and to try and alleviate the impact. The leader of the council has written to advise the Government and seek additional income. In parallel to this action, the Council needs to address the ongoing budget deficits - however difficult this is after many years of funding reductions.

For financial planning purposes, the assumption in this MTFS was for no overall reduction in Settlement Funding Assessments (government funding and retained business rates) for 2023/24 i.e., a standstill settlement. The years thereafter assume continued funding levels (business rates) of similar amounts and increasing annually by inflation, but this may well be overly optimistic given the state of the country's finances.

Finances are managed by matching Council priorities to funding across the medium term; The MTFS identifies the risks that the Council faces in doing so. The annual budget cycle refines the process for the immediate year ahead and determines the most appropriate use of available resources as well as setting the Council Tax for the borough.

The [Medium Term Financial Position update](#) approved by Cabinet in September 2022, provided a projected MTFS position and action plan to ensure members were in a position to reduce the current year projected deficit and to produce a balanced budget for 2023/24. The MTFS was then subsequently updated within the [Budget Report](#) to Council in February 2023.

Given the need to plan for future years, the MTFS, identifies key principles to be followed when compiling the budget as well as identifying the financial risks and opportunities more closely. The Financial Strategy integrates the financial and policy planning procedures of the Council. The robustness of the Strategy is built upon a foundation of key principles:

I. Ensure the continued alignment of the Council's available resources to its priorities.

All key decisions of the Council relate to the Corporate Plan. Priorities are determined and reviewed in the light of any changes to the Plan. However, the spiralling homelessness costs are necessitating a wholesale review of what is actually deliverable in the future given the statutory burdens being placed on the Council.

II. Maintain a sustainable revenue budget.

This means meeting recurring expenditure from recurring resources. Conversely non-recurring resources such as reserves and balances can generally be used to meet non-recurring expenditure providing sufficient reserves and balances exist. Whilst the principle remains sound the Council had consciously strengthened its reserves in previous years, knowing that these will be required to ease the transition to a lower spending Council and to meet key corporate priorities. The Council has required the use of these reserves to achieve balanced budgets in every year since 2018/19 and will need to do so again in 2023/24.

III. Adequate Provisions are made to meet all outstanding liabilities.

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IV. Continue to identify and make efficiency savings.

Each year there is a thorough examination of the Council's "base budgets" to identify efficiency savings and to ensure existing spend is still a Council priority (Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews – PIER). The Council established an Invest to Save Reserve to assist in this regard.

V. Review relevant fees and charges comprehensively and identify Income generating areas as a means of generating additional funding for re-investment in priority services.

VI. Capital receipts and reserves will primarily be available for new investment of a non-recurring nature thereby minimising the overall financial risk.

Resources will be allocated to invest in the Council's assets to ensure they support the delivery of corporate and service priorities.

VII. Ensure sufficient reserves are maintained.

The Council has needed to use its reserves in recent years to balance its budget following reductions in government funding and ever-increasing costs, in particular housing over the last few years. Volatility within business rates and the Council Tax Support scheme resulted in the establishment of a separate reserve to smooth some of the impact of income fluctuations. The useable earmarked reserves are reducing rapidly, as are General Reserves and this will impact significantly on Council priorities in future years and its ability to provide services or undertake new projects – let alone meet unforeseen costs.

VIII. Ensure value for money is achieved in the delivery of all services and that the Council seeks continuous improvement of all services.

It should be noted that the last report produced by the Council's external auditors on the Final Accounts gave a positive opinion on the Council's provision of value for money services. The level of scrutiny by external audit on achieving Best Value has increased significantly with additional requirements being placed on external auditors to report more fully.

IX. Maintain affordable increases in Council Tax whilst accepting that such an objective is linked to the amount of annual Government grant, inflation, and new legislative requirements.

The Council is increasing Council Tax by the maximum permitted without a costly referendum, while supporting the most vulnerable through the Council Tax Support/ Reduction scheme.

X. Recognise the importance of partners in delivering cost effective solutions for services.

The level of risk that the Council is facing from fluctuations in income streams has increased significantly particularly where there is reliance on commercial property income. This is recognised by the government and Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) resulting in new codes of practice and government regulations. These have been introduced to help ensure that Councils do not over-extend themselves in this challenging environment.

Key prudential indicators are included in the Treasury Management Strategy, Additional guidance was received in November 2019 from CIPFA – "Prudential Property Investment" and a whole new Code of Practice was introduced for 2022/23 – as detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy.

The MTFs and Corporate Plan are regularly reviewed to ensure that the Council is well-placed to react to the new challenges it faces. The budget for 2023/24 was balanced by the use of reserves and more work is needed to identify further savings and efficiencies to balance the budget for future years – particularly given the impact of inflation and the increased cost of living on income levels, expenditure pressures and the additional impact on the Council's limited reserves.

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The table below, included with the 2023/24 budget report, shows the projected deficits in the years ahead.

Revenue Budget Forward Plan	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Opening Service Expenditure		16,184	14,812	13,478	11,742
Additional Growth Items		271	(124)	0	0
Savings/Additional Income Identified		(1,433)	(1,260)	(1,535)	(1,000)
Income - re Schemes in Capital Programme		(500)	(215)	(431)	0
Direct Service Expenditure (Net)	17,217	14,522	13,213	11,512	10,742
Funding Commitments:-					
Reimbursement of Election Costs (bi-annually)		0	(70)	0	0
Fees and Charges		0	(367)	(587)	(734)
Other:					
Contingency Provision	0	300	300	300	300
Interest (net of Fees) & other Adjustments	985	1,933	3,009	2,994	3,103
Minimum Revenue Provision (excl. Inc Gen Adj)	920	995	1,397	1,760	1,760
Contribution to Reserves	689	689	689	689	689
Net Use of Earmarked Reserves	(3,082)	(1,916)	(1,916)	(1,916)	(1,916)
Net Council Expenditure	16,729	16,523	16,256	14,752	13,944
Taxbase	26,237	26,473	26,738	27,005	27,275
Council Tax	281.67	290.09	295.86	301.75	307.76
Funding					
From Collection Fund - Council Tax	(7,390)	(7,680)	(7,911)	(8,149)	(8,394)
From Collection Fund - Business Rates	(2,303)	(2,830)	(2,887)	(2,944)	(3,003)
Revenue Support Grant	(1,041)	(1,309)	(1,309)	(1,309)	(1,309)
2022/23 Services Grant	(263)	0	0	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	(175)	(154)	(154)	(154)	(154)
New Homes Bonus	(158)	(16)	0	0	0
Council Tax Support Admin Grant	(157)	(157)	(157)	(157)	(157)
Housing Benefit Admin Grant	(425)	(425)	(425)	(425)	(425)
NNDR (Surplus) / Deficit	379	1,619	0	0	0
NNDR Pooling	0	(193)	(193)	(193)	(193)
Business Rates Section 31 Grant	(1,788)	(2,645)	(1,500)	(1,530)	(1,561)
Council Tax - Section 31 Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Surplus	(48)	(207)	(207)	(207)	(207)
Contribution To General Fund	(13,369)	(13,997)	(14,742)	(15,068)	(15,403)
Funding Shortfall / (Surplus)	3,360	2,526	1,513	(316)	(1,459)
(Use of) / Trf to General Reserve	(3,260)	(1,626)	(1,513)	316	1,459
Use of Resilience and Stability Reserve	(100)	(900)	0	0	0
Net Funding Shortfall / (Surplus)	0	0	0	0	0
General Reserve Balance (31st March)	6,438	4,812	3,299	3,615	5,074

Capital Strategy

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) revised 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy report, which seeks to provide the following:

- a high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services.
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed.
- the implications for future financial sustainability

The Council's [Capital Strategy for 2023/24](#) was approved by Full Council in February 2023 and is available on the Councils website. The aim of this capital strategy is to ensure that all elected members on the Full Council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

This capital strategy is reported separately from the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; non-treasury investments will be reported through the capital Strategy and the budget report. This ensures the separation of the core treasury function under security, liquidity and yield principles, and the policy and commercialism investments usually driven by expenditure on an asset.

Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews (PIER)

Due to the financial pressures the Council is under it has developed the PIER process to enable a detailed examination of service performance and priorities, cost pressures, and the scope for achieving efficiency savings and additional income.

The objectives of the process are as follows:

- To provide services with an opportunity to submit proposals for the business plan. The proposals include all unavoidable growth and savings amounts.

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- To allow service delivery proposals to be measured against the corporate plan objectives.
- To provide a mechanism for challenging service proposals in an informed, robust, and constructive fashion.
- The revenue estimates and the capital programme are closely linked. As such service bids for capital funding are considered at the same stage.

In addition to the annual Strategic Budget (PIER) process the Council continues to have a programme of areas to review e.g., service reviews, and business reengineering process reviews in order that efficiencies continue to be achieved, monitored and potential new areas identified.

The scale of the budget savings required to balance the budget on a sustainable basis for years ahead is large. The time between the identification and the achievement of savings, as well as income generation, can be significant. The Council has been prepared to use a proportion of its reserves to balance the budget and for future invest to save initiatives. The impact of Covid-19, the level of future government funding along with predicted increased levels of demand e.g., homelessness will require the Council to further prioritise services and preserve reserves; if reserves fall below minimum levels these will need to be restored as soon as practical.

Income Generation

The Council has a number of key income streams besides Council Tax and Business Rates. These include for example car parking, rents from land, industrial estates and shopping centres, cemetery, cliff railways, planning, licensing, lettings, and land charges.

The Council stepped up the level of income it is receiving from property in recent years and continues to seek to diversify its income streams further e.g., from energy.

Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) - Property and Diversified Income Fund

CCLA manage investments for charities, religious organisations, and the public sector. In February 2017, the Council invested £2,000,000 of its reserves in the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund with an aim to diversify its investments and seek to generate a better return. During the 2019/20 financial year the council invested £3,000,000 in the CCLA Diversified Income Fund (DIF). These are longer term investment (5 years plus) as the capital value can go up as well as down.

The objective of the Property Fund is to provide investors with a high level of income and long-term capital appreciation. The fund is considered suitable for the long-term funds of any local authority seeking exposure to UK commercial property. An advisory board for the fund has been established to represent the interests of investors and the public sector as a whole. The advisory board meet quarterly with the manager of the fund, CCLA, to provide guidance and monitor the management and development of the fund.

4. Performance Review

Revenue

The Council has continued to perform well despite continued budget cuts and pressure on services.

The summary table below shows outturn for the year. The total direct service expenditure is £16.522m.

The 2022/23 Financial monitoring Quarter 4 outturn position was reported to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on July 27th, 2023.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The following table compares the major elements of the budget against the outturn for General Fund services in 2022/23:

Foreword Revenue Outturn

	2022-23	2022-23	
	Original Budget	Actual Outturn	Variance
Directorates	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Resources	2,634	2,951	317
Operational Services	10,597	13,571	2,974
Contingencies	300	0	(300)
Direct Service Expenditure	13,531	16,522	2,991
Net Interest Payments	1,581	644	(937)
Loss on Investments	0	264	264
Covid Grants	0	3,905	3,905
CTR - Energy Rebate	0	223	223
Other operating costs	1,741	870	(871)
Net Council Expenditure	16,853	22,428	5,575
Less Government Grant	(2,221)	(7,503)	(5,282)
Less retained business rates	(4,404)	(2,030)	2,374
Collection Fund Surplus	331	5,920	5,589
Council Tax	(7,390)	(7,390)	0
Net expenditure excluding reserve movements	3,169	11,425	8,256
Contributions to reserves	689	679	(10)
Revenue use of earmarked reserves	(1,528)	(10,730)	(9,202)
Transfer to/(from) Specific Reserve	(2,330)	(1,375)	955
Rounding	0	1	1
Net budget surplus transferred to General Reserve	0	0	0

Whilst there are numerous under and overspends the most significant variances were as follows:

Corporate Resources

Corporate Resources shows an overspend of £317,000 against the original 2022/23 budget.

- Revenues and Benefits are showing an overspend of £264,831 due to a delay in the planned restructure of the service. This has led to the continuation of the temporary staffing structure and reliance on additional agency members of staff longer than anticipated, coupled with additional demand placed on the team to deal with extra grant schemes throughout the financial year. A full restructure is currently in process and will be concluded in the next financial year.
- Housing Benefit is showing an overspend of £454,148. This is in relation to lower than budget income for Housing Benefits Overpayments (HBOP). The budget was set at £896,440 which is in line with previous years, however the charge to the bad debts provision was larger than budget.
- Finance Other Expenditure and Income is showing an underspend of (£214,334). Various accounts on the balance sheet have been reviewed and old balances written off resulting in a credit of (£118,600).
- Corporate Management Costs is showing an overspend of £131,371, of this £90,000 is due to consultancy work undertaken by the Councils Treasury Advisors to perform a review on the current method of calculating Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) payments and to provide suggested alternative methods. This review has identified in year savings of approximately £837k which have been added to the monitoring with the savings shown under the "Provision for the Repayment of Principal (MRP)" line. Additional external audit costs of £58,800 have been accrued for the audits taking place for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The cost of the audit work is partly offset by a grant of (£18,400) that has been received.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Operational Services

Operational Services shows a overspend of £2,974,000.

Parking Services

The Parking Service is showing a overspend of £100,833 against the budget.

- The parking income is showing reduced income of £84,264. This is mainly due to lower fee income received at the sport centre car parks £50,000, the closing of Cornwallis car park £70,000 and a reduction in season ticket sales £25,000. This is partly offset by (£75,000) underspend as the recharge to the Foreshore Trust was lower due to reduced income being received.
- The remaining balance is made up from other minor variances.

Housing and Built Environment

The service is showing an overspend of £2.997m against the 2022/23 budget.

- Dangerous Structures work at Battle Road was expected to cost £522,500 to be funded from the General Reserve.
- Development Management is showing an overspend of £125,506 against the original budget. Two additional staff were agreed mid-year by SLT at a cost of £53,000 each. Agency staff are being used to cover vacant posts costing £100,000. These overspends are offset in part by a number of small underspends including Legal Fees (£13,200) and Postage (£10,500).
- The Homelessness budget is forecasting an overspend of £2,384,699. This is due to the rising costs of temporary housing coupled with the number of clients presenting as homeless increasing.
- Rough Sleepers cost an additional £147,795 due to the continuation of the "off the street" discretionary placements offer.

Council Tax

The balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund at 31 March 2023 was a surplus of £3,864,785, of which the Council's share was £461,630.

NNDR

The rateable value of business premises at 31 March 2023 was £61,029,781 compared to £62,828,825 at 31 March 2022. This change reflects the movements on the 2010 and 2017 rating lists and property revaluations.

Excluding multiple appeals there were 258 appeals outstanding, with a total rateable value of £11.0m. There are a number of multiple appeals for the same property, making an accurate estimate of the liability very difficult.

The net collectable sum for the year was £17,939,418, which is £1,999,267 less than original forecast (NNDR1) of £19,938,685. This is directly related to the impact of Covid, and it also partially reflects additional reliefs imposed by the Government, for which the Council is compensated by Section 31 grants. The NNDR element of the Collection Fund has a deficit balance of £2.3m (the Council's share is £0.9m of the overall deficit).

Material Assets/Liabilities

The Council did not purchase any significant assets during the year:

No new material liabilities have been incurred during the financial year.

Pension

The net long term pension liability decreased during the year, moving from a liability of £31.0m to an asset of £1.3m. The prescribed method for measuring the liability in accounting terms relates to investment values as at 31 March each year, and discounts liabilities according to the low rates of interest currently prevailing. Changes in discount rates can trigger wide fluctuations in values from year to year, but these do not therefore necessarily correspond with the longer-term view of contribution rates required to maintain the Council's need to provide for pension payments over the longer term. The valuation at the 31 March has been impacted by the McCloud judgement.

NARRATIVE REPORT

2023/24 Budget

The table below summarises planned net expenditure on services for 2023/24, compared to 2022/23, and shows how this is funded from government grants, business rates and council tax. The Council's target of a balanced budget is being achieved by matching planned expenditure to income from fees, charges, government grants, council tax and non-domestic rates and use of reserves. The sum of £3,752,894 is identified within the budget as being required from reserves to fund the 2023/24 deficit.

	2022-23 Original Budget	2023-24 Original Budget	Variance 2022-23 to 2023-24
	£000	£000	£000
Direct Service Expenditure	13,532	14,822	1,290
Net interest payments	1,580	1,933	353
Other operating costs	1,741	995	(746)
Revenue contribution to capital	0	0	0
Net Contribution to / (from) Reserves	(3,169)	(3,753)	(584)
Net Council Expenditure	13,684	13,997	313
Less Government Grant :-			
Revenue Support Grant	(1,041)	(1,309)	(268)
Other general Grants	(1,180)	(752)	428
Retained business rates	(4,404)	(5,668)	(1,264)
Collection Fund Surplus	331	1,412	1,081
Amount to be met by Council Tax Payers	7,390	7,680	290

End of Year Performance 2022/23

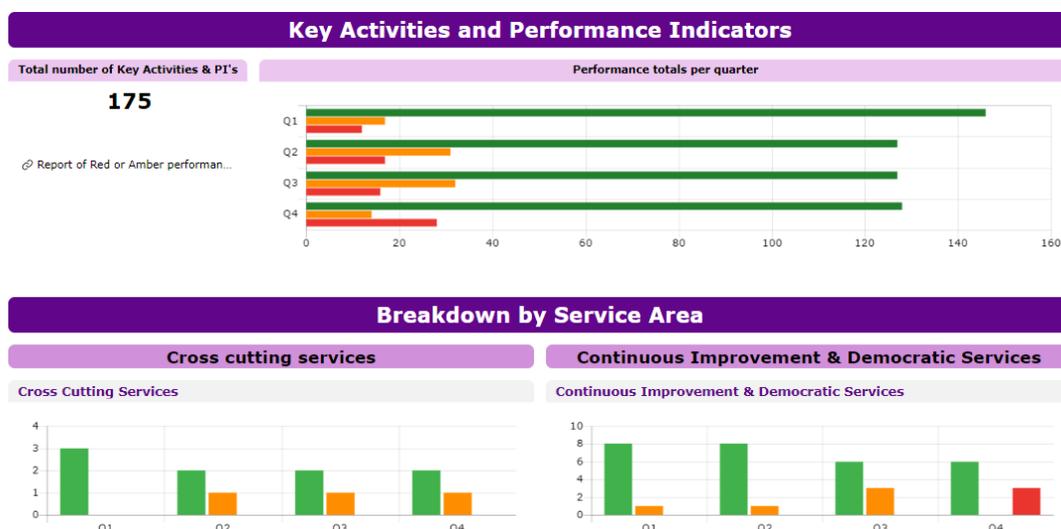
As part of our continuous improvement to provide the latest information to stakeholders, during 2020/21 we changed the way that we report our performance measures. These are now much more user intuitive, and interactive and can be found online to allow users to better understand how we have performed throughout the financial year.

All the information can be found at the following website address:

<https://www.hastings.gov.uk/my-council/performance>

As in previous years target for all the indicators included in the reports are discussed with Heads of Services and Senior Officers and are regularly discussed with Councillors throughout the financial year. The targets are reviewed each year and changed according to the requirements of the Council and therefore may increase or decrease in number.

