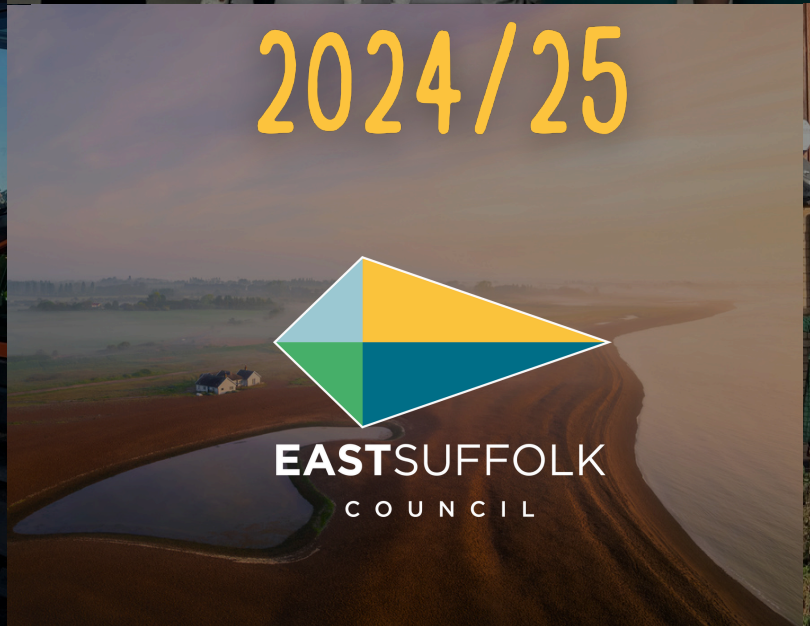
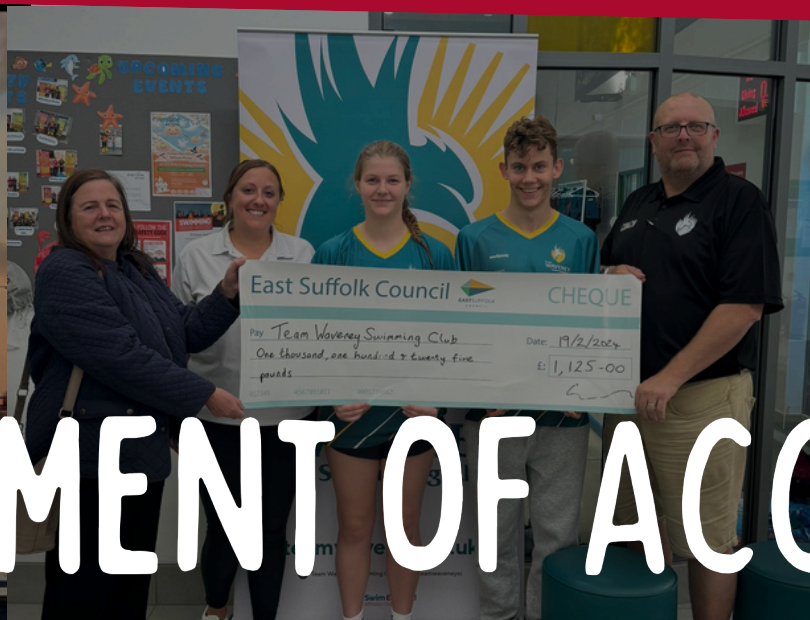


STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2024/25



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL



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Introduction to the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts

Enclosed are the Council's Statement of Accounts (the Accounts) for the financial year ended 31 March 2025. These Accounts inform readers as to the financial performance of the Council during the financial year and are an important element of demonstrating sound financial stewardship of taxpayers' money.

East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL) is wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited (incorporated on 24 October 2019), which in turn is wholly owned by the Council. ESSL took over the operations of the Norse Joint Venture on 1 July 2023. The 2024/25 Statement of Accounts is inclusive of Group Accounts consolidating the financial position of both the Council and the Local Authority Trading Company.

These accounts have been published by the Statutory deadline of 30 June 2025. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 set out a procedure for the audit of accounts of relevant authorities as defined in Schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Following the application of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 on 30 September 2024, a revised statutory deadline of 30 June 2025 was set for authorities to publish unaudited accounts for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28. For the 2024/25 financial year, the backstop date for audited publication is the 27 February 2026.

Prior to approval, the draft Accounts are subject to a single period of 30 working days for the exercise of public rights, where any objection, inspection and questioning of the local auditor must be undertaken. The unaudited Accounts will be available to the public on the Council's website from 1 July 2025, so the inspection period will commence on 1 July 2025 and finish on 11 August 2025.

The principles adopted in compiling the Accounts are those recommended by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) namely:

- The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code); and
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Lorraine Rogers

Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer



Narrative Report

1. Introduction

This document presents the statutory financial statements (the “Statement of Accounts”) for East Suffolk Council for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and provides a comprehensive summary of the overall financial position of the Council.

The Statement of Accounts is presented in the format recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code).

The Narrative Report, which is not formally part of the Statement of Accounts, follows the reporting principles established by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and provides information on the Council, its main objectives and strategies and the principal risks that it faces, as well as providing a commentary on how the Council has used its resources to achieve its desired outcomes in line with its objectives and strategies.

2. Introducing East Suffolk Council

Suffolk has a two-tier system of local government, comprising Suffolk County Council and five district councils. The County Council administers services such as education, waste disposal and social services across the whole of Suffolk, whereas locally, East Suffolk Council operates a range of services including building regulation, community safety, the administration of council tax and business rates, environmental health, electoral administration, licensing, sports facilities, housing, street cleaning and refuse collection.

East Suffolk has a population of 247,100 (ONS, 2023) and covers an area of 126,186 hectares (1,262km²), has 79km of coastline and comprises a mix of urban and rural areas with Lowestoft and Felixstowe being the largest towns. There are also a number of historic towns and a large number of villages. In total, the district has 147 precepting town and parish councils.

East Suffolk is an attractive place to live and work, attracting tourism and visitors and combining a strong economy with a natural and built environment. However, nine neighbourhoods in Lowestoft are within the 10% most deprived in the country with 11.2% of our population being affected by income deprivation, which is higher than the Suffolk average of 10.2%.

The district also includes the Port of Felixstowe, which is a major gateway for Britain to Europe and the world and increasingly important post Brexit. The district is also increasingly becoming a major energy supplier to the whole of Britain. The expansion of the long-established Sizewell Nuclear Power Station, which sits within the district boundary, continues and is being joined by major offshore developments (driving onshore infrastructure developments) in the fields of energy generation from wind, wave and gas.

Political Leadership

The Council was governed by 55 councillors, covering 29 wards. The makeup of the Council for 2024/25 was:

Conservative Party	Labour Party	Green Party	Liberal Democrat Party	Independent
15	12	16	11	1

Executive Leadership

The senior management team work closely with Councillors to ensure that the Council delivers its corporate priorities, and comprises a Chief Executive, three Strategic Directors and 11 Heads of Service, collectively known as the “Corporate Leadership Team” (CLT). The Chief Executive takes responsibility for the whole workforce, providing strategic direction and leadership and Heads of Service support in the overall management of the Council and provide direct management of their individual service areas.

East Suffolk Strategic Plan

Following the launch of the Council’s first East Suffolk Strategic Plan in 2020, the year 2023 represented a new phase with the existing plan evolving to reflect the political ambitions and shared values of the new Administration, branded as ‘Our Direction 2028’. Our aim is to promote a bright, green, open, free and fair future for all East Suffolk.

Our Direction 2028 embraces the path we are embarking on together, collaboratively, working with and empowering communities and individuals to conserve, improve and adapt to our changing environment, acting as a guide for all our decision making. The new Strategic Plan encompasses four key priorities, Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Tackling Inequalities and Thriving Economy and set the path the Council will embark on for the four years until 2028. All priorities are interconnected and complement each other. The Council’s achievements over the last 12 months are presented in the Council’s Annual Report.





Environmental Impact – Delivering positive climate, nature, and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and actions we take.

Sustainable Housing – All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable, and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.

Tackling Inequalities – Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.

Thriving Economy – Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.

Service Delivery

A tailored approach is adopted with directly delivered services operating alongside services delivered through third parties and joint arrangements. Examples include:

- **Direct Services** – Community Development, Customer and Support Services, Economic Development, Environmental Services, Housing, Licensing and Planning.
- **Third Party Services** – Car Parks, Facilities Management, Refuse Collection, Grounds Maintenance (all through Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited and Waveney Norse Limited until 30 June 2023, East Suffolk Services Limited from 1 July 2023) and Leisure (through Everyone Active and Places Leisure); and
- **Joint Arrangements** – Internal Audit in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council, Coastal Management through the Coastal Partnership East (dissolved on 31 March 2025), and Revenues and Benefits through the Anglia Revenues Partnership.

3. Operating Model

The way in which the Council operates, deploying and consuming available resources – both human and financial – ultimately determines the outcomes achieved for residents through the services it provides. It is a dynamic model that changes over time, and adapting to changes in the supply of, and demand for, resources is a major challenge at the time of unprecedented increases to the cost of living.

Human Resources

As at 31 March 2025, there were 911 full-time equivalent staff employed by East Suffolk; a wide range of professional teams, delivering a diverse range of services. The cumulative employee turnover for the 2024/25 financial year is 12.05%, which is increased in comparison to the turnover figure for 2023/24 (9.70%).

Corporate Values: 'how' the work is done.

Council Officers are expected to demonstrate a set of core behaviours which define 'how' – as employees – they should approach their work. The behaviours sit alongside 'what' they do and are designed to encourage every member of staff to reach their potential, reflecting our five corporate values below.



Proud – Believing in who we are, what we do and where we live.

Dynamic – Transforming the future with you in mind.

Truthful – Honest and clear in all we do.

Good Value – Delivering outstanding services, smartly and economically.

United – Whoever we work with, we work as one team.

Performance and Development

The Council recognises that developing the capability of its People, its Leaders and its Culture is vital to the achievement of organisational priorities. In response to this, the Council continues to evolve and response to its significant challenges with its development of a new People Strategy within 2024, which guides every aspect of the Council's relationship with its people, ensuring that it attracts, develops and retains talented people, to deliver the best possible outcomes for its communities and stakeholders.

The East Suffolk People Strategy continues to include the approach to managing performance and personal development via "My Conversation". My Conversation allows the Council to constantly gauge progress against Service Plans and the Strategic Plans, ensuring that staff can develop the skills and behaviours required to undertake their roles and successfully meet future challenges. The approach can be distinguished from the traditional annual appraisal system and is about continuous and ongoing performance management, providing regular feedback, recognition, and personal development.

The system is supported by real investment in training and development whereby a number of options are offered ranging from on the job coaching (including an in-house apprenticeship scheme) through to external courses.

The breadth of the Council services means that training and development has to be carefully tailored. Professionals from many different fields are employed, for example Accountancy, Legal, Human Resources, Asset Management, Environmental Services, Planning and Building Control. Professional staff are required to complete continuous professional development, which needs to be factored in alongside personal and organisational development. The workforce also includes large teams of customer facing staff including Customer Service Advisors and with our service delivery partners, Leisure Assistants and Refuse Workers.

4. Council's Performance

The four themes of the Strategic Plan contain a number of priorities, steering the organisation to deliver to the needs of the district. Our Foundations is also recognised due to the importance of solid foundations that are critical to a successful authority. All services, tasks and projects link through to priorities outlined in the Plan. The Council has an action plan to deliver against each theme and established methods to measure performance.

The Council's Annual Report presents the outcomes and key achievements in the financial year, and for 2024/25 this will be reported to Cabinet in August/September 2025. A core programme was established for each theme of the Strategic Plan, presenting the projects and initiatives being undertaken.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), in live dashboards, have been established for each theme, to monitor and measure how the Council is performing. The live dashboards are available at any given time, via the Council's website, providing up-to-date performance information in a transparent way. Achievements to highlight in 2024/25:

- **Environmental Impact**

- **Our journey to net zero:** The ESC Annual Greenhouse Gas Report was published in January 2024.
- The percentage of household waste sent for recycling and composting identified a fall in the overall recycling rate which was largely due to a reduction in garden waste tonnages for the year. The introduction of Simpler Recycling in 2026 aims to focus on increasing recycling rates.
- Residual waste per household for 2024/25 was 464.3 kg was marginally higher than the target of 460.7 kg.
- Fly tipping incidents - In 2024/25, 97% (2,200 of 2,271) of identifiable fly tips were visited within two working days, exceeded the target of 90%. (2023/24 95% (1,868 of 1,975).
- Community Transport initiatives continue to display growth in year-on-year take-up rates enabling rural communities to travel to key places within the district resulting in social and employment gains.
- Biodiversity Net Gain processes are now fully embedded in the Planning Application process with outputs being monitored. East Suffolk Habitat Bank initiative launched, connecting landowners to enable offsite Biodiversity Net Gain delivery.
- **Field to fork** programme distributing 1,500 kits allowing almost 4,000 people access to a growing kit, with the remaining 250 kits delivered by the end of April 2025.

- **Housing**

- **Sustainable Housing:** The Council secured the return to occupation of 25 Long Term Empty Homes in 2024/25 and identified a further 25 properties to be prioritised in 2025/26.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Temporary accommodation figures increased significantly over the last 12 months with a 23% increase since January 2024.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Homelessness Prevention or Relief - 303 successful outcomes over the last 12 months when households were made offers of accommodation and duties were discharged successfully. An average of 25 successful outcomes per month. The Council accepted 210 Main Duties resulting in some being discharged into the private rented sector or through the Housing Register. In 2024/25, the Housing Needs Team completed 1213 assessments under the homelessness duties.

- **Sustainable Housing:** Eight applicants have been adopted on to the housing first project and are supported by housing first officers. All applicants begin on introductory tenancies with East Suffolk Council Landlord Services.
 - **Sustainable Housing:** In 2024/25, £98k was allocated through the Household Delivery Support Fund supporting 188 households (84 households with children, 19 households with a disabled person; 11 households with pensioners and 74 other households).
 - **Housing:** £1.488m of grant funding secured from Homes England for Deben Fields residential development. Development is progressing with Phase 1 (4 houses) expected to be completed in September 2025, with the remaining 57 units in Phase 2 set for completion in June 2026.
 - **Housing:** In 2024/25, three Neighbourhood Plans reached referendum stage, where local residents will vote on whether the Neighbourhood Plans will come into force. The total number of 'made' Plans in East Suffolk is 28.
 - **Housing:** 632 (provisional) net new dwellings were completed for the year including 230 affordable homes. There were also 1,228 (provisional) dwellings under construction at the end of the year and 6,963 dwellings received planning permission, indicating that the supply of housing will continue to be delivered.
- **Thriving Economy**
 - The First Light Festival continued its success in 2024, which over 38,000 people attended.
 - **UK Shared Prosperity (3-year programme)** –£2.75m of allocated fund support three investment priorities: Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. Over the period outcomes included grant awards supporting 18 high street improvement, 20 shop fronts, 27 arts and culture events, 240,280 Ease the Squeeze programmes, 37 Suffolk small businesses, Capital Business and workforce skills programmes (£417k), 134 Suffolk wide skills programmes for economically inactive people, 89 business to receive Net Zero consultancy and 209 applicants via the Youth Employment Service.
 - In 2024/25, 290 people joined the Culture Network enabling face to face Culture Network events to take place and businesses to receive direct support. Heritage Open Days East Suffolk grant programme was launched.
 - Food Hygiene Rating - (percentage at 3-5 rating i.e., rated 'generally satisfactory' or 'better') exceeded its target of 95% with performance achieving 98.5% for the year.

- The number of properties paying business rates in East Suffolk in 2024/25 was 12,896 (2023/24 (12,968)). The number of businesses supported by the Economic Development team in 2024/25 was 1226.
- The total number of visitors in East Suffolk for 2024/25 was 13.51m, of which 3.32m were new visitors and 10.19m repeat visitors. Numbers have decreased in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24 by 21.9% for total number of visitors. This is aligning with national trends. Norfolk and Suffolk have joined the Visit England accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnerships providing funding and collaborative opportunities.
- Performance for all planning applications determined exceeded yearly targets in 2024/25 with overall performance at:
 - Non-Major planning applications – 75.28% determined in 8 weeks, above the national target of 70%
 - Major planning applications – 82.54% determined in 13 weeks, exceeding the national target of 60%
- The Nexus development has now completed its construction phase with tenants being welcomed in 2025.

● Tackling Inequalities

- In 2024/25, 28,274 customers were engaged through financial, community safety, and health and wellbeing projects.
- Community Help Hub took 759 referrals for help in 2024/25 – ranging from help with money to support accessing food, social care needs and practical support, including outreach into communities.
- In 2024/25, 261 successful Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) applications totalling the ECB contribution of more than £0.400m, providing funding to various groups across East Suffolk. The ECB is allocated by the 55 East Suffolk Councillors.
- The Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) campaign included raising awareness of the regular Community Help Hub “Help with Money” drop-in service. Sessions focus on a range of topics including help with the cost of childcare, moving to Universal Credit and help with Council Tax.
- Delivered a wide-ranging Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme aimed at children on Free School Meals in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays with 39 programmes which supported 3,143 young people and their families.
- Within East Suffolk, the average rate for people successfully quit smoking so far is 47.6% against a target of 35%. Weight management clients on average are losing 6.2% body weight against a target of 3% and 72.4% of physical activity clients have increased their level of activity against a target of 60%.

