



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23

For year ended 31st March 2023

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Narrative Statement

1. Introduction

The purpose of this narrative statement is to provide an easily understandable guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts, and an explanation in overall terms of the Council's financial position. The narrative statement also includes an explanation of the purpose of each statement and the relationships between each of these statements.

The Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 are presented in the format laid down in The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 (The Code), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in accordance with the International Accounting Standards Board framework for the preparation and presentation of financial statements as implemented by The Code. The Code is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

2. Statement of Accounts

The Council's statutory accounts for the year 2022/2023 are set out in pages 1 to 106. They consist of:-

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This explains both the Council's and the Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities in respect of the Statement of Accounts.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

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

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is presented using the Council's internal management structure as reported to Corporate Board.

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable' reserves.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council are matched by the Reserves held by the Council.

Cash Flow Statement

This statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the financial year. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

These notes present information about the basis of preparation of the financial statements and the specific accounting policies applied.

Housing Revenue Account

This reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure and how these costs are met.

Collection Fund

This shows income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate Collection.

Glossary of Terms

Explaining the meaning of the terms used in the statements.

Annual Governance Statement

This explains the Council's responsibilities in respect of the controls in place in relation to all aspects of corporate governance.

Independent Auditor's Report

This provides the audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts.

3. Summary Financial Position for 2022/23**Revenue Expenditure**

Revenue Expenditure is generally spent on items which are consumed within the year and is financed from Council Tax, Business Rates, Government Grants, rents and other income. Revenue Expenditure for 2022/23 is summarised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council operates two main revenue accounts – the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. General Fund expenditure on items such as housing benefit payments, waste collection and planning is financed by Council Tax, fees and charges levied for services and central Government grant. The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory, ring fenced account and receives all of the costs associated with the Council's housing stock. It is financed by the rents from Council Housing. By law, the costs associated with the Housing Revenue Account cannot fall burden on the Council Taxpayer.

The main components of the Council's original, revenue budget for 2022/23 and how these compare with the actual outturn are set out below. The final revenue outturn position for 2022/23 is a total revenue funding surplus for the Council of ,£526,318. This is made up of a surplus of £795,480 for the General Fund and a deficit of £268,039 for the Housing Revenue Account. Details of the major variances contributing to this surplus were reported to North Yorkshire Council's Executive on 30 May 2023.

Updates to the latest budget for 2022/23 have been approved by Corporate Board as a result of the quarterly performance reports presented to the meetings in September, November and February. The reports are all available to view on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

	Original Budget £	Actual £	Variance Over / (Under) Budget £
Net Expenditure by Business Theme:-			
General Fund			
Resources	2,380,400	1,187,904	(1,192,496)
Statutory & Regulatory	2,517,100	2,270,342	453,242
Operational Service	2,343,800	2,279,384	(64,566)
Drainage Board Levies	17,600	18,428	828
Total General Fund Net Expenditure	7,258,900	6,455,908	(802,992)
Housing Revenue Account Net Expenditure	6,686,300	6,947,904	261,604
Total Net Expenditure – Under Spend on Budget	13,945,200	13,403,812	(541,388)
Financed by Income from:			
General Fund			
Council Tax	(4,452,059)	(4,394,913)	57,146
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(379,755)	(379,755)	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	(68,815)	(172,753)	(103,938)
Business Rates	(1,504,253)	(735,381)	768,872
Small Business Rate Relief and Section 31 grant	(450,000)	(1,568,586)	(1,118,586)
General Fund Funding	(6,854,882)	(7,251,388)	(396,506)
Housing Revenue Account Funding from Rents	(6,665,200)	(6,678,742)	(13,542)
Total Funding	(13,520,082)	(13,930,130)	(410,048)
Budget/Funding (Surplus) Transferred (to) Reserves	425,118	(526,318)	(951,436)

The Business Theme expenditure headings and figures reported above reflect the Council's organisational and management structure.

As indicated in the table above the "bottom line" revenue outturn in 2022/23, as compared to budget, resulted in a variance, an underspend on budget, of £802,992. A summary of the main reasons for the major variances from budget is as follows:-

Strategy & Regulatory

Fee income was £62k under budget in development management with additional £75k taxi licensing partially offsetting additional costs mostly due to costs of agency workers covering vacant posts. There was a net overspend of £135k

Operational

Recycling income significantly exceeded budget by £96k do to price variations. Car parking income was also above budget by £25k. In addition, there were a number of smaller underspends and

overspends across the Directorate, the most notable being; transport, where increased maintenance costs and fuel costs was £66k, and staffing vacancies across a number of services.

Resources

Debt Management Costs of £240k were not required in year due to using internal borrowing rather than external loans. Additional investment income of £345k. Sundry debtor and council tax provisions for bad debt were higher than expected by £108k. There were several variances across the Directorate, primarily relating to staffing costs and cover by consultancy / agencies.

Housing Revenue Account

A number of pressures on expenditure savings across the services and year end capital transactions increased the revenue contributions required from the HRA reserve by £269k.

Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure is spent on items which have value to the Council or the community for more than one year and can be financed from borrowing, income realised from the sale of capital assets and revenue contributions or internal funds/reserves.

In 2022/23 the Council spent £5,488,693 (2021/22 £2,642,465) on capital schemes. An analysis of where the money was spent, and the sources of funding are shown in the tables below:

2021/22 £000's	2021/22 %	Capital Expenditure Analysis	2022/23 £000's	2022/23 %
646	24%	Operational (General Fund)	2,804	51%
1,694	65%	Operational (HRA)	2,261	41%
302	11%	Resources	169	3%
-	-	Strategy and Regulatory	254	5%
2,642	100%	Total Capital Expenditure	5,488	100%
2021/22 £000's	2021/22 %	Where the Money Came From	2022/23 £000's	2022/23 %
205	8%	Government Grants	353	6%
50	2%	Capital Receipts	60	1%
771	29%	Revenue Contributions	2,898	53%
1,616	61%	Major Repairs Allowance	2,177	40%
2,642	100%	Total Capital Expenditure	5,488	100%

The majority of the Council's total capital expenditure in 2022/23 was in respect of improvement works to the Council's Housing Stock.

4. Review of Financial Position

The Council works to a medium-term financial strategy which sets a level of affordability for the operational budget for annual General Fund revenue expenditure (expenditure funded from Council Tax) and for a 10 year programme of capital expenditure. The financial strategy, revenue budget, capital programme and treasury management strategy are all reviewed annually. The financial strategy aims to deliver the revenue and capital programmes whilst maintaining the Council's reserves at a prudent level.

For Housing Revenue Account expenditure (expenditure on Council Housing funded from rents), the Council works to a 30 year business plan. The business plan has been adapted from 2012/13 to take account of recent changes to the system of local government housing finance. The business model aims to repay the debt allocated to the Council by Central Government under this new system within 20 years.

At the start of the financial year, 1 April 2022, the Council's unallocated revenue reserves stood at £18.22m (£16.6m General Fund and £1.62 Housing Revenue Account). By the end of the financial year, 31 March 2023, balances on unallocated revenue reserves totalled £14.76m (£13.61m General Fund and £1.14 Housing Revenue Account).

The balance sheet position as at 31 March 2023 shows an increase in the Council's net worth of £22m. This is due to a range of items which includes

- an increase of £14m on long term assets – mostly increases in the value of property plant and equipment.
- an decrease of £16m on current assets, decrease on Cash short term investments and a reduction in short term debtors,
- an decrease of £14m across current liabilities, most significantly short terms creditors and grants received in advance
- a decrease of £10m on LT liabilities, mainly due to changes to Pension liabilities.

5. Borrowing

The Council's ability to borrow is governed by the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is able to determine its own programme for capital investment in fixed assets that will assist in the delivery of its services to the people of the Richmondshire District subject to that programme being affordable, prudent and sustainable.