Key extracts from the performance management system are shown below. The graphs represent how progress is going against the 175 key activities and performance indicators targets that the council has set. A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) system is used to show if performance is on target or not.



NARRATIVE REPORT

Environment & Place

Enforcement



Parks & Open Spaces



Community Safety



Cemetery & Crematorium



Licensing



Environmental Health



Waste



Financial Services

Revenues & Benefits



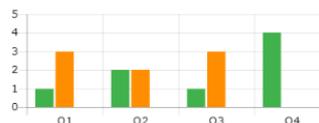
Finance



Audit



Building Surveyors

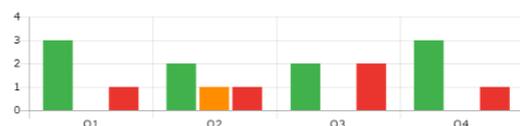


Estates



Housing & Built Environment

Housing Renewal



Housing Options



Strategic Housing

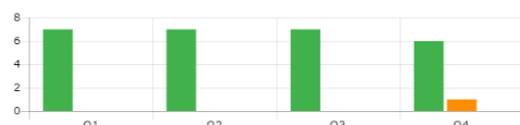


Planning Services

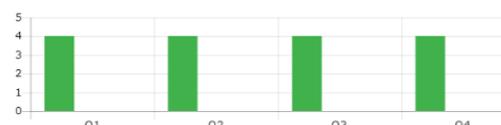


Legal & Electoral Services

Legal



Electoral Services



People, Customer & Business Support

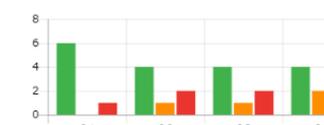
Business Support



Contact Centre



HR



NARRATIVE REPORT

Regeneration & Culture

Museum & Cultural Development



Economic Development



Planning Policy



Tackling Climate Change



Leisure Development



Tourist Information Centre



Regeneration



Resort Services



Transformation

Transformation & Digital First



ICT



Communications



Capital Expenditure

The Council spent £9,660,616 on capital projects during 2022/23, as summarised below:

Scheme	2022-23	2022-23	2022/23
	Revised Budget	Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Private Sector Renewal Support	6	13	7
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,931	1,328	(603)
Road above Pelham Arcade	603	0	(603)
Work on Harbour Arm and New Groynes	266	32	(234)
Further Sea Defence works	34	36	2
Playgrounds Upgrade Programme	83	38	(45)
Conversion of 12/13 York Buildings	16	63	47
Energy - Solar Panels	638	0	(638)
Buckshole and Shornden Reservoirs	991	910	(81)
Priory Meadow Contribution to Capital Works	250	0	(250)
Lower Bexhill Road	1	0	(1)
Churchfields Business Centre	3,380	3,021	(359)
Development / Furbishment of Lacuna Place	141	27	(114)
Cornwallis Street Development	280	238	(42)
Harold Place Restaurant Devt	30	9	(21)
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	0	8	8
Priory Street Works	41	0	(41)
S151 Towns Fund Capital	2,029	2,389	360
Next Steps Accommodation Pathway	1,714	969	(745)
Castleham Industrial Units	325	121	(204)
Bexhill Road South (Housing & Car Park)	1,075	0	(1,075)
MUGA Refurbishments	80	31	(49)
RSI Mobile Health Unit	44	44	0
East Hill Cliff Railway	0	226	226
Hastings Retail Park	0	158	158
Total	13,958	9,661	(4,297)

NARRATIVE REPORT

This capital expenditure was financed as shown below:-

	£'000
Capital receipts	3,777
Government grants and other contributions:	
towards assets	4,556
towards REFCUS	1,328
Sums set aside from revenue and reserves	0
Borrowing	0
	9,661

Borrowing Facilities

Total loans outstanding owed to external sources for capital spending amount to £65.4m as at 31st March 2023. Under the Prudential Code for borrowing the Council's Capital Financing Requirement is £72.1m. The difference relates to the use of existing financial resources (internal borrowing) until such time as external borrowing is undertaken.

Reserves

The Council has set aside reserves for a number of purposes, including provision for the renewal and repair of equipment, repair, and maintenance of buildings, yet to be spent Government Grants and the financing of capital expenditure.

The balance on these reserves at 31st March 2023 is £19.18 million compared with £30.60 million at 31st March 2022. The movement on Earmarked Reserves is detailed in Note 12 of the accounts.

Non-Domestic Rates

From 1 April 2013 the regime around the income that Local Authorities collect from business rates changed from one where the authority collected purely on behalf of Central Government to one where this income is shared between Central Government, Local Authorities and major precepting bodies. This change affected the retention of the income collected and introduced a risk to the Council for failure to collect rates in comparison with a predetermined "Start-Up" funding assessment.

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and retains 40% of it, for its own use, the remainder being passed on to the Government (50%), East Sussex County Council (9%); and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority Service (1%). This activity involves the usual risk of non-payment, mitigated by managing the allowance for impairment of debt. There is also the risk of losses from appeals against the values determined by the Valuation Offices. Prior to 31 March 2015 appeals could be backdated to 1 April 2010, when the 2010 list came into operation. Appeals relating to the 2010 list after the start of 2015/16 can only be backdated to 1 April 2015. At 31st March 2023, the Council's provision for losses on appeal stood at £2.5m which is a reduction of £1.0m on the March 2022 provision. This Council's share of the total potential liability is £1.0m (40% of the total).

Conclusion

Hastings Borough Council continued to perform well despite cuts to funding and the challenging economic climate. The Council has embarked on an ambitious transformation programme and income generation strategy to meet expectations and help preserve the local economy.

5. Explanation of the Financial Statements

Annual Financial Report

The annual financial report is made up as follows:

(i) Expenditure summaries

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council on the basis of budget reports analysed across directorates.

These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- no charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation, and impairment losses in excess of the balance on the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)
- the cost of retirement benefits is based on cash flows (payment of employer's pension contributions) rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year.

(ii) Annual Governance Statement

Issues relating to governance and internal financial controls are particularly pertinent to the preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts. Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires authorities to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control. Having considered the findings of the review, members are then required to approve an annual governance statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

(iii) Statement of Responsibilities

The Statement of Responsibility sets out the general responsibilities of both the Council and the Chief Finance Officer, in making proper financial arrangements and in maintaining financial records.

(iv) Independent Auditor's report

NARRATIVE REPORT

(v) Statement of Accounts.

The Statement of Accounts consists of the following:

a) The Core Accounting Statements

The following four statements show in broad terms where the Council's money comes from, what it is spent on, and what services it provides.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into "usable reserves" (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and "other reserves." The Surplus (or Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund for tax setting purposes (see Note 6 for details). The line entitled "Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves" shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

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

Balance Sheet

This shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first grouping is of usable reserves, i.e., those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (such as the Capital Reserve being used to fund capital expenditure). The second grouping includes reserves that hold unrealised gains or losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations."

Cash Flow Statement

This shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing, and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of the services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the amount to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute towards the Council's future service delivery.

- b) Notes to the Core Financial Statements, which include explanations and more detailed information.
- c) Group Accounts - These accounts show the material interests that the Council has in its subsidiary companies. The group accounts are structured in line with the Council's core accounting statements and are accompanied by notes in the same way.
- d) The Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account - the Council is required to maintain a Collection Fund to receive sums by way of Council Tax and Business Rates.

Payments out include sums required by precepting bodies such as the East Sussex County Council, the Police and the Council's own General Fund, the contribution to the Government for Business Rates and other amounts relating to the operation of the Fund.

Accounting Policies

This Statement of Accounts, in common with those for the whole of the public sector, is compiled in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The detailed requirements relating to local authorities are brought together in the CIPFA Code of Practice and summarised in the notes on accounting policies.

Going Concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The concept of a going concern assumes that an authority's functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The provisions in the Code in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate. The Code confirms that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting.

6. Further Information

Further information about the accounts is available from Financial Services at the address shown on page 2.

SERVICE MEASURES

2021-22		2022-23
	<i>Numbers of:</i>	
12,272	Museum visitors	27,556
88,592	East Hill Cliff Railway users	75,616
23,963	West Hill Cliff Railway users	80,471
19	Public Conveniences	19
188	Burials	201
81,551	Grave spaces	81,661
1,413	Cremations	1,472
3,524,149	Dustbins Emptied (Bin Equivalents)	3,679,983
10,023	Recycling tonnage	9,616
980	Planning Applications	839
2	Conservation Area Projects	2
203	Building Regulation Applications	232
678	Local Land Charges (full searches only)	622
2,153	Car Parking Spaces (Off-Street)	2,103
3,875	Penalty Charge Notices issued	4,546
1,357	Licences Issued	1,489
278	Food Hygiene Inspections	247
137	Health & Safety Inspections	139
65,196	Local Electorate	64,720
100	Number of Factory Units	129
270	Kilometres of Streets maintained within the Borough	270
1,899,681	Rental Income from Factory Units (£)	1,750,061

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023

1. Scope of responsibility

1.1. Hastings Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Hastings Borough Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

1.2. In discharging this overall responsibility, Hastings Borough Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions which includes arrangements for the management of risk. Hastings Borough Council has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework "Delivering good governance in local government" (2016 Edition).

1.3. A copy of the code is on our website at www.hastings.gov.uk.

1.4. This statement explains how Hastings Borough Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4 (2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

2. The purpose of the governance framework

2.1.. The governance framework, whilst not currently set out in a single document comprises the systems and processes, culture and values for the direction and control of the authority and its activities through which it accounts to, engages and leads the community. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

2.2.. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable and agreed level. It cannot eliminate all risks to the achievement of policies, aims and objectives and therefore provides a reasonable rather than an absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Hastings Borough Council policies, aims and objectives, delivery of our statutory duties, and to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

3. Review of effectiveness

3.1. Hastings Borough Council reviews the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, including its system of internal control, on an ongoing basis. This review of effectiveness is informed by:

- the work of Councillors through the Cabinet, Committees including , Audit Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committees generally and the full Council;
- the work of Senior Leadership Team and managers within the Council, who have primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control environment;
- the work of the Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer in fulfilling their specific statutory duties
- the work of the Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) and Senior Data Protection Officer
- the risk management arrangements, including the maintenance and regular review of strategic risks by Senior Leadership Team and service risks by management teams;
- the work of the internal audit service including their quarterly progress reports, on-going action tracking arrangements and overall annual report and opinion;
- the external auditors in their audit annual letter and annual governance report;
- the judgements of a range of external inspection and other statutory bodies including the Local Government Ombudsman, Information Commissioner, Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

4. Key elements of the governance and internal control environments

4.1. The key elements that comprise the Council's governance arrangements area Corporate Plan that sets out our vision for the community and the outcomes we intend to achieve;

- an established medium term planning process including the process for reconciling policy priorities with financial resources, which takes account of performance and the need to improve both customer focus and efficiency;
- a business planning and performance management framework which includes setting clear objectives and targets, both financial governance and risk assessment.
- regular reporting of performance against the Council's key objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan, to senior officers and Councillors;
- established budgeting systems, clear budget management guidance and regular reporting of financial performance against budget forecasts to officers and Councillors;
- financial management structures which promote ownership of financial issues within service departments.
- compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer;
- the Council's Constitution which sets out clear arrangements for decision making, scrutiny, communication and the delegation of powers to officers
- codes of conduct for Councillors and employees which set out clear expectations for standards of behaviour;
- a clear framework for financial governance based on the agreed Financial Operating Procedures.
- a risk management framework, which takes account of both strategic and operational risks and ensures that they are appropriately considered, managed, controlled and reported.
- committees with clear responsibilities for audit and standards;
- established arrangements for dealing with complaints and whistle-blowing, and combating fraud and corruption;
- schemes for identifying the development needs of Councillors and officers, supported by appropriate training and development opportunities;
- strategies for communication engagement and consultation with local people and our key stakeholders;
- clear guidance that promotes good governance in our partnership working;
- a range of policies and processes designed to ensure best practice and legal compliance for personnel matters, ICT security, access to information, data protection and project management.

5. Assurance and Significant Governance Issues

5.1. No assurance can ever be absolute; however, this statement seeks to provide a reasonable assurance that there are no significant weaknesses in the Council's governance arrangements. The Council has recognised that there are areas for improvement, these have been reviewed and actions are being implemented immediately and will continue to do so during 2023/24, with the intention of implementing these in 2023/24.

5.2. The Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion would ordinarily provide an opinion on the adequacy of Hastings Borough Council's control environment as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources. The Council must have in place effective internal audit arrangements to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.

5.3. Annually, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide an overall opinion on the Council's internal control environment, risk management arrangements and governance framework to support the Annual Governance Statement and this is provided in the Annual Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion.

5.4. However, as a result of some historic weaknesses within the Council's approach to internal audit and due to changes in the Internal Audit arrangements between 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial years, this opinion has not been able to be reached. As a result, there was a separate internal review report provided to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer by the incoming Internal Auditors highlighting areas of weaknesses and improvements required for the forthcoming financial year.

5.5. The Council's new Internal Auditors (Orbis Internal Audit) have subsequently presented to councillors and staff around the new arrangements and plans for strengthening internal audit over the forthcoming financial year..

5.6. Therefore, and as part of Orbis's internal review, they have identified several gaps in assurance over key risks. These included, but not limited to, the lack of Internal Audit reports presented to Audit Committee as a result of lack of staffing capacity throughout the last financial year. It was also highlighted that the Internal Audit

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

team had been involved in day to day operations of other council activities which impacted on the service both in terms of capacity but also potentially compromising the team's professional independence.

5.7. These were issues also raised and presented to councillors in the External Auditors (Grant Thornton) Value for Money report presented to Audit Committee in January 2023.

5.8. The Council will therefore work with the new internal auditors to monitor and address the issues raised that may seriously prejudice or prevent achievement of its key objectives through its strategic risk review process, and this process is already underway.

5.9. The Council has undertaken a senior management restructure with a new Senior Leadership Team in post from April 2023. This Team is responsible together with the Statutory Officers for keeping governance and internal control arrangements under review to ensure that they continue to operate effectively and meet changing needs and reflect best practice. This Team will be monitoring implementation and effectiveness of the new measures and improvements identified along with the support and advice of the newly appointed Internal Auditors.

6. Resource allocation

Corporate Plan –

6.1. The council agreed its four-year Corporate Plan in 2020 and set out its vision and objectives for the period up to the end of 2023/24.

6.2. While these ambitions remain, the global, national and local landscape has changed significantly, and the council is now working in a very different social, economic, financial and political context.

6.3. The council takes these challenges very seriously and has had to change the way it works since COVID-19, and will continue to address these through our work in 2022/23, starting new conversations about our role and how we will work in the future.

6.4. The corporate plan is an important document that sets out the council's vision and priorities. The council publishes a full corporate plan every four years with an update published each year. It tells residents, businesses and our staff about the progress we have made to pursue key opportunities and some of the projects and activities we will be working on to continue to improve the town. It shows how we will ensure our services are available to and accessible by all.

6.5. Since 2010/11 funding from the government has continually decreased making our job harder. Despite this challenge, the Council remains as determined as ever to continue delivering the best services possible and the Corporate Plan reflects that determination.

Our Vision, Mission and Values can be found in the Corporate Plan at: [Corporate plan \(hastings.gov.uk\)](https://www.hastings.gov.uk/corporate-plan)

7. Our position – for 2022/23

7.1. We remain passionate about Hastings, ambitious for the town, and determined to find new and effective ways of delivering for all our residents. One of the positive aspects of COVID-19 has been the effective new partnerships which bring together the council with our innovative voluntary sector, as well as key agencies such as the NHS, East Sussex College and local business.

7.2. Increasingly we recognise that councils can only deliver transformation through these partnerships, and so as we focus more on enabling, new platforms that provide ways for local expertise in different fields to be heard are needed.

7.3. Having less funding each year to deliver services which cost more to provide is challenging. We need to address a budget deficit.

To achieve this we must:

- Prioritise the resources we do have on what we legally must do.
- Invest our resources where they will deliver the best outcomes for our residents.
- Continue to implement new ways of working to meet our vision and priorities.
- Continue to reduce our operational costs, further improving efficiency by getting more services online.
- Continue to realise opportunities to generate income in creative, fair and sustainable ways.
- Continue to take opportunities to tackle climate change
- Our corporate plan guides our work to help meet these challenges and realise our opportunities.

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8. Our priorities

8.1. During 22/23 we have reviewed our priorities for 23/24 which can be found at:

[2023-24 Corporate Plan update \(hastings.gov.uk\)](https://www.hastings.gov.uk/2023-24-Corporate-Plan-update)

8.2. The Council's corporate plan continues to remain ambitious when set against the background of reductions in annual grant settlements. The Council has a very good track record of achieving its objectives and improving performance and will look to enhance income streams to continue to provide high quality services.

8.3. It continues to deliver the programme in 2023/24 with significantly reduced resources and continuing financial pressures which will however inevitably impact on service delivery in the years ahead.

9. Risk and Performance Management

9.1. The Council has an Internal Audit function which has changed recently, but also continues to be in dialogue with its External Auditors. External Audit also reviews compliance with policies, procedures, laws and regulations within their remit.

9.2. Hastings Borough Council has continued to enhance and strengthen its internal control environment through the introduction and updating of new policies and procedures.

9.3. The Risk Champion is the Chief Executive

9.4. The Corporate Risk Management Group also incorporates the Health & Safety framework.

9.5. The Council has a Whistle Blowing Policy based on the British Standards model that enables staff, contractors, councillors or the public to confidentially raise with the council any suspicions they may have. There is also a dedicated fraud hotline. The Council also has a customer compliments, comments and complaints system that is monitored by management.

9.6. Hastings Borough Council's Internal Audit function will look to support managers at all levels to give a better understanding of how to enhance risk management in their area of responsibility. The high-level risk management methodology was designed to provide more focus to councillor and senior officer management of risk.

9.7. Whilst improvements have already been made, in particular, around reporting and management of risk, further improvements will be made in the next financial year in partnership with the new internal auditors.

9.8. The Strategic Risk Register is formally reviewed at the Corporate Risk management meetings and the Operational Risk Registers are reviewed at Senior Leadership Team and Service Management Team meetings.

9.9. The Audit Committee perform an annual rigorous review of the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers and also when new emerging risks arise.

9.10. Hastings Borough Council ensures the economical, effective and efficient use of resources, and secures continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised.

9.11. The External Auditor has experienced delays in completing its audits for 2019/20 onwards but has kept the Audit Committee apprised of the situation.

9.12. Financial management in Hastings Borough Council and the reporting of financial standing is undertaken through a general ledger and management information system, which integrates the general ledger function with those of budgetary control, payments, income and Human Resources (HR) System.

9.13. Finance Operating Procedures (FOPs) are held on the council's intranet and support the council's constitution. The FOPs contain information on financial and business procedures and processes that must be followed in all areas of the council. These are currently in the process of being reviewed and updated in line with the changes underway throughout the organisation to ensure they are as up to date and relevant as possible.

9.14. A scheme of delegation which sets out the powers of the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team, the financial rules and Contract Standing Orders form part of the Constitution. A rigorous system of monthly risk based financial monitoring ensures that any significant budget variances are identified in a timely way, and corrective action is initiated if necessary.