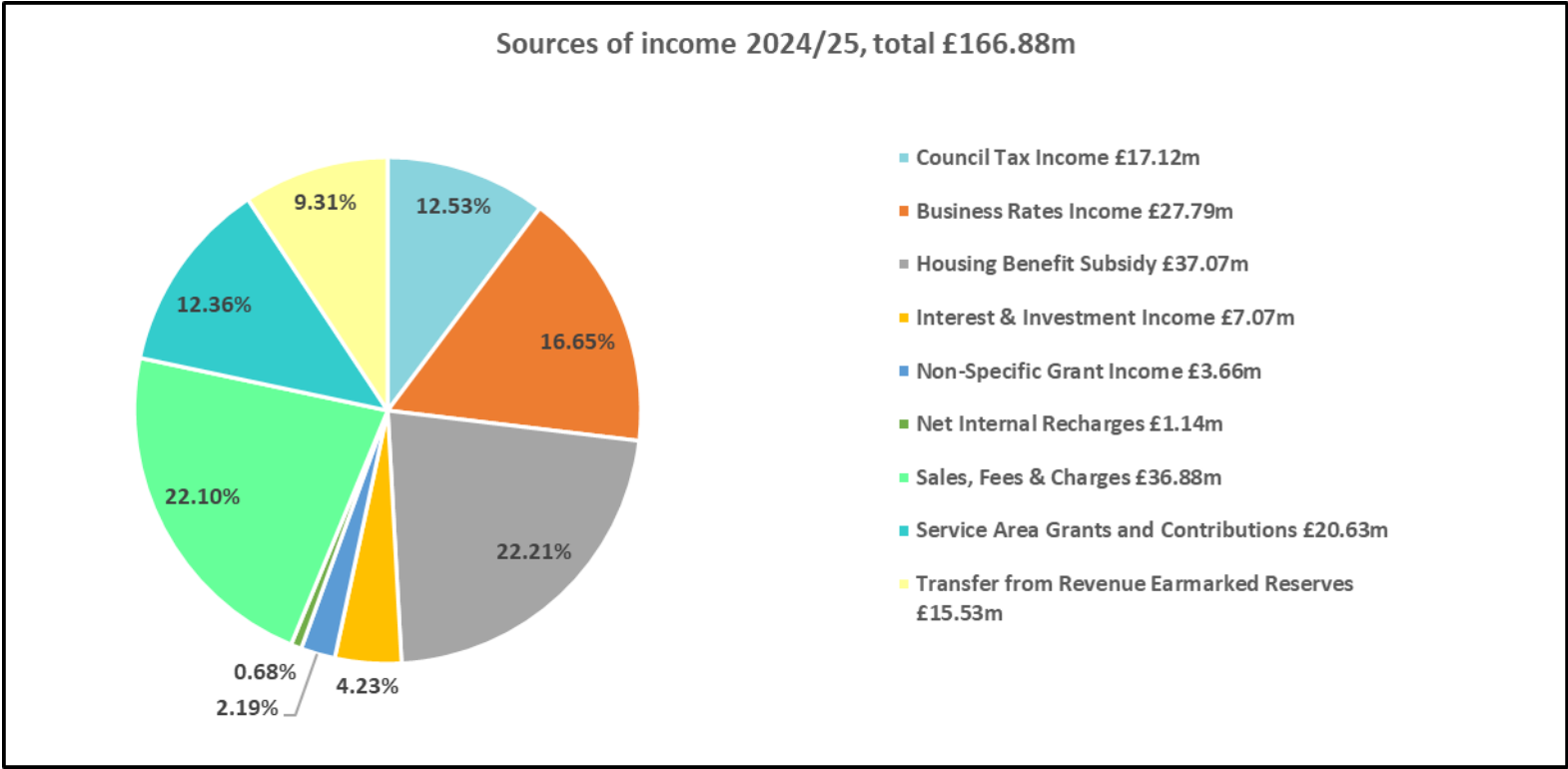
- **Our Foundations**

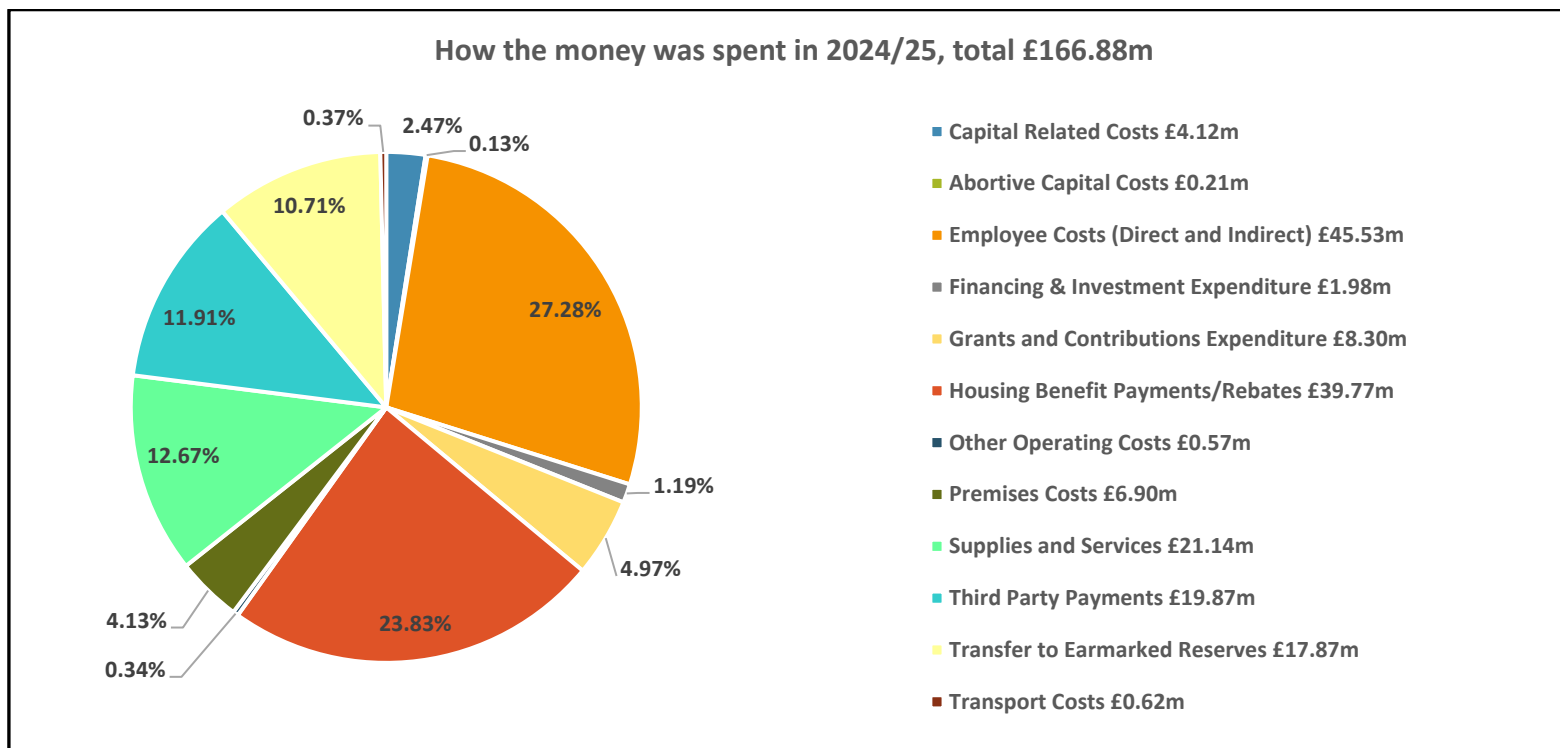
- No cyber security data breaches were reported in 2024/25.
- The number of IT incidents resolved exceeded targets with 87.03% dealt within 1 working day (70% target) and 94.98% resolved within 1 working week (85% target).
- The average rating from customer feedback was 87.42% or 4.37-star rating (out of 5 stars) based on over 16,000 ratings.
- A total of 4,510 requests were received - 644 FOIs, 270 EIRs, 3,596 personal land searches. All requests were completed on target.
- Sickness absence figures for 2024/25 year ended at 6.25 days per full time equivalent (FTE) 2.40%, up marginally on those seen in 2023/24 (5.78 days per FTE / 2.22%). Short term absence (up to 7 days) represents 1.86 days per FTE. This is a reduction on 2024/25 figures (3.00 days per FTE). Long term absence (7 days plus) ended at 4.39 days per FTE and is an increase on the 2.79 days per FTE seen last year.

5. Financial Performance

5.1. General Fund Revenue Income and Expenditure

The following two charts show the sources of income to the Council during the year and how the income has been spent (excluding accounting adjustments required by Internal Financial Reporting Standards).





5.2 General Fund Revenue Outturn

Within the Net Cost of Service, the total by Service Area will differ to those shown in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (Note 7) of the Financial Statement. This is due to The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) which defines proper accounting practices for local authorities, and some transactions must be analysed differently in the Financial Statement than when they are reported in the budget and for the purpose of internal financial management reporting.

At the 2024/25 year-end, the Council achieved a deficit outturn position of £0.966m, compared to the original budget approved in February 2024 which presented a balanced budget, requiring £1.85m use of the In-Year Saving Reserve. The overall position captures favourable variances such as the Council receiving additional income from interest and treasury investment income, contributing a further £2m to net interest income to the General Fund due to interest rates remaining high. This is net of the Housing Revenue Account share of the interest income and interest allocated to Construction Industry Levy (CIL) balances held at year end.

The additional interest income mitigated pressures on the general fund during 2024/25, including Housing Benefit Subsidy Loss circ. £1m, primarily due to the increase in temporary accommodation, and just over £0.800m relating to capital programme financing.

The Council's employment costs reflected a favourable variance of £0.800m against the anticipated budget and expected vacancy levels. Staffing shortages in some specialist areas continues, e.g. planning, environmental health and asset management, which contributed to some of the underspend; therefore, officers managed service levels by employing short term contractors where possible. Ongoing recruitment challenges have increased our cost of recruiting as the Council needing to advertise certain roles and engage specialist recruitment organisations.

East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL) is wholly owned by East Suffolk Council and took over the operations of the Norse Joint Venture from 1 July 2023. ESSL's second year of trading continues to be about stabilisation and the identification of opportunities for the development and improvement of the various services this company delivers. The company continues to take a commercial approach, achieving operational saving on £0.645m in year which included reductions in overtime costs, fuel savings and increases in commercial income.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the actual core service fee of East Suffolk Services to the Council (including HRA provisions) was £20.070m. This compared to the original budget of £21.806m. The budget figure included waste collection and disposal costs to a facility for sorting and processing green waste and recyclable waste, payable to Suffolk County Council. In 2024/25 this became a direct cost to ESC from the County Council, rather than a pass through cost to ESSL. The actual cost of waste disposal costs for green and recyclable waste was £1.869m.

Further analysis of the outturn position for 2024/25 will be reported to Cabinet on 8 July 2025.

6. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA is a ring-fenced account, containing solely the costs arising from the provision and management of the Council's housing stock, offset by tenant rents, service charges and other income.

The self-financing regime was introduced in April 2012 and the Council had to take on a significant amount of debt (£68m) in exchange for not paying future Housing Subsidy. The HRA already held £10.37m of non-self-financing debt taking its total debt to £78.37m. Due to careful management of the HRA finances and reserves over the year, the HRA has continued to repay debt as it is due. During 2024/25 a further £0.96m of non-self-financing debt was repaid, reducing the HRA debt to £59.44m (£58m self-financing, £1.44m non-self-financing). The next significant repayment is due in 2026/27 when a further £10m will be repaid.

As shown in the Notes to the HRA Statement of Accounts, the in-year movement on the HRA working balance was a deficit position of £3.396m, reducing the HRA working balance to £2.366m as of 31 March 2025. This was a planned use of the HRA working balance, increasing it during 2023/24 to be utilised in 2024/25.

Total Rent arrears as of 31 March 2025 was £1.056m (£1.362m as of 31 March 2024) and represented 4.56% of the HRA's gross collectable income. Income to the HRA from dwelling rents and service charges remains stable at £23.1m per annum.

The HRA also holds Earmarked Reserves which are set out in Note 10 to the Statement of Accounts. As of 31 March 2025, the total balance on the HRA Earmarked Reserves was £13m, which included £12.8m in the HRA Debt Repayment Reserve. This reserve is to provide funding for future liabilities for repaying the self-financing debt.

The Council's housing stock totalled 4,345 dwellings as of 31 March 2025 (4,426 as of 31 March 2024). During 2024/25 the Council added 13 properties to its housing stock via new build schemes and acquisitions, and a further 7 through reclassifications. 11 properties were sold through the Right to Buy Scheme and a further 90 properties removed due to the building awaiting demolition.

The HRA capital programme consists of capital budgets for Asset Investment and the Acquisition and Housing Development Programme. In 2024/25 the HRA capital spend totalled £13.964m, which consisted of £2.765m investment in existing housing stock and £11.199m for the Acquisition and Housing Development Programme. Most of the development programme expenditure will see the additional housing stock being handed over in 2025/26 and 2026/27. The 2024/25 HRA spending plans, including its capital investment programme, were fully funded from existing resources, with no requirement for additional borrowing, however the 2025/26 housing development programme budget anticipates the requirement of additional borrowing of £7.6m.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - CAPITAL SERVICE EXPENDITURE	2024/25 £000 Original Budget	2024/25 £000 Revised Budget	2024/25 £000 Outturn	2024/25 £000 Variance
Asset Investment Programme	7,890	4,242	2,765	-1,477
Acquisition & Development Programme	21,178	12,596	11,199	-1,397
Total Capital Expenditure	29,068	16,838	13,964	-2,874
Financed By:-				
Capital Receipt	5,344	4,198	4,358	160
Internal resources - reserves	20,168	10,761	8,787	-1,974
Grants	3,556	1,670	819	-851
Borrowing	0	209	0	-209
Total Financing	29,068	16,838	13,964	-2,874

The Outturn Report to Cabinet on 8 July 2025 will provide more information on the HRA performance for the year.

5.3 General Fund Capital Programme

The successful delivery of many of the Council services also relies on the acquisition and maintenance of fixed assets such as land, buildings, and equipment. Acquisitions and expenditure which enhance the value of assets is funded through capital expenditure, whereas maintenance (which maintains, rather than adds value) is funded through (General Fund) revenue expenditure.

Capital budgets are approved for the life of the project which can span more than one financial year. Any capital budgets for a project that remain unspent at the end of the financial year are carried forward to the following year. Similarly, with projects that are ahead of the original profile, budgets can be brought forward.

The revised General Fund Capital Programme for 2024/25 was £42.97m compared to an original budget of £48.63m. The revision incorporated projects which has successfully been awarded grants and removed those which were unsuccessful or where grant funding had not been applied for. The revision also incorporated slippage and projects being rephased to 2025/26. Some projects have faced delays due to inflationary impacts necessitating project

redesign and/or project complexity and collaboration with partner organisation on certain projects. At the end of the year the total spend on the capital programme was £19.89, an underspend of £23.08m against the revised budget. This is illustrated in the table below.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Outturn	Variance
Community Health (formerly Environmental Services & Port Health)	50	606	494	-112
Communities, Leisure & Tourism	9,115	2,101	192	-1,909
Corporate Services (formerly Digital & Programme Management)	887	885	463	-422
Corporate Services (formerly Operations)	11,488	11,886	7,668	-4,218
Economic Development & Transport	21,777	18,027	7,477	-10,550
Planning & Coastal Management	2,793	3,151	1,030	-2,121
Resources & Value for Money (formerly Financial Services)	315	230	120	-110
Resources & Value for Money (formerly General Fund Housing)	2,207	5,085	2,445	-2,640
Resources & Value for Money (ESPIL)	0	1,000	0	-1,000
Total Capital Expenditure	48,632	42,971	19,889	-23,082
Financed By:-				
Internal resources - reserves	637	1,626	1,430	-196
Internal resources - borrowing	26,671	18,468	0	-18,468
Grants	21,324	22,877	18,459	-4,418
Total Financing	48,632	42,971	19,889	-23,082

The outturn report to Cabinet on 8 July 2025 will provide further information on the Capital Programme performance in 2024/25.

5.4 Reserves and Balances

The careful management of reserves and balances sits at the heart of the Council's strategic financial planning process. The Council has a policy of maintaining the level of General Fund balance at around 3% to 5% of its budgeted gross expenditure (in the region of £190m). This would equate to maintaining a General Fund balance for East Suffolk, in the region of between £5.7m and £9.5m. The Council has determined in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to maintain this balance at £6m, taking account of the strategic, operational, and financial risks facing the Council.

The Council holds several Earmarked Revenue Reserves which have been established to meet known or predicted liabilities and to hold balances of grants and external funding which is committed to future year spend. The Council reviews these reserves to ensure the levels continue to be appropriate and if no longer required, are returned to the General Fund. As of 31 March 2025, the total balance on the General Fund Earmarked Reserves stood at £43.84m. This is an increase of £2.34m on the 31 March 2024 position. This relates largely to an increase in the Port Health reserve following increased revenue due to the introduction of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) on 30th May 2024.

The General Fund balance as at 31 March 2025 is £6m and remains unchanged from the previous year end. Reserve balances are summarised below and are set out in detail in Note 10 to the Statement of Accounts.

East Suffolk General Fund Reserves	31st March 2025 £'000
Earmarked Reserves:	
Budget Stabilisation	3,639
Grants/Funding Carried Forward	5,665
Planned Future Capital Spending	783
Planned Future Revenue Spending	13,375
Port Health	6,075
Risk Based	14,302
Total General Fund Earmarked Reserves	43,839

Earmarked Reserves to highlight include:

- **Business Rates Equalisation Reserve (£9.74m)** – This is income from Business Rates which is set aside to equalise the fluctuations in recognising Business Rate income due to timing differences, e.g. Business Rates appeals and for year-end surpluses/deficits.

- **In-Year Savings Reserve (£3.64m)** – This is in-year savings set-aside to support future year budget pressures to stabilise the budget.
- **Business Rate Pilot Reserve (£0.58m)** – In 2018/19, Suffolk was successful with its bid to pilot 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme. This income has been transferred to this reserve and is used to provide funding for agreed projects.
- **New Homes Bonus Reserve (£3.69m)** – This reserve established from New Homes Bonus (NHB) income is used to support community initiatives, which are detailed in the February 2025 budget report.
- **Port Health (£6.075m)** – This reserve provides a source of finance to support the future investment and development of the authority's infrastructure at the Port of Felixstowe.
- **Transformation Reserve (£0.97m)** – This reserve has been established to support the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan, with £0.84m used during the year to fund projects.

5.5 Interests in Companies and Other Entities

Norse Commercial Services Limited

In 2008/09 Waveney District Council entered an arrangement with Norse Commercial Services Limited (NCS) for the provision of services delivered via Waveney Norse Limited, of which East Suffolk Council held a 19.9% share. Adjoining this arrangement, East Suffolk Council also held a further 20% share of Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited. Both joint venture contracts were responsible for providing a package of services which included refuse, cleansing and asset maintenance.

Following a review of the services delivered and the end of the contract between East Suffolk Council and Norse Commercial Services Limited both joint venture arrangements were terminated on the 30 June 2023.

East Suffolk Holdings Limited

East Suffolk Holdings Limited is wholly owned by the Council and was incorporated on 24 October 2019. East Suffolk Holdings is the sole shareholder of East Suffolk Construction Services Limited, East Suffolk Property Developments Limited, and East Suffolk Property Investments Limited, all of which were incorporated on 26 November 2019. In September 2022, Cabinet approved the business case for East Suffolk Holdings Limited to enable the company to become active and thereby undertake its monitoring and governance role of its Group companies. Cabinet approved the business cases for East Suffolk Property Investments Limited in November 2022, and East Suffolk Property Developments Limited in December 2022. This was to enable the companies to operate/trade. However, no projects for investment/development have yet been activated in the companies.

East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL) is also wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited and was incorporated on 25 March 2022. The company became active during 2022/23 in preparation for the company to take over the operations of the Norse Joint Venture from 1 July 2023.

In September 2022, Cabinet approved governance arrangements in relation to its role as ultimate owner of its group companies. This ensures that the Council has appropriate controls in place for the good governance of ESSL and its other companies. The Council will enter into a shareholder agreement with each of the companies in the Group, as each company becomes “live”; and a committee of Cabinet, has been established, known as the Shareholder Reference Group (SRG). The SRG will exercise certain rights and controls of the Council in relation to its companies. The SRG held its first meeting on 4 October 2022.

East Suffolk Services Limited

East Suffolk Council created East Suffolk Services (ESSL) to operate as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) following a thorough review of its joint venture (JV) partnership with Norse, which ended on 30 June 2023. ESSL’s trading operation continues to be about stabilisation and identification of opportunities for the development and improvement of the various services this company delivers.

Some of ESSL’s core deliverables are in relation to asset maintenance, providing services such as physical reactive repairs and planned cyclical maintenance at non-housing buildings, land and infrastructure assets including occupied buildings (tenanted and operational), public conveniences, beach huts/chalets, car parks, cemeteries, parks & gardens, public open space, footpaths, roads, watercourses, campsites and harbours etc.

Following the review of ESSL 2024/25 performance, the Council continues to work with ESSL to identify the future need, in order to meet current demand and refine the true cost of delivering services, aimed at moving towards a more planned approach, rather than reactive over the coming years.

Freeport East

Freeport East was incorporated on 6 December 2022 and is one of 12 freeports in the United Kingdom, encompassing parts of Suffolk and Essex. The Freeport covers over a thousand square kilometres in total, stretching from Felixstowe and Harwich down through Clacton and Jaywick, out around Colchester and Sudbury, Stowmarket and Woodbridge. The main sites are located at the Port of Felixstowe, Harwich International Port and Gateway 14 near Stowmarket.

The Local Authorities currently working in partnership with Freeport East are East Suffolk, Mid Suffolk District, Tendring District Council, Suffolk County Council and Essex County Council.

East Suffolk Council, as Accountable Body, has assumed responsibility to oversee the proper governance and administration of financial affairs within the Freeport, including managing grant payments, monitoring and reporting against the use of funding, managing financial risk and fraud, upholding procurement practices in relation to public sector procurement, and providing assurance that Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) seed capital funding proposals have been subject to appropriate levels of scrutiny. Freeport East remains a separate legal entity and as such, none of the income and expenditure is represented within the Council’s financial statements.

During 2024/25, the Council had drawn down all of the £25m Seed Capital Funding for Freeport East. £0.3m had been defrayed before 31 March, leaving a balance at the end of the financial year of £24.7m. At 31 March 2025, the Council also held £0.682m in Local Authority partner contributions for Skills, Innovation and Clean Growth initiatives and investments. The retained rates due from the three Billing Authority partners (East Suffolk, Tendring and Mid Suffolk), flow through East Suffolk Council as the Accountable Body for Freeport East. These funds are administered in accordance with the Retained Rates Strategy. For example, to cover the operating costs of Freeport East and the Accountable Body, and remaining funds are allocated across three funding Pots – A, B and C. These are referred to as the Freeport East Free Cashflow. The amount due from the Billing Authorities for 2024/25 totals £3.379m in retained business rates. This will be administered through the Council as the Accountable Body. £3.34m of this is not recognised within the Council's financial statements as it is not income due to the Council but to cover the Freeport East operating costs and Freeport East funding pot allocations. At the end of the financial year the Council also held £0.689m (Pot C) to support the overall Freeport East geography to meet the vision of the freeport initiative.

In April 2024 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (now known as MHCLG) confirmed a programme-wide subsidy scheme is in place for Freeports in England. The eligibility criteria for the different aspects of the scheme (seed capital, business rates relief, the four HMRC reliefs) are set out in published guidance. This means that, for seed capital awards, the Council does not need to develop its own control principles assessments or make referrals to the Competition and Markets Authority. For business rates subsidy awards, the Council will need to develop a consistent Business Rates Relief policy across all the three Billing Authorities in order to use their discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), to grant relief to those ratepayers who are eligible in their individual tax sites. In East Suffolk, the business rates relief policy will be administered by the Anglia Revenues Partnership on behalf of the Council.

5.6 Pension Liabilities

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Suffolk 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 pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The net liability of £33.084m on the Balance Sheet reflects the net asset (of plan assets and obligations), in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them, limited to zero by the asset ceiling (the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of reductions in future contributions to the plan) as directed by IAS 19 and further adjusted by the requirements of IFRIC 14 to recognise an additional liability (£33.084m) for past service contributions (considered as a minimum funding requirement) which give rise to a future surplus and are not available after they are paid.

The latest triennial actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Suffolk County Pension Fund was completed on 31 March 2022 with the next due as at 31 March 2025.

5.7 Provisions and Contingencies

5.8.1 National Non-Domestic Rates

Through the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR1) return, the Council has to estimate the business rates income expected to be received in the coming year based on a number of assumptions. The most significant assumption is in relation to the provision for appeals. With effect from 1 April 2023 the Council uses Wilks, Head & Eve to estimate this provision. The 2017 valuation list applied until the end of March 2023 with the new 2023 valuation list beginning on 1 April 2023. There are still outstanding checks and challenges against the 2017 list limiting the scope for further reductions to the 2017 list element of the provision. The provision for Business Rates appeals is shown in the Collection Fund Note to the Financial Statements.