At the end of the financial year, the Council's borrowing was £12,641,284. The majority of this debt, £11,391,284 is in relation to the loan taken in 2011/12 as a result of the Government's changes to the national system of social housing finance.

6. Employee Benefits and Pension Liabilities

The Council is a member of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund, which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme. This is a scheme which provides defined benefits based on members' career average pensionable salary. In the Council's accounts, a liability for future pension costs is recognised on the Balance Sheet, and pension contributions are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The figures presented in the annual accounts are prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) for Employee Benefits. Under IAS 19 the Council is required to disclose the total value of all pension payments that have accumulated (including deferred pensions) at the 31 March each year. This value is made up of:

- The total cost of pensions that are being paid out to former employees who have retired.
- The total sum of the pension entitlements earned to date for current employees.

The standard also requires all investments (assets) to the Pension Fund to be shown at their market value at 31 March each year. In reality, the value of such investments fluctuates on a day-to-day basis

but this is ignored for the purpose of the accounting standard. Comparing the value of all future pension payments and the value of investments, as at 31 March, results in either an overall surplus or deficit for the Pension Fund. This is called the IAS 19 surplus or deficit.

The Balance Sheet includes a Pensions Reserve, which shows a net liability to the Pension Fund of £49,000 as at 31 March 2023. This effectively means that the Council has historically underpaid contributions relative to the future benefits earned to date by its employees. The liability decreased by £8,699,000 in 2022/23. The change in the position is as a result of changes to the assumptions used by the Actuary.

Further information in respect of retirement benefits is disclosed in Note 34 to the Statement of Accounts.

7. Changes to The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2022/23

This set of Accounts is prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom - A Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The IFRS requires that accounting policies are applied retrospectively.

Accounting policies are defined by the Code of Practice as "the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity in preparing and presenting financial statements". The starting premise is that accounting policies prescribed by the Code should be followed, but need not be applied if the effect of applying them is not material. The accounting policies of the Council have been reviewed for ongoing compliance with IFRS and amended as required.

Changes in accounting policies are only permitted if the change is required by the Code or where the change results in the financial statements providing more reliable and relevant information. A change in circumstances or adoption of policies for "new" transactions, events or conditions that did not occur or were not material previously are not classed as changes in accounting policies.

No significant changes of key accounting and presentational changes have been introduced in 2022/23..

8. Other Sources of Information

This Statement of Accounts forms one element of the Council's financial reporting to local taxpayers, employees and other interested parties. Further performance information can be found on the Council's website www.northyorks.gov.uk.

9. Inspection and Audit of Accounts

Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 members of the public have the right to inspect the Council's accounts and supporting documents and to question the auditor about, or make objections to, the matters contained within them. The times at which the accounts are deposited for inspection are advertised on the Council's website www.northyorks.gov.uk

The Council's external auditors are:

Ernst & Young
St James Boulevard
NEWCASTLE
NE1 4JD

10. Further Information

Further information about the accounts is available from the Chief Financial Officer, Mercury House, Station Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4JX and on the Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
Central Services
County Hall
Northallerton

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:-

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

I confirm that the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee of North Yorkshire Council approved this Statement of Accounts at the meeting held on 27/11/2023.

Chair of Audit, Governance & Standards Committee
Date: 27/11/2023

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Financial 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 (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- Complied with the local authority Code.

The Chief Financial 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.

Statement by the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Richmondshire District Council at 31st March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
Central Services
County Hall
Northallerton
Date: 15/06/2023

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2021/2022				2022/2023		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£	£	£		£	£	£
4,905,296	(2,159,221)	2,746,075	Operational (General Fund)	5,100,029	(2,081,660)	3,018,369
2,394,361	(6,510,849)	(4,116,488)	Operational (HRA)	4,641,068	(6,794,158)	(2,153,090)
7,465,334	(5,799,460)	1,665,874	Resources	10,054,374	(7,921,729)	2,132,645
6,866,576	(3,952,233)	2,914,343	Strategy & Regulatory	6,268,422	(2,041,323)	4,227,099
21,631,567	(18,421,763)	3,209,804	Net Cost of Services	26,063,893	(18,838,870)	7,225,023
		890,723	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 11)			784,937
		582,953	Financing and Investment Expenditure/(Income) (Note 11)			(948,333)
		(7,949,184)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure (Note 11)			(8,309,498)
		(3,265,704)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(1,247,871)
		(254,065)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment (Note 12 & Note 18)			(10,245,361)
		(5,185,000)	Actuarial Losses / (Gains) on Pension Assets / Liabilities (Note 34)			(10,354,000)
		(5,439,065)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(20,599,361)
		(8,704,769)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(21,847,232)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2021 carried forward	(500)	(14,434)	(1,274)	(1,735)	(530)	(18,473)	(45,561)	(64,034)
Movement in Reserves during 2021/22								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	800	-	(4,146)	-	-	(3,266)	(5,439)	(8,705)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(133)	-	4,146	(402)	(87)	3,524	(3,524)	-
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	(747)	472	275	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2021/22	0	472	275	(402)	(87)	258	(8,963)	(8,705)
Balance at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(500)	(13,962)	(999)	(2,137)	(617)	(18,215)	(54,524)	(72,739)
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	741	-	(1,988)	-	-	(1,248)	(20,599)	(21,847)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	2,837	-	1,988	(324)	205	4,707	(4,707)	-
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	(3,578)	3,310	268	-	-	-	-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in 2022/23	0	3,310	268	(324)	205	3,459	(25,306)	(21,847)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(500)	(10,652)	(731)	(2,461)	(412)	(14,747)	(79,830)	(94,586)

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2022 £		Notes	31 March 2023 £
81,018,625	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	94,477,405
1,028,500	Investment Property	13	2,118,500
248,045	Intangible Assets	14	195,542
-	Long Term Debtors		-
82,295,170	Long Term Assets		96,761,447
100,477	Inventories		90,435
5,863,220	Short Term Debtors	16	2,723,497
11,000,000	Short Term Investments	15	-
14,587,490	Cash and Cash Equivalents	17	12,335,718
-	Assets Held for Sale	18	-
31,551,187	Current Assets		15,149,650
(1,111,566)	Short Term Borrowing	15	(1,140,317)
(10,691,067)	Short Term Creditors	19	(3,810,495)
(952,850)	Short Term Provisions	20	(287,529)
(6,646,959)	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance		(303,170)
(19,402,442)	Current Liabilities		(5,541,511)
(12,641,284)	Long Term Borrowing	15	(11,500,967)
(30,883)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(26,403)
(8,748,000)	Pension Liability	34	(49,000)
(283,623)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	29	(235,859)
(21,703,790)	Long Term Liabilities		(11,812,229)
72,740,790	Net Assets		94,587,357
(18,216,308)	Usable Reserves		(14,756,803)
(54,523,817)	Unusable Reserves	21	(79,830,554)
(72,740,125)	Total Reserves		(94,587,357)

Signed:

Dated: 15/06/2023

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
Central Services
County Hall
Northallerton

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
(3,265,704)	Net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services	(1,247,871)
(7,211,675)	Adjustments to net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements (Note 22)	8,740,902
(1,322,876)	Adjustments for items included in the net (surplus)/deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 23)	(1,528,361)
(11,800,255)	Net cash (inflows)/outflows from Operating Activities	5,964,670
6,131,667	Investing Activities (Note 24)	(6,736,777)
3,348,116	Financing Activities (Note 25)	3,023,879
(2,320,472)	Net (increase)/decrease in cash and cash equivalents	2,251,772
(12,267,018)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	(14,587,490)
(14,587,490)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (Note 17)	(12,335,718)

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant Accounting Policies

The Statement of Accounts summarise the Council's transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year ending 31 March 2023. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the *Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015*, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices under Section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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

The most significant policies affecting the Statement are included within the notes below.