9.15. Performance management in Hastings Borough Council and the reporting of performance management continues to show good results. The Council has focussed its quarterly reporting of data on Key Indicators that can be used to assess the 'health' of the organisation. This, together with the reporting on each of the service's commitments set out in the Corporate Plan, enables a rounded view of how the Council is performing against key issues of concern to local people. performance indicators are recorded, monitored and shared publicly using an in-house developed Dashboard system.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

9.16. The Chief Executive Officer has assumed the role of Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) who has overall responsibility for the Council's information risk policy.

9.17. Hastings Borough Council is the sole Trustee for the Foreshore Trust. Its business is conducted through the Charity Committee which meets every quarter. The charity has a Protector to protect the charity from conflicts of interest, financial and otherwise, arising from the Council's position as charitable trustee and local authority with its own priorities. At Annual Council, the Leader allocates responsibilities of the Cabinet to include Chair of the Charity Committee.

9.18. Councillor Development – A full induction programme and on-going training supports councillors to undertake their roles. Some of the training is compulsory training so that councillors can fulfil their roles on regulatory committees and understand the legal context within which they make decisions and operate. Leadership training where appropriate provided in conjunction with the Local Government Association (LGA). Councillor training and development is monitored and evaluated quarterly via the training and development group

9.19. Consultation – The council undertakes a range of consultation and engagement throughout the year subject to activities identified in the corporate plan. The council also consults annually on its corporate plan and budget with a variety of stakeholders.

9.20. The Hastings and St. Leonards Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board is a body that brings together key representatives from the private/business, community/voluntary and public sector and has a rotating chair from the different sectors represented. The LSP Board meet quarterly to address key issues affecting the town as a whole improve the quality of life for those who live and work in the town.

The key role of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is to:

- (i) Identify and report on strategic issues, which key partners should be aware of.
- (ii) Provide strategic leadership on any Borough wide issue, identified by partners and agreed by the LSP,
- (iii) Act to bring together intelligence, expertise and community and business support to identify priorities and develop solutions to maximise the town's economic opportunities and address barriers to regeneration.
- (iv) Act as the oversight body for Government initiatives e.g. the Town Deal Board is a sub-board of the Local Strategic Partnership

9.21 Both councillors and senior management are kept apprised of progress and new developments and can determine direction considering these risk and performance processes.

10. Changes to the Council's Structure and Governance

Arrangements

10.1. A full restructure of the councils senior management team was confirmed in March 2023 and is now known as the Senior Leadership Team made up of Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Place, Chief Finance Officer/Section 151, Chief Legal Officer/Senior Monitoring Officer, Head of People and Business Support, Head of Strategic Programmes, Head of Community and Regulatory Services, Head of Environment and Operations, Head of Housing, Head of Commercial Services and Development.

Further details can be found on the council's website: [Senior officer structure | My council | Hastings Borough Council](#)

10.2. Following the borough elections in May 2022, the council moved to the position of No Overall Control. A minority Labour Administration was established at the Annual Council. The full council in December 2022 agreed to undertake a Governance Review during 22/23 and into 23/24 to explore governance arrangements that enable all political parties to share in the shaping and directing the future of the council through the decision-making process. This review is underway and is expected to report its conclusions and recommendations to the October 2023 Council meeting.

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10.3. The authority's financial management arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on 'The Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government (2010)'.

10.4. The Council's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer who leads and directs the Finance function that continues to be sufficiently resourced and fit for purpose and is also professionally qualified and suitably experienced.

10.5. Ensuring the authority's financial management arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on 'The Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Local Government (2019)'

10.6. The role of the Chief Auditor at Hastings Borough Council complies with the CIPFA statement.

10.7 Hastings Borough Council is the majority shareholder in Hastings Housing Company Limited. It is a company for buying and selling own real estate and other letting and operating of own or leased real estate. It is a limited company that was incorporated on 1 September 2017 and its registered office address is Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, HASTINGS TN34 3UY. It has a minimum of 3 Directors who each have senior roles within the council. It was set-up by Hastings Borough Council primarily to meet a need for affordable rental properties in the Borough and to generate an income for the council.

10.8 Group Accounts - The council is required to produce Group Accounts alongside its own financial statements where it has material interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures. The Group Accounts included as part of the Statement of Accounts fully incorporate Hastings Housing Company Ltd.

10.9. Other entities which fall within the group boundary, but which are not consolidated into the Group Accounts as they are not considered to be material, are detailed within the Related Parties note within the Statement of Accounts, there were no related parties to report.

10.10. Hastings Borough Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control and effectiveness of Internal Audit. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team within the authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Audit Committee's annual report to Council and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

10.11 The Council's [Constitution of the Council \(hastings.gov.uk\)](http://hastings.gov.uk) sets out the responsibilities of both Councillors and their senior managers. In particular, the Council has;

Head of Paid Service - Chief Executive Officer

Monitoring Officer - Chief Legal Officer

Section 151 officer – Chief Finance Officer

10.12. The Council continues to assess how its overall corporate governance responsibilities are discharged. In particular the Council has adopted the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance and has developed a local code of corporate governance. This code is currently being reviewed.

10.13. The arrangements for the provision of internal audit are contained within the Council's Financial Rules, which are included within the Constitution. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for ensuring that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Council's accounting and other systems of internal control as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

10.14 The new Internal Audit service, delivered through Orbis Internal Audit, is managed, independently and operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

10.15 Future improvements to Internal Audit arrangements will include delivery of an audit plan that is prioritised by a combination of the key internal controls, assessment and review on the basis of risk and the Council's corporate governance arrangements, including risk management. The work is further supplemented by reviews around the main financial systems, scheduled visits to council establishments and fraud investigations. The resulting work plan is discussed and agreed with the Chief Financial Officer and the Audit Committee and shared with the Council's external auditor.

10.16 Regular meetings between the internal and external auditors ensure that duplication of effort is avoided. All Hastings Internal Audit reports include an assessment of the adequacy of internal control and prioritised action plans to address any areas needing improvement.

11. Chief Auditor's Opinion

11.1. As noted above, the outgoing Chief Auditor was unable to provide an opinion before leaving the organisation.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

11.2 The CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and guidance suggests it is good practice to make a statement on the adequacy of an authority's counter fraud arrangements in the annual governance statement. This code contains five principles

1. acknowledge responsibility
2. identify risks
3. develop a strategy
4. provide resources
5. take action

11.3. The Chief Internal Auditor was unable to confirm assurance before departing and the incoming Internal Auditors are therefore not able to provide assurance on the above as they were only appointed in May 2023.

11.4. Therefore, the council will continue to work with the Internal Auditors in order to ensure robust arrangements are put in place for future years, which will include regular updates on progress to Audit Committee, Overview and Scrutiny and Senior Leadership Team.

12 Significant governance issues

12.1. The Council follows the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (Guidance Note for English Authorities)'.

12.2. In the last Annual Governance Statement, it was reported that there was still a significant risk relating to the reduction in Government grant funding. A balanced budget for 2022/23 was achieved whilst retaining an appropriate level of reserves but indications are that funding will continue to be under extreme pressure as the Government seeks to reduce public spending into the future.

12.3. This year the council has continued to use Reserves to balance the budget for 2023/24 and is having to focus its attention on core areas of work as outlined in the corporate plan update, with the critical attention on reducing the deficit and tackling the housing emergency.

12.4. The Council has a statutory responsibility for managing Homelessness, but the costs and demand has increased significantly. A Homelessness and Housing task force has been set-up to identify and find savings and efficiencies around reducing the burden of Temporary Accommodation costs which continue to be a real threat to the financial stability and long term sustainability of the council.

12.5 The Task force provides regular updates to the Senior Leadership Team and has direct involvement of all political group leaders to take immediate action where needed and speed up the process of decision making.

12.6. Climate Change Emergency – The actions the Council will need to take to meet its Climate Change Emergency commitments may limit some service provision or increased costs, particularly around electric vehicles and utility costs. A Climate Change Group has been set-up led by the Sustainability Policy Manager and Energy Development and Delivery Project Manager and the first action is to integrate Climate Change into the service areas.

12.7. Where we have identified areas for further improvement, we will take the necessary action to implement changes that will further develop our governance framework.



Signed:.....

Councillor Julia Hilton
Leader of the Council



Signed:.....

Robert Cottrill
Interim Chief Executive

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council is required:

- (i) To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Hastings, that officer is the Chief Financial Officer.
- (ii) To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- (iii) To approve the Statement of Accounts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The chief financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's statement of accounts in accordance with the CIPFA / LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom (the CODE).

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Chief Financial Officer has:

- (i) Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently
- (ii) Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent
- (iii) Complied with the local authority code

The Chief Financial Officer has also:

- (i) Kept proper accounting records which were up to date
- (ii) Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

I certify that I have fulfilled my responsibilities noted above and that the accounts set out in this document give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31st March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Signed on behalf of Hastings Borough Council:



Kit Wheeler
Chief Finance Officer



Councillor Danuta Kean
Chair of the Audit Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to follow.

CORE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2021-22				2022-23			
Gross	Income	Net	Note	Gross	Income	Net	
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
39,519	(37,736)	1,783	Corporate Services and Governance	40,538	(36,974)	3,564	
32,728	(20,532)	12,196	Operational Services:	37,772	(21,693)	16,079	
72,247	(58,268)	13,979	Cost of Services	78,310	(58,667)	19,643	
0	(60)	(60)	(Gain) or loss on sale of assets	0	586	586	
0	(60)	(60)	Other operating expenditure	0	586	586	
1,831	0	1,831	Interest payable and similar charges	18	1,862	0	1,862
901	0	901	Net interest on defined pension liabilities	11	776	0	776
0	(559)	(559)	Interest receivable and similar income	18	0	(1,141)	(1,141)
0	(462)	(462)	Movement in the fair value of financial instruments	18	0	629	629
181	(65)	116	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	15	(1)	(68)	(69)
2,913	(1,086)	1,827		2,637	(580)	2,057	
0	(7,523)	(7,523)	Council Tax Income	0	(7,517)	(7,517)	
5,596	(7,220)	(1,624)	Non domestic rates	5,896	(7,720)	(1,824)	
0	(1,010)	(1,010)	Revenue Support Grant	10	0	(1,282)	(1,282)
0	(3,122)	(3,122)	Other non-ringfenced government grants	10	6,429	(12,428)	(5,999)
0	(4,274)	(4,274)	Capital grants and contributions	10	0	(8,694)	(8,694)
10,097	(9,755)	342	Covid Grants	10	5,464	(1,560)	3,904
15,693	(32,904)	(17,211)		17,789	(39,201)	(21,412)	
90,853	(92,318)	(1,465)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	98,736	(97,862)	874	
		(268)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(7,297)	
		0	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve			0	
		0	Valuation (gains) / losses on available for sale financial assets reserve			0	
		(17,818)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability	11		(34,633)	
		(18,086)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(41,930)	
		(19,551)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(41,056)	

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
2022-23	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1 April 2022	(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)	0	(5,747)	(36,851)	(71,558)	(108,409)
Movement in Reserves in 2022-23								
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	874	0	874	0	0	874	0	874
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(41,930)	(41,930)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	874	0	874	0	0	874	(41,930)	(41,056)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - note 7	10,551	0	10,551	(2,117)	(4,170)	4,264	(4,296)	(32)
Net increase/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	11,425	0	11,425	(2,117)	(4,170)	5,138	(46,226)	(41,088)
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - note 7	(11,425)	11,425	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2)	(2)
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	0	11,425	11,425	(2,117)	(4,170)	5,138	(46,228)	(41,090)
Balance at 31 March 2023	(500)	(19,179)	(19,679)	(2,117)	(9,917)	(31,713)	(117,786)	(149,499)

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021-22								
1 April 2021	(500)	(30,946)	(31,446)	0	(3,544)	(34,990)	(53,870)	(88,860)
Movement in Reserves in 2021-22								
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	(1,464)	0	(1,464)	0	0	(1,464)	0	(1,464)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(18,086)	(18,086)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(1,464)	0	(1,464)	0	0	(1,464)	(18,086)	(19,550)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - note 7	1,807	0	1,807	0	(2,203)	(396)	398	2
Net increase/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	343	0	343	0	(2,203)	(1,860)	(17,688)	(19,548)
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - note 7	(343)	343	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rounding	0	(1)	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	(1)
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	0	342	342	0	(2,203)	(1,861)	(17,688)	(19,549)
Balance at 31 March 2022	(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)	0	(5,747)	(36,851)	(71,558)	(108,409)

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2022			31 March 2023
£'000			£'000
155,840	Property, Plant and Equipment	<i>Note 15</i>	162,749
16,322	Heritage Assets	<i>Note 15</i>	16,650
377	Investment Properties	<i>Note 15</i>	378
314	Intangible Assets	<i>Note 15</i>	257
5,184	Long Term Investments	<i>Note 18</i>	4,556
7,383	Long Term Debtors	<i>Note 16</i>	7,351
185,420	LONG TERM ASSETS		191,941
9,984	Short Term Investments	<i>Note 18</i>	28,000
0	Assets Held for Sale		450
78	Inventories		90
10,521	Short Term Debtors	<i>Note 16</i>	8,597
15,912	Cash and Cash Equivalents	<i>Cash Flow</i>	5,023
36,495	CURRENT ASSETS		42,160
(643)	Short Term Borrowing	<i>Note 18</i>	(659)
(11,783)	Short Term Creditors	<i>Note 17</i>	(17,243)
(1,589)	Provisions	<i>Note 17</i>	(1,704)
(101)	Capital grants received in advance		(69)
(14,116)	CURRENT LIABILITIES		(19,675)
(2,966)	Long Term Creditors	<i>Note 17</i>	(2,091)
(65,421)	Long Term Borrowing	<i>Note 18</i>	(64,763)
(31,003)	Net Pension Liability	<i>Note 11</i>	1,304
(99,390)	LONG TERM LIABILITIES		(65,550)
108,409	NET ASSETS		148,876
(500)	General Fund	<i>MIRS</i>	(500)
(30,604)	Earmarked reserves	<i>Note 12</i>	(19,179)
0	Capital Receipts Reserve	<i>MIRS</i>	(2,117)
(5,747)	Capital grants and contributions	<i>MIRS</i>	(9,917)
(36,851)	USABLE RESERVES		(31,713)
(71,631)	Revaluation Reserve	<i>Note 13</i>	(72,069)
0	Available for Sale Reserve	<i>Note 13</i>	0
0	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	<i>Note 13</i>	0
(212)	Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	<i>Note 13</i>	151
(36,727)	Capital Adjustment Account	<i>Note 13</i>	(44,790)
0	Deferred capital receipts	<i>Note 13</i>	0
31,003	Pensions Reserve	<i>Note 13</i>	(1,304)
0	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	<i>Note 13</i>	0
(279)	Accumulated Absences Account	<i>Note 13</i>	(219)
6,288	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	<i>Note 13</i>	1,068
(71,558)	UNUSABLE RESERVES	<i>Note 13</i>	(117,163)
(108,409)	TOTAL RESERVES		(148,876)

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements confirmed by the Chief Finance Officer on 10th December 2024 and were authorised for issue on 7th December 2023.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
(13,684)	Taxation	(14,901)
(50,379)	Grants and Contributions	(55,367)
(33,496)	Sales of goods and rendering of services	(6,446)
(578)	Interest received	(1,141)
(32)	other receipts from operating activities	565
(98,169)	Cash inflows generated from operating activities	(77,290)
11,137	Cash paid to and on behalf of employees	11,880
29,030	Housing benefit payments	29,849
5,739	NNDR Tariff and levy payments	5,667
25,704	Cash paid to suppliers of goods and services	11,655
1,832	Interest paid	1,863
21,499	Other operating cash payments	23,651
94,941	Cash outflows generated from operating activities	84,565
(3,228)	Net cashflows from operating activities	7,275
(60)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(5,895)
3,295	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	8,320
5,132	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	17,752
0	Proceeds from the sale of short-term and long-term investments	0
(4,406)	Other receipts from investing activities	(8,430)
3,961	Net cashflows from investing activities	11,747
(2,000)	Cash receipts from short term and long-term borrowing.	0
627	Repayments of short term and long-term borrowing	642
3,290	Changes in National Non-Domestic Rates balances held for preceptors	(7,854)
(1,039)	Changes in Council tax balances held for preceptors	(921)
878	Net cashflows from financing activities	(8,133)
1,611	Net (Increase) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents	10,889
17,523	Cash and bank balances 1 April	15,912
(1,611)	Change during the year	(10,889)
15,912	Cash and bank balances 31 March	5,023
31 March 2022		31 March 2023
104	Cash in hand	117
10,789	Bank balances	406
5,019	Cash equivalents	4,500
15,912	Totals	5,023

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (including accounting policies)

NOTE 1. CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND TO PREVIOUS YEARS FIGURES

Changes to 2022-23 Code of Practice

The Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and has been developed by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board.

The Code is based on approved accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements. The Code also draws on approved accounting standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board and the UK Financial Reporting Council where these provide additional guidance.

The Code has been prepared on the basis of accounting standards and interpretations in effect for accounting periods commencing on or before 1 January 2022. This is with the exception of IFRS 16 Leases. While the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board is strongly of the view that IFRS 16 is the best form of reporting local authority leases, it has made a decision to defer mandatory implementation of IFRS 16 as a pragmatic response to severe delays in the publication of audited local authority financial statements in England. The decision should not be viewed as a commentary on the

usefulness of the information derived from the implementation of the standard. While mandatory implementation has been deferred until 2024/25, adoption in earlier accounting periods (i.e., 2022/23 or 2023/24) is permitted on a voluntary basis.

The key accounting changes principally introduced by the Code in 2022/23 are:

- Amendments to Section 1.3 (Applicability of the Code) to clarify and expand the applicability of the Code to Welsh authorities and bodies including corporate joint committees.
- Revision of Section 4.2 (Leases) to allow authorities to voluntarily adopt the provisions of IFRS 16 in advance of mandatory implementation.
- Revision of Section 4.3 (Service Concession Arrangements: Local Authority as Grantor) to specify that if IFRS 16 is adopted in advance of mandatory implementation, then the service concession arrangement liability is measured in accordance with the measurement requirements of IFRS 16.
- Amendments to Section 8.2 (Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets) to clarify the treatment of social benefits under IAS 37/IPSAS 19 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.
- Confirmation in Appendix C (Changes in Accounting Policies: Disclosures in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Financial Statements) of the transitional reporting requirements of the new standards introduced in the 2022/23 Code, while also having regard to requirements in relation to voluntary adoption of IFRS 16.
- Confirmation in Appendix D (New or Amended Standards Introduced to the 2022/23 Code) of the new standards introduced to the 2022/23 Code.

In England and Wales, the Code constitutes a 'proper accounting practice' under the terms of Section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003.

NOTE 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2022-23 financial year and its position at the end of 31 March 2023. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which specify that the Statement is prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022-23, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards. The accounting convention adopted is historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and certain financial liabilities.

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the functions of the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2.2 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, and where the amounts are significant, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received, rather than when the payments are made.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 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.
- Accruals for income are offset by allowances for the impairment of debt where it is determined that recovery is unlikely, although the Council continues to attempt to recover sums legally due. This policy applies to contractual debt as well as to statutory debt for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, and overpayments of Housing Benefit.