The current economic climate and the potential ability for debts to be recovered has also been a consideration in calculating provisions for doubtful debts in respect of council tax, housing benefit overpayments, and sundry debtors.

5.8.2 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Provision

Following an HRA compliance review it was identified that some HRA tenants appeared to have been overcharged due to previous rent conversions and combined service charges. A forensic audit has been carried out by external consultants, and every tenancy dating back to 2010 (the earliest data held) has been reviewed. A provision of £8.7m was made in 2022/23 and is based on the forensic auditor's findings of repayments that are required. In 2023/24 £5.7m was released from the provision, and a further £2.93m released in 2024/25. The small remaining balance relating to the most complicated cases will be released in 2025/26.

7. Risks and Opportunities

Risk Management

The Council's approach to risk management is to embed risk management into the organisation so that it is the responsibility of all managers and teams. The Corporate Leadership Team undertake a detailed review of corporate risks to manage, monitor and consider risks, including management of the risk process. All corporate risks, significant for the Council, are reported twice yearly to the Audit and Governance Committee. The high-level details as at 31 March 2025 are:

Corporate Risk	Strategic Theme	Risk Score	Target Risk Score
Capacity to deliver the Council's aims and aspirations	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Cyber Attacks including failure of ICT	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Contracts/Partnerships fail	Our Foundations	Green	Green
Physical and mental health and wellbeing	Our Foundations	Amber	Green
Equalities	Our Foundations	Green	Green
Recruitment and retention of staff	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Business Continuity	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Funding claims not approved by Environment Agency	Our Foundations	Green	Green
Financial sustainability of active LATCo	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Civil Unrest	Our Foundations	Amber	Amber
Flood risk	Environmental Impact	Amber	Amber
Flooding and tidal surges (Lowestoft only)	Environmental Impact	Red	Amber
Carbon Neutral target 2030	Environmental Impact	Amber	Green
Fire incident(s) in social and temporary housing assets	Sustainable Housing	Amber	Green
MTFS of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Sustainable Housing	Amber	Amber
Safeguarding	Tackling Inequalities	Amber	Amber
Sizewell C	Thriving Economy	Amber	Amber
Pandemic outbreaks	Governance	Green	Green
Ethical Standards	Governance	Green	Green
Freeport East	Governance	Amber	Green
Health and Safety	Governance	Amber	Amber
Housing Regulation	Governance	Amber	Green
Political leadership	Governance	Red	Amber
East Suffolk Services Limited partnership	Governance	Amber	Green

Opportunities

East Suffolk is well placed to take advantage of a range of opportunities and ensure sustainable economic recovery – ensuring value for money for residents and to ensure financial resilience.

East Suffolk is recognised by many as an economic powerhouse area, with many major sites located in the district such as Felixstowe Port, BT's global Research and Development Head Quarters, offshore wind sector and nuclear energy (Sizewell Power Plant). Developments likely to bring significant economic and employment opportunities for the district include:

- The Port of Felixstowe, which is now the largest container port in the UK, will form part of Freeport East and further expansion (especially in supporting infrastructure) is planned; and
- Sizewell Power Plant major expansion – development of 'Sizewell C', a third Nuclear Power Station on the site.

Lowestoft, along with neighbouring Great Yarmouth Borough Council, is one of only six locations in England that have been designated as a Centre of Offshore Renewable Engineering (CORE) status by the Government. CORE status is awarded through recognising the existing port infrastructure, skills, supply chain and Local Government support to enable rapid growth within the offshore wind sector.

Tourism is an important part of the Council's economy. Visitors are attracted by the character, culture, festivals, music, art, food, drink, clean beaches and spectacular coastline, with areas of the district designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Council will also be able to increase its ability to extend social housing into the South of the district with the Housing Revenue Account.

8. Forward Look

8.1 General Fund Revenue

The MTFS and 2025/26 budgets were approved by Full Council in February 2025. Reflected as part of the most recent budget setting process, pressures have been largely mitigated by delays of the Business Rate Retention and Fair Funding reforms, which have now been delayed further until 2026/27. East Suffolk is in an advantageous position under the current Business Rates Retention system and deferral of the reforms will enable the Council to benefit from another year of the current regime. In light of the impending reform, a prudent approach has been applied, tapering Business rate income budgets from 2025/26 along with an assumption of significantly reduced settlement funding from central government. The MTFS does include an assumption for some transition support from government to mitigate against a significant drop in funding from the year of reform.

The Council continues to forecast an underlying annual budget gap, £7.5m in 2026/27 and rising to £11.9m by 2028/29, that needs to be addressed, along with the continuing risks of increased costs and uncertainties due to inflation rates, staff pay and increased demand on services during a time of increased

cost of living for residents. To ensure significant contingency exists against unforeseen events, a contingency budget of £0.600m has been added into the budget for 2025/26 and each subsequent year of the MTFS to mitigate some of this potential risk.

The Final Local Government’s Finance Settlement for 2025/26 was announced in February 2025. East Suffolk Council have been granted funding totalling £3.4m for 2025/26 (2024/25: £3.6m). It should be noted that 2025/26 will be the seventh consecutive year of a one-year Local Government finance settlement, but the move to a multi-year Settlement has been indicated from 2026/27. Therefore, budget assumptions for 2026/27 and beyond have remained cautious and have been reduced to reflect the uncertainty of funding reform. Overall, the Council’s core spending power has increased by 1.7% for 2025/26, compared to a 6% increase in the Council’s net budget requirement. It is vital that the Council’s policy towards its reserves and balances seeks to provide some contingency against these pressures, whilst continuing valuable community programmes and initiatives. A balanced budget was set for 2025/26, requiring £5.3m use of reserves to achieve this.

Following the Government’s Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024, Suffolk and Norfolk were accepted on to the fast-track Devolution Priority Programme, following an expressed interest from the County Councils. This will result in a new Mayoral Combined Authority, with strategic powers over transport, housing, funding, business support, skills and employment provision. Elections for this will take place in May 2026. Secondly, following an invitation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in February 2025, Suffolk will also undergo Local Government Reform (LGR), moving from a two tier system of County, Borough and District Councils to a unitary authority structure, aiming to streamline services and improve decision-making. East Suffolk Council and the four other District and Borough Councils in Suffolk have worked together to propose a multiple unitary structure, opposed to a single unitary that covers the entire County, believing that this is the right structure to deliver an effective service to residents, as well as meeting the Government’s criteria. Initial proposals were submitted in March 2025. Feedback from the MHCLG is now being reviewed and implemented in order to submit a final business case by 26 September 2025.

The ambitions of the Council’s Strategic Plan, involves projects that go beyond the usual medium term financial planning, so longer term planning will become an increasingly important tool for the Council to balance the delivery of its Strategic Plan and Council services, and to maintain financial sustainability. The table below shows the MTFS projected budget gap as at February 2025.

MTFS Budget Gap	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
As at February 2025	0	7,474	8,862	11,900

A summary of the Earmarked Reserves position for the Council over the MTFS period to 2028/29 (forecast as at February 2025) is set out below.

	MTFS April 2025 £'000	MTFS April 2026 £'000	MTFS April 2027 £'000	MTFS April 2028 £'000	MTFS April 2029 £'000
General Fund Earmarked Reserves:					
Budget Stabilisation	2,667	135	155	175	175
Grants/Funding Carried Forward	3,640	2,968	2,874	2,835	2,813
Planned Future Capital Spending	1,043	1,043	2,040	3,037	4,034
Planned Future Revenue Spending	11,671	8,612	6,732	5,786	5,581
Port Health	3,734	2,921	2,753	2,698	2,464
Risk Based	14,112	8,956	7,256	7,256	7,256
Total Earmarked Reserves	36,868	24,635	21,811	21,788	22,324

8.2 Cost of Living Crisis, Rising Inflation, and Interest Rates

The UK economy continues to be impacted by rising inflation, staffing pay pressures, the impact of global conflicts, a labour shortage, and UK fiscal policy and financial market turbulence.

Whilst inflation has fallen from its peak in October 2022 at 11.1%, its impact is still felt across the Capital Programme and revenue with baseline costs increased. In revenue it has been areas such as utilities, insurance premiums, pay awards and operation services that have seen some of the most significant increases.

The cost to the General Fund of the 2024/25 pay award is in the region of £0.907m, inclusive of both Officer and Chief Officer awards, reflecting an average percentage of increase of 2.47%. The pay award assumption built into staffing costs for 2025/26 is 2%, followed by 2% for the remaining MTFS period, with an additional 1% built into the corporate contingency budget.

Inflationary pressures on projects within the Capital Programme, indirectly impacts on revenue, through revenue costs to support projects and the revenue financing of capital. Existing loans held by the Council are all fixed rate and are therefore not susceptible to the current market increases. However, going forward, the higher rates of borrowing will impact on any future borrowing needs for the capital programme and will need to be factored into updated business cases.

For 2024/25 the total investment income was £6.903m compared to £5.668m in 2023/24. For 2025/26, the budget had assumed the Council will receive less investment income due to the forecast reduction in the Bank of England base rate. Whilst rates have decreased, this has been at a much slower pace than anticipated in the MTFS.

The cost-of-living crisis is placing additional demand on Council services and its residents, and the Council is delivering initiatives such as the Ease the Squeeze Campaign to provide advice and support to those in need.

Statement of Responsibilities

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer.
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code). In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- compiled with the local authority Code. The Chief Finance Officer has also:
- kept proper accounting records which were up to date; and
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate by the Chief Finance Officer

I certify that this Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2025 and its income and expenditure for the year ending on that date.



Lorraine Rogers (FCCA) Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer, East Suffolk Council – 30 June 2025

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Cost of Services						
Communities and Leisure	6,823	(4,074)	2,749	7,897	(2,575)	5,322
Digital, Programme Management and Customer Services	5,682	(521)	5,161	5,380	(451)	4,929
Economic Development and Regeneration	10,298	(3,688)	6,610	5,402	(1,701)	3,701
Energy, Planning and Coastal Management	4,266	(1,186)	3,080	21,225	(17,723)	3,502
Environmental Services and Port Health	11,068	(12,686)	(1,618)	10,540	(7,998)	2,542
Financial Services and Value for Money	2,144	(352)	1,792	1,345	320	1,665
Housing Services	13,280	(11,542)	1,738	10,470	(8,595)	1,875
Housing Revenue Account	23,397	(23,469)	(72)	21,720	(22,044)	(324)
Internal Audit Services	755	(142)	613	639	(145)	494
Legal and Democratic Services	2,502	(607)	1,895	2,462	(579)	1,883
People and Place	18,643	(9,454)	9,189	16,165	(9,235)	6,930
Planning and Building Control	9,936	(4,677)	5,259	6,059	(3,230)	2,829
Revenue and Benefits	43,934	(39,917)	4,017	39,807	(36,970)	2,837
Senior and Corporate Management	23,750	(6,341)	17,409	22,943	(6,306)	16,637
Total Cost of Services	176,478	(118,656)	57,822	172,054	(117,232)	54,822
Other Operating Expenditure (note 11)			9,494			7,137
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (note 12)			(7,879)			(3,656)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (note 13)			(77,256)			(77,609)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(17,819)			(19,306)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (note 24)			(7,666)			(18,268)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability / (asset) (note 31)			4,980			39,309
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(2,686)			21,041
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(20,505)			1,735

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Continued)

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

Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council and the Group, 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 Group's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for council tax setting purposes. The Net (Increase)/ Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the council.

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Account £'000	Total Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 1st April 2023	(6,000)	(48,085)	(4,365)	(18,560)	(15,778)	(15,200)	(40,407)	(148,395)	(312,518)	(460,913)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>										
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services	(14,276)	-	(5,030)	-	-	-	-	(19,306)	-	(19,306)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,041	21,041
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(14,276)	-	(5,030)	-	-	-	-	(19,306)	21,041	1,735
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (note 9)	20,864	-	6,806	-	(872)	8,087	(25,180)	9,705	(9,705)	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	6,588	-	1,776	-	(872)	8,087	(25,180)	(9,601)	11,336	1,735
Transfer to / from Earmarked Reserves (note 10)	(6,588)	6,588	(3,173)	3,173	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	-	6,588	(1,397)	3,173	(872)	8,087	(25,180)	(9,601)	11,336	1,735
Balance at 31 March 2024 carry forward	(6,000)	(41,497)	(5,762)	(15,387)	(16,650)	(7,113)	(65,587)	(157,996)	(301,182)	(459,178)

Movement in Reserves (Continued)

	General Fund Balance £'000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Account £'000	Total Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 1st April 2024	(6,000)	(41,497)	(5,762)	(15,387)	(16,650)	(7,113)	(65,587)	(157,996)	(301,182)	(459,178)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2024/25</u>										
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services	(18,764)	-	945	-	-	-	-	(17,819)	-	(17,819)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,686)	(2,686)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(18,764)	-	945	-	-	-	-	(17,819)	(2,686)	(20,505)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (note 9)	16,422	-	4,844	-	(2,449)	3,095	(1,924)	19,988	(19,988)	-
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(2,342)	-	5,789	-	(2,449)	3,095	(1,924)	2,169	(22,674)	(20,505)
Transfer to / from Earmarked Reserves (note 10)	2,342	(2,342)	(2,393)	2,393	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	-	(2,342)	3,396	2,393	(2,449)	3,095	(1,924)	2,169	(22,674)	(20,505)
Balance at 31 March 2025 carried forward	(6,000)	(43,839)	(2,366)	(12,994)	(19,099)	(4,018)	(67,511)	(155,827)	(323,856)	(479,683)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet below shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council and the Group at the Balance Sheet date, which is 31 March each year. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the Group's reserves, reported in two categories. Details of the Usable Reserves can be found at the bottom of this Balance Sheet and Unusable Reserves held by the Group are contained within Note 24 to the Council's Core Financial Statements.

	Note	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Property, Plant and Equipment	14	475,771	459,050
Investment Property	18	4,607	4,056
Heritage Assets	16	1,865	1,880
Intangible Assets	17	2,306	1,767
Long Term Investments	19 + 35	17,833	17,946
Long Term Debtors	20	9,751	9,301
Long Term Assets		512,133	494,000
Current Intangible Assets	17	-	-
Short Term Investments	19	84,587	62,030
Current Assets held for sale	15	941	910
Inventories		309	306
Short Term Debtors	20	38,399	57,324
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash Flow	37,253	27,279
Current Assets		161,489	147,849
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash Flow		
Short Term Borrowing	19	-	(2,000)
Short Term Creditors	21	(77,142)	(63,284)
Short Term Provisions	22	(56)	(2,989)
Short Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	23	(359)	(182)
Current Liabilities		(77,557)	(68,455)
Long Term Creditors	21	(12,809)	(8,424)
Long Term Provisions	22	(2,335)	(2,128)
Long Term Borrowing	34	(63,323)	(63,484)
Long Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	23	(4,831)	(5,017)
Other Long Term Liabilities - Pension Liability	31	(33,084)	(35,163)
Donated Assets Account	24	-	-
Long Term Liabilities		(116,382)	(114,216)
Net Assets		479,683	459,178

	Note	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
<u>Capital Reserves</u>			
Capital Receipts Reserve		(4,018)	(7,113)
Capital Grants Unapplied		(67,511)	(65,587)
Major Repairs Reserve		(19,099)	(16,650)
<u>Revenue Reserves</u>			
General Fund			
- Fund Balance		(6,000)	(6,000)
- Earmarked Reserves		(43,839)	(41,497)
Housing Revenue Account			
- Fund Balance		(2,366)	(5,762)
- Earmarked Reserves		(12,994)	(15,387)
Usable reserves		(155,827)	(157,996)
Unusable reserves	24	(323,856)	(301,182)
Total Reserves		(479,683)	(459,178)

Cash Flow Statement

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

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(17,819)	(19,306)
Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements:		
- Depreciation and Amortisation of Non Current Assets	(11,530)	(11,607)
- Impairment and Downward valuations	(3,831)	(4,042)
Impairment for Bad Debts	499	234
- Change in Creditors	(24,814)	(26,051)
- Change in Debtors	(21,695)	31,847
- Change in Inventory	3	78
- Pension Liability	(2,039)	4,146
- Other non-cash items charged to Surplus / Deficit on Provision of Services	2,787	(12,571)
- Carrying value of Non-Current Assets disposed	(5,162)	(7,759)
- Movement in Investment Property Values	431	(811)
	(65,351)	(26,536)
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	27,376	36,098
Net cash flows from Operating Activities	(55,794)	(9,744)

Cash Flow Statement (Continued)

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Investing Activities:		
- Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	31,747	45,993
- Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	250,100	227,000
- Other payments for investing activities	4,555	12
- Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible	(1,264)	(1,779)
- Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(228,000)	(239,000)
- Other receipts from investing activities	(25,568)	(30,547)
	31,570	1,679
Financing Activities:		
- Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	-	-
- Other receipts from financing activities	-	-
- Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases	524	344
- Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	2,161	161
- Other payments for financing activities	11,565	6,938
	14,250	7,443
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(9,974)	(622)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(24,689)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(9,974)	(25,311)
- Cash held by officers	-	1
- Short-term deposits	22,953	15,075
- Bank current account	14,300	12,203
Sub-Total - Cash and Cash Equivalents	37,253	27,279
- Other bank balances (overdrafts)	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	37,253	27,279
The cashflows for operating activities include the following items:		
- Interest received	(4,590)	(3,988)
- Interest paid	2,666	2,735
- Dividends received	(1,255)	(1,350)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

a) General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at 31 March 2025. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts, as determined by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which are prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. Preparer's materiality has been set at £3.7m and only accounting policies and disclosures that exceed this materiality level have been provided, with the exception of politically sensitive areas of the Statement of Accounts, such as Members Allowance (Note 25) and Officers Remuneration and exit packages (Note 28).

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis; that is, on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in

operational existence for the foreseeable future from the date that the accounts are authorised for issue.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy shows that from 2025/26 there is an underlying budget gap in the medium term that needs to be addressed. As at 31 March 2025, the Council had the following Earmarked Reserves available to largely enable it to absorb any shock to its income streams in the short to medium term:

- Business rates equalisation reserve (£9.737m) – This is income from Business Rates which is set aside to equalise the fluctuations in recognising Business Rate income due to timing differences, in relation to Business Rates appeals and for year-end surpluses/deficits.
- In-Year savings reserve (£3.639m) – The in-year savings are typically set-aside in this reserve to support future year budget pressures.

However, prolonged and sustained high levels of inflation and a recession, combined with the need to close the already forecast budget gap

could put pressure on other earmarked reserves and Council projects and services.

The Council has considered the impacts of inflation, cost-of-living crisis and geo-political events on its financial position, liquidity and performance during 2024/25 and beyond including scenarios of:

- Reductions in income
- Increased expenditure
- Cashflow and liquidity
- General fund balances and reserves

The Council has also considered known and expected government funding and determined that it has sufficient liquidity from its ability to access short-term investments and sufficient general fund balances and reserves to continue to deliver services. As a result, the Council is satisfied that it can prepare its accounts on a going concern basis.

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

b) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed - where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption; they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure based on the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument, rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract. Accrued interest is accounted for in the Balance Sheet as part of the carrying value of the financial instrument.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded on the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- Where payments have been received in advance of obligations being performed, they have been recognised as a liability on the Balance Sheet.
- Works are charged as expenditure when they are completed before which they are carried as works in progress with inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- In calculating the accrual for major grant claims including Housing Benefit Subsidy, the sum receivable has been estimated using the latest information available from the Housing Benefit system.
- Where the Council is acting as an agent for another party (e.g., in the collection of non-domestic rates (NDR) and council tax), income and expenditure are

recognised only to the extent that commission is receivable by the Council for the agency services rendered or the Council incurs expenses directly on its own behalf in rendering the services.

c) 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 highly liquid investments that mature in seven days or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash without penalty and with insignificant risk of change in value. In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management process. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors. Prior period adjustments may arise due to a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error.

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

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

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

d) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

e) Employee Benefits

Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those that fall due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits 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 only made where the cost of untaken holiday entitlements and other leave carried forward into the next financial year is material. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year,

being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The material accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable due to 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 in exchange for those benefits. They are charged on an accrual's basis to the appropriate service area or, where applicable to a corporate service area, at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-employment benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Suffolk County Council, to provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

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

- The liabilities of the Suffolk Pension Fund (part of the national LGPS) attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices. The discount rates employed for the 2024/25 accounts are 5.80% (short term)/5.80% (medium term)/5.85% (long term) which is

derived by reference to market yields on high quality corporate bonds at the reporting date using a corporate bond yield curve constructed based on the constituents of the iBoxx AA corporate bond index. The currency and term of the high-quality corporate bonds used to set the discount rate is consistent with the currency and term of the liabilities.

- The assets of the Suffolk Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
- quoted securities - current bid price.
- unquoted securities - professional estimate.
- unitised securities - current bid price; and
- property - market value.

The change in the net pension's position is analysed into the following components:

- Service cost comprising:
- current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year - allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- past service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years - debited to the Surplus or

Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Financial Services, Corporate Performance and Risk Management; and

- net interest on the net defined benefit liability, i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

- the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure; and
- actuarial gains and losses - changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions - charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Contributions paid to the Suffolk Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.
- Any change in the effect of the asset ceiling excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Any additional liability arising for past service contributions (considered as a minimum funding requirement) which give rise to a future surplus and are not available after they are paid.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are

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 pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact on the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary benefits

The 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.

f) Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

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

g) Financial Instruments

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and 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.