2. Accounting Standards that have been Issued but have not yet been Adopted

CIPFA continue to consider the implications of adopting IFRS16 – Leases. Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020. This standard was originally expected to be adopted in the Statements of Accounts for 2020/2021 but was then deferred and expected to be adopted in 2022/23.

However, as a result of only 9% of local authority accounts in England meeting the audit publication deadline of 30 September 2021 the Department of Levelling-up Housing and Communities asked CIPFA in December 2021 to consider ways in which the Code may ameliorate this crisis position. In response, CIPFA issued an emergency consultation on exploratory proposals for making time-limited changes to the Code and subsequently made the decision to defer the implementation of IFRS 16 until 1 April 2024.

Other standards that have been issued but not yet adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice include:

- Annual Improveemnts to the IFRS Standards 2018-2020. The annual IFRS improvement programme notes the following changed standards:
 - IFRS 1 (First-time adoption) – amendment relates to foreign operations of acquired subsidiaries transitioning to IFRS
 - IAS 37 (Onerous contracts) – clarifies the intention of the standard
 - IFRS 16 (Leases) – amendment removes a misleading example that is not referenced in the Code material
 - IAS 41 (Agriculture).
- Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use (Amendments to IAS 16).

Any impact on the Statement of Accounts will be assessed at the time of adoption by the CIPFA Code of Practice, but based on our initial assessment it is not expected any of the changes to be material.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying its accounting policies, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. Where judgement has been applied, the key factors taken into consideration are disclosed in the relevant note. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- influences on going concern. There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision. Local

government organisation creates uncertainty in the short term as organisations are combined into a single entity. The Covid pandemic is also expected to have a longer term impact on the Council, both operationally and financially with additional work, changing ways of delivering services, increasing expenditure while reducing income collected. The Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to be updated to take account of these new challenges and cash flow for the next 18 months is modelled to ensure that we are able to maintain adequate cash flows in the current organisation and into the new North Yorkshire Council.

- possible impairment of investments
- whether other entities with which the Council has a relationship are subsidiaries, associates or jointly controlled entities
- whether contracts need to be accounted for as service concessions or with embedded leases
- whether a lease is an operating or a finance lease – the Council has a number of vehicles and equipment under leasing agreements
- whether the Council's exposure to possible losses is to be accounted for as a provision or a contingent liability. The Council has made provision for business rate appeals in relation to all businesses. This provision is based on the best estimate of the actual liability as at the year end in known appeals.
- whether land and buildings owned by the Council are investment properties – a number of the Council's assets are classified and held as investment properties.

Going Concern

In July 2020, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government announced that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) would be publishing the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper imminently. As a result, Richmondshire District Council jointly submitted a proposal on its vision as to how devolution and local government reorganisation could look across North Yorkshire in the future. The Secretary of State of DLUHC formally sought the views of the public on two proposals and the consultation closed on 19th April 2021. A decision was announced by DLUHC in July 2021 determining that the current county, district, and borough councils would be replaced by a new single council for North Yorkshire from 1 April 2023. In the intervening period the accounts and financial plans for Richmondshire District Council continued to be constructed on a 'going concern' basis - with any assets and liabilities transferring to the successor authority

Basis of Preparation

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

At the point of writing, initial budgets, Medium Term Financial Strategies, Capital plans and Treasury Management Strategies have been developed for the new Council. North Yorkshire County Council is a continuing authority and accounts for more than 80% of the total budget of the new Council; it has published its draft Financial Statements for 2022/23 on a going concern basis.

The functions and services of Richmondshire District Council transferred to North Yorkshire Council on 1st April 2023 in accordance with The North Yorkshire (Structural Changes) Order 2022 (Statutory Instrument 2022).

North Yorkshire Council Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 TO 2025/26

This is the first Budget for the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC). It has been produced by bringing together the known financial positions of the eight predecessor councils following excellent cooperation from all of those bodies. The start of any new council will bring great uncertainty but the production of this Budget and MTFS has been at a time of significant financial pressure and uncertainty due to external factors including:

- The highest levels of inflation since 1981
- Distressed adult social care markets
- Workforce challenges with recruitment and retention
- High demand for some key, high cost services; and
- Adapting to a post-covid environment.

Key assumptions included in the 2023/24 budget for North Yorkshire Council are:

- Council tax to increase by 4.99% (basic 2.99% and Adult Social Care 2%)
- Net Revenue Budget for 2023/24, after use of reserves, of £623m
- A recurring Corporate Risk Contingency of £6m to provide for service growth and / or non-delivery of savings as a direct or indirect result of Covid,
- A 4-year capital investment programme of £323.8m
- an authorised limit for external debt of £652.1m in 2023/24

The actual liquidity position the new council held on vesting day which included cash and investment held by relevant legacy councils totalled £512m.

Over the going concern period (up to December 2024), the loan repayment terms vary as the council has different types of loan, the majority of the loans are annuity or maturity-based loans. The total loan repayments due during 2023/24 is £5,675k.

Total Investments held by the new council on vesting day totalled £512.0m and total debt at the same date was £399.2m. Total Debt forecasted as at 31 March 2024 is £393.0m. The total estimated surplus cash invested at 3/4/23 was £457m.

2023-24 Budget Setting and Medium Term Financial Planning Process

The development of the 2023-24 revenue budget and refinement of the medium term financial plan has been approved by full council.

Key Risks and Uncertainties

The financial position of the new council includes a number of risks and uncertainties. These include the potential changes to government funding arising from the Fair Funding, Business Rates Retention and New Homes Bonus reviews from 2024/25, the completion of the predecessor council's 2021/22 and 2022/23 external audit process and the inherent risks of establishing a new organisation. These risks are actively being monitored, managed, and mitigated.

Conclusion

Having regard to the Code and its reporting requirements the Council concludes that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, and that Richmondshire District Council ceased to exist with effect from 1 April 2023. The new North Yorkshire Council will be a going concern, 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. This is based on the financial position of North Yorkshire County Council, considering the balanced budget, positive assurance by North Yorkshire County Council's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves for 2022/23.

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

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets fall. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £13,000 for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, 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.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £843,000 However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2022/23, the Council's actuaries advised that the net pension liability had decreased by £8,699,000 due to updating of assumptions.
Arrears	At 31 March 2023, the Council had a balance of sundry debtors of £511,732. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 66.44%(£339,985) was appropriate. However, in the current economic climate it is not certain that such an allowance would be sufficient.	If collection rates were to deteriorate, an increase to the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts to cover the entire balance would require an additional £171,747 to be set aside as an allowance.
Fair value measurement	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 similar assets or liabilities in active	The Council uses the discounted cash flow (DCF) model to measure the fair value of some of its investment properties and financial assets. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement assumptions are regarding rent

	<p>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 external valuer).</p> <p>Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities is disclosed in notes 12 and 15 below.</p>	<p>growth, vacancy levels (for investment properties) and discounted rates – adjusted for regional factors (for both investment properties and some financial assets).</p> <p>Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets.</p>
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5. Material Items of Income and Expense

During July 2021 it was announced that there would be Local Government reorganisation resulting in a single unitary authority across North Yorkshire. This has resulted on a significant work programme to prepare for the changes and some uncertainty. There has been an impact on recruitment resulting in some additional costs for agency worker covering vacant posts. There has been an allocation of £350k additional budget in 22/23 to fund one off costs, of which £xxx was spent.

6. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the 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 Balance Sheet date. This will be classed as an adjusting event and the Statement of Accounts will be amended to reflect this event; and
- 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, a disclosure will be made in giving the nature of the event and an estimate of the financial effect or statement that an estimate cannot be reliably made.

The draft Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Corporate Director and Section 151 Officer on 14/06/2023.

7. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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

2021/2022				2022/2023		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
2,098	(648)	2,746	Operational (General Fund)	2,337	(681)	3,018
(137)	3,979	(4,116)	Operational (HRA)	(117)	2,036	(2,153)
1,262	(404)	1,666	Resources	1,733	(400)	2,133
1,893	(1,021)	2,914	Strategy & Regulatory	3,174	(1,053)	4,227
5,116	1,906	3,210	Net Cost of Services	7,127	(98)	7,225
(4,369)	2,107	(6,476)	Other (Income) and Expenditure	(3,549)	4,924	(8,473)
747	4,013	(3,266)	(Surplus) or Deficit	3,578	4,826	(1,248)
(20,191)			Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	-		
747			Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in year	3,565		
(19,444)			Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March (*)	3,565		

(*) For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – see the Movement in Reserves.

Please note that the General Fund Balance also includes the Earmarked Reserves balance.

A.) Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2022/23					
Adjustment from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 1)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note 2)	Other Statutory Differences (Note 3)	Other Differences (Note 4)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operational (GF)	(264)	298	(536)	(179)	(681)
Operational (HRA)	2,312	(280)	4	-	2,036
Resources	(209)	(1,868)	1,676	-	(401)
Strategy & Regulatory	(117)	195	(1,130)	-	(1,052)
Net Cost of Service	1,722	(1,655)	14	(179)	(98)
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	4,094	-	-	830	4,924
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,816	(1,655)	14	651	4,826

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2021/22					
Adjustment from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 1)	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (Note 2)	Other Statutory Differences (Note 3)	Other Differences (Note 4)	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Operational (GF)	(206)	288	(543)	(187)	(648)
Operational (HRA)	4,266	(301)	14	-	3,979
Resources	(211)	(1,893)	1,700	-	(404)
Strategy & Regulatory	(117)	203	(1,107)	-	(1,021)
Net Cost of Service	3,732	(1,703)	64	(187)	1,906
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	720	-	-	1,387	2,107
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,452	(1,703)	64	1,200	4,013

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Note 1: Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation, impairments, revaluation gains, and losses in the services line, and for:

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

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Note 2: 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 Council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- **For financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Other Statutory Adjustments

Note 3: Other statutory adjustments between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- **For Accumulated Absences** – represents the reversal of the amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.
- **For Internal Transaction (General Fund to General Fund)** – Represents the reversal of support charges / transfers between general fund segments in line with Paragraph 3.4.2.39 of the CIPFA Accounting Code. No reversals have been included for General Fund recharged to the Housing Revenue Fund, which is a separate account ring-fenced under statute.

Other Non-Statutory Differences

Note 4: Other non-statutory 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 grants 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.

B.) Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

Services	2021/2022 Income from Services £000	2022/2023 Income from Services £000
Operational (GF)	2,159	2,082
Operational (HRA)	6,511	6,794
Resources	5,800	7,922
Strategy & Regulatory	3,952	2,041
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	18,422	18,839

8. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

Expenditure/Income	2021/2022	2022/2023
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	9,290	9,813
Other Service expenses	13,471	15,211
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	(1,132)	(83)
Interest Payments	2,081	2,481
Precepts and levies	700	725
Payments to Housing Capital receipts Pool	358	0
(Gain) / Loss on the disposal of assets	(167)	60
Total Expenditure	24,601	28,207
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(10,283)	(10,604)
Interest and investment income	(1,496)	(2,307)
Income from Council Tax, non-domestic rates	(7,569)	(7,929)
Government grants and contributions	(8,519)	(8,615)
Total Income	(27,867)	(29,455)
(Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,266)	(1,248)

9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure. An analysis of the movement on the reserves is shown below.

The Council maintains a General Fund Working Balance and also holds reserves earmarked for specific purposes, which are detailed in Note 10. These reserves together can be utilised to support future expenditure and are known as Usable Reserves.

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 an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the authority 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. (For housing authorities 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 the application of Major Repairs Allowance (MRA). The MRA is restricted to being applied to new capital investment in the HRA assets or financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the MRA that has yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds 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.

2022/2023	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£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 but required by statute to be excluded from the movement on the General Fund Balance:</u>					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(463)	(1,972)	-	-	2,435
Revaluation gains/(losses) on Property, Plant and Equipment	45	1,209	-	-	(1,254)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	1,090	-	-	-	(1,090)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(172)	(8)	-	-	180
Capital grants and contributions	353	-	-	-	(353)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(533)	-	-	-	533
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	(28)	(406)	-	-	434
<u>Insertion of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included in the movement on the General Fund Balance:</u>					
Provision for the financing of capital investment	158	1,112	-	-	(1,268)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	2,898	-	-	-	(2,898)
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 (CIES)	25	367	(392)	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	60	-	(60)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-	(8)	8	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool.	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve:					
Reversal of Notional Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	-	-	-	2,177	(2,177)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	1,972	-	(1,972)	-

2022/2023	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES (see Note 34)	(2,202)	(451)	-	-	2,653
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	825	173	-	-	(998)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	830	-	-	-	(830)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	11	3	-	-	(14)
Total Adjustments	2,837	1,989	(324)	205	(4,707)

2021/2022	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£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 but required by statute to be excluded from the movement on the General Fund Balance:</u>					
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(409)	(1,702)	-	-	2,112
Revaluation gains/(losses) on Property, Plant and Equipment	22	3,191	-	-	(3,213)
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	(20)	-	-	-	20
Amortisation of intangible assets	(146)	(8)	-	-	154
Capital grants and contributions	205	-	-	-	(205)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(392)	-	-	-	392
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	-	(643)	-	-	643
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included in the movement on the General Fund Balance:</u>					
Provision for the financing of capital investment	158	1,083	-	-	(1,241)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	772	-	-	-	(772)
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 (CIES)	-	828	(828)	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	50	-	(50)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-	(18)	18	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool.	(358)	-	358	-	-
Adjustments involving the Major Repairs Reserve:					
Reversal of Notional Major Repairs Allowance credited to the HRA	-	-	-	1616	(1,616)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	1,702	-	(1,702)	-
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES (see Note 34)	(2,255)	(493)	-	-	2,748
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	854	191	-	-	(1,045)

2021/2022	Usable Reserves				
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,386	-	-	-	(1,386)
Adjustment involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	49	15	-	-	(64)
Total Adjustments	(135)	4,146	(402)	(86)	(3,523)

10. Transfers To/ (From) Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2022/2023.

	Balance at 31 March 2021	Transfers Out 2021/2022	Transfers In 2021/2022	Balance at 31 March 2022	Transfers Out 2022/2023	Transfers In 2022/2023	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund:							
Service Improvement Reserve	2,469,239	(480,889)	920,375	2,908,725	(2,142,913)	1,626,681	2,392,493
Council Taxpayers Reserve	6,841,585	(16,909,186)	18,130,174	8,062,573	(11,252,456)	9,707,245	6,517,362
Community Safety Partnership	5,256	(5,256)	-	-	-	-	-
Developers Monies Fund	56,539	-	-	56,539	-	-	56,539
Local Plan Enquiry Fund	3,578	-	-	3,578	-	-	3,578
Community Opportunity Fund (New Homes Bonus)	(11,859)	-	-	(11,859)	-	11,859	-
Cyclical Reserve	76,200	(28,214)	22,873	70,859	-	20,771	91,630
Collection Fund Cash Flow Reserve	3,551,766	(2,055,465)	-	1,496,301	(843,299)	-	653,002
Affordable Housing Contribution	802,176	(217,948)	130,698	714,926	(257,000)	47,400	505,326
Economic Growth Fund	20,474	(86,395)	72,925	7,004	-	-	7,004
Community Investment Fund	426,109	(324,291)	486,000	587,818	(199,502)	-	388,316
Garrison Master Plan (Designed Quality Funded)	1,360	-	-	1,360	-	-	1,360
Garrison Master Plan (One Public Estate)	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Community Housing Fund	171,547	(127,290)	-	44,257	(29,063)	-	15,194
Total General Fund	14,433,970	(20,234,934)	19,763,045	13,962,081	(14,724,233)	11,413,956	10,651,804
Housing Revenue Account							
Major Repairs Reserve	530,261	(1,615,875)	1,702,466	616,852	(2,177,073)	1,971,933	411,712
Total HRA	530,261	(1,615,875)	1,733,607	647,993	(2,177,073)	1,971,933	411,712

The following sets out the purpose of each reserve:

Service Improvement Reserve – to improve or sustain service delivery through the one-off contribution of funds towards specific projects.