The Council collects income from payers of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Ratepayers, but only part of the income relates to this Council, the balance being collected on behalf of other major precepting authorities, including the Government. The amounts of debtors, adjustments for doubtful debts, and income in advance that relate to the precepting authorities are shown as a single net debtor or creditor in the balance sheet. The element of the Collection Fund due to preceptors is split between payments due to be made in the following financial year, which are held as Short-Term Creditors, and any other amounts, due in succeeding financial years, which are shown as Long-Term Creditors. In the event of a deficit, the amounts are split between Short Term and Long-Term Debtors.

2.3 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 three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand, and which form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

2.4 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets and other capital expenditure

- The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services is debited or credited 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.
- Any subsequent reversal of such losses.
- The annual amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.
- Any revenue costs which are met from capital resources as Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute (REFCUS – see 2.20 below).

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund these charges, and they are therefore reversed through appropriations from the Capital Adjustment Account to the General Fund. However, the Council is required to make an annual contribution from revenue resources to the Capital Adjustment Account to reduce its overall borrowing requirement. This is termed the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

2.5 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from a past event and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Typically, a contingent asset is related to a legal action by the Council, whose outcome is uncertain when the balance sheet is compiled.

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

2.6 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 such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g., cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (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 accounting year multiplied by an average for pension and National Insurance. This accrual relating to leave entitlements is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that the cost of these accrued benefits are charged to the General Fund in the financial year in which the salary payment is made.

The Code of Practice stipulates that a council need not comply with it, if the information is not material to the “true and fair” view of its financial position, financial performance, and cash flows, and to the understanding of users of the financial statements and notes. This provision applies to both the disclosures and to accounting principles. In line with this dispensation the Council omits a number of disclosures specified by the Code however this accrual is still undertaken.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. These are charged on an accrual's basis to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of the dates

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

on which the council can no longer withdraw the offer of benefits, or when it recognises the costs of a restructuring that involves the payment of termination benefits.

Post-Employment Benefits

The majority of employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by East Sussex County Council for local authorities within East Sussex. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council. We therefore account for this scheme as a defined benefit plan.

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

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.3% (based on the indicative rate of return on an iBoxx AA Corporate Bond Index)

The assets of the East Sussex County Council Pension Fund attributable to this Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

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

The change in the net pension 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 service for which the employees worked.
 - past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years. Past service costs include the cost of curtailments, which are normally linked to an event giving rise to a post-employment benefit. Past service costs are debited to the Non-Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
 - net interest on the defined liability – the change to the net pension liability that arises from the passage of time during the year. This is charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- contributions by scheme participants, which increase plan liabilities, but correspondingly increase plan assets, and are therefore not reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- remeasurements – changes in the present value of the net pensions liability, resulting from:
 - the return on plan assets, excluding the amounts included in net interest.
 - experience adjustments (the differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred).
 - the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions
- benefits paid, which reduce plan assets, but correspondingly reduce its liabilities, and are therefore not reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- contributions paid to the East Sussex County Council Pension Fund – the employer's contributions to the pension fund for the financial year, chargeable to the General Fund, but not accounted for as an expense.

Statutory provisions require the Council to charge the General Fund balance with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. This means that there are appropriations 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 any amounts payable to the fund 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 contributions paid rather than as benefits are earned by the employee.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff 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.

2.7 Events after the Balance Sheet date

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

- If they provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period, the Statement of Accounts is amended to reflect these events.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

2.8 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.

2.9 Fair Value

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets (surplus assets and investment properties, and its financial asset classified as fair value through profit and loss) at fair value at each reporting date. The Council also discloses fair values for financial assets and liabilities categorised as loans and receivables. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly transaction at the year end. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or, in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

The Council measures the asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that they act in their economic best interest.

When measuring the fair value, the Council takes into account the market participants' ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset or liability in its highest or best use, or by selling it to another party that would use the asset or liability for its highest and best use.

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

Inputs to the valuation techniques for assets and liabilities that are measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

Level 1	Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the year end
Level 2	Inputs, other than quoted prices within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
Level 3	Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

2.10 Financial instruments

Financial Liabilities

The term "financial liability" covers contractual obligations to deliver or exchange financial assets to another entity. The Council's financial liabilities include loans taken out with the Public Works Loan Board, and also some amounts included within short term and long-term creditors, which come within the category of "Other Financial Liabilities."

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council 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.

For the borrowings that the Council 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 Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Financial Assets

The term "financial asset" covers cash and beneficial contractual rights to receive or exchange cash or liabilities. The Council invests in two types of financial assets:

- Financial assets held at amortised cost - assets that are held solely for the repayment of principal and interest where the Council's objectives are achieved by collecting contractual cash flows.
- Financial instruments held at fair value through profit and loss – assets whose fair value may change over the lifetime of the asset.

The Council's balance sheet includes the following groups of financial assets:

- Trade debtors are recorded as invoices issued to individuals or other entities, for which immediate payment is required. The balance awaiting collection ("Trade accounts receivable") is included in the balance sheet under "short term debtors."
- Cash held in current or call accounts, together with investments for periods of less than three months, is included in the balance sheet under "cash and cash equivalents."
- Long term loans to Optivo for £1,788,200 and Hastings Housing Company Ltd for £5,489,400 are included in the balance sheet under long term debtors.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Loans to the Foreshore Trust and The Source totalling £103,400 (partly long term and partly short term). These loans are either at, or at the equivalent to the PWLB rate of interest, which is equal to the same rate as the Council borrows money, but less than the market rate that the Foreshore Trust would otherwise need to borrow at. Although this constitutes a “soft loan,” the accounting adjustments would be immaterial, and the Council does not apply them as permitted by the accounting Code.
- Investments taken out for periods of between three months and one year are included in the balance sheet as “short term investments.”

Investments taken out for periods of longer than one year are included in the balance sheet as “long term investments.”

Financial Assets held at Amortised Cost

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

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade debtors held by the authority.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly, or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss (FVPL) are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis

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

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

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. The Council currently holds an investment in a property fund valued at £1.847m at 31 March 2023 and the fair values are based on the quoted market price. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

Pooled investment funds such as this are subject to Statutory Instrument 1207/2018 which dictates that changes in the fair value of the investment are reversed out of the General Fund and accumulated in an unusable reserve – the Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account – until the investment is recognised.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account.

2.11 Government Grants and Other Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, we recognise government grants and third-party contributions and donations as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and that the grants and contributions will be received.

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as receipts received in advance (either current or long-term). When conditions are satisfied the grant or contribution is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Grants and contributions towards specific services for revenue purposes are credited against the appropriate line in the Cost of Services, but if grants and contributions are not related to specific services they are credited as Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Expenditure and Income, along with all grants and contributions receivable towards investment in non-current assets. As these capital grants and contributions are not properly credited to the General Fund, an equivalent appropriation is made

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

from the General Fund into the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve, which is set aside for the financing of capital investment. When it has been applied for financing, it is transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

2.12 Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets are as follows:

- A collection of heritage assets at its museums
- The mayor's Civic Regalia
- Hastings Castle
- Hastings Caves

The above assets are held in support of the primary objective of increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Council's history and local area. However, because of the historic nature of the assets and lack of comparable market values the Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the castle and caves. Consequently, the Council does not recognise the value of these Heritage Assets on the Balance Sheet, other than the capitalisation of annual expenditure to enhance the assets.

Where possible, Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant, and equipment.

Valuation

The Museum collections and civic regalia are reported in the Balance Sheet at market value as approximated by insurance valuation which is based on market values. There is a periodic programme of valuations and the items in the collection are valued by an external valuer. The assets in the categories above are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

The insurance values are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure there have been no material changes.

Valuation gains and losses are accounted for in accordance with the general policies on revaluation of property, plant, and equipment - see note 2.17 (Property, Plant, and Equipment).

Impairments

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, e.g., where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the policies on impairment of property plant and equipment - see note 2.17 (Property, Plant and Equipment).

2.13 Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

2.14 Investment Properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal. Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance.

However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

2.15 Leases

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment or a number of payments, the right to use an asset (property, plant and equipment, investment properties, non-current assets available for sale or intangible assets) for an agreed period of time. A finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessee. Any lease that does not come within the definition of a finance lease is accounted for as an operating lease.

The Council has a number of leasing agreements, acting both as lessee (paying for the use of assets) and as lessor (receiving money for the use of assets).

The Council reviews all of its leases to determine how they stand against various criteria which distinguish between finance and operating leases. In undertaking this review, however, the Council operates a de minimis level, for assets or class of directly related assets valued at less than £50,000 are treated within the accounts as an operating lease.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

Although the Council acts as a lessee, as outlined above, the amounts involved are immaterial.

The Council does not act as a lessor for any finance leases. Income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, unless they can be otherwise apportioned in line with the benefits provided.

2.16 Prior period adjustments

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

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

Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e., in the current and future years affected by the change, and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

2.17 Property, Plant and Equipment

Definition and Categories

Property, plant, and equipment consists of assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the provision of services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year. They exclude assets which are held purely for investment purposes (Investment properties), assets which the Council is actively seeking to sell (Assets available for sale), and assets coming within the definition of Heritage Assets (2.12 above). Property, plant, and equipment is made up of the following categories:

- Land and buildings – properties owned by the Council, other than those in another category shown below, or Investment Properties.
- Vehicles, plant, and equipment – individual items or groupings of items which are purchased from capital resources.
- Infrastructure, which for this Council consists of sea defences, and some footways, lighting, and bus stops.
- Community assets – properties such as parks, which are used for the community as a whole, with no determinable market value in their present use, and which are not likely to be sold.
- Surplus assets – individual properties which the Council has determined to be surplus to operational requirements, but which are not actively being marketed.
- Assets under construction – capital expenditure on an asset before it is brought into use.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that secures but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (e.g., repairs and maintenance) is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account as an expense when it is incurred. Assets valued at less than £50,000 are not included on the balance sheet, provided that the total excluded has no material impact.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising all expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use. Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Land and buildings – current value, usually based on the market value for the existing use (EUV). Some specialised properties, where the valuer cannot identify a market for the asset, are instead valued on the basis of depreciated replacement cost (DRC).
- Vehicles, plant, and equipment – current value, for which depreciated historic cost is normally used as a proxy.
- Infrastructure – depreciated historic cost.
- Community Assets – historic cost or insurance value when first recognised as fixed assets.
- Surplus assets - fair value, based on market value for the best and highest use in its existing condition, taking account, for example, of any planning consents at the balance sheet date.
- Assets under construction – historic cost.

Revaluation

We revalue assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value when there may have been material changes in the value, but as a minimum every five years. Asset values are also reviewed each year to ensure that the balance sheet values are not materially misstated as a result of changes in asset values during the 5-year rolling programme. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Gains are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account where they arise from the reversal of an impairment loss previously charged to a service revenue

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account. Reductions in value are charged to the Revaluation Reserve, up to the amount held for that asset in the Revaluation Reserve, or otherwise to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

The revaluation exercise also involves a review and update to expected asset lives.

Impairment

The values of each category of assets and of material individual assets are reviewed at the end of each financial year for evidence of reductions in value. Where impairment is identified as part of this review or as a result of a valuation exercise, this is 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 off against that balance.
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Disposals

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continued use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued in its existing use immediately before its reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains to fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any losses previously 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 property plant and equipment and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale, adjusted for depreciation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An equivalent transfer is made to the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account to eliminate the impact on the General Fund, and any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are also transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal are categorised as capital receipts. These are credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but an equivalent appropriation is made from the General Fund to the Capital Receipts Reserve. There is a legal requirement that sale proceeds held in this reserve can only be used to reduce debt or to finance capital expenditure.

In some cases, the receipt of income from asset disposals is delayed until a future financial year. In such cases a credit is made to the unusable Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve, matched by a long-term or short-term debtor. When the income is received, the debtor is written down and a transfer is made from the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all assets with a determinable finite life by allocating the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet over the periods expected to benefit from their use. Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Land – not subject to depreciation.
- Buildings – straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer, taking account of newly assessed lives where properties were revalued as at 1 April (between 15 and 60 years).
- Vehicles, plant, and equipment – is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the asset as advised by a suitably qualified officer (between 5 and 20 years).
- Infrastructure – is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the asset.
- Community assets – not subject to depreciation.
- Surplus assets - straight-line allocation over the life of the property as estimated by the valuer (35-40 years).
- Assets under construction – not subject to depreciation.

Where new assets are acquired or brought into use, depreciation is charged from the start of the following year. Depreciation is charged for the full final year when assets are sold.

Depreciation is charged to the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but this is not a proper charge against the General Fund. A transfer is therefore made from the Capital Adjustment Account to the General Fund to reverse the impact.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

2.18 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed, either wholly or partially, and credited back to the relevant services.

Provisions may sometimes relate to income, where the Council has collected income in a previous financial year and has a quantifiable liability to repay some or all of it. In the particular case of the provision for losses arising from rating appeals, the whole of the provision is included in the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Statement, but only the Council's 40% share of the liability is included in the Balance Sheet.

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

2.19 Reserves

The Council maintains two groups of reserves, usable and unusable.

Usable reserves comprise the following:

- Capital Receipts Reserve: proceeds from the sales of non-current assets are initially credited to the Income and Expenditure Account, but legally can only be used to finance capital expenditure, and so are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve and afterwards used for this specific purpose.
- Capital Grants Unapplied: The Council receives grants and contributions towards capital expenditure, and, where repayment conditions are not present or no longer apply, they are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account and immediately transferred into the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve until required to finance capital investment.
- Earmarked Reserves: The Council may set aside earmarked reserves to cover specific projects or contingencies. These are transferred from the General Fund, and amounts are withdrawn as required to finance such expenditure. The expenditure itself is charged to the appropriate line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. There are no legal restrictions on the use of earmarked reserves, and unspent balances can be taken back to the General Fund in the same way.
- General Fund: this represents all other usable reserves, without legal restrictions on spending, which arise from annual surpluses or deficits.

Unusable Reserves consist of those which cannot be used to finance capital or revenue expenditure:

- Deferred Capital Receipts: in some cases (particularly former housing stock disposed of, where the purchaser financed the transaction through a mortgage from the Council) an asset is disposed of, but the income cannot be collected immediately. The Council maintains records for a long-term debtor, offset by a balance in the Deferred Capital Receipts Account. When the income is received the debtor is written down and a transfer is made between this account and the Capital Receipts Reserve.
- Revaluation Reserve: this consists of accumulated gains on individual items of Property, Plant and Equipment and Heritage Assets. The Reserve contains only gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains before that date were consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account. 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.
- Capital Adjustment Account: This receives credits when capital is financed from the General Fund or from the Capital Receipts and Capital Grants Unapplied reserves and receives debits to offset depreciation and other charges relating to capital which are not chargeable against the General Fund. The account contains revaluation gains accumulated on non-current assets before 1 April 2007, the date on which the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.
- Pensions Reserve: The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes the employer's contributions to the

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

- **Accumulated Absences Reserve:** this contained the difference between the statutory and accounting liability for the cost of accumulated absences: the cost was properly chargeable to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but not to the General Fund.
- **Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:** this represented the difference between the accounting and legislative charges for finance costs. For this Council this reflected discounts received in previous years when restructuring PWLB loans: the final adjustments were made as scheduled during 2017-18, so that the balance sheet value is zero.
- **Collection Fund Adjustment Account:** this represents the differences arising from the recognition of Council tax income and Non-Domestic Rates in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they fall due from payers, compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts from the Collection Fund to the General Fund.
- **Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve:** For 2017/18 and previous years, this contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:
 - revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
 - disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve was abolished as a result of the introduction of IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments and the opening balance was transferred to the Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account.

- **Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account:** this contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its pooled investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:
 - revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
 - disposed of and the gains are realised.

2.20 Revenue Expenditure Financed 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, is charged as expenditure to the relevant service revenue account in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged, so there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

Similarly, income received and accounted for as grants and contributions towards this category of capital expenditure is credited as income to the relevant service account, but a transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account reverses the credit and the impact on Council Tax.

2.21 Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). VAT receivable is excluded from income.

2.22 Group Accounts – Recognition of Group Entities and Basis of Consolidation

Group Accounts will be prepared in accordance with IFRS 10 (consolidated financial statements) and IFRS 12 (disclosure of interest in other entities), where it is considered that the Council has a material interest in subsidiaries. Group Accounts will be prepared on the basis of a full consolidation of the financial transactions and balances of the Council and a relevant subsidiary. Any gains and losses arising from a subsidiary will be fully reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and Cash Flow Statement within the Group column. Group accounts will be prepared using consistent accounting policies. Where intra-group transactions occur, they will be removed in the consolidation.

2.23 Intangible Assets

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

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. 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 Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The calculated amounts for amortisation and impairment are charged to the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account,

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.

2.24 Write-off policy

As a general rule, except in cases of hardship, low value debt or cases where recovery is prevented by law, all recovery processes will be attempted before a debt is considered for write-off. The Council recognises that there will be cases where

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

it is not practical for the recovery process to continue because either the debtor has absconded, or the costs of recovery are greater than the value of the debt outstanding.

2.25. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued But Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard which has been issued but is yet to be adopted by the 2022/23 Code.

The Code also requires that changes in accounting policy are to be applied retrospectively unless transitional arrangements are specified, this would, therefore result in an impact on disclosures spanning two financial years. The code requires an authority to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code for the relevant financial year.

Accounting changes that are introduced by the 2023/24 Code where disclosures are required in the 2022/23 financial statements are:

- IFRS 16 Leases (but only for those local authorities that have decided to adopt IFRS 16 in the 2022/23 year). IFRS 16 Leases. The standard replaces IAS 17, and it redefines classification and measurement of leases, bringing the majority of leases onto the balance sheet. Intended to recognise the “right of use” of the asset and the “lease liability.” There are significant changes for lessees with additional disclosure requirements. CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS16 for local government to 1 April 2024
- Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8) issued in February 2021
- Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2) issued in February 2021.
- Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2021.

With the exception of IFRS 16, these changes are not expected to have a material impact on the Council’s single entity statements or group statements. A project working group has been established to evaluate the impact of IFRS 16 and to ensure compliance for the 2023/24 statement of accounts.

NOTE 3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS

As outlined in Note 25, the Council acts as the sole trustee for the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust. The scheme is so constituted as to prevent the Council from obtaining any benefit from the Trust’s activities and no group accounts are produced. Further details of the Foreshore Trust are given in Note 25 (Related Party Transactions).

NOTE 4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION AND UNCERTAINTY

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

Pensions Accounting

The estimate of the 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 to retirement ages and mortality rates. A firm of consulting actuaries, Barnett Waddingham, is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Details of these assumptions are included in Note 11. The effect on the liability for changes to assumptions are summaries in the table below:

Sensitivity analysis	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	124,146	131,056	132,885	134,758	142,706
Projected service cost	1,505	1,702	1,755	1,809	2,047
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	133,527	133,012	132,885	132,760	132,265
Projected service cost	1,760	1,756	1,755	1,754	1,749
Adjustment to pension increase and deferred revaluation	+0.5%	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%
Present value of total obligation	142,206	134,664	132,885	131,147	124,573
Projected service cost	2,055	1,810	1,755	1,701	1,497
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions		+1 Year	None		- 1 Year
Present value of total obligation		138,947	132,885		127,115
Projected service cost		1,820	1,755		1,691

These assumptions are listed in Note 11 and are re-assessed every year. Changes in any one assumption would be affected by changes in others, so that the effect of a number of changes would be a complex calculation.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Property, Plant and Equipment

The council's external valuers provide a full valuation of all properties every 5 years. On an annual basis they provide desktop valuations as at 31st March for the entire Council's investment portfolio, and for its operational portfolio where there has been material movement since the last full valuation.