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 most of 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.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the

impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement

Financial assets

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

- amortised cost;
- fair value through profit or loss; and
- fair value through other comprehensive income.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured 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 most of the financial assets held by the Council, 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.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis.

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the authority. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial assets that are measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss 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. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

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

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price

- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

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

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

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

h) Government Grants and Contributions

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

- the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and
- the grants or contributions will be received.

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which any conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Council) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects (these include transport, flood defences and schools) to support the development of the area.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure. However, a small proportion of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure.

i) Interests in Companies and Other Entities

In May 2008, Waveney District Council signed an agreement with Norse Commercial Services Limited (NCS). A new company, Waveney Norse Limited was incorporated on 23 May 2008 and began trading on 1 July 2008. The Council transferred the responsibility for the delivery of the refuse, cleansing and maintenance services to Waveney Norse Limited. East Suffolk Council has a 19.9% share in the Company. Profits and losses are shared 50%/50% with NCS.

On 1 April 2009, Suffolk Coastal District Council entered into a service contract with Suffolk Coastal Services Limited (now Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited) for the provision of a range of services including waste management and grounds and buildings maintenance. East Suffolk Council has 20% of the shares of Suffolk Coastal Norse which is a subsidiary of the Norse Group of companies which is itself a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk County Council. Profits and losses are shared 50%/50% with Suffolk Coastal Norse.

In October 2021, notice was given to terminate the two Norse contracts with East Suffolk Council as of 30 June 2023.

The Council's accounting relationships with both Waveney Norse Limited and Suffolk Coastal

Norse Limited companies are determined to be Associates. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, the interests in Waveney Norse Limited and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited are recorded as a financial asset at cost, less any provision for losses.

The Group Accounting information for Waveney Norse Limited and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited is based on their financial results at their accounting date of 1 April 2025.

East Suffolk Holdings Limited is wholly owned by the Council and was incorporated on 24 October 2019. East Suffolk Holdings is the sole shareholder of East Suffolk Construction Services Limited, East Suffolk Property Developments Limited, and East Suffolk Property Investments Limited, all of which were incorporated on 26 November 2019. All of these companies have been dormant since this date.

East Suffolk Services Limited is wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited (which is wholly owned by East Suffolk Council) and was incorporated on 27th March 2022. ESSL took over the work of Waveney Norse and East Suffolk Norse on 1st July 2023.

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

Further detailed information regarding the agreement is set out in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements (Note 33, Interests in Companies and Other Entities) and Group Accounts.

j) 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, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. 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.

k) Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council has adopted IFRS 16 (Leases) with effect from 1 April 2024. The adoption of this

standard resulted in the balance sheet recognition of right of use assets and related lease liabilities in relation to former operating leases where the council was lessee. The council has elected to apply recognition exemptions to low value assets (below £10,000) and to short-term leases – that is to say, existing leases that expire on or before 31 March 2025.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets. The Code expands the scope of IFRS 16 Leases to include arrangements with zero consideration, peppercorn or nominal payments.

The Council as Lessee – Finance leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the years in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by

a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

The Council as Lessor – Operating leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

l) Overheads and Support Services

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

m) Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

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

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

n) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an 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 maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance), and expenditure below a de-minimis level of £10,000, is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price;
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
- the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction. The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase (for example exchange for non-monetary asset) is deemed to be its fair value,

unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

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

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction - depreciated historical cost;
- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective; or
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. Where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. The effective date of revaluation of those assets revalued in 2024/25 is:

- 31 December 2024 for assets measured at current value;
- 31 December 2024 for assets measured at fair value and those assets at risk of material movements in their valuation during the year; and
- 31 March 2025 for assets measured at social housing discount.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services where they arise from the reversal of a revaluation or impairment loss

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

previously charged to a service. Where decreases in value are identified, the revaluation loss 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 down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).

- where there is no or insufficient balance in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the amount not covered by any Revaluation Reserve balance for that asset.

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

Impairment

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the

asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).

- where there is no or insufficient balance in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the amount not covered by any Revaluation Reserve balance for that asset.

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction). Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

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Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

- dwellings and other buildings - straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment - straight line allocation over the useful life of the asset, as advised by a suitably qualified officer; or
- infrastructure - straight-line allocation over 40 to 60 years.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, and whose life is materially different to that of the main asset, the components are depreciated separately. This will generally apply where the cost of the potential component exceeds 25% of the total cost of the asset, and where the life of that component is less than 50% of the expected life of the main asset. Below those de minimis levels, it is unlikely that a failure to account separately for components would have a material impact on depreciation charges, using the Council's capital expenditure de minimis level of £10,000 as a guide for material impact.

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.

Disposals and non-current assets held for sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. Irrespective of the timing of any decision an asset is surplus; the accounting treatment will apply from 1 April in that year. The asset is revalued immediately before 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 in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

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

their recoverable amount at the date of the decision to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals are payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement).

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

o) Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by 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

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, considering relevant risks and uncertainties. Where the obligation is expected to be settled within 12 months of the Balance Sheet date the provision is recognised as a Current Liability in the Balance Sheet. Other provisions are recognised as Long-Term Liabilities.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year - where it

becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

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

The Council makes specific provision in the Collection Fund for doubtful debts in relation to receipt of council tax and business rates, and in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Statement for doubtful debts in relation to other service debtors. These provisions are based on the age profile of the debts outstanding at the end of the financial year, reflecting historical collection patterns, and are included in the Balance Sheet as an adjustment to Debtors.

Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council 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 Council. 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 liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be

Note 1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

p) Reserves

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

Certain reserves are kept in relation to non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and therefore do not represent usable resources for the Council -

these Unusable Reserves are explained elsewhere in the relevant accounting policies.

q) Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for council tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the

income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

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

r) VAT

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

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but 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 that has been issued but not yet adopted. The standards introduced by the 2025/26 Code where disclosures are required in the 2024/25 financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code, are:

- IAS 21 - The effects of changes in foreign exchange rate (lack of exchangeability)
- IFRS 17 - Insurance Contracts
- IAS 38 - Intangible Assets - measurement of non-investment assets
- IAS16 Property, Plant and Equipment - measurement of non-investment assets – “ The Code” requires implementation of the above disclosures from 1 April 2025. These changes are not considered to have a material effect on the Pension Fund accounts of 2024 - 2025.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2025 and there is therefore no impact on the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

3. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council has examined its leases and classified them as either operational or finance leases. In some cases, the lease transaction is not always conclusive, and the Council uses judgement in determining whether the lease is a finance lease arrangement that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. In reassessing the lease, the Council has estimated the implied interest rate within the lease to calculate interest and principal payments.
- East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL) took over the operations previously provided by the Norse Joint Venture (Waveney Norse Limited, and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited) on 1 July 2023. ESSL is wholly owned by East Suffolk Council, and two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors. Full group accounts have been included for ESSL for 2024/25. The other wholly owned East Suffolk Council companies which are currently incorporated (all on 26 November 2019) but dormant include:
 - East Suffolk Holdings
 - East Suffolk Construction Services Limited
 - East Suffolk Property Developments Limited
 - East Suffolk Property Investments Limited
- Any potential legal claims by or against the Council are not adjusted in the accounts but are disclosed as part of Contingent Liabilities or Assets as required under the CIPFA Code.
- As part of the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR1) return in January 2024, the Council had to estimate the business rates income expected to be received in 2024/25 based on several assumptions. The most significant assumption was in relation to the provision for appeals. With effect from 1 April 2023 the Council uses Wilks, Head & Eve to estimate this provision. The 2017 valuation list applied until the end of March 2023 with the new 2023 valuation list beginning on 1 April 2023. There are two separate provisions remaining, one relating to the 2017 Valuation list and the other to the 2023 Valuation list. The 2010 provision was closed in 2023/24 as the remaining outstanding appeals were resolved.

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

The preparation of Statement of Accounts requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the income and expenditure during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The key judgements and estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, plant & equipment	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets.</p> <p>Uncertainty regarding public finances and local government finances makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, potentially bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.478m for non-housing properties and £0.102m for council dwellings for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>Whilst this risk is inherent in the valuation process, any change to the useful lives of assets and the subsequent depreciation charge will not impact on the Council's usable reserve balances, as depreciation charges do not fall on the taxpayer and are removed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.</p>
Pension's asset/liability	<p>Estimation of the net asset/liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>Whilst the effects on the net pension's asset/liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, they are complex and inter-related. Any change in estimates can have a material impact on the Council's Accounts. It is important to note, however, that the impact of pension costs is protected in the short to medium term under national pension arrangements. Further analysis on the pension liability is in Note 31.</p>
Arrears and Provisions for Doubtful Debts	<p>In light of the current cost of living pressures, the impairment allowances for doubtful debts have been reviewed. Provisions for doubtful debts have been adjusted to reflect cost of living pressures in respect of council tax, housing benefit overpayments; and sundry debtors.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate an increase in the amount of the impairment of the doubtful debts would be required. If necessary, such a sum could be met from reserves and balances in the short term. Monitoring of the Council's debt will be intensified in the light of the current economic climate.</p>

Note 4 Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty (Continued)

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Housing benefit subsidy	In preparing the accounts for the year the Council has submitted a grant claim to the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to Housing Benefit paid in the year to the value of £37.671 million. The grant claim is subject to detailed audit and the accounts have been prepared on the basis that all entries on the claim have been correctly stated.	If the auditor identifies errors or system weakness within the grant claim there is a risk the grant income shown within the accounts is overstated. If this were to be the case, any shortfall would reduce the General Fund balance.
Business rates appeals	<p>Under the Business Rates Retention scheme, which came into operation in April 2013, the Council as Billing Authority collects all Non-Domestic Rates from local business and distributes these to Central Government (50%), Suffolk County Council (10%) and East Suffolk Council (40%).</p> <p>Changes have been made by the Government in several areas since the introduction of the system, such as the imposition of a time limit for backdating appeals and the capping of year-on-year increases in rates bills.</p> <p>The Council must make assumptions in the returns to Government required under the system. These include estimates of growth or contraction in the rates base; the value of outstanding appeals; the value of reliefs to be awarded; and the value of doubtful debts. Methodologies for the estimation of these variables have been continually refined since April 2013.</p>	If there are in-year changes to the system and there are actual variances from the assumptions on key variables included in Government returns, these will be reflected in changes in the Collection Fund surpluses or deficits attributable to Central Government, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council in future years based on their distribution proportions.

Note 4 Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty (Continued)

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Fair value measurements	<p>When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. quoted prices for <i>similar</i> assets or liabilities in active markets or the discounted cash flow (DCF) model).</p> <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities.</p> <p>Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the Council employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value (for example for investment properties, the Council's chief valuation officer and external valuer). Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities is disclosed in notes 14 and 15 below.</p>	The fair value for all surplus assets has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the authority's area.
Economic Uncertainty	<p>Assumptions in the MTFS are based on the current assessment of economic uncertainties, notably high interest rates caused by previous high inflation rates. Inflation has been on a downward trend since the 11.1% peak in CPI in October 2022. The Bank of England has gradually reduced the bank rate, having raised them to a 15 year high of 5.25% in August 2023. However, with global uncertainty remaining elevated, interest rates are likely to remain high until inflation returns to a sustainable level.</p>	This period of unusually high inflation and interest rates has potential implications for the statement of accounts under the provisions of the existing accounting standards. This could have potential further adverse impacts in the form of cost pressures for service areas but a positive impact on the Council's investment income.

5. Material items of income and expenditure

When items of income and expenditure 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 Council's financial performance. For 2024/25, there is one item to disclose:

Active Suffolk

The Council acts as the lead authority for Active Suffolk, the designated County Sports Partnership for Suffolk. As Active Suffolk is not a separate legal entity, all associated income and expenditure are processed through the Council's Statement of Accounts. These transactions are recorded under distinct departmental codes, allowing for clear identification and financial tracking.

Active Suffolk is overseen by an independent Board comprising 12 members. This Board is responsible for directing the strategic and operational activities of Active Suffolk (formerly known as Suffolk Sport) in alignment with its established objectives and governing Rules. The Board ensures that the organisation remains focused on its mission and continues to develop and deliver its programme of work effectively.

Funding for Active Suffolk is primarily sourced from grants awarded by Sport England, as well as financial contributions from each of the Suffolk local authorities. It is important to note that the Council does not influence or determine the allocation or utilisation of these funds; such decisions fall within the remit of the Active Suffolk Board.

6. Events after the Balance Sheet date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on 30 June 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. There are no Post Balance Sheet Events in 2024/25.

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000	2024/25 (Note 9)				Net Expenditure Chargeable to GF & HRA Balances £'000	Service Area	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000	2023/24 (Note 9)				Net Expenditure Chargeable to GF & HRA Balances £'000	
	Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis							Adjustments between the Funding & Accounting Basis					
	Capital £'000	Pensions £'000	Other £'000	Total Adj £'000				Capital £'000	Pensions £'000	Other £'000	Total Adj £'000		
2,749	(119)	151		32	2,781	Communities and Leisure	5,322	(1,488)	84		(1,404)	3,918	
5,161	(381)	262		(119)	5,042	Digital, Programme Management & Customer Services	4,929	(320)	179		(141)	4,788	
6,610	(3,801)	97		(3,704)	2,906	Economic Development and Regeneration	3,701	(637)	63		(574)	3,127	
3,080	(1,557)	84		(1,473)	1,607	Energy Planning and Coastal Management	3,502	(1,590)	56		(1,534)	1,968	
(1,618)	(277)	519		242	(1,376)	Environmental Services and Port Health	2,542	(105)	351		246	2,788	
1,792	-	79		79	1,871	Financial Services and Value for Money	1,665	-	12		12	1,677	
1,738	922	271		1,193	2,931	Housing Services	1,875	388	142		530	2,405	
(72)	(2,396)	461		(1,935)	(2,007)	Housing Revenue Account	(324)	(4,191)	304		(3,887)	(4,211)	
613	-	49		49	662	Internal Audit Services	494	-	31		31	525	
1,895	(3)	76		73	1,968	Legal and Democratic Services	1,883	(3)	49		46	1,929	
9,189	(6,011)	119		(5,892)	3,297	People and Place	6,930	(4,011)	78		(3,933)	2,997	
5,259	(2,386)	342		(2,044)	3,215	Planning and Building Control	2,829	(649)	230		(419)	2,410	
4,017	-	224	-	224	4,241	Revenue and Benefits	2,837	-	153	(12)	141	2,978	
17,409	(124)	305		181	17,590	Senior and Corporate Management	16,637	(252)	203		(49)	16,588	
57,822	(16,133)	3,039	-	(13,094)	44,728	Cost of Services	54,822	(12,858)	1,935	(12)	(10,935)	43,887	
9,494	(1,505)	-	-	(1,505)	7,989	Other Operating Expenditure	7,137	306	-	-	306	7,443	
(7,879)	10,842	4,019	-	14,861	6,982	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(3,656)	8,358	2,223	-	10,581	6,925	
(77,256)	21,717	-	(713)	21,004	(56,252)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(77,609)	28,756	-	(1,038)	27,718	(49,891)	
(17,819)	14,921	7,058	(713)	21,266	3,447	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(19,306)	24,562	4,158	(1,050)	27,670	8,364	
					(68,646)	Opening General Fund and HRA Balance							(77,010)
					3,447	Less/Plus Surplus of (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year							8,364
					(65,199)	Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March*							(68,646)
* For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA - see Movement in Reserves Statement													

* For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA - see Movement in Reserves Statement

Note 7 Expenditure and Funding Analysis (Continued)

The following paragraphs explain the adjustments made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to arrive at the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Note:

Adjustments for capital purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for Other operating expenditure and adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets. For financing and investment income and expenditure, the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Within taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from that receivable in the year to that receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net change for the pension's adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income. For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs. For Financing and investment income and expenditure the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Other Differences

This includes other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute. For Financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts. The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

8. Expenditure and Income analysed by nature

The Councils Expenditure and Income is analysed by type in the table below:

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	48,216	44,014
Other service expenses	112,820	95,961
Dereciation, amortisation, impairment	14,930	32,889
Interest payments	(385)	1,056
Net (gains)/losses on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	104	147
Impairment Losses including Reversals of Impairment Losses or Impairment Gains	(102)	211
Precepts and levies	7,996	7,445
Business rates tariff payment and levy	32,081	30,236
Gain or loss on the disposal of assets	1,499	(308)
Total expenditure	217,159	211,651
Income		
Fees, Charges and other service income	(118,739)	(117,445)
Interest and investment income	(6,903)	(5,668)
Income from Council tax, non-domestic rates, district rate income	(72,367)	(65,503)
Government grants and contributions	(36,969)	(42,341)
Total income	(234,978)	(230,957)
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(17,819)	(19,306)

9. Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulation

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. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against:

General Fund Balance

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

Housing Revenue Account Balance

The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied Account

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

Note 9 Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulation (Continued)

2023/24	Usable Reserves						Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied Account £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	
Adjustments Involving the Capital Adjustment Account:							
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(7,259)	-	(4,283)	-	-	(11,542)	11,542
- Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	148	(4,190)	-	-	-	(4,042)	4,042
- Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(811)	-	-	-	-	(811)	811
- Amortisation of intangible assets	(63)	-	(1)	-	-	(64)	64
Expenditure capitalised under Approvals:							
- Capital grants and contributions that have been applied to capital financing	584	-	-	-	-	584	(584)
- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,601)	-	-	-	-	(3,601)	3,601
- Revenue expenditure funded from community infrastructure levies	(645)	-	-	-	-	(645)	645
- Revenue expenditure funded from section 106 receipts	(204)	-	-	-	-	(204)	204
- 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	(6,637)	(1,122)	-	-	-	(7,759)	7,759
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	1,722	-	-	-	-	1,722	(1,722)
- Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,609	5,448	-	-	-	8,057	(8,057)
Adjustment involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:							
- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	26,464	4,676	-	-	(31,140)	-	-
- Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	5,960	5,960	(5,960)

Note 9 Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulation (Continued)

2023/24	Usable Reserves						
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:							
- Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	82	1,690	-	(1,772)	-	-	-
- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	9,380	-	9,380	(9,380)
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve on receipt of cash	-	-	-	(4)	-	(4)	4
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:							
- Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	6,294	-	-	-	-	6,294	(6,294)
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve							
- Release of Flexible Use Capital Receipts from the Capital Receipts Reserve	(483)	-	-	483	-	-	-
- Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to fund new capital expenditure	-	-	3,412	-	-	3,412	(3,412)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	20	-	-	-	-	20	(20)
Adjustments involving the Pooled Investments Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit and Loss are subject to MHCLG statutory over-ride Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(147)	-	-	-	-	(147)	147
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:							
- Reversal of items relating to post employment benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,044)	(962)	-	-	-	(4,006)	4,006
- Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	6,886	1,266	-	-	-	8,152	(8,152)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which Council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,051)	-	-	-	-	(1,051)	1,051
Total Adjustments	20,864	6,806	(872)	8,087	(25,180)	9,705	(9,705)

Note 9 Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulation (Continued)

2024/25	Usable Reserves						
	General	Housing	Major	Capital	Capital Grants	Total	Movement
	Fund	Revenue	Repairs	Receipts	Unapplied	Usable	in Unusable
	Balance	Account	Reserve	Reserve	Account	Reserves	Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments Involving the Capital Adjustment Account:							
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(6,486)	-	(4,994)	-	-	(11,480)	11,480
- Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(1,434)	(2,396)	-	-	-	(3,830)	3,830
- Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	431	-	-	-	-	431	(431)
- Amortisation of intangible assets	(49)	-	-	-	-	(49)	49
Finance Lease capital payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure capitalised under Approvals:							
- Capital grants and contributions that have been applied to capital financing	1,986	175	-	-	-	2,161	(2,161)
- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(6,671)	-	-	-	-	(6,671)	6,671
- Revenue expenditure funded from community infrastructure levies	(2,380)	-	-	-	-	(2,380)	2,380
- Revenue expenditure funded from section 106 receipts	(92)	-	-	-	-	(92)	92
- 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	(3,991)	(1,173)	-	-	-	(5,164)	5,164
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>							
- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	2,666	-	-	-	-	2,666	(2,666)
- Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	1,430	6,400	-	-	-	7,830	(7,830)
Adjustment involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:							
- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	22,774	158	-	-	(22,932)	-	-
- Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	21,008	21,008	(21,008)

Note 9 Adjustments between accounting & funding basis under regulation (Continued)

2024/25	Usable Reserves						
	General	Housing	Major	Capital	Capital Grants	Total	Movement
	Fund	Revenue	Repairs	Receipts	Unapplied	Usable	in Unusable
	Balance	Account	Reserve	Reserve	Account	Reserves	Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:							
- Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	46	1,218	-	(1,264)	-	-	-
- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	4,359	-	4,359	(4,359)
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve							
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,393	-	-	-	-	2,393	(2,393)
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve							
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to fund new capital expenditure and repayment of debt	-	-	2,545	-	-	2,545	(2,545)
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	19	-	-	-	-	19	(19)
Adjustments involving the Pooled Investments Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit and Loss are subject to MHCLG statutory over-ride Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(104)	-	-	-	-	(104)	104
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:							
- Reversal of items relating to post employment benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,121)	(918)	-	-	-	(2,039)	2,039
- Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	7,718	1,380	-	-	-	9,098	(9,098)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:							
- Amount by which Council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	(713)	-	-	-	-	(713)	713
Total Adjustments	16,422	4,844	(2,449)	3,095	(1,924)	19,988	(19,988)