Council Taxpayers Reserve – to alleviate fluctuations in the level of Council Tax to support and enhance ongoing service delivery and community projects.

Collection Fund Cash Flow Reserve – to hold the surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund for the year pending release back to the fund over the following two years in accordance with accounting practice.

Developers Monies Fund – this is a reserve of funds collected from major developers in order to maintain areas of open spaces.

Local Plan Enquiry (Local Development Framework) Fund – the purpose of this reserve is to fund specialist advice and evidence base work necessary to support the preparation of a sound LDF and the formal Examination of Development Plan Documents.

Community Opportunity Fund – to receive Government grants in respect of the New Homes Bonus scheme to be spent for the benefit of the residents of Richmondshire in accordance with the Council's Community Opportunity Fund Scheme. The Funding from New Homes Bonus now goes into the Council Tax Payers Reserve. This reserve is no longer required, the small balance b/f relates to the repayment of loans back to the Council and has now been closed.

Cyclical Reserve – Primarily to finance local elections but can be used for other cyclical programmes that the authority agrees upon.

Affordable Housing Contribution – this fund is used to support the provision of affordable housing on other sites, based on commuted sums from relevant new developments.

Economic Growth Fund – this fund has been created in order to fund major economic projects across the District as an additional fund to the Small Business Grant Scheme. Application organisations must come from within the District.

Community Lead Housing Fund – this fund was created in 2016/2017 from a grant received from MHCLG to support the delivery of community led housing.

Local Plan Garrison Master Plan (DQF) – this reserve was created in 2018/19. The purpose of the reserve is for designed quality funding (DQF) towards the Garrison Master Plan which forms part of the Local Plan.

Local Plan Garrison Master Plan (OPE) – this reserve was created in 2018/19. The purpose of the reserve is for one public estate (OPE) towards the Garrison Master Plan which forms part of the Local Plan.

Community Investment Fund – this reserve was created in 2019/20. The purpose of this reserve is to support new projects and improve facilities to the benefit of local communities.

11. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) information

a. Key Accounting Policies:

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:

- Fees, charges and rents due from customers are accounted for as income at the date the Council provides the relevant goods or services.
- 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 on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where income and expenditure has been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- Income and expenditure are credited and debited to the relevant service revenue line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless they represent capital receipts or capital expenditure.
- Accruals are not expected to be made for amount under £1,000

Charges to Revenue for the Use of Non-current Assets

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

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible 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, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

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 Council'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 balance in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

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.

b. Analysis of items below Cost of Services

2021/2022		2022/2023
£	Other Operating Expenditure	£
682,593	Parish Council Precepts	706,667
17,626	Levies	18,428
357,645	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-
(167,141)	Losses/(Gains) on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	(59,843)
890,723	Total	784,938
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
432,954	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	442,150
1,648,000	Pensions Interest Cost	2,039,000
(1,402,000)	Expected Return on Pensions Assets	(1,817,000)
(93,710)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income	(489,948)
(2,291)	Net (Income)/Expenditure in Relation to Investment Properties and Changes in their Fair Value	(1,122,535)
582,953	Total	(948,333)
	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	
(5,067,558)	Council Tax Income	(5,167,455)
(2,417,589)	Business Rates	(2,589,536)
(464,037)	Non Ring-fenced Government Grants	(552,507)
(7,949,184)	Total	(8,309,498)

12. 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 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 (e.g. repairs and maintenance) is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as 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.
- 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 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 – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH).
- all other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years.

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

The majority of assets valued in 2022/23 on the rolling programme were properties.

The freehold and leasehold properties which comprise the Council's property portfolio are valued on a 5 year rolling programme by an external independent valuer, Align Property Partners, in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, except that:

- not all properties were inspected. This was neither practical nor considered by the valuer to be necessary for the purpose of the valuation
- for all Council Houses of a similar type, the "beacon" principle was adopted
- IT assets are not revalued as almost all of them have an expected life of 5 years or less.

Properties were valued as at 31 January 2023 with the exception of HRA dwellings which were valued as at 1 April 2022.

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Carried at Historic Cost	-	41,184	2,691,273	1,091,276	1092,604	4,916,337
Valued at current value as at						
2022/2023	84,670,454	676,671	-	-	-	85,347,125
2021/2022	-	1,354,694	-	-	-	1,354,694
2020/2021	-	4,486,591	-	-	-	4,486,591
2019/2020	-	2,392,517	-	-	-	2,392,517
2018/2019	-	1,365,231	-	-	-	1,365,231
Total Cost or Valuation	84,670,454	10,316,888	2,691,273	1,091,276	1,092,604	99,862,495

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 loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

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

Componentisation

All property assets containing a building are split into two components – Land and Buildings. The buildings are then further reviewed to assess if there are additional components which should be recognised. This assessment is based on the value of the building and the value of the components. A materiality level has been set below which this additional review will not be done. Only buildings

with a value greater than £150,000 will be considered for componentisation. The cost of the component should be at least 20% of the value of the building. Components whose value is under this level will be considered if the circumstances are deemed appropriate. Componentisation will only be done either at the full 5 yearly valuation or when major capital improvements are undertaken.

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 it 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 by:

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all 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:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer (Council Dwellings – 35 years; Other Land and Buildings 15-60 years)
- vehicles, plant and equipment – straight line allocation over the life of the asset, as advised by a suitably qualified officer (3-10 years)
- infrastructure - straight line allocation over 25 years or less if appropriate.

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, the components are depreciated separately.

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this 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 previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

The criteria, which must be satisfied for assets to be classified as held for sale are:-

- The asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject only to terms that are usual or customary for sales of such assets.
- The sale must be highly probable.
- The appropriate level of management must be committed to a plan to sell the asset.
- An active programme to locate a buyer and complete the plan must have been initiated.
- The asset must be marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to the current value.
- The sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year from the date of classification as held for sale.

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 in excess of £6,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to 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). 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.

Movements on Balances 2022/2023:

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding Infrastructure Assets)	Infrastructure Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2022	73,030,185	8,327,404	2,327,640	1,092,604	84,777,833	959,118	85,736,951
Additions	2,261,274	2,071,374	363,633	12,000	4,708,281	132,158	4,840,439
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	(1,678,698)	(89,507)	-	-	(1,768,205)	-	(1,768,205)
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	10,270,279	(24,917)	-	-	10,245,362	-	10,245,362
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,209,304	32,534	-	-	1,241,838	-	1,241,838
Derecognition – Disposals	(421,890)	-	-	(12,000)	(433,890)	-	(433,890)
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	84,670,454	10,316,888	2,691,273	1,092,604	98,771,219	1,091,276	99,862,495
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2022	(1,678,698)	(609,206)	(1,761,824)	(108,444)	(4,158,172)	(560,154)	(4,718,326)
Depreciation charge	(1,948,246)	(226,399)	(216,441)	-	(2,391,086)	(43,883)	(2,434,969)
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	1,678,698	89,507	-	-	1,768,205	-	1,768,205
Impairment Losses/(Reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment Losses/(Reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition – Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Movements in Depreciation and Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	(1,948,246)	(746,098)	(1,978,265)	(108,444)	(4,781,053)	(604,037)	(5,385,090)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2023	82,722,208	9,570,790	713,008	984,160	93,990,166	487,239	94,477,405
At 31 March 2022	71,351,488	7,718,197	565,816	984,160	80,619,661	398,964	81,018,625

Movements on Balances 2021/2022:

	Council Dwellings	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Community Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding Infrastructure Assets)	Infrastructure Assets	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2021	70,436,087	8,320,156	2,014,446	1,090,618	81,861,307	807,009	82,668,316
Additions	1,693,875	3,913	313,193	1,986	2,012,967	152,109	2,165,076
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	(1,627,900)	(292,655)	-	-	(1,920,555)	-	(1,920,555)
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	254,065	-	-	254,065	-	254,065
Revaluation Increases/(Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,171,004	41,925	-	-	3,212,929	-	3,212,929
Derecognition – Disposals	(642,880)	-	-	-	(642,880)	-	(642,880)
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	73,030,186	8,327,404	2,327,693	1,092,604	84,777,833	959,118	85,736,951
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2021	(1,627,900)	(693,620)	(1,571,900)	(108,444)	(4,001,864)	(525,081)	(4,526,945)
Depreciation charge	(1,678,779)	(208,242)	(189,923)	-	(2,076,944)	(35,073)	(2,112,017)
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment written out to GCA	1,627,900	292,655	-	-	1,920,555	-	1,920,555
Impairment Losses/ (Reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment Losses/ (Reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition – Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Movements in Depreciation and Impairment	81	-	-	-	81	-	81
At 31 March 2022	(1,678,698)	(609,207)	(1,978,265)	(108,444)	(4,158,172)	(560,154)	(4,718,326)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2022	71,351,488	7,718,197	565,816	984,160	80,619,661	398,964	81,018,625
At 31 March 2021	68,808,187	7,626,536	442,546	982,174	77,859,443	281,928	78,141,371

Infrastructure Assets

In November 2022, CIPFA issued an Update on the 2021/22 (and 2022/23) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This Update allows for the movement between the opening and closing balance of infrastructure assets to be presented on a net book value (rather than gross cost/ accumulated depreciation) basis for a temporary period up to and including 2024/25, in recognition that authorities do not typically hold sufficiently granular detail regarding historical expenditure on their infrastructure assets in order to accurately account for derecognitions on a gross basis.

Furthermore, an amendment to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations was also laid in November 2022 which permits local authorities, when they replace a component of an infrastructure asset, to determine the carrying amount to be derecognised in respect of that replaced component as nil. This statutory override also applies up to and including 2024/25. Richmondshire District Council has made this determination in respect of its 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

Infrastructure assets have therefore been excluded from the previous tables which analyse the movement on Property, Plant and Equipment on a gross book value / accumulated depreciation basis. The movement on infrastructure assets is instead presented in the following note, along with a reconciliation to total Property, Plant and Equipment as reported on the Balance Sheet and elsewhere in these financial statements.

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
	Net book value (modified historic cost)	
281,928	Balance at start of the year	398,964
152,109	Additions	132,158
-	Derecognition	-
(35,073)	Depreciation	(43,883)
398,964	Balance at end of the year	487,239

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2023, the Council has a number of contracts for the enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2023/24 and future years budgeted to cost approximately £1.1 million. Similar commitments at 31 March 2022 were £1.1 million. This major ongoing commitment is in relation to the Councils Maintenance and Improvement Partnership for the maintenance and improvement of the Councils housing stock.

13. Investment Properties

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arms-length. 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 £6,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
1,048,000	Balance at start of the year	1,028,500
-	Addition	-
(19,500)	Net gains/(losses) from fair value adjustments	1,090,000
1,028,500	Balance at end of the year	2,118,500

The investment properties held by the Council are mainly tracts of land.

All of the Council's investment properties meet the definition of a level 3 asset under IFRS 13 which means they have significant unobservable inputs.

14. Intangible Assets

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible assets held by the Council meet this criteria, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £6,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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 both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are:

Finite Useful Life	Other Assets
5 years	All software

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The amortisation of £180,147 charged to revenue in 2022/2023 was charged mainly to the Technology Services cost centre. It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

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

	2021/2022 Software £	2022/2023 Software £
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	1,631,658	1,717,097
Accumulated amortisation	(1,314,434)	1,717,097
Net carrying amount at start of year	317,224	3,434,194
Additions:		
Purchases	85,439	127,644
Reversals of past impairment losses written back to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services		
Amortisation for the period	(154,618)	(180,147)
Net carrying amount at end of year	248,045	3,381,691
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	1,717,097	1,844,741
Accumulated amortisation	(1,469,052)	(1,649,199)
	248,045	195,542

There are no intangible assets that are individually material to the Statement of Accounts:

15. Financial Instruments

a. Accounting Policies

Financial Liabilities

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

For 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 retrospectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new 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 classified into two types:

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

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the 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 loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Council has made a number of loans to Parish Councils and voluntary organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). During 2019/20 Richmondshire District Council made a loan of £40,000 to the Hanson Sports and Social Club in Colburn. At the 31 March 2023 in line with the repayment schedule there was no balance outstanding

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service or the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

Any gains or 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.

The Council measures some of its investment properties at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

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

The 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 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 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
- Level 3 - unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

b. Categories of Financial Instruments

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

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Long Term £	Current £		Long Term £	Current £
-	25,900,000	Loans and receivables	-	11,560,000
-	25,900,000	Total Investments	-	11,560,000
-	5,939,183	Loans and receivables	-	3,208,588
-	5,939,183	Total Debtors	-	3,208,588
-	(10,691,067)	Financial liabilities carried at contract cost	-	(3,810,495)
-	(10,691,067)	Total Creditors	-	(3,810,495)
(12,641,284)	(1,111,566)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(11,500,967)	(1,140,317)
(12,641,284)	(1,111,566)	Total Borrowing	(11,500,967)	(1,140,317)

c. Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2021/2022				2022/2023			
	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets		Total	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets		Total
		Loans and Receivables	Available-For-Sale-Assets			Loans and Receivables	Available-For-Sale-Assets	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Interest Expense	400,987	-	-	400,987	370,852	-	-	370,852
Total Expense in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	400,987	-	-	400,987	370,852	-	-	370,852
Interest Income	-	(62,333)	-	(62,333)	-	(418,963)	-	(418,963)
Total income in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(62,333)	-	(62,333)	-	(418,963)	-	(418,963)
Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year	400,987	(62,333)	-	338,654	370,852	(418,963)	-	(48,111)

d. Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost.

Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Estimated interest rates at 31 March 2023 of 4.29% to 4.61% for loans from the PWLB
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
Carrying amount	Fair Value		Carrying amount	Fair Value
£	£		£	£
(13,752,850)	(14,529,514)	Financial Liabilities	(12,641,284)	(11,787,423)

The fair value of the liabilities is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. The commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Council would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans.

Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £11.791m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions at the Balance Sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measure the additional interest that the Council will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

However, the Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. A supplementary measure of the reduced interest that the Council will pay as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £11.791m would be valued at £12.641m. But, if the Council were to seek to avoid the projected loss by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to charging a premium for the additional interest that will not now be paid. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £12.451m.

16. Short –Term Debtors

31 March 2022 £		31 March 2023 £
2,111,382	Central Government Bodies	1,097,974
2,583,234	Other Local Authorities	862,987
1,898,242	Other Entities and Individuals	1,585,200
6,592,858		3,546,161
(729,638)	Provision for Doubtful Debts (see below)	(822,664)
5,863,220	TOTAL	2,723,497
	The provision for bad debts is made up as follows:	
(164,593)	Collection Fund	(166,383)
(270,685)	Sundry Debtors	(339,985)
(294,360)	Housing Rents	(316,296)
(729,638)	TOTAL	(822,664)
	The movement on the provision for bad debts is as follows:	
(841,346)	Balance as at 1 April	(729,637)
136,814	Write Offs During the Year	153,178
(25,106)	Amounts Charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and the Collection Fund	(246,205)
(729,638)	TOTAL	(822,664)

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

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.

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

31 March 2022 £		31 March 2023 £
1,840	Cash held by the Council	1,840
(314,350)	Bank current accounts	773,878
14,900,000	Short-term deposits with building societies	11,560,000
14,587,490	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,335,718

18. Assets Held for Sale

Available-for-sale assets 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. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets are maintained on the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following principles:

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

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised within the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Financial Instruments. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred - these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain/loss for the asset accumulated in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

We currently do not hold any Assets that would be classified as an Asset Held for Sale.