Valuations of property depend on various assumptions, as set out in detail in Note 2.17 above. In particular, the valuers have to determine:

- The estimated life of the building
- Whether or not there is a market for the property in its existing use, which means that they could value at such a market value (EUUV). If there is no such market, properties are valued at Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC).

The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the revaluation date, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement.

Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the Property, Plant and Equipment valuation than would normally be the case.

The Gross Book Value (GBV) of the Land and Buildings at 31 March 2023 was £134.9m. If the valuation estimate was 10% higher on those assets it would mean a GBV figure of £148.4m on the Balance Sheet.

Investment Properties

The Council's external valuers use valuation techniques to determine the fair value of investment property. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would price the property.

Allowances for impairment of debt

The policies for assessing allowances for impairment of debt are outlined in Note 2.2 above. All of these allowances are based on assessments of the Council's ability to recover debt over future years, and are therefore a matter of judgement, based largely on past performance. As part of the allowances for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates relate to other authorities and the Government (also outlined in Note 2.2), the assessment that this Council makes also impacts on the debtors and creditors established for these bodies.

Allowance for debts: At 31 March 2022, the Council had a balance of sundry debtors of £1.8m. A review of balances indicated that an allowance for credit losses of 19.0% (£0.363m) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not fully certain whether such an allowance may be sufficient. If collection rates were to deteriorate, a doubling of the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts, for example, would require an additional £0.363m to be set aside as an allowance.

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and spiralling inflation has made the estimation of debt impairment more difficult as there is more uncertainty about the economic viability of debtors and hence their ability to settle their debts.

Allowance for the impact of rating appeals

The Council maintains a provision for the impact of outstanding rating appeals. There are two elements to this provision relating to the 2010 list and the 2017 list of appeals. Outstanding appeals are assessed on the basis of reductions in rateable value on appeals already settled.

Allowance for the impact of rate appeals: The business rates rateable value at 31/3/2023 was £61.0m. For every 1% successful reduction in the rateable value, it is equal to a cost of £610k multiplied by 40% (£244k) to the Council (for a single year).

NOTE 5. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There were no material events after the balance sheet date that impacted on the view of the Council's finances contained in this set of accounts.

NOTE 6. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

This note shows how the accounting and financing adjustments make up the difference between the outturn report and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021-22			2022-23			
Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between funding and accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
2,182	(399)	1,783	Corporate Services and Governance	2,951	613	3,564
9,570	2,626	12,196	Operational Services	13,571	2,508	16,079
11,752	2,227	13,979	Cost of Services	16,522	3,121	19,643
(11,409)	(4,034)	(15,443)	Other Income and Expenditure	(5,097)	(13,671)	(18,768)
0	0	0	Rounding	0	(1)	(1)
343	(1,807)	(1,464)	(Surplus) or Deficit before reserve movements	11,425	(10,551)	874
General Fund	Earmarked Reserves	Total		General Fund	Earmarked Reserves	Total
(521)	(30,947)	(31,468)	Opening balances	(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)
343	0	343	(Surplus) or Deficit	11,425	0	11,425
(322)	343	21	Transfer to (from) earmarked reserves	(11,425)	11,425	0
(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)	Closing balances	(500)	(19,179)	(19,679)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An analysis of the accounting and financing adjustments are shown in the table below, and they are also shown in detail in Note 7.

	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis			
	Capital and Assets	Pensions	Other	Total
2022-23	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Services and Governance	719	(122)	16	613
Operational Services:	800	1,672	36	2,508
Cost of Services	1,519	1,550	52	3,121
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(8,978)	776	(5,469)	(13,671)
Rounding	(1)	0	0	(1)
Net Difference	(7,460)	2,326	(5,417)	(10,551)

	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis			
	Capital and Assets	Pensions	Other	Total
2021-22	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Services and Governance	(295)	(85)	(19)	(399)
Operational Services:	816	1,805	5	2,626
Cost of Services	521	1,720	(14)	2,227
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(6,075)	901	1,140	(4,034)
Net Difference	(5,554)	2,621	1,126	(1,807)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

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

	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Unusable Reserves	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022-23					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Amortisation Intangible Assets	(57)	0	0	57	0
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,449)	0	0	1,449	0
Movements in value of Investment Properties	1	0	0	(1)	0
Gain or (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	(6,480)	0	0	6,480	0
Capital receipts to Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	5,894	(5,894)	0	0	0
Capital grants and contributions to Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	8,694	0	(8,694)	0	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	79	0	0	(79)	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	5,764	0	0	(5,764)	0
Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	(13)	0	(1,328)	1,341	0
Accumulated Absences	(61)	0	0	61	0
Movement in the fair value of financial instruments	(365)	0	0	365	0
Difference between accounting and statutory charge for pension costs	(2,326)	0	0	2,326	0
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	870	0	0	(870)	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	0	0	0	0	0
Other adjustments					
Capital expenditure financed from Capital Receipts	0	3,777	0	(3,777)	0
Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	0	0	5,883	(5,883)	0
Other adjustments	0	0	1	(1)	0
Total for 2022-23	10,551	(2,117)	(4,138)	(4,296)	0

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Unusable Reserves	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021-22					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Amortisation Intangible Assets	(79)	0	0	79	0
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(397)	0	0	397	0
Movements in value of Investment Properties	(181)	0	0	181	0
Gain or (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0
Capital receipts to Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	60	(60)	0	0	0
Capital grants and contributions to Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	4,274	0	(4,274)	0	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	316	0	0	(316)	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	(1,776)	0	0	1,776	0
Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	(44)	0	(1,275)	1,319	0
Accumulated Absences	4	0	0	(4)	0
Movement in the fair value of financial instruments	330	0	0	(330)	0
Difference between accounting and statutory charge for pension costs	(2,621)	0	0	2,621	0
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,668	0	0	(1,668)	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	254	0	0	(254)	0
Other adjustments					
Capital expenditure financed from Capital Receipts	0	60	0	(60)	0
Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	0	0	3,346	(3,346)	0
Other adjustments	(1)	0	0	3	2
Total for 2021-22	1,807	0	(2,203)	398	2

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 8. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
17,011	Employee benefits expenses	17,518
65,758	Other service expenses	71,955
657	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	1,505
1,831	Interest payments	1,862
5,596	NDR Tariff and levy	5,896
90,853	Total expenditure	98,736
(60)	(Gain) or loss on disposal of assets	586
(20,039)	Fees, charges, and other service income	(19,710)
(1,021)	Interest and investment income	(512)
(14,743)	Income from taxation	(15,237)
(56,455)	Government grants and contributions	(62,989)
(92,318)	Total income	(97,862)
(1,465)	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	874

NOTE 9. FEES, CHARGES AND OTHER SERVICE INCOME

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
(7,362)	Corporate Services and Governance	(7,024)
(12,544)	Operational Services:	(12,620)
(65)	Investment Properties	(68)
(68)	Other	2
(20,039)	Total fees, charges, and other service income	(19,710)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 10. GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The table below outlines Government grants and other external contributions accounted for within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2021-22				2022-23		
Grants	Contribs.	Total		Grants	Contribs.	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
(29,491)	0	(29,491)	DWP benefits and other grants	(29,101)	0	(29,101)
(6,444)	0	(6,444)	DCLG grants	(13,040)	0	(13,040)
0	(79)	(79)	Contributions from other local authorities	0	0	0
(1,275)	0	(1,275)	Grants for revenue financed from capital under statute	(1,328)	0	(1,328)
(154)	(10,591)	(10,745)	Other Grants and Contributions	0	(3,304)	(3,304)
(37,364)	(10,670)	(48,034)	Total within Cost of Services	(43,469)	(3,304)	(46,773)
(1,010)	0	(1,010)	Revenue Support Grant	(1,041)	0	(1,041)
(385)	0	(385)	New Burdens Grant	(91)	0	(91)
(163)	0	(163)	Lower Tier Services Support Grant	(197)	0	(197)
(1,121)	0	(1,121)	Covid Grants	0	0	0
(768)	0	(768)	Benefits Administration Grant and Council Tax admin support	(579)	0	(579)
(173)	0	(173)	New Homes Bonus	(158)	0	(158)
(1,812)	0	(1,812)	Section 31 Grant Income	(5,275)	0	(5,275)
(4,274)	0	(4,274)	Grants and contributions towards capital expenditure	(8,694)	0	(8,694)
(9,706)	0	(9,706)	Total within Taxation and non-specific grant income	(16,035)	0	(16,035)
(47,070)	(10,670)	(57,740)	Total grants and contributions	(59,504)	(3,304)	(62,808)

NOTE 11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by East Sussex County Council: this is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. The Council also previously incurred some liabilities for unfunded pensions, resulting from the award of added years' entitlements to members of staff taking early retirement. This liability, which is included in the total net liability reported in the table below, stood at £1,702,000 at 31 March 2023, (£2,101,000 at 31 March 2022) and the Council made payments totalling £165,000 in 2022-23 (£170,000 in 2021-22), as part of the overall payments reported below.

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme retirement benefits are based on the employee's final salary / career average earnings and are increased each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The table below shows separately the movements in the assets and liabilities.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
4,001	Current Service Cost	3,846
0	Curtailments	0
<u>4,001</u>	Cost of Services	<u>3,846</u>
901	Net interest expense	776
<u>901</u>	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	<u>776</u>
<u>4,902</u>	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>4,622</u>
(12,670)	Return on plan assets, less included in interest expense	7,732
	Actuarial gains & losses:	
0	Changes in demographic assumptions	(972)
(5,609)	Changes in financial assumptions	(66,953)
461	Other	25,560
<u>(17,818)</u>	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability	<u>(34,633)</u>
<u>(12,916)</u>	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	<u>(30,011)</u>
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
4,902	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefit debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,622
(2,281)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(2,296)
<u>2,621</u>	Total taken to Note 6	<u>2,326</u>
2021-22 £'000	Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employer Assets (scheme Assets):	2022-23 £'000
134,526	Value of Assets at 1 April	146,523
2,658	Interest income on plan assets	3,756
588	Contributions by Members	602
2,281	Contributions by the Employer	2,296
12,670	Return on assets excluding amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(7,732)
(6,200)	Benefits Paid	(11,256)
<u>146,523</u>	Value of Assets at 31 March	<u>134,189</u>
2021-22 £'000	Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation (scheme Liabilities):	2022-23 £'000
(180,726)	Value of Liabilities at 1 April	(177,526)
(4,001)	Current Service Cost	(3,846)
(3,559)	Interest Cost	(4,532)
(588)	Contribution by Members	(602)
	Actuarial Gains and (Losses):	
0	Change in demographic assumptions	972
5,609	Change in financial assumptions	66,953
(374)	Other experience gains and (losses)	(21,321)
0	(Losses) and Gains on Curtailments	0
6,113	Benefits Paid	7,017
<u>(177,526)</u>	Value of Liabilities at 31 March	<u>(132,885)</u>
<u>(31,003)</u>	Net Liability at 31st March	<u>1,304</u>

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Annual Contribution to fund

The estimated contribution for 2023-24 is £1,960,270 compared with the actual contribution of £2,296,000 for 2022-23.

Plan Assets

The plan's assets consist of the following categories, showing the value of assets and the percentage of the total.

31 March 2022		Asset Breakdown	31 March 2023	
£'000	%		£'000	%
107,918	74%	Equities	94,723	71%
23,550	16%	Bonds	16,289	12%
12,223	8%	Property	21,573	16%
2,832	2%	Cash	1,604	1%
146,523	100%	Total	134,189	100%

We received the following information from the East Sussex Pension Fund regarding the detail of their assets as at 31 March, representing the percentages of the total Fund held in each asset class (split by those that have a quoted market price in an active market, and those that do not).

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices Not Quoted in Active Markets		Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices Not Quoted in Active Markets
%	%		%	%
Index Linked Government Securities				
0.0%	3.0%	UK	0.0%	2.0%
0.0%	0.0%	Overseas	0.0%	0.0%
Corporate Bonds				
0.0%	9.0%	UK	0.0%	9.0%
0.0%	0.0%	Overseas	0.0%	0.0%
Equities				
0.0%	0.0%	UK	0.0%	0.0%
5.0%	38.0%	Overseas	5.0%	39.0%
Property				
0.0%	8.0%	All	0.0%	7.0%
Others				
0.0%	22.0%	Absolute return portfolio	0.0%	18.0%
0.0%	8.0%	Private Equity	0.0%	8.0%
0.0%	3.0%	Infrastructure	0.0%	9.0%
0.0%	1.0%	Other	0.0%	1.0%
0.0%	1.0%	Private Debt	0.0%	1.0%
2.0%	0.0%	Cash/Temporary Investments	1.0%	0.0%
Net Current Assets				
0.0%	0.0%	Debtors	0.0%	0.0%
0.0%	0.0%	Creditors	0.0%	0.0%
7.0%	93.0%	Total	6.0%	94.0%

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Actuarial Assumptions

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. An estimate of the pensions that will be payable has been prepared by Barnett Waddingham LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022. The main assumptions used in their calculations are:

2021-22	2022-23
Mortality assumptions:	
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:	
21.2 Men	21.1
23.8 Women	24.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:	
22.0 Men	22.2
25.1 Women	25.6
3.30% Rate of increase in salaries	2.90%
3.30% Rate of increase in pensions	2.90%
2.60% Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumption set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses above have been determined based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e., on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis did not change from those used in the previous period.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 12. EARMARKED RESERVES

The table below shows the balances for earmarked reserves, and the transfers made to or from the General Fund.

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement 2021-22	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement 2022-23	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(1) General Reserve	(9,794)	96	(9,698)	1,275	(8,423)
(2) Capital Reserve	(150)	0	(150)	0	(150)
(3) Renewal and Repairs Reserve	(1,629)	158	(1,471)	(185)	(1,656)
(4) Risk Management Reserve	(315)	0	(315)	0	(315)
(5) Information Technology Reserve	(247)	41	(206)	(68)	(274)
(6) On-Street Car Parking Surplus Reserve	(40)	0	(40)	0	(40)
(7) Section 106 Reserve (Revenue)	(465)	47	(418)	(8)	(426)
(8) Revenues & Benefits Reserve	(418)	24	(394)	139	(255)
(9) Local Authority Parks Improvement	(1)	(5)	(6)	6	0
(10) Countryside Stewardship Reserve	(39)	18	(21)	(7)	(28)
(11) EU Exit Funding	(52)	52	0	0	0
(12) Monuments in perpetuity	(46)	0	(46)	0	(46)
(13) Ore Valley Reserve	(250)	0	(250)	0	(250)
(14) Invest to save and efficiency Reserve	(144)	17	(127)	40	(87)
(15) Resilience and Stability Reserve	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	100	(900)
(16) Redundancy Reserve	(665)	0	(665)	100	(565)
(17) Safer Hastings Partnership Reserve	(88)	(12)	(100)	2	(98)
(18) Carry-forwards	(1,070)	137	(933)	933	0
(19) Revenue Hardship Fund	(80)	0	(80)	80	0
(20) Disabled Facilities Grant	(1,374)	0	(1,374)	0	(1,374)
(21) Syrian Resettlement Programme	(21)	4	(17)	17	0
(22) Selective Licensing Reserve	(144)	0	(144)	144	0
(23) Housing Licensing reserve	(412)	22	(390)	113	(277)
(24) Community Housing Reserve	(35)	(20)	(55)	44	(11)
(25) Controlling Migration	(116)	0	(116)	0	(116)
(26) Towns Fund	0	(236)	(236)	0	(236)
(27) Section 31 - Grant Reserve	(12,354)	0	(12,354)	8,701	(3,653)
Rounding	2	0	2	(1)	1
Total	(30,947)	343	(30,604)	11,425	(19,179)

For Reserves with a balance as at 31st March 2023 the reasons for maintaining these earmarked reserves are shown below:

1. The General Reserve is used to support revenue spending.
2. The Capital Reserve is earmarked to support capital spending.
3. The Renewal and Repairs Reserve is maintained for the purchase of vehicles, plant, equipment and the repair and redecoration of property.
4. The Risk Management Reserve is used to cover excesses on claims and certain small risks. The object is to minimise insurance premiums providing sufficient cover. It is also a reserve in respect of future MMI insurance liabilities.
5. The Information Technology Reserve is for the purpose of financing the purchase of computing equipment and computer systems required by the Council.
6. On-street car parking surpluses are shared with East Sussex County Council. Shares will be spent on traffic management and transportation issues within the borough.
7. Section 106 Reserve – these are the developers' contributions to be used to finance various projects.
8. Revenues & Benefits Reserve contains grants provided by the Government that will not be used to finance expenditure until after the end of the financial year.
9. Local Authority Parks Improvement Reserve contains grants provided by the Government that will be used to finance expenditure in future years.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Countryside Stewardship Reserve contains grants provided by the Government that will be used to finance expenditure in future years.
11. EU Exit Funding Reserve contains grants provided by the Government to fund costs arising from leaving the European Union.
12. The Monuments in Perpetuity reserve has been set up to maintain burial plots at the Cemetery.
13. Ore Valley reserve has been set up to fund activity in the area.
14. Invest to save Reserve - To provide future funding for projects which will delivery savings but require upfront funding.
15. Resilience and Stability Reserve- To cushion the impact of fluctuations in business rates income and costs of Council tax reduction scheme.
16. Redundancy Reserve - sum put aside to help meet expected redundancy costs arising in future years.
17. Safer Hastings Partnership - is specifically earmarked to reduce crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods and on the streets.
18. Carry-forwards - To fund specific Revenue expenditure originally budgeted for in the current year.
19. Revenue Hardship Fund - To support cases of Hardship relating to Council Tax.
20. Disabled Facility Grant - Funding for disabled adaptations.
21. Syrian Resettlement Programme Reserve - Funding received to support Syrian resettlement programme.
22. Selective Licensing – To smooth the impact of non-refundable license income received up-front but covering several years.
23. Housing Licensing - To smooth the impact of non-refundable license income received up-front but covering several years.
24. Community Housing – Government grant covering more than one year.
25. Controlling Migration – To support the impact of migration.
26. Towns Fund – To fund and support the Towns Deal.
27. Section 31 Grant Reserve – Grant received that will be needed in future years to fund deficits on the Collection Fund caused by government policy changes granting new reliefs.

NOTE 13. UNUSABLE RESERVES

Unusable reserves are held for various purposes as set out in the Accounting Policies (see Note 2.19 above). The tables below summarise the movements in the balances of the reserves, and movements on the individual reserves are then shown in more detail.