10. Transfers to/ from Earmarked Reserves

	Balance 31 March 2023	Transfers Out 2023/24	Transfers In 2023/24	Balance 31 March 2024	Transfers Out 2024/25	Transfers In 2024/25	Balance 31 March 2025	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
General Fund:								
Budget Stabilisation:								
In-Year Savings	3,402	(1,035)	16	2,383	(1,047)	2,303	3,639	In-Year savings set aside to support future year budget gaps.
COVID Reserve:								
COVID19 Response	1,166	(1,166)	-	-	-	-	-	Government funding received in response to the COVID19 pandemic to fund ongoing response & recovery work.
Grants/Funding Carried Forward:								
Centres for Warmth	-	-	93	93	-	79	172	External funding to provide a warm hub giving support and advice to those in need. Including food and uniform banks, Winter Warm Packs, & low energy cooking.
Communities	2,258	(1,271)	342	1,329	(811)	791	1,309	External Funding for community initiatives.
Community Housing Fund	1,313	(279)	-	1,034	-	-	1,034	Enabling local community groups to deliver affordable housing units.
Ease the Squeeze	-	-	-	-	-	408	408	To support community aid initiatives, supporting local communities by creating hubs with necessary equipment (such as heaters and cookers).
Homelessness Prevention	646	(125)	40	561	-	166	727	Homelessness prevention revenue grants received in advance to be matched with expenditure in subsequent years.
Major Energy	-	-	111	111	-	126	237	New reserve created from developer contributions, being used to fund future costs of Major Energy Projects Team.
RAWS - Waste and Recycling Strategy	-	-	-	-	-	480	480	To support the implementation of Simplier Recycling and Food waste collection services.
Rent Guarantee Scheme	215	-	227	442	(43)	-	399	To provide a source of finance for landlord claims.
Other Grants/Funding Carried Forward	1,466	(1,383)	1,207	1,290	(462)	71	899	
Planned Future Capital Spending:								
Capital Reserve	54	(438)	392	8	-	453	461	Source of finance for capital investment plans.
Short Life Assets	1,119	(1,800)	718	37	(463)	748	322	To fund the purchase of short life assets. Any capital funding will be repaid from revenue budgets.
Planned Future Revenue Spending:								
Budget Carry Forwards	163	(162)	283	284	(285)	166	165	Unspent revenue budgets carried forward to fund approved requests.
Building Control	516	-	-	516	-	134	650	Statutory fund to smooth Building Control expenditure and income over a rolling annual period.
Business Rates Pilot	913	(89)	-	824	(249)	2	577	Business rate retention pilot scheme income (2018/19) set aside to fund agreed projects.
Business Rates- Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL)	1,010	(211)	-	799	(583)	-	216	SPSL share of business rates pooling benefit forgone in 2022/23, earmarked for economic & community projects.
Coastal Management - Revenue Works	379	-	35	414	(12)	-	402	Funding of coastal defence revenue expenditure.
Active Suffolk	782	(129)	153	806	(97)	26	735	Delivery of the County Sports Partnership.
Customer Services	326	(82)	-	244	(24)	-	220	Funding project support and implementation costs.
Enterprise Zone	626	(461)	531	696	(457)	583	822	Enterprise Zone retained business rates income pending distribution.

Note 10 Transfers to/ from Earmarked Reserves (Continued)

	Balance 31 March 2023	Transfers Out 2023/24	Transfers In 2023/24	Balance 31 March 2024	Transfers Out 2024/25	Transfers In 2024/25	Balance 31 March 2025	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
General Fund:								
Planned Future Revenue Spending:								
Individual Electoral Registration	439	(11)	106	534	-	-	534	To meet the additional cost for administration of Individual Electoral Registration.
Land Charges	150	-	-	150	-	-	150	To support the General Fund from losses in future Land Charges income.
New Homes Bonus	5,439	(1,153)	447	4,733	(1,705)	665	3,693	Supporting community initiatives across East Suffolk.
Planning	400	-	-	400	-	-	400	To provide a source of finance for planning appeals, local plans and planning challenges.
Planning Policy	171	(17)	32	186	(17)	27	196	To provide a source of finance to support development work and audit of the Local Plan.
Private Sector Housing Renovation Grants	479	(4)	-	475	-	61	536	Grants repaid set aside to fund future renovation works.
Southwold Harbour	144	-	236	380	(36)	185	529	To provide financing for future repairs and investment in Harbour Lands - Statute
Strategic Plan Delivery	-	-	-	-	(55)	1,937	1,882	To provide funding to support the delivery of Our Direction 2028.
Transformation	3,394	(1,583)	-	1,811	(849)	10	972	To provide funding for efficiency (invest to save) initiatives and to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan.
Other Planned Future Revenue Spending	1,328	(461)	116	983	(340)	53	696	
Port Health:								
Port Health	3,514	(1,489)	246	2,271	(1,089)	4,893	6,075	Supporting the future investment and development of infrastructure at the Port of Felixstowe.
Risk Based:								
Actuarial Contributions	200	-	-	200	-	-	200	Financing pension strain budget pressures.
Business Rates Equalisation	15,213	(504)	1,933	16,642	(6,905)	-	9,737	Business rates income set aside to manage the impact of equalisation and Government reform of the business rate system.
Business Rates Income	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	Business rates income set aside to manage fluctuations and accounting timing differences with Business Rates income.
Insurance	171	-	-	171	-	-	171	To provide a source of finance for any uninsured losses.
Planning Legal	400	-	-	400	-	-	400	To provide for legal costs in respect of planning appeals.
Resilience and Emergency Response Fund	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	To provide short-term financial support to communities, working with and through Parish and Town Councils, with recovery activities after a related climate related emergency event.
Revenue & Benefits Administration	200	-	-	200	-	-	200	To provide a source of finance for budget pressures on the administration of Revenues & Benefits.
Other Risk Based	90	-	-	90	-	4	94	
Total General Fund	48,086	(13,853)	7,264	41,497	(15,529)	17,871	43,839	

Note 10 Transfers to/ from Earmarked Reserves (Continued)

	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000	Transfers Out 2023/24 £'000	Transfers In 2023/24 £'000	Balance 31 March 2024 £'000	Transfers Out 2024/25 £'000	Transfers In 2024/25 £'000	Balance 31 March 2025 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
General Fund:								
Housing Revenue Account:								
Debt Repayment Reserve	13,000	-	-	13,000	(200)	-	12,800	Set aside funds to meet future liabilities for repaying the Self-Financing debt.
Other Housing Revenue Account	5,560	(3,174)	1	2,387	(2,194)	1	194	
Total Housing Revenue Account	18,560	(3,174)	1	15,387	(2,394)	1	12,994	
Total	66,646	(17,027)	7,265	56,884	(17,923)	17,872	56,833	

11. CIES - Other operating expenditure

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Parish Council precepts	7,683	7,094
Gains/losses on the disposal of non current assets	1,499	(308)
Levies	312	351
Total	9,494	7,137

12. CIES - Financing and investment income and Expenditure

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Interest payable and similar charges	3,544	3,279
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(4,019)	(2,223)
Interest receivable and similar income	(5,567)	(4,302)
Net (gains)/losses on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	104	147
Impairment Losses including Reversals of Impairment Losses or Impairment Gains	(102)	211
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(503)	598
Other Investment Income	(1,336)	(1,366)
Total	(7,879)	(3,656)

13. CIES - Taxation and non-specific grants

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Council tax income	(24,862)	(23,503)
Non domestic rates	(42,280)	(39,397)
Tariff payment to Suffolk County Council	24,794	23,708
Share of (surplus)/deficit on collection fund	(317)	(304)
Share of pooling benefit with other Suffolk Councils	(4,908)	(2,300)
Levy payment to Suffolk Business Rates Pool	7,287	6,528
Pilot Gross Payment to Pool	-	-
Non-ring fenced government grants	(15,253)	(13,575)
Capital grant and contributions	(21,717)	(28,766)
Total	(77,256)	(77,609)

14. Property, Plant & Equipment

Movements in 2024/25:									
	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction		Total PPE £'000
							Construction £'000	Land £'000	
Cost or Valuation									
At 1 April 2024	259,745	117,024	10,850	88,468	1,531	2,943	15,436	5,085	501,082
Additions	2,814	2,642	3,369	989	-	883	17,491	-	28,188
Donated Assets	175	1,199	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,374
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	309	10	-	-	-	106	-	-	425
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,670)	(1,502)	-	-	-	(1,267)	-	-	(5,439)
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,072)	(55)	(2,393)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,520)
Derecognition - Other	(11)	(669)	(844)	-	-	(892)	(20)	-	(2,436)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	1,640	3,693	-	3	-	1,264	(6,173)	(467)	(40)
At 31 March 2025	260,930	122,342	10,982	89,460	1,531	3,037	26,734	4,618	519,634
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2024	4	2,992	7,312	31,587	-	136	1	-	42,032
Depreciation charge	4,629	3,844	837	1,872	-	281	-	-	11,463
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3,560)	(3,368)	-	-	-	(313)	-	-	(7,241)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(412)	(376)	-	-	-	(820)	-	-	(1,608)
Derecognition - Disposals	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5)
Derecognition - Other	-	(26)	(754)	-	-	-	-	-	(780)
Other movements in Depreciation and Impairment	(650)	(64)	1	1	-	716	(2)	-	2
At 31 March 2025	6	3,002	7,396	33,460	-	-	(1)	-	43,863
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2025	260,924	119,340	3,586	56,000	1,531	3,037	26,735	4,618	475,771
At 31 March 2024	259,741	114,032	3,538	56,881	1,531	2,807	15,435	5,085	459,050

Note 14 Property, Plant & Equipment (Continued)

Comparative Movements in 2023/24									
	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction		Total PPE £'000
							Construction £'000	Land £'000	
Cost or Valuation									
At 1 April 2023	256,507	106,814	14,578	61,281	1,531	1,731	31,748	4,463	478,653
Additions	4,241	3,597	6,465	413	-	132	32,085	-	46,933
Donated Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	3,498	5,933	-	-	-	540	-	-	9,971
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(4,847)	(6)	-	-	-	(68)	-	-	(4,921)
Derecognition - Disposals	(1,035)	-	(7,212)	-	-	-	-	-	(8,247)
Derecognition - Other	-	(105)	(3,297)	(237)	-	(127)	(16,430)	-	(20,196)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	(303)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(303)
Other movements in Cost or Valuation	1,381	1,094	316	27,011	-	735	(31,967)	622	(808)
At 31 March 2024	259,745	117,024	10,850	88,468	1,531	2,943	15,436	5,085	501,082
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment									
At 1 April 2023	5	3,270	10,476	29,941	-	27	313	-	44,032
Depreciation charge	4,101	4,537	913	1,879	-	103	-	-	11,533
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3,485)	(4,707)	-	-	-	(105)	-	-	(8,297)
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(608)	(291)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(899)
Derecognition - Disposals	(8)	-	(944)	-	-	-	-	-	(952)
Derecognition - Other	-	(10)	(3,134)	(237)	-	-	-	-	(3,381)
Other movements in Depreciation and Impairment	(1)	193	1	4	-	111	(312)	-	(4)
At 31 March 2024	4	2,992	7,312	31,587	-	136	1	-	42,032
Net Book Value									
At 31 March 2024	259,741	114,032	3,538	56,881	1,531	2,807	15,435	5,085	459,050
At 1 April 2023	256,502	103,544	4,102	31,340	1,531	1,704	31,435	4,463	434,621

Note 14 Property, Plant & Equipment (Continued)

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of each depreciating asset. The estimated useful life of each category of asset is as follows:

Asset Category	Estimated Life (Years)
Council dwellings	35 to 60
Other land and buildings	30 to 60
HRA garages	10 to 25
Vehicles, plant and equipment	5 to 20
Infrastructure assets	40 to 60
Community assets	60
Other depreciating assets	40 to 60

Fair Value Measurement of Surplus Asset

Fair Value Hierarchy - All the Councils' surplus assets have been assessed as having level 2 inputs as at 31 March 2025. Valuation Techniques used to determine Level 2 Fair Values for Surplus Assets are Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2). The fair value for all surplus assets has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the Council area. The fair value of surplus assets as at 31 March 2025 was £3.037m (value as at 31 March 2024 was £2.943m).

	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £'000	Fair value as at 31 March £'000
31 March 2025	3,037	3,037
31 March 2024	2,943	2,943

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025, there are no contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment.

Note 14 Property, Plant & Equipment (Continued)

Effects of changes in estimates

There were no material changes to accounting estimates for property, plant and equipment in 2024/25.

Revaluations

The following statement shows the progress of the Council's programme of revaluation of property, plant and equipment. The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all property, plant and equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations, with the exception of Council dwellings were carried out by the Council's in-house valuers. NPS Property Services Ltd carried out the beacon valuations of Council Dwellings. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The basis for valuation of non-current assets is set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies. There were no significant assumptions made by the valuer in the year. The effective date of revaluation of those assets revalued during 2024/25 was:

- 31 December 2024 for assets measured at current value, fair value and those assets at risk of material movements in their valuation during the year; and
- 31 March 2025 for assets measured at social housing discount.

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant &	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction		Total PPE
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	Construction	Land	£'000
Carried at historical cost		105	10,982	89,460	1,531		26,734	4,618	133,430
Value at current value as at:									
31 March 2025	260,930	55,602				3,037			319,569
31 March 2024		20,740							20,740
31 March 2023		21,572							21,572
31 March 2022		13,375							13,375
31 March 2021		10,948							10,948
Total Cost or Valuation	260,930	122,342	10,982	89,460	1,531	3,037	26,734	4,618	519,634

15. Assets held for sale

	Current Assets	
	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance outstanding at start of year	911	534
Acquisitions	-	150
Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
- Property, Plant and Equipment	41	303
- Intangible Assets		
- Other assets / liabilities in disposal groups		
Revaluation losses	-	(25)
Assets sold	(11)	(52)
Balance outstanding at year-end	941	910

16. Heritage Assets

The Council holds a number of heritage assets to increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Council's history and local area. Heritage assets are recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment.

	Civic Regalia Portraits & Medals	Paintings, Prints & Photographs	Buildings	Infra- structure	Roman Coins	Total Heritage Assets
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1 April 2023	183	51	835	-	4	1,073
Additions	-	-	8	-	-	8
Transfer in from Asset Under Construction				808		808
Depreciation	-	-	(8)	(1)	0	(9)
31 March 2024	183	51	835	807	4	1,880

Note 16 Heritage Assets (Continued)

	Civic Regalia Portraits & Medals	Paintings, Prints & Photographs	Buildings	Infra- structure	Roman Coins	Total Heritage Assets
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1 April 2024	183	51	835	807	4	1,880
Additions	-	-	2	-	-	2
Depreciation	-	-	(17)	-	-	(17)
31 March 2025	183	51	820	807	4	1,865

17. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include purchased licenses and internally developed software, including the Port Health system, 'NEOMA'. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis but does not include any intangible assets currently being developed.

	2024/25 Other Assets £'000	2023/24 Other Assets £'000
Balance at start of year:		
• Gross carrying amount	2,719	2,279
• Accumulated amortisation	(952)	(1,024)
Net carrying amount at start of year	1,767	1,255
Additions:		
• Internal development	492	618
• Purchases	96	(17)
Other disposals		
• Gross carrying amount	(19)	(161)
• Accumulated amortisation	19	135
Amortisation for the period	(49)	(63)
Net carrying amount at end of year	2,306	1,767
Comprising		
• Gross carrying amount	3,288	2,719
• Accumulated amortisation	(982)	(952)
	2,306	1,767

18. Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Rental income from investment properties	(162)	(213)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment properties	(90)	319
Net gain/(loss)	(252)	106

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment properties or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance, or enhancement. The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	4,057	4,867
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	431	(811)
Balance at 31 March	4,607	4,056

Fair Value Measurement of Investment Properties

Fair Value Hierarchy - all the Council's investment properties have been assessed as having level 2 inputs as at 31 March 2024. Valuation Techniques used to determine Level 2 Fair Values for Surplus Assets are Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2). The fair value for all surplus assets has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the authority's area.

	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Fair value as at 31 March
31 March 2025	4,607	4,607
31 March 2024	4,056	4,056

19. Financial Instruments

Classifications

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Non-exchange transactions, such as those relating to taxes, benefits and government grants, do not give rise to financial instruments.

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash, equity instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or other financial assets or a right to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially favourable to the Council. The financial assets held by the Council during the year are accounted for under the following two classifications:

- Amortised cost (where cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, and the Council's business model is to collect those cash flow) comprising:
 - cash in hand;
 - bank current and deposit accounts with Lloyds, Barclays and Santander banks;
 - fixed term deposits with banks and building societies;
 - loans to other local authorities;
 - lease receivables; and
 - trade receivables for goods and services provided.

- Fair value through profit and loss (all other financial assets) comprising pooled property fund and diversified income fund managed by CCLA and NinetyOne fund managers.

Financial assets held at amortised cost are shown net of a loss allowance reflecting the statistical likelihood that the borrower or debtor will be unable to meet their contractual commitments to the Council.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Council.

All of the Council's financial liabilities held during the year are measured at amortised cost and comprised:

- long-term loans from the Public Works Loan Board;
- short-term loans from other local authorities;
- overdraft with Lloyds bank;
- lease payables; and
- trade payables for goods and services received.

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

Balances: The financial liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Liabilities	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term
	2024/25 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Loans at amortised cost:				
Principle sum borrowed	63,323	-	63,484	2,000
Total Borrowing	63,323	-	63,484	2,000
Liabilities at amortised cost:				
Creditors	78	13,735	63	12,006
Finance Leases	5,184	563	4,744	369
Financial Liabilities in Creditors	5,262	14,298	4,807	12,375
Non Financial Liabilities	47,932	63,307	45,925	54,080
Total Financial Liabilities	116,517	77,605	114,216	68,455

The financial assets disclosed in the Balance Sheet are analysed across the following categories:

Financial Assets	Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term
	2024/25 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000
At amortised cost:				
Principle	-	83,100	-	61,000
Accrued Interest	-	1,486	-	1,030
At fair value through profit and loss:				
Principle	17,833	-	17,946	-
Total Investments	17,833	84,586	17,946	62,030
At amortised cost:				
Principle	-	37,253	-	27,279
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	-	37,253	-	27,279
At amortised cost:				
Debtors	1,421	11,354	1,598	7,028
Lease Receivables	6,723	2,830	5,622	671
Loss Allowance	-	(475)	-	(597)
Financial Assets in Debtors	8,144	13,709	7,220	7,102
Non Financial Assets	1,607	25,940	2,081	51,438
Total Assets	27,584	161,488	27,247	147,849

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

Offsetting Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are set off against each other where the Council has a legally enforceable right to set off and it intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The table below shows those instruments that have been offset on the balance sheet.

	31-Mar-25			31-Mar-24		
	Gross Assets (Liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net Position on Balance Sheet	Gross Assets (Liabilities)	(Liabilities) assets set off	Net Position on Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank accounts in credit	38,299		38,299	37,536		37,536
Bank overdrafts		(23,999)	(23,999)		(25,333)	(25,333)
Total Financial Assets (Liabilities)			14,300			12,203

Gains and Losses

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

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Amortised cost	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total	Amortised cost	Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest expense	3,544	-	3,544	3,279	-	3,279
Losses from change in fair value	-	104	104	-	147	147
Impairment losses	(102)	-	(102)	211	-	211
Interest payable and similar charges	3,442	104	3,546	3,490	147	3,637
Interest income	(5,567)	-	(5,567)	(4,302)	-	(4,302)
Interest and investment income	(5,567)	-	(5,567)	(4,302)	-	(4,302)
Net gain / (loss) for the year	(2,125)	104	(2,021)	(812)	147	(665)

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

Fair Values

Financial instruments, except those classified at amortised cost, are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. For most assets, including pooled property funds, the fair value is taken from the market price.

Financial instruments classified at amortised cost are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 31 March 2025, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The fair values of finance lease assets and liabilities have been calculated by discounting the contractual cash flows (excluding service charge elements) at the appropriate AA-rated corporate bond yield.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount given the low and stable interest rate environment.

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

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

	31-Mar-25		31-Mar-24	
	Carrying Amount £000s	Fair Value £000s	Carrying Amount £000s	Fair Value £000s
PWLB Loans (Level 2)	63,323	52,890	65,484	57,631

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

The fair value of financial liabilities held at amortised cost is higher than their balance sheet carrying amount because the authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the current rates available for similar loans as at the Balance Sheet date.

Recurring Fair Value Measurement	Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure Fair Value	31-Mar-25 Fair Value £000s	31-Mar-24 Fair Value £000s
Fair Value through Profit & Loss				
CCLA Property Fund	1	Unadjusted quotes prices in active markets for identical shares	8,850	8,683
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	1	Unadjusted quotes prices in active markets for identical shares	4,518	4,776
Ninety One Diversified Income Fund	1	Unadjusted quotes prices in active markets for identical shares	4,471	4,484

Risks

The Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021.

In line with the Treasury Management Code, the Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy before the commencement of each financial year. The Strategy sets out the parameters for the management of risks associated with financial instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks.

The Treasury Management Strategy includes an Investment Strategy in compliance with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments. This Guidance emphasises that priority is to be given to security and liquidity, rather than yield. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and its Treasury Management Practices seek to achieve a suitable balance between risk and return or cost.

The main risks covered are:

- Credit Risk: The possibility that the counterparty to a financial asset will fail to meet its contractual obligations, causing a loss to the Council.
- Liquidity Risk: The possibility that the Council might not have the cash available to make contracted payments on time.
- Market Risk: The possibility that an unplanned financial loss will materialise because of changes in market variables such as interest rates or equity prices.

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

Credit Risk: Treasury Investments

The Council manages credit risk by ensuring that treasury investments are only placed with organisations of high credit quality as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. These include commercial entities with a minimum long-term credit rating of A-, the UK government, other local authorities, and organisations without credit ratings upon which the Council has received independent investment advice. Recognising that credit ratings are imperfect predictors of default; the Council has regard to other measures including credit default swap and equity prices when selecting commercial entities for investment.

A limit of £25m of the total portfolio is placed on the amount of money that can be invested with a single counterparty (other than the UK government). For unsecured investments in banks, building societies and companies, a smaller limit of £20m applies. The Council also sets limits on investments in certain sectors. No more than £5m in total can be invested for a period longer than one year for short term deposits.

The table summarises the credit risk exposures of the Council's treasury investment portfolio by credit rating and remaining time to maturity:

		31-Mar-25		31-Mar-24	
Credit Rating		Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Local Authorities - AAA		0	84,587	0	62,030
Unrated Other Funds		17,850	0	19,781	0
Total Investments		17,850	84,587	19,781	62,030

Credit Risk: Trade and Lease Receivables and Contract Assets

The Council's credit risk on lease receivables is mitigated by its legal ownership of the assets leased, which can be repossessed if the debtor defaults on the lease contract. The following analysis summarises the Council's trade receivables, by due date. Only those receivables meeting the definition of a financial asset are included.

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

	2024/25	2023/24
	£,000	£,000
Less than three months	11,304	5,936
Three to six months	65	44
Six months to one year	184	145
More than one year	451	539
	12,004	6,664

Loss allowances on trade receivables have been calculated by reference to the Council's historic experience of default. Receivables are determined to have suffered a significant increase in credit risk where they are 90 or more days past due and they are determined to be credit-impaired where they are 365 or more days past due. Receivables are collectively assessed for credit risk in the following groupings:

	Range of allowances set aside	Gross Receivables £'000	Loss Allowance £'000
Trade Receivables 31-Mar-25	4%-100%	4,869	(446)
Trade Receivables 31-Mar-24	4%-100%	3,396	(569)

Receivables are written off to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when they are three years past due and all recovery action has been taken.

Liquidity Risk

The Council has ready access to borrowing at favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other local authorities, and at higher rates from banks and building societies. There is no perceived risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments. It is however exposed to the risk that it will need to refinance a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourably high interest rates. This risk is managed by maintaining a spread of fixed rate loans and ensuring that no more than 50% of the Council's borrowing matures in any one financial year. The maturity analysis of financial instruments is as follows:

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

		2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Analysis by Lender:			
	Public Works Loan Board	63,323	65,484
Analysis by Maturity:		£'000	
	Repayable within:		
	Less than 1 year (short term)	0	2,000
	2 to 5 years	10,003	20,004
	5 to 10 years	10,000	40,480
	10 to 20 years	40,320	3,000
	over 20 years	3,000	0
		63,323	65,484
Fair Value of PWLB Loans at the year-end		52,890	57,631

Maturity of Fixed Rate Debt:	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual 31-Mar-25	Actual 31-Mar-24
	%	%	%	%
Under 12 months (see note below)	50%	0%	0%	3%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	16%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	75%	0%	0%	31%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%	16%	62%
10 years and within 20 years	75%	0%	63%	4%
20 years and above	100%	0%	5%	0%

Market Risks: Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the authority. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Note 19 Financial Instruments (Continued)

Investments measured at amortised cost and loans borrowed are not carried at fair value, so changes in their fair value will have no impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments measured at fair value will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income or the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services as appropriate.

The Treasury Management Strategy aims to mitigate these risks by setting upper limits on its net exposures to fixed and variable interest rates. If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

Market Risks: Interest Rate Risk	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£'000	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1	11
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(21)	(19)
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	(218)	(106)
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(238)	(114)
Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	(114)	(55)

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Market Risks: Price Risk

The Council's investment in a pooled property fund is subject to the risk of falling commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure to property investments of £8.850m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices at 31 March 2025 would result in a £0.443m charge to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure / the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services which is then transferred to the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account. The Council's investment in a diversified income fund is subject to the risk of falling rental and commercial property prices. This risk is limited by the Council's maximum exposure of £8.989m. A 5% fall in commercial property prices at 31 March 2025 would result in a £0.449m charge to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure / the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services which is then transferred to the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account.

20. Debtors

Short term Debtors:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Central Government bodies	2,897	32,201
Other Local Authorities	11,140	3,857
NHS bodies	142	778
Council Taxpayers	2,881	2,545
Other entities and individuals	21,801	22,781
Prepayments	5,964	2,240
Total	44,825	64,402
less Bad Debt Impairment Provisions:		
Council Taxpayers	(1,593)	(1,833)
Other service debtors	(4,833)	(5,245)
Total	38,399	57,324

Debtors for local taxation:

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (council tax and non-domestic rates) can be analysed by age as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Less than 12 months	1,720	2,056
More than one year	3,621	3,836
	5,341	5,892

Long term Debtors:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Other Local Authorities	117	137
Loans to Third Parties	1,260	1,440
Finance Leases	6,723	5,623
Other entities and individuals	1,648	2,101
	9,751	9,301

21. Creditors

Short term Creditors:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Central Government bodies	7,823	8,135
Other Local Authorities	13,503	12,239
Other entities and individuals	18,621	21,526
Receipts in Advance	37,195	21,384
Total	77,142	63,284

Long term Creditors:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Creditors	769	813
Finance Leases	5,183	4,744
Receipts in Advance	6,857	2,867
Total	12,809	8,424

22. Provisions

	HRA Rents & Service Charges £'000	Business Rates Appeals £'000	Other Provisions £'000	Total £'000
<u>Long Term Provisions</u>				
Balance at 1 April 2024	-	2,128	-	2,334
Additional provisions made in 2024/25	-	953	107	1,060
Amounts used in 2024/25	-	(854)	-	(854)
Balance at 31 March 2025	-	2,227	107	2,334
<u>Short Term Provisions</u>				
Balance at 1 April 2024	2,989	-	-	2,989
Additional provisions made in 2024/25	-	-	-	-
Amounts used in 2024/25	(2,933)	-	-	(2,933)
Balance at 31 March 2025	56	-	-	56

The Council has the following Provisions within its Balance Sheet:

HRA Rents & Service charges

Following a HRA compliance review it was identified that some HRA tenants appeared to have been overcharged due to previous rent conversions and combined service charges. A forensic audit has been carried out by external consultants, and every tenancy dating back to 2010 (the earliest data held) has been reviewed. This provision is based on the forensic auditor's findings of repayments that are required. £5.7m has been released in 2023/24, and a further £2.93m released in 2024/25. The small remaining balance relating to the most complicated cases will be released in 2025/26.

National Non-Domestic Rates

As part of the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR1) return in January 2024, the Council had to estimate the business rates income expected to be received in 2024/25 based on several assumptions. The most significant assumption was in relation to the provision for appeals. With effect from 1 April 2023 the Council uses Wilks, Head & Eve to estimate this provision. The 2017 valuation list applied until the end of March 2023 with the new 2023 valuation list beginning on 1 April 2023. There are two separate provisions remaining, one relating to the 2017 Valuation list and the other to the 2023 Valuation list. The 2010 provision was closed in 2023/24 as the remaining outstanding appeals were resolved.

23. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
<u>Non-ringfenced grants:</u>		
Revenue Support Grant	(751)	(704)
New Homes Bonus	(651)	(447)
Business Rates Reliefs	(11,594)	(10,307)
Service Grant	(48)	(280)
Lower Tier Service Grants	-	-
Funding Guarantee Grant	(1,860)	(1,512)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(337)	(291)
Other Non-ringfenced grants	(11)	(34)
<u>Capital grants and contributions:</u>		
Coastal Management/ Protection	-	(10,402)
HRA Developments	(158)	(473)
Brownfield Land Release Grant	-	(4,204)
Community Infrastructure Levy	(4,745)	(7,449)
s106 contributions	(938)	(492)
Towns Fund	(8,229)	(5,379)
Food Waste Collection	(2,476)	-
Regeneration Projects	(3,650)	(339)
Other capital grants and contributions	(1,521)	(28)
Total	(36,969)	(42,341)

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Credited to Services		
Housing Benefits Subsidy	(37,068)	(33,495)
Benefits Administration Grant	(604)	(629)
Disabled Facilities Grants	(3,377)	(2,959)
Discretionary Housing Payments Grant	(287)	(290)
Homelessness Grants	(2,104)	(2,139)
Covid19 Government Grant Schemes	-	(17)
Coastal Protection Grants	(914)	(1,057)
Port Health Transition Grant	(1,107)	(999)
New Burden Grants	(234)	(264)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(1,334)	(706)
Place Partnership	(120)	-
Safer Streets	(224)	-
Towns Fund	(139)	(142)
Heritage Action Zone	(26)	(140)
Lowestoft Flood Risk Project	-	(16,420)
Apprentice Levy Grant	(191)	(157)
Rural England prosperity Fund	(868)	(262)
Feel Good Suffolk	(832)	(83)
Lido Grant	(103)	-
Other Grants	(279)	(438)
Total	(49,810)	(60,198)

Note 23 Grant Income (Continued)

The Council has received several grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned if certain conditions on their use are not met. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance (Short-Term)		
Other RIA		
Total	-	132
Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance (Long-Term)		
Sizewell C	-	2,585
Other RIA	-	282
Total	6,857	2,867
Grant H	144	-
Sizewell C	-	91
s106 Contributions	230	91
Other grants	(15)	-
Total	359	182
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance (Long-Term)		
Other grants	-	(304)
Sizewell C	-	304
s106 Contributions	2,899	-
Total	4,831	5,017

24. Unusable Reserves

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	(121,223)	(116,769)
Capital Adjustment Account	(229,483)	(214,936)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	602	621
Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	2,143	2,039
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(8,687)	(6,294)
Pensions Reserve	33,084	35,163
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(293)	(1,006)
Total Unusable Reserves	(323,857)	(301,182)

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

Note 24 Unusable Reserves (Continued)

Revaluation Reserve	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	(116,769)	(101,570)
Upward revaluation of assets	(11,830)	(19,948)
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,164	1,680
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,666)	(18,268)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	2,873	2,810
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	339	259
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	3,212	3,069
Balance at 31 March	(121,223)	(116,769)

Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account

This standard requires that where the relevant criteria are met for fair value gains and losses on a pooled investment fund, the charge must be applied to an account established, charged and used solely for the purpose of recognising fair value gains and losses, this being the 'Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account'.

Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	2,039	1,892
Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit and Loss subject to MHCLG statutory override	104	147
Balance at 31 March	2,143	2,039

Note 24 Unusable Reserves (Continued)

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction, or additions of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or subsequent costs as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert current and fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction, and subsequent costs. The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

Capital Adjustment Account	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Balance at 1 April	(214,936)	(211,419)
<u>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>		
- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	11,480	11,542
- Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	3,830	4,042
- Amortisation of intangible assets	49	64
- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	6,671	3,601
- Revenue expenditure funded from section 106 receipts	92	204
- Revenue expenditure funded from community infrastructure levies	2,380	645
- 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	5,164	7,759
<u>Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve:</u>		
- Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation in Revaluation Reserve	(2,873)	(2,810)
- Amounts written out on disposal of assets	(339)	(259)
Net written out amount of the cost of non current assets consumed in the year	26,454	24,788
<u>Capital financing applied in the year:</u>		
- Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(4,359)	(9,380)
- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(21,008)	(5,961)
- Application of grants to capital financing from Receipts in Advance	(788)	(584)
- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and and HRA balances	(2,666)	(1,722)
- Use of Major Repairs Reserve to fianance new capital expenditure	(2,545)	(3,412)
- Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(7,830)	(8,057)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(431)	811
Movements in Donated Assets Account debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,374)	-
Other Movement		
Balance at 31 March	(229,483)	(214,936)

Note 24 Unusable Reserves (Continued)

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	621	641
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(19)	(20)
Balance at 31 March	602	621

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 employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The balance on the Pensions Reserve reflects a surplus, in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them, which has been limited by the asset ceiling (the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan) as directed by IAS 19 and further adjusted by the requirements of IFRIC 14 to recognise an additional liability for past service contributions (considered as a minimum funding requirement) which give rise to a future surplus and are not available after they are paid.

Pensions Reserve	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	35,163	-
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability / (asset)	4,980	39,309
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,039	4,006
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(9,098)	(8,152)
Balance at 31 March	33,084	35,163

Note 24 Unusable Reserves (Continued)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

Collection Fund Adjustment Account	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	(1,006)	(2,057)
Amount by which Council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from Council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements.	713	1,051
Balance at 31 March	(293)	(1,006)

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve details those capital receipts which were recognised in the gain or loss on disposal, but where the cash is not to be received until a future year. The capital receipt cannot be used to finance capital spend until the cash is received, which is why this unusable reserve is required.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	(6,294)	(4)
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(2,393)	(6,294)
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-	4
Balance at 31 March	(8,687)	(6,294)

25. Members Allowances

The Council is governed by 55 councillors, covering 29 wards. The Council paid the following amounts to elected Members during the year.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Basic, Attendance and Special Responsibility Allowances	718	702
Subsistence and Expenses	20	23
Total	738	725

26. External Audit costs

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable to the Ernst and Young LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	230	213
Additional fees payable to the Ernst and Young LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the previous year	(41)	32
Fees payable to the Ernst and Young LLP for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	6	33
Additional fees payable to the Ernst and Young LLP for the certification of grant claims and returns for the previous year	(20)	(15)
Total	175	262

27. Related Parties

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

Central Government: Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides a significant level of funding in the form of grants, and prescribes the terms of many transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax, business rates and housing benefits). Grants received from Government departments and grant receipts outstanding as of 31 March 2025 are shown in Note 20.

Suffolk County Council: Transactions include income and expenditure, precept payments and Business Rates pooling (Collection Fund statement), pension payments (Note 31), and funding of partnership arrangements. Income relating to Waste Recycling Credits totalled £1.610m (2023/24 £1.630m).

Members and Chief Officers: Members and Chief Officers of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2024/25 is shown in note 23. A Register of Councillors' Interests is kept as required by the Local Government Act 2000. The Council made payments in 2024/25 totalling £3.628m (2023/24 £2.137m) to other organisations in which Members had an interest. The Council also received income from other organisations totalling £0.303m (2023/24 £0.501m) in which members had an interest. Any¹ contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's standing orders, and any grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to awarding of the contract or grant.

Levies Paid to other Authorities: Rivers and Drainage Authorities £0.136m (2023/24 £0.160m) as shown in note 11.

Waveney Norse Ltd: As part of the contract with Waveney Norse Ltd, one Council employee, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) is named as Director of Waveney Norse Ltd due to the representation of the Council's interests through the Partnership Board. Waveney Norse ceased trading on 31 June 2023 but remains active on Companies House.

Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd: As part of the contract with Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd, one Council employee, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) is named as Director of Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd due to the representation of the Council's interests through the Partnership Board. Suffolk Coastal Norse ceased trading on 31 June 2023 but remains active on Companies House.

Note 27 Related Parties (Continued)

East Suffolk Holdings Limited: East Suffolk Holdings Limited is wholly owned by the Council and was incorporated on 24 October 2019. Two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors of East Suffolk Holdings Limited.

East Suffolk Construction Services Limited / East Suffolk Property Developments Limited / East Suffolk Property Investments Limited: East Suffolk Holdings Limited is the sole shareholder of East Suffolk Construction Services Limited, East Suffolk Property Developments Limited, and East Suffolk Property Investments Limited, all of which were incorporated on 26 November 2019. Two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors of all three of these companies.

East Suffolk Services Limited: East Suffolk Services Limited is wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited, which in turn is wholly owned by the Council, and was incorporated on 25 March 2022. Two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors of East Suffolk Services Limited. East Suffolk Services Limited began trading 1 July 2023 providing under SLA the services previously provided by Waveney Norse and Suffolk Coastal Norse. Further information and details of the subsidiary's accounts are provided in the Group Accounts.

28. Officer's remuneration and exit packages

The remuneration paid to senior employees is set out in the table below. No bonuses were paid in 2024/25.

		Salary, Fees and Allowances	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowances)	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Excluding Pension Contributions	Employer's Pension Contribution	Total including Pension Contributions
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive - Chris Bally	2024/25	167,455	-	-	167,455	41,864	209,319
	2023/24	163,370	-	-	163,370	40,842	204,213
Strategic Director (left employment July 2024) Note 1	2024/25	36,268	-	-	36,268	9,291	45,559
	2023/24	112,322	-	-	112,322	28,427	140,749
Strategic Director (commenced employment as Director September 2024)	2024/25	64,417	-	-	64,417	16,104	80,521
	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strategic Director	2024/25	115,131	-	-	115,131	28,783	143,914
	2023/24	106,581	-	-	106,581	26,626	133,207
Strategic Director (left employment September 2024)	2024/25	53,466	-	-	53,466	13,272	66,738
	2023/24	106,581	-	-	106,581	26,626	133,207
Strategic Director (commenced employment as Director September 2024)	2024/25	58,403	-	-	58,403	26,626	85,030
	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chief Finance Officer & S151 Officer	2024/25	95,362	-	-	95,362	23,841	119,203
	2023/24	85,788	-	-	85,788	21,563	107,351
Head of Communities	2024/25	93,362	-	-	93,362	23,340	116,703
	2023/24	87,358	-	-	87,358	22,087	109,446
Head of Customer Experience (left employment October 2023 - Post removed)	2024/25	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2023/24	67,543	-	30,000	97,543	11,850	109,393
Head of Economic Development & Regeneration	2024/25	93,362	-	-	93,362	23,340	116,703
	2023/24	87,358	-	-	87,358	22,087	109,446
Head of Environmental Services & Port Health	2024/25	97,343	-	-	97,343	24,336	121,679
	2023/24	91,084	-	-	91,084	22,771	113,855
Head of Housing	2024/25	97,343	-	-	97,343	21,224	118,567
	2023/24	91,084	-	-	91,084	19,728	110,812
Head of Digital & Programme Management	2024/25	93,362	-	-	93,362	23,340	116,703
	2023/24	87,158	-	-	87,158	22,092	109,250
Head of Internal Audit	2024/25	83,487	-	-	83,487	20,872	104,359
	2023/24	80,867	-	-	80,867	20,465	101,332
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	2024/25	99,343	-	-	99,343	24,336	123,679
	2023/24	91,084	-	-	91,084	23,048	114,132
Head of Operations (left post August 2024 - post changed to Head of Property & Place)	2024/25	38,901	-	-	38,901	9,725	48,626
	2023/24	87,358	-	-	87,358	22,103	109,461

Note 28 Officers Remuneration (Continued)

		Salary, Fees and Allowances	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowances)	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Excluding Pension Contributions	Employer's Pension Contribution	Total including Pension Contributions
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Head of Property & Place (commenced March 2025)	2024/25	7,912	-	-	7,912	1,978	9,890
	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Head of Nationally Significant Infrastructure (previously Head of Planning & Coastal	2024/25	101,494	-	-	101,494	25,374	126,867
	2023/24	94,968	-	-	94,968	24,034	119,002
Head of Planning & Building Control (new post 2024/25) Note2	2024/25	84,710	-	-	84,710	18,724	103,434
	2023/24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Note 1: Employed from August 2024 onwards as Chair of East Suffolk Councils Trading Company							
Note 2: Includes £7,040 of temporary cover							
In line with the CIPFA Code of Practice, the disclosure of remuneration by category has been made by reference to individuals, with the following provisos:							
a. Where the senior employee's salary is £150,000 or more per year, they have been identified by name and job title;							
b. Where the senior employee's salary is less than £150,000, only their job title has been disclosed							

The table below shows employees remuneration by band over £0.050m in £0.005m increments. The numbers include officers who were made redundant voluntarily during the 2024/25 financial year, and whose remuneration may not have normally been included within the limits of the above table, but who had received a redundancy payment which increased their earnings to over the minimum of £0.050m. An additional column in the Table above shows leavers. In addition, other transactions are disclosed in Note 27, Related Parties.

Remuneration band	2024/25		2023/24	
	Number of employees		Number of employees	
	Total	Left in Year	Total	Left in Year
£50,000 - £54,999	44	12	47	11
£55,000 - £59,999	21	3	17	2
£60,000 - £64,999	13	3	11	3
£65,000 - £69,999	2	-	2	-
£70,000 - £74,999	2	-	-	-
£75,000 - £79,999	-	-	4	-
£80,000 - £84,999	3	-	-	-
Total	85	18	81	16

Note 28 Officers Remuneration (Continued)

Exit Packages

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

Exit Package cost band (including special payments)	Number of Compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
£								£
0 to 20,000	2	-	24	5	26	5	29,561	33,649
20,001 to 40,000	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	76,560
60,001 to 80,000	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	61,997
Total	2	-	24	8	26	8	29,561	172,206

The total cost in the above table covers exit packages (also known as termination benefits) that have been agreed, accrued for and charged to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the disclosed financial year. The figures exclude payments made for ill-health retirements as they are not discretionary and do not therefore meet the definition of termination benefits under the CIPFA Code of Practice.