2022-23	Opening Balance	Comp- rehensive I&E	Accounting - Financing Adjust.	Balance 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	(71,631)	(7,297)	6,859	(72,069)
Capital Adjustment Account	(36,727)	0	(8,063)	(44,790)
Pensions Reserve	31,003	(34,633)	2,326	(1,304)
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	(212)	363	0	151
Accumulated Absences Account	(279)	0	60	(219)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	6,288	0	(5,843)	445
Total	(71,558)	(41,567)	(4,661)	(117,786)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021-22	Opening Balance	Comp- rehensive I&E	Accounting - Financing Adjust.	Balance 31 March 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	(71,792)	(268)	429	(71,631)
Capital Adjustment Account	(32,947)	0	(3,780)	(36,727)
Pensions Reserve	46,200	(17,818)	2,621	31,003
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	117	(329)	0	(212)
Accumulated Absences Account	(275)	0	(4)	(279)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	4,827	0	1,461	6,288
Rounding	1	0	(1)	0
Total	(53,869)	(18,415)	726	(71,558)

2021-22 £000	Deferred Capital Receipts	2022-23 £000
0	Balance 1 April	0
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
0	Deferred receipts from asset disposals	0
0	Deferred receipts received to Capital Receipts Reserve	0
0	Balance 31 March	0

2021-22 £000	Revaluation Reserve	2022-23 £000
(71,792)	Balance 1 April	(71,631)
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
(268)	(Gain) or Loss on revaluation of assets	(7,297)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
0	Gain or (loss) on sale of non-current assets	6,480
428	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve	380
1	Rounding	(1)
(71,631)	Balance 31 March	(72,069)

2021-22 £000	Capital Adjustment Account	2022-23 £000
(32,947)	Balance 1 April	(36,727)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
79	Write down Intangible Assets	57
397	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	1,449
181	Movements in value of Investment Properties	(1)
0	Gain or (loss) on sale of non-current assets	0
1,319	Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	1,341
(1,668)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(870)
(254)	Capital expenditure financed from revenue	0
(60)	Capital expenditure financed from Capital Receipts	(3,777)
(3,346)	Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	(5,883)
(427)	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve	(380)
(1)	Rounding	1
(36,727)	Balance 31 March	(44,790)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021-22 £000	Pensions Reserve	2022-23 £000
46,200	Balance 1 April	31,003
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
(17,818)	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability	(34,633)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
2,621	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pension costs	2,326
31,003	Balance 31 March	(1,304)

2021-22 £000	Accumulated Absences Account	2022-23 £000
(275)	Balance 1 April	(279)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(4)	Difference between accounting and statutory employment benefit	60
(279)	Balance 31 March	(219)

2021-22 £000	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2022-23 £000
4,827	Balance 1 April	6,288
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(316)	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	(79)
1,776	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	(5,764)
1	Rounding	0
6,288	Balance 31 March	445

2021-22 £000	Available for Sale Asset Reserve	2022-23 £000
0	Balance 1 April	0
0	Adoption of IFRS 9	0
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
0	(Gain)/loss on revaluation of available for sale financial assets	0
0	Balance 31 March	0

2021-22 £000	Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	2022-23 £000
117	Balance 1 April	(212)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(330)	Movement in fair value of financial instruments	364
1	Rounding	(1)
(212)	Balance 31 March	151

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 14. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

2021-22				2022-23		
Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000		Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
254	72,429	72,683	Opening Capital Financing Requirement 1 April	254	71,716	71,970
			<i>Capital Investment</i>			
0	3,295	3,295	Property, Plant and Equipment	0	8,320	8,320
0	0	0	Investment Properties	0	0	0
0	0	0	Intangible Assets	0	0	0
0	0	0	Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0
0	0	0	Heritage assets	0	0	0
0	0	0	Long and short term loan - Housing Company	0	0	0
0	1,319	1,319	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	0	1,341	1,341
			<i>Sources of finance</i>			
0	(60)	(60)	Capital receipts	0	(3,777)	(3,777)
			Government grants and other contributions:			
0	(2,071)	(2,071)	towards assets	0	(4,556)	(4,556)
0	(1,275)	(1,275)	towards REFCUS	0	(1,328)	(1,328)
0	(254)	(254)	Sums set aside from revenue and reserves	0	0	0
0	1	1	Rounding	(1)	0	(1)
0	955	955	Financed from loan	(1)	0	(1)
0	0	0	Repayments from debtors	0	0	0
0	(1,668)	(1,668)	Minimum Revenue Provision	0	(870)	(870)
254	71,716	71,970	Closing Capital Financing Requirement 31 March	253	70,846	71,099

The opening and closing Capital Financing Requirements are made up of the following balance sheet items:

31 March 2022				31 March 2023		
Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000		Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
242	155,599	155,841	Property, Plant and Equipment	242	162,508	162,750
0	377	377	Investment Properties	0	378	378
0	314	314	Intangible Assets	0	257	257
0	0	0	Assets Held for Sale	0	450	450
0	16,322	16,322	Heritage assets	0	16,650	16,650
0	7,415	7,415	Long Term Debtors	0	7,415	7,415
0	58	58	Short Term Debtors	0	58	58
0	(71,632)	(71,632)	Revaluation Reserve	0	(72,069)	(72,069)
11	(36,737)	(36,726)	Capital Adjustment Account	11	(44,801)	(44,790)
1	0	1	Rounding	0	0	0
254	71,716	71,970		253	70,846	71,099

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council has to set money aside as a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to reduce the CFR. Before 1 April 2007 commutation rules meant that this Council was not obliged to set aside an annual MRP. Since then, the Council has set aside a sum equivalent to 4% of the 1 April 2007 balance of the CFR, plus the impact of capital expenditure financed from loan in subsequent years.

The CFR includes some long- and short-term debtors, as the advances have been financed from capital resources. The CFR is reduced as repayments are made.

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£'000		£'000
5,505	Hastings Housing Company Ltd	5,489
1,788	Amicus Horizon / Optivo	1,788
11	The Source	8
126	Foreshore Trust	95
<u>7,430</u>		<u>7,380</u>

The annual and cumulative figures set aside are as follows:

2021-22				2022-23			
Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000		Fin. Lease £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000	
			Set aside to date				
953	8363	9,316	Balance 1 April	953	10,031	10,984	
0	1668	1,668	MRP for the year	0	870	870	
<u>953</u>	<u>10,031</u>	<u>10,984</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>953</u>	<u>10,901</u>	<u>11,854</u>	
			Repaid to date				
(953)	(2,810)	(3,763)	Balance 1 April	(953)	(2,810)	(3,763)	
0	0	0	Net debt movement against set aside	0	0	0	
<u>(953)</u>	<u>(2,810)</u>	<u>(3,763)</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(953)</u>	<u>(2,810)</u>	<u>(3,763)</u>	
<u>0</u>	<u>7,221</u>	<u>7,221</u>	Net set aside	<u>0</u>	<u>8,091</u>	<u>8,091</u>	

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 15. NON-CURRENT ASSETS AND ASSETS FOR SALE

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

2022-23	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant etc	Infra-structure	Comm. Assets	Surplus Props.	Under Construct.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost:							
Opening value 1 April 2022	126,774	3,642	16,945	13,690	8,512	83	169,645
Additions	4,606	8	2,457	1,249	0	0	8,320
Disposals	0	0	0	0	(6,480)	0	(6,480)
Impairment losses	(566)	0	0	0	0	0	(566)
Impairment loss reversals	781	0	0	0	135	0	916
Reclassifications	(450)	0	0	0	0	0	(450)
Revaluations	3,801	0	0	0	2,348	0	6,149
Value 31 March 2023	134,946	3,650	19,402	14,939	4,515	83	177,534
Cumulative Depreciation:							
Opening value 1 April 2022	(1,022)	(2,087)	(10,408)	(289)	1	0	(13,805)
Adj Accum Depreciation	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	(1)
Charge for the year	(1,254)	(137)	(409)	0	0	0	(1,800)
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment loss reversals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	821	0	0	0	0	0	821
Balance 31 March 2023	(1,455)	(2,224)	(10,817)	(289)	0	0	(14,785)
Net book value 31 March 2023	133,491	1,426	8,585	14,650	4,515	83	162,749

2021-22	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant etc	Infra-structure	Comm. Assets	Surplus Props.	Under Construct.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost:							
Opening value	123,118	3,532	16,698	13,352	8,102	83	164,884
Additions	2,600	110	247	338	0	0	3,295
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses	(941)	0	0	0	(136)	0	(1,077)
Impairment loss reversals	2,492	0	0	0	0	0	2,492
Reclassifications	805	0	0	0	0	0	805
Revaluations	(1,300)	0	0	0	546	0	(754)
Value 31 March 2022	126,774	3,642	16,945	13,690	8,512	83	169,645
Cumulative Depreciation:							
Opening value	(490)	(1,934)	(9,982)	(289)	1	0	(12,694)
Adj Accum Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	(1,234)	(153)	(426)	0	0	0	(1,813)
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment loss reversals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	702	0	0	0	0	0	702
Balance 31 March 2022	(1,022)	(2,087)	(10,408)	(289)	1	0	(13,805)
Net book value 31 March 2022	125,752	1,555	6,537	13,401	8,513	83	155,840

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council's properties categorised as Other Land and Buildings and Surplus Properties are subject to regular revaluations, which are phased over 5 years, but with an annual review to ensure that there are no material understatements or overstatements. The revaluations at both 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2022 were carried out by Wilkes Head & Eve LLP, a professional firm of valuers, in line with the principles set out in Note 2.17.

The assets were valued over financial years as follows:

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant etc	Infra-structure	Comm. Assets	Surplus Props.	Under Construct.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Valued in:							
2018-19	3,249	0	0	0	0	0	3,249
2019-20	7,654	0	0	0	0	0	7,654
2020-21	30,687	0	0	0	0	0	30,687
2021-22	7,745	0	0	0	0	0	7,745
2022-23	79,105	0	0	0	4,515	0	83,620
Historic Cost	5,051	1,426	8,585	14,650	0	83	29,794
Net book value 31 March 2023	133,491	1,426	8,585	14,650	4,515	83	162,749

The Council's surplus properties consist of various parcels of land which are surplus to operational requirements, but which are not yet being actively marketed. There are no quoted prices for identical assets, but there are values available for similar assets, so it has been possible to value them at Level 2 of the Fair Value hierarchy (see Note 2.9 above), both at the start and end of the financial year.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The movements in the values of investment properties are shown below:

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
(65)	Rental income from investment property	(68)
181	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	0
0	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	(1)
<u>116</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(69)</u>

The Council's Investment Properties consist of commercial properties let at market rents. There are no quoted prices for identical properties, and no significant observable values for similar properties. Values have therefore been assessed under Level 3 of the Fair Value hierarchy (see Note 2.9 above), both at the start and end of the financial year. They are measured using the income approach, by means of the discounted cash flow method, where the discounted cash flows from the properties are discounted (using a market-derived discount rate) to establish the present value of the net income stream. In all cases the highest and best use for these assets is their current use.

Income and expenditure on Investment Properties was as follows:

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
1,363	Balance at start of the year	377
0	Purchases	0
(181)	Net gains/ (losses) from fair value adjustments	1
(805)	Reclassified	0
<u>377</u>	<u>Balance at end of the year</u>	<u>378</u>

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets. The annual movements in the balance sheet figures for intangible assets are shown below:

2021-22				2022-23		
Gross £'000	Amortised £'000	Net Total £'000		Gross £'000	Amortised £'000	Net Total £'000
815	(422)	393	Balance	815	(501)	314
0	(79)	(79)	1 April	0	(73)	(73)
0			Amortised for the year	16	0	16
815	(501)	314	Additions	831	(574)	257
			Balance at 31 March			

HERITAGE ASSETS

The assets are preserved in ways appropriate to their nature and condition, and details of them are kept by the requisite department for control purposes and to allow periodic insurance valuations. Where possible the items are displayed in the town's museums or are open to the public such as the Castle and Caves. Items of Civic Regalia are used on public display where circumstances permit. Changes to valuations of Heritage assets were advised by Gorrings LLT Fine Arts Auctioneers and Valuers of 15 North Street Lewes East Sussex, BN7 2PD.

2021-22			2022-23	
£'000			£'000	
16,002	Balance at start of the year		16,322	
0	Additions		0	
320	Revaluations		327	
0	Rounding		0	
16,322	Balance at end of the year		16,650	

Heritage assets with balance sheet values have been subdivided by the following major categories:

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
£000's			£000's	
432	Turner Painting of Old Town		452	
2,241	Art Collection - General		2,342	
8,121	Art Collection - Other		8,237	
637	Ceramics Glass & Porcelain		646	
3,814	Misc. - Silver, books, manuscripts etc.		3,874	
649	Machinery, Equipment & other		658	
217	Civic Regalia		224	
101	Hastings Castle		103	
110	Coins		114	
16,322			16,650	

Assets Held For Sale

2021-22			2022-23	
£'000			£'000	
0	Balance outstanding at start of year		0	
0	Additions		0	
0	Reclassified from Property Plant and Equipment		450	
0	Assets sold		0	
0	Balance at end of the year		450	

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 16. DEBTORS AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

DEBTORS

The table below analyses the balance sheet figures between different types of debt. The Council has made an allowance for impairment of £363,000, for doubtful debts for trade accounts receivable, compared to £346,000 as at 31 March 2022.

31 March 2022 £'000		31 March 2023 £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:	
299	Council taxpayers	326
110	NNDR taxpayers	194
4,283	Trade debtors	4,625
6,694	Other debtors	6,269
365	Prepayments	444
(1,230)	Allowance for Credit Losses	(1,743)
10,521	Total short term debtors	10,115
0	NNDR preceptors and government	0
7,383	Other debtors	7,351
7,383	Amounts falling due after one year (all other bodies)	7,351
17,904	Total Debtors	17,466

CONTINGENT ASSETS

There are no contingent assets.

NOTE 17. LIABILITIES

CREDITORS

31 March 2022 £'000		31 March 2023 £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:	
1,275	NNDR - preceptors	(34)
6,377	NNDR - government	(168)
(306)	NNDR taxpayers	(260)
783	Council tax - preceptors	(1,012)
(186)	Council tax taxpayers	(241)
(2,278)	Trade creditors	(12,516)
(996)	Other creditors	(965)
(16,453)	Received in advance	(3,454)
1	Rounding	1
(11,783)	Total short-term creditors	(18,649)
	Amounts falling due after one year:	
0	NNDR Government share long term	0
0	NNDR LG preceptors share long term	0
(2,665)	Council Tax preceptors share long term	(1,790)
(253)	Deferred Liability - Finance Leases	(253)
(48)	Other creditors	(48)
(2,966)	Total Long-Term Creditors	(2,091)
(14,749)	Total Creditors	(20,740)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROVISIONS

Due to the localisation of Business Rates, which became effective from 1 April 2013, the Council has set aside a provision for any potential liabilities as a result of Business Rate payers' appeals against rateable valuations. The Council is responsible for a 40% share of this liability, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 50%, East Sussex County Council for 9% and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority for 1%. The provision includes an amount for appeals lodged to date but yet to be determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) plus an amount for appeals expected but not yet lodged with VOA which has been estimated. It is expected that the majority of appeals will be settled by the VOA by 2023/24, but the Council cannot be certain as to when the appeals will be resolved because the timing of resettlement depends on the VOA.

The Council has not made any further provisions in 2022-23 for the legal fees relating to the Compulsory Purchased Order property claims.

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Additional Provisions made	Amounts used	Reversals	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Compulsory purchase order provision	(138)	0	0	0	(138)
Insurance Claim	(50)	0	0	0	(50)
NNDR provision for appeals - HBC element	(1,401)	(2,101)	2,497	0	(1,005)
	(1,589)	(2,101)	2,497	0	(1,193)

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited

MMI (Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited), a previous insurer of the Council and one that underwrote up to 95% of the insurance risks for local authorities in the early 1990's ceased underwriting in 1992 having suffered substantial losses. The Council and most of MMI's public sector members elected to participate in a 'Scheme of Arrangement' effectively becoming 'Scheme Creditors'. This potentially results in the Council having to pay back part of all claims that have been settled on behalf of Hastings BC since 1993 following the Scheme of Arrangement being triggered. The value of this potential liability is unknown and hard to quantify.

NOTE 18. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The key risks are:

- Credit Risk the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- Liquidity risk the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Re-financing risk the possibility that the Council might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market risk the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates movements

Overall procedures for managing risk.

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice
- by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations / standing orders/constitution
- by approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt
 - Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's annual Council Tax setting budget or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as is a mid-year update.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The annual Treasury Management Strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 16th February 2022 and is available on the Council website. The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2022-23 was set at £115m. This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long-term liabilities.
- The Operational Boundary for 2022-23 was set at £110m. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.
- The maximum amounts of fixed and variable interest rate exposure were set at 100% and 100% based on the Council's net debt.

These policies are implemented by a central treasury team. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies (Treasury Management Practices - TMPs) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash. These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed annually.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. Additional selection criteria are also applied after this initial criterion is applied. The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite of this Council is low in order to give priority to security of its investments. The key elements are the security of capital and the liquidity of investments.

This Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Group. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies – Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

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

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the council.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2023 that this was likely to crystallise. The following analysis summarises the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

The Council reviews trade debtors on a regular basis, and made a 100% provision against specific debts, 50% for those over 90 days overdue, and 10% for those less than 10 days. This is modified by excluding public sector bodies and adjusting for debts where a payment plan is in place.

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

31 March 2022			Category	31 March 2023		
Amount	Bad Debt Provision	Estimated maximum exposure to default		Amount	Bad Debt Provision	Estimated maximum exposure to default
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
2,970	(346)	2,624	Other trade debtors	3,315	(363)	2,952
1,834	0	1,834	Trade receivables	1,621	0	1,621
4,804	(346)	4,458	Total	4,936	(363)	4,573

All other trade debtors are due to be received within one year, while trade payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expected Credit Loss

	31 March 2023		
	12 month expected credit loss	Lifetime expected credit losses – simplified approach	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance as at 1 April 2022	0	(346)	(346)
Financial assets that have been derecognised	0	(153)	(153)
New financial assets originated or purchased	0	363	363
Amounts written off	0	0	0
Changes in models/risk parameters	0	0	0
As at 31 March 2023	0	(136)	(136)

12-month expected credit losses is the portion of lifetime expected credit losses that represent the expected credit losses that result from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date.

Lifetime expected credit losses are the expected credit losses that result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument.

The Council has the following exposure to credit risk at 31 March 2023:

Credit Risk Approach	Analysis	Credit risk rating	Gross carrying amount	Credit Risk Impairment Allowance	Net carrying amount
			£'000	£'000	£'000
12-month expected credit losses	Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services	A	340	0	340
	Assets held with other public sector bodies - no credit risk	N/A	28,000	0	28,000
Simplified approach	Trade debtors and other receivables	N/A	4,936	(363)	4,573
Other	Assets held at fair value through profit and loss	N/A	4,556	0	4,556
Simplified approach	Other loans to counterparties with no expected credit risk	N/A	7,346	0	7,346
	Cash balances	N/A	202	0	202
			45,380	(363)	45,017

Liquidity risk

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

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

31 March 2022 £'000		31 March 2023 £'000
30,357	Less than 1 year	37,613
12,566	Less than 5 years greater than 1 year	11,902
42,923	Total	49,515

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Refinancing and Maturity risk

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

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

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer-term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer-term cash flow needs.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is set out below. The amounts included are the payments to extinguish the liability, rather than the undiscounted future cash flows.