29. 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.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	135,802	129,258
Property, Plant and Equipment*	29,562	46,933
Investment Properties*	119	-
Intangible Assets	588	601
Heritage Assets	2	8
Assets Held for Sale	-	150
Payment in advance	7	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	9,143	4,450
Property, Plant and Equipment written out to Revenue		(16,430)
Total Capital Investment	39,421	35,712
<i>Sources of finance</i>		
Capital receipts	4,359	9,380
Government grants and other contributions	21,796	6,545
Donated Assets	1,374	
<i>Sums set aside from revenue:</i>		
Direct revenue contributions	7,830	8,056
Minimum Revenue Provision	2,666	1,722
Release of Payment in Advance	31	53
Major Repairs Reserve	2,545	3,412
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	134,622	135,802
<i>Explanation of movements in year</i>		
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(1,180)	6,544
Assets acquired under finance leases	(1,486)	
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(2,666)	6,544

*This figure matches to the Additions lines in Note 14 detailing movements on the non-current assets.

30. Leases

Transition to IFRS 16 Lease Accounting

In 2024/25 the Council adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 16 (Leases) as required by the Code of Practice for Local authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the code).

IFRS 16 has been applied retrospectively, but with the cumulative effect recognised as at 1 April 2024. As a result, Right-of-Use assets and lease liabilities have been calculated as if IFRS 16 had always applied but recognised in 2024 to 2025 and not by adjusting prior year figures. However, some practical expedients have been applied as required or permitted by the Code.

Disclosures as Lessee

Right-of-Use Assets

The balances below are held within Property, Plant and Equipment on the balance sheet as follows:

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Other Land & Buildings		
At 1 April	13,900	13,941
Additions	-	14
Revaluations	(2,142)	732
Depreciation	(603)	(787)
At 31 March	11,155	13,900

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Council, and finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

Note 30 Leases (Continued)

	2024/25	2023/24		
Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease	£'000	£'000		
- current	1,965	652		
- non current	6,722	5,622		
Unearned finance income	2,777	1,760		
Unguaranteed residual value of property		-		
Gross investment in the lease	11,464	8,034		
The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:				
	Gross Investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	1,965	652	3,371	1,098
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,828	3,498	6,091	4,623
Later than five years	1,894	2,124	2,002	2,313
	8,687	6,274	11,464	8,034

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into. There were no material contingent rents payable by the Council under finance leases for 2024/25. In relation to one of the Council's finance leases, the Lessor had to secure financing to be able to fulfil the capital project it was undertaking for the Council. It was agreed between the Lessor and Santander, that as part of the Council's monthly lease payment, the Council would make direct payment to Santander to cover the cost of the Lessor's monthly repayment of the financing.

Note 30 Leases (Continued)

Disclosures as Lessor

Finance Leases- The Council has the following finance leases as a lessor:

	2024/25	2023/24		
Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease	£'000	£'000		
- current	1,965	652		
- non current	6,722	5,622		
Unearned finance income	2,777	1,760		
Unguaranteed residual value of property		-		
Gross investment in the lease	11,464	8,034		
The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:				
	Gross Investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	1,965	652	3,371	1,098
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,828	3,498	6,091	4,623
Later than five years	1,894	2,124	2,002	2,313
	8,687	6,274	11,464	8,034

Note 30 Leases (Continued)

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

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services, etc.; or
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	3,168	1,648
Later than one year and not later	6,601	4,887
Later than five years	36,982	33,997
	<u>46,751</u>	<u>40,532</u>

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into.

There were no material contingent rents receivable by the Council under operating leases for 2024/25. All assets provided under operating lease assets by the Council are shown within the movements included within Property, Plant and Equipment (Note 14).

31. Pensions

Pension costs are accounted for in accordance with the accounting standard IAS19, except where adaptations to fit the public sector are detailed in the Code. The objectives of IAS19 are to ensure that the financial statements reflect at fair value the assets and liabilities arising from an employer's retirement benefit obligations and any related funding and that the operating costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are recognised in the accounting period in which the benefits are earned, and that the financial statements contain adequate disclosure of the cost of providing retirement benefits. IAS19 costs are not, however, chargeable to council tax, it is only the actual payments that impact on the accounts and are shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The balance on the Balance Sheet reflects a surplus, in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them, which has been limited by the asset ceiling (the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan) as directed by IAS 19 and further adjusted by the requirements of IFRIC 14 to recognise an additional liability for past service contributions (considered as a minimum funding requirement) which give rise to a future surplus and are not available after they are paid.

The latest triennial actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Suffolk County Pension Fund was completed on 31 March 2022.

Participation in the pension scheme

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Suffolk 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 pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The Suffolk Pension Fund scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee of Suffolk County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee and consist of the

Head of Finance (S151 Officer) of Suffolk County Council and Investment Fund managers. The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

Retirement benefits are reported in the Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge made against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment / retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
<i>Cost of Services:</i>		
- Current service cost	6,058	6,219
- Past Service cost	-	10
<i>Financing and investment income and expenditure:</i>		
- Net interest expense	(4,019)	(2,223)
<i>Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</i>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>4,006</u>
<i>Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>		
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	819	(23,764)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(438)	(1,565)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(38,168)	(14,143)
- Other	(2,307)	8,066
- Adjustment due to limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling	47,153	35,552
- Adjustment in respect of the minimum funding requirement in relation to past service contributions	(2,079)	35,163
<i>Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>	<u>4,980</u>	<u>39,309</u>
<i>Movement in Reserves Statement:</i>		
- Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of	(2,039)	(4,006)
<i>Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:</i>		
- Employers' contributions payable to scheme	9,098	8,152

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

Pension's assets and liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet (limited by the asset ceiling)

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Council's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(218,607)	(249,598)
Fair value of plan assets	347,170	331,008
Effect of the asset ceiling	(128,563)	(81,410)
Adjustment in respect of the minimum funding requirement in relation to past service contributions	(33,084)	(35,163)
Net asset/(liability) arising from defined benefit obligation	(33,084)	(35,163)

Reconciliation of the effect of the asset ceiling	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Opening balance 1 April	81,410	45,858
Adjustment due to limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling	47,153	35,552
Closing balance at 31 March	128,563	81,410

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

Reconciliation of the movements in the fair value of the scheme (plan) assets:		Local Government Pension Scheme	
		2024/25	2023/24
		£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets		331,008	294,238
Interest Income		16,065	13,954
Effect of Settlements			
Remeasurement gain / (loss):			
- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in net interest expense		(819)	23,764
- Other			
Contributions from employer		9,098	8,152
Contributions by employees into the scheme		2,345	2,086
Benefits paid		(10,527)	(11,186)
Closing fair value of scheme assets		347,170	331,008
Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):		Local Government Pension Scheme	
		2024/25	2023/24
		£'000	£'000
Opening balance 1 April		249,598	248,380
Current service cost		6,058	6,219
Interest cost		12,046	11,731
Contributions from scheme participants		2,345	2,086
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
- Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions		(438)	(1,565)
- Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		(38,168)	(14,143)
- Other		(2,307)	8,066
Past service costs		-	10
Benefits paid		(10,527)	(11,186)
Closing balance at 31 March		218,607	249,598

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised: (Active Markets unless otherwise stated)	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Debt Securities:		
- Corporate Bonds (Investment Grade)	97,119	78,140
Private Equity (Non-active Market 2024/25 - 6,942 (2023/24 - 9,674)	10,185	13,139
Real Estate:		
- UK Property	23,794	24,030
- Overseas Property	3,813	-
	27,607	24,030
Investment Funds & Unit Trusts:		
- Equities	162,641	152,772
- Bonds	-	12,265
- Hedge Funds	-	5,455
- Infrastructure (Non-active Market)	32,911	30,820
- Other (Non-active Market)	11,272	10,966
	206,824	212,278
Cash and cash equivalents	5,435	3,421
Total Assets (Non-active Market 2024/25 - 51,460 (2023/24 - 49,883))	347,170	331,008

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, based on the 2022 formal valuation.

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2024/25	2023/24
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
- Men	21.3	21.4
- Women	24.1	24.2
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
- Men	22.2	22.3
- Women	25.9	25.9
Rate of inflation	2.75%	2.75%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75%	3.75%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.75%	2.75%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	5.80%	4.85%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other 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 of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

Sensitivity Analysis

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumption used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2025	Approx. increase in Employers Liability	Approx. amount £'000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	3,715
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	8,744
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	155
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	3,663

A one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the Employer's Defined Benefit Obligation by around 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at a constant rate as far as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31st March 2015. The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants. The Council anticipates paying £9.069m in contributions to the scheme in 2025/26.

Note 31 Pensions (Continued)

Virgin Media Case

In June 2023, the UK High Court (Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited) ruled that certain historical amendments for contracted-out defined benefit schemes were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation. The judgment is subject to appeal, and the Court of Appeal heard the arguments on 26 and 27 June 2024.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a contracted out defined benefit scheme, and amendments have been made during the period 1996 to 2016 which could impact member benefits. Work is being performed by the Government Actuary's Department as the Local Government Pension Scheme actuary to assess whether section 37 certificates are in place for all amendments and some of these have been confirmed however, at the date of these financial statements, the full assessment is not complete. Until this analysis is complete, we are unable to conclude whether there is any impact on the assessed actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits under IAS 26, or if it can be reliably estimated. As a result, East Suffolk Council does not consider it necessary to make any allowance for the potential impact of the Virgin Media case in the disclosure of the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits in its financial statements.

32. Contingent Assets & Liabilities

As at 31 March 2025, the Council had no contingent assets or liabilities.

33. Interests in companies and other entities

The Council has an interest in the following companies:

Waveney Norse Limited (19.9% share) and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited (20% share)

In 2008/09, Waveney District Council entered into an arrangement with Norse Commercial Services Limited (NCS) for the provision of a package of services including Refuse, Cleansing and Maintenance. A new company, Waveney Norse Ltd, was formed to deliver this service. Suffolk Coastal District Council had held a 20% share of Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited (Ltd) since 1st April 2009. Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd provides a package of services including Refuse, Cleansing and Maintenance.

The contract between Waveney Norse Ltd and Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd terminated on 30th June 2023. Following this date both companies ceased to trade but have remained active on Companies House. East Suffolk Services Ltd now deliver these operations.

The Norse companies have been included in the Group Accounts as Associates using the equity method as East Suffolk Council has the 'power' to participate in operating decisions. The Group Accounts incorporate East Suffolk Council's share of the net assets and surpluses of Waveney Norse Ltd and Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd.

The Group Accounts show the extent of the Council's 19.9% interest in Waveney Norse Ltd and 20% interest in Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd. In addition to the Group Accounts, the following information has been disclosed to aid an understanding of the nature of the group relationship and the impact of the arrangements East Suffolk Council's Statement of Accounts.

- a) The registered names of the Companies are Waveney Norse Limited and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited;
- b) Nature of the business - the principal activities of Waveney Norse Ltd and Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited are refuse, cleansing and maintenance services;
- c) The immediate parent undertaking is Norse Commercial Services Limited;
- d) The ultimate parent undertaking is Norse Group Limited;
- e) The ultimate controlling party is Norfolk County Council, by virtue of them owning 100% of the ordinary share of Norse Group Limited;

Note 33 Interests in Companies & other entities (Continued)

- f) East Suffolk Council holds fully paid Ordinary Share capital of £2, in Waveney Norse Ltd with no special rights or constraints. It has a 19.9% share and also receives a 50-50 profit / loss share at year-end;
- g) East Suffolk Council holds fully paid Ordinary Share capital of £2, in Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd with no special rights or constraints. It has a 20% share and also receives a 50-50 profit / loss share at year-end;
- h) Both companies' contributions to their pension schemes are treated as if they are contributions to a defined contribution scheme. Set contributions are paid over the life of the Agreement, with any increase or decrease in funding being met by the Council.
- i) Payments made to Waveney Norse Limited in respect of refuse, cleansing and maintenance services are included within the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Total payments to Waveney Norse Ltd were zero in 2024/25 reflecting the fact that the company ceased trading on the 30 June 2023. Waveney Norse Ltd remains active on Companies House and are included in the Accounting Statements as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Housing Operations and Landlord Services	0	182
Legal and Democratic Services	0	2
Operations	0	1945
Planning and Coastal Management	0	11
	-	2,140

- j) Details of Waveney Norse Limited's draft annual financial results to 31 March 2025 are set out below;

Note 33 Interests in Companies & other entities (Continued)

	2024/25 Waveney Norse	2024/25 Council Investment (19.9%)	2023/24 Waveney Norse	2023/24 Council Investment (19.9%)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Current Assets				
Stock	-	-	18	4
Debtors	2,765	550	341	68
Cash at Bank	423	84	2,898	577
Gross Assets	3,188	634	3,257	648
Creditors falling due within one year	(361)	(72)	(425)	(85)
Net Assets / Shareholder's Funds	2,827	563	2,832	564
Turnover	2	-	3,109	619
Profit on ordinary activity before taxation	(5)	(1)	(158)	(31)
Tax on profit on ordinary activity	-	-	5	1
Profit for the Financial Period	(5)	(1)	(153)	(30)
<u>Tax components included in the above figures are as follows:</u>				
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Debtors				
- Deferred Tax asset	-	-	31	6
- Corporation Tax	27	5	-	-
Creditors falling due within one year				
- Corporation Tax	-	-	(36)	(7)
Tax on profit on ordinary activity				
- Current Tax	-	-	26	5
- Deferred Tax	-	-	6	1
	-	-	32	6

Note 33 Interests in Companies & other entities (Continued)

- a) k) Payments made to Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited in respect of refuse, cleansing and maintenance services are included within the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Total payments to Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd were zero in 2024/25 reflecting the fact that the company ceased trading on the 30 June 2023. Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd remains active on Companies House and are included in the Accounting Statements as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Planning & Coastal Management	-	3
Legal & Democratic Services	-	-
Operations	-	2,380
	0	2,383

- l) Details of Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited's draft annual financial results to 31 March 2025 are set out below:

Note 33 Interests in Companies & other entities (Continued)

	2024/25	2024/25	2023/24	2023/24
	Suffolk	Council	Suffolk	Council
	Coastal	Investment	Coastal	Investment
	Norse Ltd	(20%)	Norse Ltd	(20%)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Current Assets				
Stock	-	-	13	3
Debtors	265	53	4,407	881
Cash at Bank	4,226	845	151	30
	4,491	898	4,572	914
Creditors falling due within one year	(495)	(99)	(558)	(112)
Net Assets / Shareholder's funds	3,996	799	4,014	802
Share of Actuarial Gains/(Losses)	-	-	(7)	(1)
Turnover	1	-	3,862	772
Profit/ Loss on ordinary activity before taxatio	(19)	(4)	148	30
Tax on profit on ordinary activity	-	-	(26)	(5)
Profit/ Loss for the Financial Period	(19)	(4)	122	25
<u>Tax components included in the above</u>				
Debtors				
- Deferred Tax asset	-	-	13	3
- Corporation Tax	21	4	-	-
Creditors falling due within one year				
- Corporation Tax	-	-	-	-
Tax on profit on ordinary activity				
- Current Tax	13	3	(55)	(11)
- Deferred Tax	-	-	28	6
	13	3	(27)	(5)

Note 33 Interests in Companies & other entities (Continued)

East Suffolk Services Limited

East Suffolk Services Limited (ESSL) was incorporated on 25 March 2022 and is wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited (incorporated on 24 October 2019), which in turn is wholly owned by the Council. Two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors of East Suffolk Services Limited. The company took over the operations of the Norse Joint Venture on 1 July 2023, with its services including Waste and Recycling collections, Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing, Facilities Management, CCTV, Home Alarms and Parking Enforcement. On 1 July 2023, 392 individuals transferred to ESSL from Norse by way of 'Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment' (TUPE) arrangement.

Full Group accounts for ESSL are included in the Councils 2024/25 accounts.

34. Long term Borrowing

		2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Analysis by Lender:			
	Public Works Loan Board	63,323	65,484
Analysis by Maturity:		£'000	
	Repayable within:		
	Less than 1 year (short term)	0	2,000
	2 to 5 years	10,003	20,004
	5 to 10 years	10,000	40,480
	10 to 20 years	40,320	3,000
	over 20 years	3,000	0
		63,323	65,484
Fair Value of PWLB Loans at the year-end		52,890	57,631

35. Long term investments

As at 31 March 2025, East Suffolk Council had long term investment balances of £17.830m which was held in a mix of Property Funds and Diversified Income Funds and £3k in Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP).

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Other Local Authorities	-	-
Other Entities	17,833	17,946
	17,833	17,946

Note 35 Long term investments (Continued)

During 2024/25 the Council has received dividends on the investments and the principal invested in the Property Fund has increased in value, by £0.167m and the diversified income funds have depreciated by £0.272m resulting in a net adjustment of £0.105m. This was charged to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and added to the long-term investment balance resulting in the balance increasing to £8.850m for the Property Fund and decreasing to £8.989m for the Diversified Income Funds.

36. Interest and Investment income

This relates to interest earnings from the short-term external investment of surplus cash balances and the interest on any loans made to other local authorities. The income is analysed over the different financial institutions borrowing from the Council, as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Investment Income	162	213
Banks	770	396
Central Government	411	58
Other Local Authorities	2,853	2,737
Interest on other loans/leases	1,533	1,111
	5,729	4,515
Less credited to external deposits received, i.e. Section 106 agreements	(968)	(544)

37. Prior period adjustments

There are no prior period adjustments to report in 2024/25.

Housing Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Statement

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with the legislative framework; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

	Note	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Income			
Gross rental income:			
- Dwelling rents		(22,225)	(20,395)
- Non-dwelling rents		(176)	(189)
Charges for services and facilities		(919)	(1,008)
Lease holders charges for services and facilities		(16)	(22)
Contributions towards expenditure		(33)	(311)
Reimbursement of costs		(100)	(119)
Total income		(23,469)	(22,044)
Expenditure			
Repairs, maintenance and management:			
- Repairs and maintenance		8,514	6,716
- Supervision and management		3,689	3,426
- Special Services		3,456	2,908
- Redundancy and associated pension costs		14	-
Rents, rates and other charges		317	175
Movement in the allowance for bad debts		157	(161)
Depreciation of HRA non-current assets:			
- Dwellings	45	4,629	4,101
- Other assets	45	365	183
Revaluation & impairment of HRA non-current assets		2,396	4,190
Debt management costs	41	17	21
Total expenditure		23,554	21,559
Net expenditure or (income) of HRA services as included in the whole CIES		85	(485)

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement (continued)

- HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core		94	78
Net expenditure or (income) of HRA services		179	(407)
HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole CIES:			
- (Gain) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets		(52)	(568)
- Interest payable and similar charges	41	2,065	2,105
- HRA interest and similar income	41	(914)	(1,484)
- HRA Capital Grants & Contributions		(333)	(4,676)
(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services		945	(5,030)

Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement

The overall objectives for the Movement on the HRA Statement and the general principles for its construction are the same as those generally for the Movement in Reserves Statement, into which it is consolidated. The statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Movement on the HRA Statement		
HRA balance brought forward	(5,762)	(4,365)
(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	945	(5,030)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute (Note 9 to the Core Statements)	4,844	6,806
Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	5,789	1,776
Transfers (from) or to HRA Earmarked Reserves (Note 10 to the Core Statements)	(2,393)	(3,173)
(Increase) or decrease in year on the HRA	3,396	(1,397)
Balance on the HRA at the end of the year	(2,366)	(5,762)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

38. Dwelling Rents and Charges for Services and Facilities

The account shows the rent and charges for services and facilities due in the year after allowing for voids and other losses in collection. 2024/25 is a 53-week rent year. Charges for Services and Facilities relate to heating, warden and other communal services provided to residents in sheltered accommodation.

	2024/25	2023/24
Average dwelling rent per week (£)	96.46	88.89
Arrears at 31 March (£'000)	1,048	1,360
Arrears at 31 March as % of the gross income collectable	5.2%	7.2%
Provision for bad debts at 31 March (£'000)	711	711

39. Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
The movement on the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) for the financial year is analysed below:		
MRR opening balance	16,650	15,778
Amounts transferred to/(from) the MRR during the year	4,994	4,284
Debits to the MRR during the year in respect of HRA capital expenditure	(2,545)	(3,412)
MRR closing balance	19,099	16,650

Under Self-Financing accumulated depreciation is transferred into the MRR where it is ring-fenced to be used to repay the principal elements of HRA debt as well as to finance new capital expenditure. Movements and balances on the MRR are also detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 10 to the Core Statements.