31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
(642) Less than 1 year	(658)
(658) Between 1 and 2 years	(674)
(3,041) Between 3 and 5 years	(3,059)
(6,643) Between 6 and 10 years	(6,735)
(55,079) More than 10 years	(54,295)
(66,063) Total	(65,421)

Market Risk

Interest rate risk - The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing will fall (no impact on revenue balances).
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall (no impact on revenue balances).

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

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

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	0
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(329)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>(329)</u>

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. These assumptions are based on the same methodology as used in the Note – Fair value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Price risk - The Council, excluding the pension fund and external fund managers, does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds.

Foreign Exchange risk – The Council has a bank account denominated in Euros to deal with payments and receipts with the Euro countries, and therefore has a small risk of loss to movements in exchange rates.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT BALANCES

The long-term investment is categorised as an asset available for sale, while the short-term investments are all included within the category of “loans and receivables.”

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Book Value	Fair Value		Book Value	Fair Value
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
0	0	Available for sale financial asset	0	0
5,184	5,184	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	4,556	4,556
5,184	5,184	Long term Investments	4,556	4,556
9,968	9,984	Loans and Receivables - at amortised cost	28,000	28,000
19	0	Less accrued interest	0	0
9,987	9,984	Short term Investments	28,000	28,000
1,834	1,834	Trade accounts receivable	1,621	1,621
2,970	2,970	Other debtors	3,315	3,315
(346)	(346)	Provision for impairment	(346)	(346)
4,458	4,458	Short Term Debtors - at amortised cost	4,590	4,590
1,788	1,788	Amicus Horizon loan	1,788	1,788
95	95	Foreshore Trust	64	64
2	2	Staff car loans	0	0
8	8	The Source	5	5
5,489	5,489	Hastings Housing Company	5,489	5,489
7,382	7,382	Long Term Debtors at amortised cost	7,346	7,346
15,912	11,984	Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,023	11,984
42,923	38,992	Total Financial Assets	49,515	56,476

The Council's borrowings are liabilities carried at amortised cost, and the details are set out below.

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Book Value	Fair Value		Book Value	Fair Value
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
(65,421)	(66,924)	Public Works Loan board	(64,763)	(49,737)
(253)	(253)	Long Term Creditors	(253)	(253)
(65,674)	(67,177)	Long Term Liabilities	(65,016)	(49,990)
(643)	(642)	Short Term Loans	(659)	(658)
(350)	0	Adjust for interest on long term loans	(202)	0
(2,910)	(2,910)	Short Term Creditors	(13,066)	(13,066)
(3,903)	(3,552)	Short Term Liabilities	(13,927)	(13,724)
(69,577)	(70,729)	Total Financial Liabilities	(78,943)	(63,714)

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Interest Receivable and Payable

The table below sets out the interest receivable and payable for the year related to financial assets and liabilities, reconciled to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
	Interest receivable	
(543)	Interest from loans and receivables	(1,077)
(16)	Other interest receivable	(64)
(559)	Total Interest receivable	(1,141)
	Interest payable	
0	Interest on long term borrowing	0
1,830	Other interest payable and similar charges	1,862
1	Rounding	0
1,831	Total Interest payable	1,862

Valuation Techniques for Fair Value

The fair values valuations have been provided by the Council's Treasury Management advisor, Link Group. This uses the Net Present Value (NPV) approach, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms. This is a widely accepted valuation technique commonly used by the private sector. The discount rate used in the NPV calculation should be equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender. This will be the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation, for an instrument with the same duration i.e., equal to the outstanding period from valuation date to maturity. The structure and terms of the comparable instrument should be the same, although for complex structures it is sometimes difficult to obtain the rate for an instrument with identical features in an active market. In such cases, Link Group has used the prevailing rate of a similar instrument with a published market rate, as the discount factor.

The fair value calculations for these financial instruments are in line with level 2 of the hierarchy outlined in accounting policy 2.9 above (Inputs, other than quoted prices within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly).

For loans from the PWLB, valued in line with level 2, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures.

The purpose of the fair value disclosure is primarily to provide a comparison with the carrying value in the Balance Sheet. Since this will include accrued interest as at the Balance Sheet date, the calculations also include accrued interest in the fair value calculation. This figure is calculated up to and including the valuation date.

The rates quoted in this valuation were obtained by Link Group from the market on 31st March, using bid prices where applicable.

Fair Value through Profit and Loss assets are valued in line with Level 1 (quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the year-end) with regard to the fair value hierarchy.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 19. RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE SURPLUS/DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND THE CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
(1,465)	(Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	874
(1,814)	Depreciation of Property Plant and Equipment	(1,801)
1,416	Impairment of Property Plant and Equipment	350
(79)	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(57)
(2,621)	Pension Fund adjustments	(2,326)
132	Revaluation Gains on Investments	(264)
(181)	Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	1
0	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(6,480)
330	FVPL Financial Instrument Reversal	(365)
	Changes in level of revenue accruals:	
(3)	Long Term Debtors	0
(19)	Short Term Investments	0
0	Long Term Creditors	0
8	Inventories	12
2,412	Short Term Debtors	(438)
(6,261)	Short Term Creditors	2,782
0	Short Term Borrowing	0
582	Provisions	396
60	Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,894
4,274	Capital Grant & Contributions	8,694
1	Other items	3
(3,228)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	7,275

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 20. EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

The table below shows the remuneration of senior management. The figures include where appropriate amounts receivable in relation to returning officer duties.

Post holder information (Post title)	Salary (Inc. fees & Allowances)	Benefits in Kind (e.g. lease cars)*	Pension Contributions**	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£
Financial Year: 2022-23				
Director of Corporate Resources and Governance	116,645	7,611	21,404	145,660
Assistant Director of Finance and Revenues (Section 151 Officer) P. Grace	31,201	0	4,674	35,875
Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) K. Wheeler	63,047	0	10,936	73,983
Assistant Director of Regeneration	80,591		14,053	94,644
Assistant Director of Housing	80,516	0	14,015	94,531
Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)	77,645	0	13,488	91,133
Total	449,645	7,611	78,570	535,826
Financial Year: 2021-22				
Director of Corporate Resources and Governance	117,648	7,611	21,588	146,847
Assistant Director of Finance and Revenues (Section 151 Officer)	109,157	0	17,476	126,633
Assistant Director of Regeneration	78,722	0	13,662	92,384
Assistant Director of Environmental Services	44,807	0	7,754	52,561
Assistant Director of Housing	78,429	0	13,662	92,091
Total	428,763	7,611	74,142	510,516

* Lease car costs shown in benefits in kind above are based on P11D values provided to HMRC and do not necessarily reflect the actual costs borne by the council.

** This includes pension strain costs where applicable. The strain costs are reflected in the figures on a cash basis but in fact are paid into the fund on a monthly basis as a 1% enhanced charge to the employer.

The table below shows the number of employees in the year whose remuneration was greater than £50,000. For this purpose, remuneration means amounts paid to or receivable by an employee and includes sums due by way of expenses allowance (so far as these sums are chargeable to United Kingdom income tax), and the estimated monetary value of any other benefits received by an employee otherwise than in cash. It includes compensation payments but excludes employer's pension contributions. This table shows total remuneration paid to individual employees for the year, whereas the detailed tables above show remuneration against the relevant senior post. In some cases, a particular post may be held by more than one employee during the course of the year, and conversely an employee may hold more than one post.

The number of employees of the Council whose emoluments were within the following ranges were:

2021-22		2022-23
6	£50,000 - £54,999	6
2	£55,000 - £59,999	4
3	£60,000 - £64,999	5
1	£65,000 - £69,999	2
3	£70,000 - £74,999	4
3	£75,000 - £79,999	2
1	£80,000 - £84,999	3
0	£85,000 - £89,999	0
0	£90,000 - £94,999	0
0	£95,000 - £99,999	0
0	£100,000 - £104,999	0
1	£105,000 - £109,999	0
0	£110,000 - £114,999	0
0	£115,000 - £119,999	0
0	£120,000 - £124,999	1
1	£125,000 - £129,999	0
21		27

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 21. TERMINATION BENEFITS AND EXIT PACKAGES

Termination benefits include lump sum payments to departing employees, enhancements to retirement benefits, and salaries paid to the end of a notice period, but when the employee ceases to provide services to the Council. We accrue for such payments at the point when a decision is made to terminate employment, rather than when the benefits fall due for payment. These payments are charged to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council terminated the contracts of 5 employees in 2022-23, incurring costs of £247,503. In comparison it terminated the contracts of 4 employee in 2021-22, incurring costs of £26,133. Termination costs are charged to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year when the employment was terminated.

The number of employees of the Council whose exit packages were within the following ranges were:

2021-22					2022-23				
Number of exit packages			Cost	Banding	Number of exit packages			Cost	
Compuls. Redund.	Other departures	Total exit packages	Total £		Compuls. Redund.	Other departures	Total exit packages	Total £	
3	1	4	26,133	£0 - £20,000	2	0	2	11,001	
0	0	0	0	£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	£40,001 - 60,000	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	£60,001 - 80,000	1	0	1	63,182	
0	0	0	0	£80,001 - £100,000	2	0	2	173,320	
3	1	4	26,133		5	0	5	247,503	

NOTE 22. LEASES

COUNCIL ACTING AS LESSOR – OPERATING LEASES

The Council leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for economic development purposes
- to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.
- for the provision of community services, and leisure services

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

2021-22		2022-23	
£'000		£'000	
4,272	Not later than one year	4,288	
12,855	Later than one year and not later than five years	13,501	
75,793	Later than five years	79,752	
92,920		97,541	

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 2022-23 contingent rents of £231,380 were receivable by the Council (£352,425 in 2021-22).

NOTE 23. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

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

2021-22		2022-23	
£'000		£'000	
36	External audit services	39	
9	Other services	12	
45		51	

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 24. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
328	Members Allowances	316
5	Conferences, Training and Travelling Expenses	8
334		324
32	Number of Councillors	32
£10,433	Average sum per Councillor	£10,124

NOTE 25. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Definition

The term "related party" covers any relationship between the Council and body or individual, where one of the parties can exercise significant influence over the policies and decisions of the other.

Central Government

The central government provides significant amounts of the Council's funding and determines its statutory framework. Details of transactions with central government are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes 10 (Grants and Contributions), 16 (Debtors and Contingent Assets) and 17 (Liabilities).

East Sussex Pension Scheme

The Council participates in the East Sussex Pension Scheme, making annual contributions to the East Sussex Pension Fund as set out in Note 11. Although the scheme is administered by East Sussex County Council, the pension fund is a separate entity.

Hastings Housing Company Ltd

During 2017/18 the Council established a wholly owned Housing Company limited by share - Hastings Housing Company Ltd. The company has been designed to initially acquire, develop, and deliver housing for both market rent, and to provide sub market housing, with the potential to undertake development in the future. A key objective of the Housing Company is: To acquire existing or newly built property with a view to letting these to local people at market or submarket rents.

Members and Senior Officers

All members and senior officers are required to complete an annual return, disclosing the details of any interest of themselves and their close family members, which might have an impact on their activities on behalf of the Council.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The Council also nominates members to sit on outside bodies. Six current members are also members of East Sussex County Council. A sum of £553,100 (£503,000 2020-21) was paid to Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust of which some members are Trustees. Repayments were made on the remaining annuity loan which was advanced as £300,000 during 2015/16, £95,300 of which was outstanding at 31 March 2023. There were no other interests in any related party transactions during the year. The register of Member's Interest is held at the Town Hall and is open to public inspection. For all the organisations listed in the table below the relationship to the organisation was that the member or senior officer was in a position of general control or management.

NOTES TO CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021-22		Organisation	2022-23	
Paid to (Supplier)	Received From (Customer)		Paid to (Supplier)	Received From (Customer)
£,000	£,000		£,000	£,000
130	9	Education Futures Trust	274	9
3	9	St Marys in the Castle	1	29
173	0	Love Hastings	189	0
1	0	Idolrich Theatre Rotto Puppet Company	0	0
0	0	In 2 Play CIC	7	0
307	18	Totals	471	38

Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Trust

The Council acts as the sole trustee for the Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust. The trusteeship scheme is so constituted as to prevent the Council from obtaining any benefit from the Trust's activities.

During the year 2022/23 the Trust accrued net income resulting from the activities recorded in the Council's accounts. The net results of the Trust were made up of income of £1,364,900 and expenditure of £811,800, giving a net figure of £553,100 within the council's own accounts (£503,000 in 2021/22).

The net income was mainly in respect of car parking and seafront entertainment.

Hastings Housing Company Ltd

Hastings Housing Company Ltd (HHC Ltd) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council.

During the year, the Council recharged HHC Ltd £6,183 (£721 2021/22) in relation to officer time spent working on Housing Company business and £280,068 (£283,489 2021/22) in relation to interest on outstanding loans.

As at the 31st March 2023 HHC Ltd owed the Council £5,489,000 (£5,489,000 2021/22) resulting from a number of long-term market rate capital loans granted by the Council. HHC Ltd also owed the Council £280,068 (£283,489 2021/22) in relation to interest payments on the capital loan.

NOTE 26. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

There were no exceptional items in this financial year.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

As set out in the narrative report above, Hastings Housing Company Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, and group accounts are therefore prepared to combine the accounts of the Council and Hastings Housing Company Ltd. Transactions and indebtedness between the Council and the company have been eliminated in the preparation of these accounts.

The purpose of the main accounting statements is as set out in the accounting statements above for the Council alone.

The accounting Code of Practice requires the same disclosures to be made for group accounts as for the Council's own accounts. However, the impact of the Hastings Housing Company figures on the group totals is immaterial, other than for those notes included.

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2021-22			2022-23			
Gross	Income	Net		Gross	Income	Net
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
39,519	(37,736)	1,783	Corporate Services and Governance	40,538	(36,974)	3,564
32,728	(20,532)	12,196	Operational Services:	37,772	(21,693)	16,079
72,247	(58,268)	13,979	Cost of Services	78,310	(58,667)	19,643
0	(60)	(60)	(Gain) or loss on sale of assets	0	586	586
0	(60)	(60)	Other operating expenditure	0	586	586
1,831	0	1,831	Interest payable and similar charges	1,862	0	1,862
901	0	901	Net interest on defined pension liabilities	776	0	776
0	(275)	(275)	Interest receivable and similar income	0	(861)	(861)
0	(462)	(462)	Movement in the fair value of financial instruments	264	365	629
205	(395)	(190)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	26	(380)	(354)
2,937	(1,132)	1,805		2,928	(876)	2,052
0	(7,523)	(7,523)	Council Tax Income	0	(7,517)	(7,517)
5,596	(7,220)	(1,624)	Non domestic rates	5,896	(7,720)	(1,824)
0	(1,010)	(1,010)	Revenue Support Grant	0	(1,282)	(1,282)
0	(3,122)	(3,122)	Other non-ringfenced government grants	6,430	(12,428)	(5,998)
0	(4,274)	(4,274)	Capital grants and contributions	0	(8,694)	(8,694)
10,097	(9,755)	342	Covid Grants	5,464	(1,560)	3,904
15,693	(32,903)	(17,210)		17,790	(39,201)	(21,411)
90,876	(92,363)	(1,486)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	99,028	(98,158)	870
		(268)	(Surplus) or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(7,297)
		0	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the revaluation reserve			0
		0	Valuation (gains) / losses on available for sale financial assets reserve			0
		(17,818)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			(34,633)
		(18,086)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(41,930)
		(19,572)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(41,060)

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Authority's Share of Reserves of Subsidiary	Total Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022-23										
Balance at 1 April 2022	(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)	0	(5,747)	(36,851)	(71,559)	(108,410)	57	(108,353)
Movement in Reserves in 2022-23										
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	1,777	0	1,777	0	0	1,777	0	1,777	(311)	1,466
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(41,932)	(41,932)	(772)	(42,704)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,777	0	1,777	0	0	1,777	(41,932)	(40,155)	(1,083)	(41,238)
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(280)	0	(280)	0	0	(280)	0	(280)	280	0
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - note 7	9,930	0	9,930	(2,117)	(4,170)	3,643	(3,672)	(29)	29	0
Net increase/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	11,427	0	11,427	(2,117)	(4,170)	5,140	(45,604)	(40,464)	(774)	(41,238)
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - note 12	(11,427)	11,425	(2)	0	0	(2)	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	0	11,425	11,425	(2,117)	(4,170)	5,138	(45,604)	(40,466)	(774)	(41,238)
Balance at 31 March 2023	(500)	(19,179)	(19,679)	(2,117)	(9,917)	(31,713)	(117,163)	(148,874)	(717)	(149,591)

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Total usable reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Authority's Share of Reserves of Subsidiary	Total Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021-22										
Balance at 1 April 2021	(521)	(30,947)	(31,468)	0	(3,544)	(35,012)	(53,870)	(88,882)	80	(88,802)
Movement in Reserves in 2021-22										
(Surplus)/deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	(1,181)	0	(1,181)	0	0	(1,181)	0	(1,181)	(306)	(1,487)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1	0	1	0	0	1	(18,087)	(18,086)	1	(18,085)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(1,180)	0	(1,180)	0	0	(1,180)	(18,087)	(19,267)	(305)	(19,572)
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(284)	0	(284)	0	0	(284)	0	(284)	284	0
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - note 7	1,807	0	1,807	0	(2,203)	(396)	398	2	(2)	0
Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	343	0	343	0	(2,203)	(1,860)	(17,689)	(19,549)	(23)	(19,572)
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - note 12	(322)	343	21	0	0	21	0	21	0	21
Rounding										
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	21	343	364	0	(2,203)	(1,839)	(17,689)	(19,528)	(23)	(19,551)
Balance at 31 March 2022	(500)	(30,604)	(31,104)	0	(5,747)	(36,851)	(71,559)	(108,410)	(57)	(108,353)

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

HBC	Group		HBC	Group
31 March 2022	31 March 2022		31 March 2023	31 March 2023
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
155,840	155,840	Property, Plant and Equipment	162,749	162,749
16,322	16,322	Heritage Assets	16,650	16,650
377	5,846	Investment Properties	378	6,886
314	314	Intangible Assets	257	257
5,184	5,184	Long Term Investments	4,556	4,556
7,383	1,893	Long Term Debtors	7,351	1,861
185,420	185,399	LONG TERM ASSETS	191,941	192,959
9,984	9,984	Short Term Investments	28,000	28,000
0	0	Assets Held for Sale	450	450
78	78	Inventories	90	90
10,521	10,456	Short Term Debtors	10,115	10,039
15,912	16,006	Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,023	5,087
36,495	36,524	CURRENT ASSETS	43,678	43,666
(643)	(643)	Short Term Borrowing	(659)	(629)
(11,783)	(11,818)	Short Term Creditors	(18,649)	(18,710)
(1,589)	(1,619)	Provisions	(1,193)	(1,453)
(101)	(101)	Capital grants received in advance	(69)	(69)
(14,116)	(14,181)	CURRENT LIABILITIES	(20,570)	(20,861)
(2,966)	(2,966)	Long Term Creditors	(2,091)	(2,091)
(65,421)	(65,421)	Long Term Borrowing	(64,763)	(64,763)
(31,003)	(31,003)	Net Pension Liability	1,304	1,304
(99,390)	(99,390)	LONG TERM LIABILITIES	(65,550)	(65,550)
108,409	108,352	NET ASSETS	149,499	150,214
(500)	(500)	General Fund	(500)	(500)
0	57	Retained Earnings in Subsidiary	0	(717)
(30,604)	(30,604)	Earmarked reserves	(19,179)	(19,179)
0	0	Capital Receipts Reserve	(2,117)	(2,117)
(5,747)	(5,747)	Capital grants and contributions	(9,917)	(9,917)
(36,851)	(36,794)	USABLE RESERVES	(31,713)	(32,430)
(71,631)	(71,631)	Revaluation Reserve	(72,069)	(72,069)
0	0	Available for Sale Reserve	0	0
0	0	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	0	0
(212)	(212)	Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	151	151
(36,727)	(36,727)	Capital Adjustment Account	(44,790)	(44,790)
0	0	Deferred capital receipts	0	0
31,003	31,003	Pensions Reserve	(1,304)	(1,304)
(279)	(279)	Accumulated Absences Account	(219)	(219)
6,288	6,288	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	445	445
0	0	Rounding Difference	0	2
(71,558)	(71,558)	UNUSABLE RESERVES	(117,786)	(117,784)
(108,409)	(108,352)	TOTAL RESERVES	(149,499)	(150,214)

GROUP CASHFLOW STATEMENT

Hastings Borough Council 2021-22		Group 2021-22	Hastings Borough Council 2022-23		Group 2022-23
£'000		£'000	£'000		£'000
(13,684)	(13,684)	Taxation	(14,482)	(14,482)	
(50,379)	(50,379)	Grants and Contributions	(55,367)	(55,367)	
(33,496)	(33,496)	Sales of goods and rendering of services	(6,446)	(6,446)	
(578)	(578)	Interest received	(1,141)	(1,141)	
(32)	(32)	other receipts from operating activities	(483)	(483)	
(98,169)	(98,169)	Cash inflows generated from operating activities	(77,919)	(77,919)	
11,137	11,137	Cash paid to and on behalf of employees	11,880	11,880	
29,030	29,030	Housing benefit payments	29,849	29,849	
5,739	5,739	NNDR Tariff and levy payments	5,667	5,667	
25,704	25,740	Cash paid to suppliers of goods and services	11,655	11,684	
1,832	1,832	Interest paid	1,863	1,863	
21,499	21,499	Other operating cash payments	23,651	23,651	
94,941	94,977	Cash outflows generated from operating activities	84,565	84,594	
(3,228)	(3,192)	Net cashflows from operating activities	6,646	6,675	
(60)	(60)	''	(5,895)	(5,895)	
3,295	3,295	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	8,320	8,320	
(4,864)	(4,864)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	17,752	17,752	
0	0	Proceeds from the sale of short-term and long-term investments	0	0	
(4,406)	(4,406)	Other receipts from investing activities	(8,430)	(8,430)	
(6,035)	(6,035)	Net cashflows from investing activities	11,747	11,747	
(2,000)	(2,000)	Cash receipts from short term and long term borrowing.	0	0	
627	627	Repayments of short term and long term borrowing	642	642	
3,290	3,290	Changes in National Non-Domestic Rates balances held for preceptors	(7,225)	(7,225)	
(1,039)	(1,039)	Changes in Council tax balances held for preceptors	(921)	(921)	
878	878	Net cashflows from financing activities	(7,504)	(7,504)	
(8,385)	(8,349)	Net (Increase) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents	10,889	10,918	
7,527	7,657	Cash and bank balances 1 April	15,912	16,006	
8,385	8,349	Change during the year	(10,889)	(10,918)	
15,912	16,006	Cash and bank balances 31 March	5,023	5,088	
31 March 2022			31 March 2023		
104	104	Cash in hand	117	117	
10,789	10,789	Bank balances	406	471	
5,019	5,113	Cash equivalents	4,500	4,500	
15,912	16,006	Totals	5,023	5,088	

GROUP NOTES

The notes where there is a material difference between group and single entity are Financial Instruments and Investment Properties. These are shown below:

GROUP NOTE 1. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

HBC 31 March 2022	Group 31 March 2022		HBC 31 March 2023	Group 31 March 2023
Book Value £'000	Book Value £'000		Book Value £'000	Book Value £'000
0	0	Available for sale financial asset	0	0
5,184	5,184	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	4,556	4,556
5,184	5,184	Long term Investments	4,556	4,556
9,968	9,968	Loans and Receivables - at amortised cost	28,000	28,000
0	0	Provision for impairment	0	0
19	19	Less accrued interest	0	0
9,987	9,987	Short term Investments	28,000	28,000
1,834	1,834	Trade accounts receivable	1,621	1,621
2,970	2,970	Other debtors	3,315	3,315
(346)	(346)	Provision for impairment	(346)	(346)
4,458	4,458	Short Term Debtors - at amortised cost	4,590	4,590
1,788	1,788	Amicus Horizon loan	1,788	1,788
95	95	Foreshore Trust	64	64
2	2	Staff car loans	0	0
8	8	The Source	5	5
5,489	(0)	Hastings Housing Company	5,489	(0)
7,382	1,893	Long Term Debtors at amortised cost	7,346	1,857
15,912	16,006	Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,023	5,088
42,923	37,527	Total Financial Assets	49,515	44,091

The group's borrowings are liabilities carried at amortised cost, and the details are shown below:

31 March 2022	31 March 2022		31 March 2023	31 March 2023
Book Value £'000	Book Value £'000		Book Value £'000	Book Value £'000
(65,421)	(65,421)	Public Works Loan board	(64,763)	(64,763)
(253)	(253)	Long Term Creditors	(253)	(253)
(65,674)	(65,674)	Long Term Liabilities	(65,016)	(65,016)
(643)	(643)	Short Term Loans	(659)	(659)
(350)	(350)	Adjust for interest on long term loans	(202)	(202)
(2,910)	(2,910)	Short Term Creditors	(13,066)	(13,066)
(3,903)	(3,903)	Short Term Liabilities	(13,927)	(13,927)
(69,577)	(69,577)	Total Financial Liabilities	(78,943)	(78,943)

GROUP NOTE 2. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The movement in the values of investment properties are shown below:

2021-22	2021-22		2022-23	2022-23
HBC	Group		HBC	Group
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
(65)	(395)	Rental income from investment property	(68)	(374)
181	180	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	0	0
0	0	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	(1)	8
116	(215)	Total	(69)	(366)

Investment Properties consist of commercial properties let at market rents. There are no quoted prices for identical properties, and also no significant observable values for similar properties. Values have therefore been assessed under Level 3 of the Fair Value hierarchy (see Note 2.9 above), both at the start and end of the financial year. They are measured using the income approach, by means of the discounted cash flow method, where the discounted cash flows from the properties are discounted (using a market-derived discount rate) to establish the present value of the net income stream. In all cases the highest and best use for these assets is their current use.

Income and expenditure on Investment Properties was as follows:

2021-22	2021-22		2022-23	2022-23
HBC	Group		HBC	Group
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
1,363	7,829	Balance at start of the year	1,182	7,648
0	0	Purchases	0	0
(181)	(181)	Net gains/ (losses) from fair value adjustments	1	(8)
1,182	7,648	Balance at end of the year	1,183	7,640

COLLECTION FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AND NOTES

COLLECTION FUND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

These accounts represent the transactions of the Collection Fund (accounting separately for income relating to council tax and Non-Domestic Rates) which is a statutory fund separate from the main accounts of the Council, although this Council's share of it is included in the Balance Sheet. The account has been prepared on an accrual's basis. The costs of administering collection are accounted for in the General Fund, offset by a cost of collection allowance for rate collection, retained before allocating the net income between the precepting authorities.

2021-22 £'000		2022-23 £'000
	<u>Council Tax</u>	
	INCOME	
(58,036)	Income from Council Taxpayers	(61,126)
	EXPENDITURE	
	Precepts and demands on Collection Fund	
39,716	East Sussex County Council	42,329
5,528	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	5,901
2,506	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	2,607
7,104	Hastings Borough Council	7,390
	Apportionments of previous year surplus	
473	East Sussex County Council	283
42	Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	41
37	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	18
103	Hastings Borough Council	48
	Bad & Doubtful Debts	
64	Write offs of uncollectable income	88
(165)	Provision for uncollectable income-addition / (reduction)	1,611
(28)	S13 A(1)9 C	(13)
55,380		60,303
(2,656)	Movement on Fund Balance - (surplus) / deficit	(823)
	FUND BALANCE FOR COUNCIL TAX	
(385)	Balance brought forward	(3,041)
(2,656)	(Surplus) / deficit for year	(823)
(3,041)	Balance carried forward	(3,864)
	<u>Non-Domestic Rates</u>	
	INCOME	
(18,866)	Income from Ratepayers	(18,214)
9	Transitional Protection payments	44
	Apportionments of previous year deficit	
(400)	Government	(7,460)
93	East Sussex County Council	(1,343)
26	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	(149)
(137)	Hastings Borough Council	(5,968)
(19,275)	Total	(33,090)

EXPENDITURE

	Precepts and demands on Collection Fund	
11,416	Government	9,906
2,055	East Sussex County Council	1,783
228	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	198
9,133	Hastings Borough Council	7,924
	Bad & Doubtful Debts	
266	Write offs of uncollectable income	3
290	Provision for uncollectable income-addition / (reduction)	(990)
	Impairments resulting from appeals	
837	Write offs	271
(639)	Provision for uncollectable income-addition / (reduction)	(266)
130	Transfer to General Fund - Cost of Collection Allowance	131
23,716		18,960
4,441	Movement on Fund Balance - (surplus) / deficit	(14,130)

FUND BALANCE FOR NON-DOMESTIC RATES

12,235	Balance brought forward	16,676
4,441	(Surplus) / deficit for year	(14,130)
16,676	Balance carried forward	2,546

COLLECTION FUND BALANCE

2021-22		2022-23
£'000		£'000
11,850	Balances brought forward	13,635
1,785	(Surplus) / deficit for year	(14,953)
13,635	Balance - (surplus) / deficit carried forward	(1,318)

NOTE 1. INCOME FROM BUSINESS RATES (NDR)

The Council collects non-domestic rates for its area which are based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate. From the amount collected 25% is paid to central government, 26% to the County Council, and 5% to the Fire Authority, while this council retains 44%. The amount retained is transferred to the General Fund, but this is offset by a tariff paid to central government.

The full multiplier for 2022-23 was 51.2p, compared to 51.2p for 2021-22, and the small business multiplier was 49.9p compared with 49.9p in 2021-22. The rateable value of business premises at 31 March 2023 was £61,029,781 compared to £62,377,655 at 31 March 2022.

NOTE 2. COUNCIL TAX BASE

Band & Value	Number of Chargeable Properties	Relationship to Band D	Annual Amount
			£
Band A - up to £40,000	8,733.72	6/9	5,824.90
Band B - over £40,000 up to £52,000	8,728.72	7/9	6,789.00
Band C - over £52,000 up to £68,000	6,337.41	8/9	5,633.30
Band D - over £68,000 up to £88,000	1,834.50	-	1,834.50
Band E - over £88,000 up to £120,000	1,834.50	11/9	2,242.20
Band F - over £120,000 up to £160,000	787.50	13/9	1,137.50
Band G - over £160,000 up to £320,000	192.00	15/9	320.00
Band H - over £320,000	11.50	18/9	23.00
	28,459.85		23,804.40
	Collection Rate		
Council Tax Base and amount originally expected for 2022-23	96.80%		26,237
East Sussex County Council share			42,329,202
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner			5,900,964
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority			2,607,171
Hastings Borough Council share			7,390,176
			58,227,513

NOTE 3. SURPLUSES & DEFICITS

In accordance with the accounting code of practice surpluses and deficits arising from the collection of Council Tax and Rates are to be apportioned between respective authorities on the basis of their precepts or demands on the Collection Fund. The table below shows the respective balances on the collection fund and how they relate to each authority.

2021-22			2022-23	
Council Tax	NNDR		Council Tax	NNDR
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
		Balance brought forward		
0	6,117	Government	0	8,338
(277)	1,101	East Sussex County Council	(2,209)	1,501
(17)	0	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	(314)	0
(23)	122	East Sussex Fire Authority	(135)	167
(67)	4,894	Hastings Borough Council	(383)	6,670
(384)	12,234	(Surplus) / Deficit	(3,041)	16,676
		Movement on fund balance		
0	2,221	Government	0	(6,426)
(1,932)	440	East Sussex County Council	(627)	(1,157)
(297)	0	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	(88)	0
(112)	45	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	(30)	(129)
(316)	1,776	Hastings Borough Council	(79)	(5,141)
(2,657)	4,442	(Surplus) / Deficit	(824)	(12,853)
		Balance carried forward		
0	8,338	Government	0	1,912
(2,209)	1,501	East Sussex County Council	(2,836)	344
(314)	0	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	(402)	0
(135)	167	East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority	(165)	38
(383)	6,670	Hastings Borough Council	(461)	1,529
(3,041)	16,676	(Surplus) / Deficit	(3,864)	3,823

NOTE 4. BALANCES HELD FOR EACH AUTHORITY

	Government	ESCC	Police	Fire	Hastings BC	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balances as at 31 March 2023						
1: Council Tax						
Arrears	0	10,803,582	1,530,220	665,704	1,850,284	14,849,790
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts	0	(8,235,071)	(1,166,416)	(507,436)	(1,410,386)	(11,319,309)
Overpayments	0	(1,404,493)	(198,933)	(86,543)	(240,542)	(1,930,511)
Prepayments	0	(664,677)	(94,145)	(40,957)	(113,836)	(913,615)
(Surplus)/deficit	0	(2,836,479)	(401,905)	(164,770)	(461,630)	(3,864,784)
Totals	0	(2,337,138)	(331,179)	(134,002)	(376,110)	(3,178,429)
2: Non-Domestic Rates						
Arrears	1,909,928	343,787	0	38,199	1,527,942	3,819,856
Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	(1,245,627)	(224,213)	0	(24,913)	(996,502)	(2,491,255)
Overpayments	(283,150)	(50,967)	0	(5,663)	(226,520)	(566,300)
Prepayments	(41,880)	(7,538)	0	(838)	(33,504)	(83,760)
Provision for losses on appeals	(1,894,971)	(341,095)	0	(37,899)	(1,515,977)	(3,789,942)
(Surplus)/deficit	1,911,793	344,123	0	38,236	1,529,435	3,823,587
Totals	356,093	64,097	0	7,122	284,874	712,186
Balances as at 31 March 2022						
1: Council Tax						
Arrears	0	9,392,483	1,309,373	578,509	1,639,816	12,920,181
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts	0	(7,057,343)	(983,839)	(434,681)	(1,232,129)	(9,707,992)
Overpayments	0	(1,064,490)	(148,397)	(65,565)	(185,847)	(1,464,299)
Prepayments	0	(623,734)	(86,953)	(38,418)	(108,897)	(858,002)
(Surplus)/deficit	0	(2,209,485)	(314,079)	(134,995)	(382,653)	(3,041,212)
Totals	0	(1,562,569)	(223,895)	(95,150)	(269,710)	(2,151,324)
2: Non-Domestic Rates						
Arrears	1,552,408	279,433	0	31,048	1,241,926	3,104,815
Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	(1,380,248)	(248,445)	0	(27,605)	(1,104,199)	(2,760,497)
Overpayments	(253,251)	(45,585)	0	(5,065)	(202,601)	(506,502)
Prepayments	(128,726)	(23,171)	0	(2,575)	(102,981)	(257,454)
Provision for losses on appeals	(1,751,164)	(315,210)	0	(35,023)	(1,400,931)	(3,502,328)
(Surplus)/deficit	8,338,019	1,500,843	0	166,760	6,670,415	16,676,036
Totals	6,377,036	1,147,865	0	127,540	5,101,629	12,754,070

GLOSSARY

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACTUARIAL GAINS & LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses), or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

AMORTISATION

The practice of reducing the value of intangible assets to reflect their reduced worth over time.

BALANCE SHEET

This is a statement that shows the Council's overall financial position for the year ended 31 March. It identifies what is owned by the Council, what it owes and what it is owed.

BUDGET

The Council's policy, expressed in financial terms, for a specified period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the provision and improvements of non-current assets, including assets that are not directly owned by the Council (see below for Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital Under Statute).

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

The proceeds from the sale of non-current assets.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash equivalents are investments that mature three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets such as parks that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, which have no determinable useful life, and which may have restrictions on their disposal.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Council but not paid at the date of the balance sheet.

CONTINGENT

An asset or liability can be contingent. This means that a condition which exists at the balance sheet date and where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events.

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. The cost of these activities is thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services.

CURRENT SERVICE COSTS (PENSIONS)

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

CURTAILMENT

Curtailments will show the cost of the early payment of pension benefits if any employee has been made redundant in the previous year.

DEBTORS

Amounts owed to the Council but unpaid at the date of the balance sheet.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension scheme under which benefits are payable under regulations, in which the benefits are not directly related to the scheme investments. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, passing of time, obsolescence through technological or other changes.

EARMARKED RESERVES

Internal reserves set aside to finance future expenditure for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

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

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. In simple terms it covers both financial assets and financial liabilities such as trade debtors and trade creditors, to the more complex derivatives e.g., swaps and embedded derivatives.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue account of the Council which contains the revenue income and expenditure of all services provided.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Central Government contributions towards local authority expenditure: examples include Revenue Support Grant and Housing Benefit subsidy.

HERITAGE ASSETS

These are assets which are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental, or historical associations.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of an asset, whether from physical or economic causes, or because of a reduction in the market price.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

A category of Property, Plant and Equipment, covering inalienable assets, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. An example is the sea wall and promenade.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Identifiable non-monetary assets such as software licences.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.

LEASES

An agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment or a number of payments, the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.

PAST SERVICE COST

Discretionary pension benefits awarded on early retirement are treated as past service costs. This includes added years and unreduced pension benefits awarded before the rule of 85 age.

PRECEPT

The amount of money the County Council, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have instructed the Borough Council to collect and pay over to it out of Council Tax receipts held in the Collection Fund; similarly, the statutory share of Non-Domestic Rates that are payable to the Government, County Council, and the Fire Authority.

PROVISIONS

Sums set aside for any liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred, but uncertain as to the dates on which they will arise.

PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Tangible assets that yield up benefit to the authority over more than one accounting period, e.g., Land and Buildings.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A Government financed body which provides a source of long-term borrowing for local authorities.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Under statute some expenditure is allowed to be treated as capital for financing purposes but does not result in the acquisition of a non-current asset for the Council.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Day to day expenditure on the running of services. It includes staff costs, utility charges, rent and business rates, IT and communications and office expenses.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A Government grant distributed to local authorities to augment income raised by charges for services, council tax and non-domestic rates. It is centrally determined on a need's basis.

UNUSABLE RESERVES

These are reserves, including those offsetting non-current assets and the negative reserve that offsets the long-term pension liability, which are not immediately available for use to support revenue or capital expenditure.

USABLE RESERVES

These reserves are available to support the Council's expenditure, although the Capital Receipts Reserve and the Capital Grants and Contributions Reserve may only be used for capital purposes.