40. Capital Receipts – Disposal of Council Dwellings

	2024/25	2023/24
Capital receipts from sales of council houses (Right to Buys) can be summarised as follows:		
- Number of disposals under Right to Buy	11	16
- Value of disposals under Right to Buy (£'000)	1,107	1,598
Value of capital receipts from the disposal of other HRA land, houses and property	265	248

41. Capital Related Charges

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Depreciation charge	4,994	4,284
Debt management expenses	17	21
Interest payable	2,055	2,095
Premium charges for early repayment of debt	10	10
Transfer to Capital Financing Account via MRR	2,545	3,412
Interest income on notional cash balances	(914)	(1,484)

42. Housing Stock

	2024/25	2023/24
The stock of dwellings has changed as follows:		
Opening stock of dwellings	4,426	4,418
Add: new build/purchases/additions	20	24
Less: sales	(11)	(16)
Less: properties lost to conversion, disposal and deletion	(90)	-
Closing stock of dwellings	4,345	4,426
Analysis of closing stock numbers:		
Houses	1,972	1,971
Bungalows	1,196	1,197
Flats	1,177	1,258
	4,345	4,426

43. Capital Expenditure

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Dwellings	2,475	3,321
Dwelling acquisitions	414	2,550
Other Land and Buildings	192	95
Vehicles	240	148
Assets Under Construction	10,644	8,991
	13,965	15,105
Financed by:		
Usable capital receipts	4,359	5,380
Revenue contributions	6,242	5,448
Grants and contributions	819	865
Major Repairs Reserve	2,545	3,412
	13,965	15,105

44. Non-Current Assets

The Balance Sheet value of land, dwellings and other property within the HRA as at 1 April 2024 in the financial year and the closing Balance Sheet value as at 31 March 2025 is included within Note 14 to the Core Statements. The Balance Sheet values of HRA non-current assets are disclosed below:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Council dwellings	260,924	259,741
Other land and buildings	1,988	2,488
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	413	249
Infrastructure and community assets	20	39
Surplus Assets	346	359
Assets under construction	19,548	10,938
Land Awaiting Development	3,345	3,335
Assets held for sale	41	-
Total Balance Sheet value of HRA non-current assets (PPE)	286,625	277,149
Total Balance Sheet value of HRA non-current assets	286,625	277,149
Dwellings - Vacant Possession Value	686,298	683,923

Vacant possession value and Balance Sheet value of council dwellings within the HRA show the economic cost to Government of providing council housing at less than market rents.

45. Depreciation

The depreciation charge for the year, for all of the HRA's non-current assets are disclosed as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Council dwellings	4,629	4,101
Other land and buildings	154	121
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	76	63
Surplus assets not held for sale	105	-
Total charge for depreciation within the HRA (PPE)	4,964	4,285
Intangibles	-	-
Total charge for depreciation within the HRA	4,964	4,285

46. Revaluation and Impairment Charges

The 2024/25 accounts include £2.396m (£4.190m in 2023/24) for Revaluation Gains against HRA Assets charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation and Impairment charges	2,396	4190

Collection Fund Income & Expenditure Statement

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and local businesses and the distribution to local authorities and Central Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

	Notes	2024/25		2023/24	
		Business rates £'000	Council tax £'000	Business rates £'000	Council tax £'000
Income					
Income from Council tax	1		(196,009)		(184,066)
Transfer from General Fund - Council tax benefits	1				-
Transfer from General Fund - S13A discretionary reliefs			(386)		(476)
Transitional relief					
Income from business rates	2	(101,306)		(94,200)	
Transitional protection payments		(2,734)		(6,590)	
Transitional protection payments		-	-	-	-
		(104,040)	(196,395)	(100,790)	(184,542)
Expenditure					
Precepts, demands and shares:					
- Central Government		50,006		46,733	
- Suffolk County Council		10,001	142,994	9,347	135,189
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk			25,083		23,725
- East Suffolk Council		42,277	24,665	39,394	23,462
- Suffolk Coastal District Council					
- Waveney District Council					
Transitional protection payments		672		119	
Charges to Collection Fund					
- Write offs of uncollectable amounts		378	471	84	575
- Increase / (decrease) in bad debt provision		(893)	1,641	1,035	1,279
- Increase / (decrease) in provision for appeals		249		2,821	
- Cost of collection allowance		473		473	
- Interest payments		84		24	

Collection Fund Income & Expenditure Statement (continued)

	Notes	2024/25		2023/24	
		Business rates £'000	Council tax £'000	Business rates £'000	Council tax £'000
Expenditure					
Apportionment of previous years surplus / (deficit)					
- Central Government		1,476		1,226	
- Suffolk County Council		295	809	245	1,971
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk			142		340
- East Suffolk Council		1,180	141	980	344
		106,198	195,946	102,481	186,885
(Surplus) / deficit for year	3	2,158	(449)	1,691	2,343
Balance brought forward - (surplus) / deficit		(2,608)	(494)	(4,299)	(2,837)
Balance carry forward - (surplus) / deficit		(450)	(943)	(2,608)	(494)

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. Income from council tax

Council tax is set to meet the demands of Suffolk County Council, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, East Suffolk Council, and Parish/Town Councils. The tax is set by dividing these demands by the tax base, which is the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band expressed as an equivalent number of Band D dwellings.

In 2023/24 central government created a Council Tax Support Fund to provide council tax relief to vulnerable people and households to help those affected most by the cost-of-living crisis. This relief was granted under S13A discretionary reliefs as shown in the table above and East Suffolk was given a Council Tax Support Fund Grant to compensate for the relief granted. Central Government also compensated impacted households, council tax flooding relief for those affected by Storm Babet which was also granted under S31A discretionary reliefs and shown in 2024/25. East Suffolk was given a Flooding Recovery Grant to compensate for the flooding relief granted.

Notes to the Collection Fund (continued)

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
The average Band D Council Tax set was:	2,117.61	2,018.75
The Council estimated its Tax Base for 2024/25 as follows:	Chargeable	Band D
Valuation Band		
A	23,886	15,924
B	27,688	21,535
C	21,287	18,922
D	17,217	17,217
E	10,826	13,232
F	5,239	7,567
G	2,845	4,742
H	196	391
	109,184	99,530
Less: local council tax reduction scheme		(7,896)
Provision for bad and doubtful debts (1.0%)		(917)
Add: Ministry of Defence properties		180
Additional Properties		122
Tax Base 2024/25 (Band D equivalents)		91,019

2. Business Rates

The Council collects business rates (non-domestic rates) in the district. The amount collected less an allowance for the cost of collection is shared between Central Government (50%), East Suffolk Council (40%) and Suffolk County Council (10%). As a member of the Suffolk Business Rates Pool, from the Council's share, a tariff payment is made to Suffolk County Council to distribute excess business rates income above the Council's baseline funding need set by Central Government. These transactions are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under Taxation and Non-Specific Grants. The valuation list was revised in April 2005, April 2010, and April 2017 and the latest revaluation of all business properties was completed on 1 April 2023 which led to an increase in gross rates payable.

As a result of the business rates revaluation on 1 April 2023, a transitional relief scheme was implemented meaning the adjustments to assessments are phased in gradually. The transitional relief granted is shown separately in the Collection Fund Statement. The Non Domestic Rating Act 2023 has decoupled non-domestic rating multipliers. Previously the standard multiplier was derived by adding a supplement (1.3p in 2023-24) to the small multiplier. From 2024/25 the small and standard multipliers will be set independently of each other. In 2024/25 the standard multiplier was increased in line with CPI and the small business multiplier was frozen.

	2024/25	2023/24
The rateable value at 31 March was	£258.0m	£258.6m
The standard multiplier was	54.6p	51.2p

3. Collection Fund Balances

The Collection Fund in year (surplus) / deficit comprises the following:

	2024/25	2023/24
(Surplus) / Deficit relating to:	£'000	£'000
<u>Council Tax</u>		
Suffolk County Council	(334)	1,739
Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk	(58)	300
East Suffolk Council	(57)	304
Total Council Tax	(449)	2,343
<u>Business Rates</u>		
Central Government	(1,078)	846
Suffolk County Council	(216)	169
East Suffolk Council	(864)	676
Total Business Rates	(2,158)	1,691

Group Accounts

1. Introduction to Group Accounts

The 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom sets out the requirements for group accounts, requiring Local Authorities to consider all their interests in subsidiaries, associates, or joint ventures. Before group accounts can be produced the following actions need to be carried out:

- Determine whether the Council has any form of interest in an entity.
- Assess the nature of the relationship between the Council and the entity.
- Determine the grounds of materiality whether group accounts should be prepared.

Having considered the accounting requirements and the Council's involvement with all companies and organisations, Group Accounts have been prepared.

Waveney Norse and Suffolk Coastal Norse (Associate):

East Suffolk Council owns a minority share in both companies, 19.9% in Waveney Norse Limited and 20% in Suffolk Coastal Norse Limited. These companies provided a package of services to the Council including Refuse, Cleansing and Maintenance. These Norse companies have been included as Associates in previous years accounts using the equity method as East Suffolk Council has the 'power' to participate in operating decisions. As full Group Accounts are being included in 2024/25, East Suffolk Council's share of the net assets and surpluses of Waveney Norse Ltd and Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd have been included.

The contract between East Suffolk Council and Waveney Norse Ltd and Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd terminated on 30 June 2023. After this date East Suffolk Services Ltd took over these operations.

East Suffolk Services Limited (Subsidiary):

East Suffolk Services Limited was incorporated on 25 March 2022 and is wholly owned by East Suffolk Holdings Limited (incorporated on 24 October 2019), which in turn is wholly owned by the Council. Two Council employees, Andrew Jarvis (Chair of East Suffolk's Local Authority Trading Companies) and Nicholas Khan (Strategic Director) are named as Directors of East Suffolk Services Limited. The company took over the operations of the Norse Joint Venture on 1 July 2023, with its services including Waste and Recycling collections, Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing, Facilities Management, CCTV, Home Alarms and Parking Enforcement. Full Group Accounts have been prepared for East Suffolk Services.

2. Basis of Consolidation

The Group Accounts have been prepared using the requirements of the Code. Companies or other reporting entities that are under the ultimate control of the Council have been included in the Council's Group Accounts to the extent that they are material to users of the financial statements in relation to their ability to see the complete economic activities of the Council and its exposure to risk through interests in other entities and participation in their activities. Subsidiaries have been consolidated on a line-by-line basis, subject to the elimination of intra-group transactions from the statements in accordance with the Code. Associates have been included on an equity basis, showing East Suffolk Council's share of net assets and surplus/ deficit.

3. Group Accounting Policies

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the Group Accounts are the same as for the single entity accounts of East Suffolk Council as set out in Note 1.

Group Accounts – Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

	Group					
	2024/25	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Cost of Services						
Communities and Leisure	6,625	(4,074)	2,551	7,744	(2,575)	5,169
Digital, Programme Management and Customer Services	5,607	224	5,831	5,380	(87)	5,293
Economic Development and Regeneration	10,287	(3,688)	6,599	5,397	(1,701)	3,696
Energy Planning and Coastal Management	4,237	(1,186)	3,051			-
Environmental Services and Port Health	11,056	(12,686)	(1,630)	10,509	(7,998)	2,511
Financial Services and Value for Money	2,725	(320)	2,405	1,342	508	1,850
Housing Services	13,269	(11,542)	1,727	10,434	(8,595)	1,839
Housing Revenue Account	22,497	(23,469)	(972)	21,720	(22,044)	(324)
Internal Audit Services	755	(142)	613	639	(145)	494
Legal and Democratic Services	2,489	(607)	1,882	2,453	(579)	1,874
People and Place	25,456	(9,248)	16,208	34,247	(14,056)	20,191
Planning and building Control	9,892	(4,677)	5,215	27,236	(20,943)	6,293
Revenue and Benefits	43,934	(39,917)	4,017	39,808	(37,199)	2,609
Senior and Corporate Management	17,032	(5,609)	11,423	6,361	(1,247)	5,114
Commercial Contracts	5,107	(4,890)	217	3,024	(3,396)	(372)
Other	54	(54)	-	253	(253)	-
Total Cost of Services	181,022	(121,885)	59,137	176,547	(120,310)	56,237
Other Operating Expenditure			9,494			7,137
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			(7,299)			(3,658)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			(77,256)			(78,913)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(15,924)			(19,197)
Share of (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of services by			5			71
Tax expenses of Associate (note 33)			-			(18)
Group (Surplus)/Deficit			(15,919)			(19,144)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (note			(7,666)			(18,764)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability / (asset)			4,980			39,309
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(2,686)			20,545
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(18,605)			1,401

Group Accounts – Balance Sheet

	Group	
	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
Property, Plant and Equipment	483,955	434,622
Investment Property	4,607	4,867
Heritage Assets	1,865	1,073
Intangible Assets	2,306	1,255
Long Term Investments	17,833	24,900
Investment in Associate	1,411	1,421
Long Term Debtors	1,769	3,227
Long Term Assets	513,746	471,365
Short Term Investments	84,587	73,709
Current Assets held for sale	941	535
Inventories	419	230
Short Term Debtors	28,125	24,195
Cash and Cash Equivalents	37,460	24,689
Current Assets	151,532	123,358
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Short Term Creditors	(71,797)	(45,903)
Short Term Provisions	(56)	(8,667)
Short Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(359)	(91)
Current Liabilities	(72,212)	(54,661)
Long Term Creditors	(13,844)	(6,330)
Long Term Provisions	(2,335)	(1,000)
Long Term Borrowing	(63,323)	(65,645)
Long Term Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(4,831)	(4,752)
Other Long Term Liabilities - Pension Liability	(33,084)	-
Long Term Liabilities	(117,417)	(77,727)
Net Assets	475.649	462.335

	Group	
	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000	£'000
<u>Capital Reserves</u>		
Capital Receipts Reserve	(4,018)	
Capital Grants Unapplied	(67,511)	
Major Repairs Reserve	(19,099)	
Share of Reserves of Associate	(1,411)	
<u>Revenue Reserves</u>		
General Fund		
- Fund Balance	298	
- Earmarked Reserves	(43,839)	
Housing Revenue Account		
- Fund Balance	7,089	
- Earmarked Reserves	(12,994)	
Subsidary		
- Profit & Loss Account	(10,308)	
- Pension Fund	-	
Usable reserves	(151,793)	-
Unusable reserves	(323,856)	
Total Reserves	(475.649)	-

Glossary of Financial Terms

Accounting Period

The period covered by the Accounts, normally 12 months commencing on 1st April for local authorities.

Accounting Policies

Rules and practices adopted by the Council that determine how the transactions and events are reflected in the accounts.

Accruals

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

Business Rates (Non-Domestic Rates)

The system of local taxation on business properties also called Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).

Capital Adjustment Account

This Account absorbs the difference arising from the different rates at which non-current assets are accounted for as being consumed and at which resources are set aside to finance their acquisition.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of a non-current asset such as land and buildings, or expenditure that enhances, and not merely maintains, an existing non-current asset.

Capital Receipts

Income received from the sale of land, dwellings, or other assets, which is available to finance other items of capital expenditure, or to repay debt on assets originally financed from loans.

Capital Receipts Reserve

This reserve holds the receipts generated from the disposal of non-current assets, which are restricted to being applied to finance new capital investment or reduce indebtedness.

CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting)

CIPFA is the professional institute for accountants working in the public services. CIPFA publishes the Code, which defines proper accounting practice for local authorities.

Collection Fund

This Fund records the collection of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates and its distribution.

Contingent Liabilities

Potential liabilities which are either dependent on a future event, or which cannot be reliably estimated.

Contingent Assets

Potential assets which are either dependent on a future event, or which cannot be reliably estimated.

Corporate and Democratic Core

This comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose organisations. The cost of these activities are over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. It includes costs relating to the corporate management and democratic representation.

Council Tax

The system of local taxation on dwellings that replaced the community charge with effect from 1 April 1993.

Council Tax Base

The amount calculated for each billing authority from which the grant entitlement of its share is derived. The number of properties in each band is multiplied by the relevant band proportion to calculate the number of Band D equivalent properties in the area. The calculation allows for exemptions, discounts, appeals, local council tax reduction scheme and a provision for non-collection.

Council Tax Reduction (Support)

A system of financial assistance towards council tax costs which takes account of the applicants' financial needs and incomes.

Creditors (Payables)

An amount of money owed by the District Council at 31 March for goods or services supplied but not yet paid for.

Debt

Amounts borrowed to finance capital expenditure that are still to be repaid.

Debtors (Receivables)

An amount of money owed to the Council at 31 March. Long-term debtors include loans to other local authorities.

Deferred Capital Receipts

Capital receipts outstanding on Council houses sold on deferred terms and secured by a mortgage of the property.

Depreciation

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

Direct Revenue Financing

A charge to revenue accounts for the direct financing of non-current assets and other capital expenditure.

Earmarked Reserves

Revenue reserves within the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account set aside to finance specific future services.

General Fund

The main revenue fund of the District Council, to which the costs of the services are charged, (excluding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)).

Government Grants

Payments by Central Government towards the cost of local authority services. These are either for particular purposes or services (specific grants) or in aid of local services generally (general grants).

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are a distinct class of asset which is reported separately from property, plant & equipment. These assets would previously have been classified as community assets prior to 1st April 2011. The CIPFA Code defines a tangible heritage asset as: *a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical, or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.* An intangible heritage asset is *'an intangible asset with cultural, environmental or historical significance'*.

Housing Benefit

A system of financial assistance towards housing costs which takes account of the applicants' financial needs and incomes. Assistance takes the form of rent rebates, council tax rebates and rent allowances.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

A statutory ringfenced account to which the revenue costs of providing, maintaining, and managing Council owned dwellings are charged. These are financed by rents charged to tenants and subsidies received from the government. (See later paragraph on self-financing HRA).

Impairment

A material reduction in the value of a non-current asset during the accounting period. This can be caused by a consumption of economic benefits (such as physical damage through fire or flood) or a fall in price of a specific asset. A general reduction in asset values is accounted for as an impairment through Valuation Loss.

Infrastructure Assets

Non-current assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset

created. Examples of infrastructure assets are highways and coast protection works.

International Financial Reporting Standards

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting was, for the first time in 2010/11, based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). However, these standards are primarily drafted for the commercial sector and are not wholly designed to address the accounting issues relevant to local government in the UK. The Code therefore prescribes a hierarchy of alternative standards on which the accounting treatment and disclosures should be based for all transactions.

Leasing or Leases

A method of acquiring capital expenditure where a rental charge is paid for an asset for a specified period. All leases are categorised as either finance leases or operating leases. A finance lease transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee. An operating lease, in contrast, is like a rental agreement in nature, and all operating lease rentals are treated as revenue.

Levies

Payments made to Internal Drainage Boards.

Minimum Revenue Provision

A prudent sum required by law to be set aside from revenue for the repayment of loan debt associated with asset purchase/ costs.

Net Book Value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation and impairment.

Non-Current Assets

Assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Net Realisable Value

The amount at which an asset could be sold after the deduction of any direct selling costs.

Operational assets

Non-current assets are held and occupied, used, or consumed by the Council in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Out-turn

Actual income and expenditure for the financial year.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts are authorised for issue by the Section 151 Officer.

Precept

The net expenditure of a non-billing authority (e.g. County Council, Police Authority or Parish Council) which the billing authority must include when setting its Council Tax and then pay over to the precepting authority in agreed instalments.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and expected to be used during more than one period. (See separate paragraph on Heritage Assets).

Provisions

A liability that is of uncertain timing or amount which is to be settled by transfer of economic benefits.

Public Works Loan Board

A Government agency which provides longer-term loans to local authorities at interest rates slightly higher than those at which the Government itself can borrow. Local authorities can borrow a proportion of their requirements to finance capital expenditure from this source.

Rateable Value

A value assessed by the Valuation Office Agency for all properties subject to national non-domestic rates.

Reserves

Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets 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.

Revaluation Reserve

An "unusable reserve" recording accumulated gains arising from the revaluation of non-current assets until they are consumed by the authority or realised in a sale.

Revenue Expenditure

This is expenditure mainly on recurring items and consists principally of salaries and wages, capital charges and general running expenses.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCuS)

Expenditure that is classified as capital for funding purposes which does not result in the expenditure being

carried on the Balance Sheet as a non-current asset. Examples include improvement grants and capital grants to third parties.

Revenue Support Grant

A general grant paid by Central Government to local authorities in aid of revenues generally and not for specific services. It is paid to the General Fund.

Section 151 Officer

The officer with specific legal responsibility for the financial matters of a local authority.

Self-Financing for the HRA

The self-financing HRA commenced on 1 April 2012 and is based on authorities "buying" themselves out of a negative housing subsidy position. This involves the Council no longer paying into housing subsidy and in return the Council's debt is adjusted upwards to an appropriate level. It is a once and for all settlement between central and local Government, after which all responsibility for maintaining social housing will rest with the Council.

The Code

The Code incorporates guidance in line with IFRS, IPSAS and UK GAAP Accounting Standards. It sets out the proper accounting practice to be adopted for the Statement of Accounts to ensure they 'presents a true and fair view' of the financial position of the Council. The Code has statutory status via the provision of the Local Government Act 2003.

Trading Accounts

Trading accounts exist where the service manager is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the authority or other organisations.

Usable Capital Receipts

Capital receipts that remain available to meet the cost of future capital expenditure.

UK GAAP

The accounting treatments that companies in the UK would generally be expected to apply in the preparation of their financial statements.

Valuation Loss

Impairment of an asset due to a general fall in prices, supported by a valuer's certificate. Valuation losses are charged initially to any balance in the Revaluation Reserve, and subsequently to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. Impairment charges do not, however, fall on the taxpayer, and the impact is reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

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