19. Short-Term Creditors

31 March 2022 £		31 March 2023 £
(5,809,286)	Central Government Bodies	(1,520,188)
(3,094,481)	Other Local Authorities	(854,213)
(1,787,300)	Other Entities and Individuals	(1,436,094)
(10,691,067)	Total	(3,810,495)

20. Provisions

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

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

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision set up 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.

As a result of the localisation of Business Rates with effect from 1 April 2013, the Council makes provision for the potential costs of successful appeals against Business Rates which could result in reductions in rateable values and a reduction in rates collectable. The balance of this provision at 31 March 2023 was £718,825 (31 March 2022 was £2,382,126).

The Council's proportion of the appeals provision as at 31 March 2023 is £287,529 (31 March 2022 is £952,850)

The Council has no substantial legal cases in progress and therefore no further provision has been made in the Statement of Accounts for any such costs, employee related or otherwise (2021/2022 there was nil with none known).

21. Unusable Reserves

Non-distributable reserves or Unusable Reserves include the Revaluation Reserve and the Capital Adjustment Account and represent “technical non-cash” reserves which are maintained to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets. The Pension Reserve is a reserve which has been set up to manage the accounting process for retirement benefits and does not represent usable resources for the Council. These reserves do not impact upon the level of local taxation and are not able to be utilised in support of service delivery.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
(4,705,864)	Revaluation Reserve	(14,491,570)
(60,173,412)	Capital Adjustment Account	(66,151,459)
8,748,000	Pensions Reserve	49,000
1,465,191	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	635,464
142,268	Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account	128,012
(54,523,817)	Total Unusable Reserves	(79,830,553)

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.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
(4,561,677)	Balance at 1 April	(4,705,864)
-	Adjustment to opening balance	-
(4,561,677)	Adjusted balance at 1 April	(4,705,864)
(295,990)	(Upward)/Downward revaluation of assets	(10,277,896)
41,925	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	32,535
(254,065)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(10,245,361)
109,878	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	409,701
-	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	49,954
109,878	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	459,655
(4,705,864)	Balance at 31 March	(14,491,570)

Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account 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.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
(56,287,018)	Balance at 1 April	(60,173,412)
	<u>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES):</u>	
(109,878)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(409,701)
2,112,017	Charge for depreciation & impairment non current assets	2,434,969
(3,212,929)	Revaluation losses/(gains) on Property, Plant & Equipment	(1,253,839)
154,618	Amortisation of intangible assets	180,147
391,949	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	532,611
642,799	Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	383,937
(56,308,442)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(58,305,288)
	<u>Capital financing applied in the year:</u>	
(50,000)	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(60,000)
(1,615,875)	Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(2,177,074)
(205,031)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(353,479)
(1,242,005)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(1,267,477)
(771,559)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(2,898,141)
(60,192,912)		(65,061,459)
19,500	<u>Movement in market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>	(1,090,000)
(60,173,412)	Balance at 31 March	(66,151,459)

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

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
12,230,000	Balance at 1 April	8,748,000
(5,185,000)	Actuarial (gains) or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	(10,354,000)
2,748,000	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	2,653,000
(1,045,000)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(998,000)
8,748,000	Balance at 31 March	49,000

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
2,851,519	Balance at 1 April	1,465,191
	Amount by which council tax income 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:-	
(65,628)	Council Tax	(65,874)
(1,320,700)	Non Domestic Rates	(763,853)
1,465,191	Balance at 31 March	635,464

Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as salaries and wages, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits for current employees and as far as practicable will be recognised in the year in which the service is rendered by the employees to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the salary and wages rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to the General

Fund and Housing Revenue Account in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs. The calculation for this will be reviewed every three years.

The Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March 2023. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
206,170	Balance at 1 April	142,268
	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	
(63,902)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(14,256)
(63,902)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(14,256)
142,268	Balance at 31 March	128,012

22. Cash Flow Statement – Adjustments to Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services for Non Cash Movements

The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following:

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
(2,112,017)	Depreciation	(2,434,969)
-	Impairment & Downward Revaluations	-
(154,618)	Amortisation	(180,147)
412,923	(Increase)/Decrease in Provisions	572,295
(715,170)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	6,880,572
(3,037,223)	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	(3,046,697)
(2,662,926)	Movement in Other Current Liabilities	6,343,789
(205)	Increase/(Decrease) in Inventories	(10,042)
(1,703,000)	Movement in Pension Liability	(1,655,000)
(493,987)	Carrying Amount of Non-Current Assets Sold	(433,890)
(19,500)	Movement in value of Investment Property	1,090,000
3,422,859	Other Non Cash Items Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,614,991
(7,062,864)	Total	8,740,902

23. Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment for Items that are Investing and Financing Activities

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

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
809,940	Reversal of Capital Receipts to Investing Activities	383,952
-	Reversal of Other Receipts to Financing Activities	-
(2,128,614)	Reversal of Other Payments to Financing Activities	(1,907,833)
(4,202)	Reversal of Finance Lease Repayments to Financing Activities	(4,480)
(1,322,876)	Total	(1,528,361)

24. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2021/2022 £		2021/2022 £
2,250,515	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	4,956,083
5,000,000	Purchase of Short and Long Term Investments	(11,000,000)
(809,940)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(383,952)
(308,908)	Other receipts from investing activities	(308,908)
6,131,667	Net cash (inflow)/outflow from investing activities	(6,736,777)

25. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
2,128,614	Other payments from Financing Activities	1,907,833
4,202	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases	4,480
1,215,300	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	1,111,566
3,348,116	Net cash (inflow)/outflow from financing activities	3,023,879

26. Members' Allowances

The total of members' allowances and expenses paid in the year was £100,825 (£94,470 in 2021/2022).

27. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

2022/2023	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Bonuses	Expenses Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contribution	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	110,612		166	86,124	18,880	215,782
Corporate Director – Resources	83,777		69		14,806	98,652
Corporate Director – Operations	83,777		75		14,806	98,658
Corporate Director – Strategy	83,777		441		14,806	99,024

2021/2022	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Bonuses	Expenses Allowances*	Compensation for Loss of Office	Pension Contribution	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	104,996		47		21,095	126,138
Corporate Director – Resources	77,044		76		15,409	92,529
Corporate Director – Operations	77,044		85		15,409	92,538
Corporate Director – Strategy	77,044		151		15,409	92,604

Termination Benefits/Exit Packages

Termination Benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the authority 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 benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but un-paid at the year end.

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.

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

(a)	(b)		(c)		(d)		(e)	
	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band [(b)+(c)]		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/23	2022/23
£0-£20,000	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	4,202
£20,001 - £40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£40,001 - £60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	90,523
Total cost included in bandings and CIES							-	94,725

The total cost of £94,725 in the table above is the amount included for exit packages that have been charged to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

28. 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:

	2021/2022 £	2022/2023 £
Fees payable to Ernst & Young with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	29,734	38,563
Fees payable to Ernst & Young with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the prior year.	-	-
Fees payable to Meritec for supporting Ernst & Young for the certification of statutory returns	12,000	12,800
Fees payable to Ernst & Young for additional procedure in relation to 2019/20 audit	13,250	7,500
Fees payable to Ernst & Young for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	11,750	25,000
Fees payable to Veritau for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	798	554
Total	67,532	84,417

29. Grant Income

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 benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as 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 (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 to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2022/2023:

	2021/2022	2022/2023
	£	£
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
National Non Domestic Rates Pool	(2,336,713)	(2,338,786)
Revenue Support Grant / Rural Services Delivery Grant	(379,755)	(379,994)
Lower Tier Services Grant	(84,282)	(172,514)
Total	(2,800,750)	(2,891,294)
Credited to Net Cost of Services		
Other Capital Grants (Disabled Facilities Grant)	(308,908)	(308,908)
New Homes Bonus (includes Top Slice)	(171,407)	(195,124)
Individual Electoral Registration	(2,570)	-
BR Reliefs NB & Licences	-	(33,487)
CTax Rebates Final Assessment NB	-	(77,996)
Various small grants	(12,927)	(31,860)
DWP – Verify Earnings and Pensions (VEP)	(6,000)	(6,000)
DWP – Housing Benefits	(4,960,840)	(4,799,522)
DWP – Discretionary Housing Payment	(130,557)	(114,649)
DWP – Kickstart	(102,197)	(14,957)
DLUHC – CT Energy Rebate Scheme	-	(2,265,000)
DLUHC – CT Energy New Burdens	-	(29,964)
DLUHC – Cost of Collection Administration Grant	(38,960)	(36,396)
DLUHC – CT TIG Scheme	(39,320)	-
DLUHC – NNDR TIG Scheme	(152,835)	-
DLUHC – Council Tax Discount for Family Annexes	(12,459)	(14,894)
DLUHC – Transparency Grant	(8,103)	(8,103)
DLUHC – Local Land Charges New Burdens	-	(11,098)
DLUHC – Homelessness	(202,479)	(226,100)
DLUHC – Levelling Up	(125,000)	-
DLUHC – Various small grants	(3,499)	-
LGA – Cyber Security Programme	(100,000)	(5,000)
WRAP – Bin-frastructure	(25,000)	-
Redmond Review	(15,328)	(16,903)
Apprentice Scheme	(9,000)	(2,000)
HM Land Registry	-	(72,000)
Changing Places Toilets	-	(39,200)
Community Renewal Fund	-	(87,899)
English Sports Council	(3,364)	-

	(2,039,685)	(85,276)
Total	(8,470,438)	(8,482,336)

	2021/2022 £	2022/2023 £
Covid Grants Credited to Net Cost of Services		
- New burdens grants	(366,251)	(55,606)
- DLUHC - CARF	(631,864)	-
- BEIS Omicron ARG (Principal)	(607,031)	(9,818)
- COMF	(58,620)	-
- LA Support Grant	(227,151)	-
Test and Trace		
- Main scheme (Principal)	(84,000)	(19,852)
- Council Tax hardship relief	(64,768)	-
Total	(2,039,685)	(85,276)
Covid Grants acting as Agent		
-SBRR/RHL, LRSG and CSP (Agent)	(12,288,393)	-
-Test & Trace Discretionary Scheme (Agent)	(126,000)	-
Total	(12,414,393)	(85,276)

Income was received from a number of covid grant schemes for which the actual value spent was less than the grant received. It is expected that this grant will be returned to central government in due course and these grants have been held within revenue grants received in advance. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

31 March 2022 £	Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	31 March 2023 £
(2,835,592)	Local Restrictions Support Grants – various schemes	-
(1,511,517)	Omicron	-
(11,000)	Test and Trace Grants	-
(2,288,850)	CT Energy Rebate Scheme	(23,850)
-	BEIS Energy Bills Support Scheme	(192,320)
-	BEIS Alternative Fuel Payments Grant	(87,000)
(6,646,959)	Total	(303,170)

The Council has received a number of 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 to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

31 March 2022 £	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	31 March 2023 £
(11,637)	Individual Electoral Registration	(11,638)
(264,239)	Disabled Facilities Grant	(219,668)
(4,553)	Redeemed Home Improvement Loan	(4,553)
(3,194)	Town Team Funding	-
(283,623)	Total	(235,859)

30. 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 the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g., council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 29 on reporting for resources allocation decisions. Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March 23 are shown in Note 29.

North Yorkshire Pension Fund

Details of the Council’s payment of employer’s superannuation contribution to the pension fund are disclosed in Note 34 to the Statement of Accounts. Details of the Pension Fund creditors can also be found in Note 34 to the Statement of Accounts.

Veritau North Yorkshire Limited

The Council owned a 12.5% share in Veritau North Yorkshire Limited at the start of the current year. The Council’s Section 151 Officer sits on the company’s board of directors. The principal activities of the company are the provision of internal audit, counter fraud and information governance services to the authorities within North Yorkshire. In 2022/23 Richmondshire District Council paid the company £90,579 (exc VAT) for these services in year. There was nothing outstanding at the year end.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council’s financial and operating policies. The total of members’ allowances paid in 2022/2023 is shown in Note 26. During 2022/2023 there were £336,414.90 material transactions that took place with organisations in which Members have an interest.

Councillor	Organisation	Relationship	Expenditure in year 2022/2023	Transaction
Cllr H Grant	Colburn Village Hall Warm Hub / Colburn Village Hall / Colburn Hub and Café	Trustee/ Director	7,078	Community Funding
Cllr A Dale	Colburn Village Hall / Colburn Hub & Café	Trustee/Director	7,078	Community Funding
Cllr L Hodgson	Scotton Parish Council / Richmond Duck Club / Colburn Hub and Café / Richmond Town Council	Parish Clerk / Volunteer / Town Councillor	21,277	Community Funding, Warm Spaces Fund and Area Partnership
Cllr Y Peacock	Upper Dales Community Partnership / Upper Dales Community Land Trust / Yorbridge Sports Development Association	Volunteer	283,373	Community Funding and Area Partnership
Cllr C World	Richmond Town Council / MayFest / Dementia Forward	Town Councillor / Trustee / Volunteer	24,686	Community Funding, Warm Spaces Fund and Area Partnership

In 2021/2022 there was no material transactions

Mercury Housing Company Limited

The Council holds long term investments in the Mercury Housing Co Ltd as follows:

	Shareholding	
	%	£'000
Mercury Housing Co Ltd	100.00	-

This company was established on 9 January 2015, with ownership by shares. The company is currently dormant, having had no trading activities since its creation. As a result the Council has not prepared Consolidated Accounts to include The Mercury Housing Co Ltd.

Richmondshire Leisure Trust (RLT)

The Council is in partnership with Richmondshire Leisure Trust (RLT) for the delivery of Leisure Services in the District by RLT. This arrangement for delivery of services is through the use of jointly controlled assets. The leader of the Council is the Council's representative on the Board of RLT.

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other ventures that involve the use of assets of the venture's rather than the establishment of a separate entity.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant and equipment that are jointly controlled by the Council and other venturers (RLT), with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the venturers (RLT). The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Council accounts for only its share of the jointly controlled assets and the liabilities and expenses it incurs on its own behalf in respect of its interest in the venture.

31. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2021/2022	2022/2023		Total £
	Total £	HRA £	GF £	
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	18,549,556	15,082,775	2,224,775	17,307,550
Capital Investment	-	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,165,076	2,261,274	2,567,165	4,828,439
Investment Properties	-	-	-	-
Intangible Assets	85,439	-	127,644	127,644
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	391,949	-	532,611	532,611
Finance Lease Transactions	-	-	-	-
Sources of Finance				
Capital Receipts	(50,000)	(50,000)	(10,000)	(60,000)
Government grants and other contributions	(205,031)	-	(353,479)	(353,479)
Sums set aside from Revenue	(1,083,540)	(1,111,566)	-	(1,111,566)
Direct Revenue Contributions	(771,559)	(34,200)	(2,863,941)	(2,898,141)
Major Repairs Allowance	(1,615,875)	(2,177,074)	-	(2,177,074)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(154,263)	-	(151,431)	(151,431)
Additional Revenue Provision	(4,202)	-	(4,480)	(4,480)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	17,307,550	13,971,209	2,068,864	16,040,073
Explanation of movements in year				
Provision for Repayment of Debt	(1,242,005)	(1,111,566)	(155,911)	(1,267,477)
Assets acquired under finance leases	-	-	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(1,242,005)	(1,111,566)	(155,911)	(1,267,477)

32. Leases

Leases are classed 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 or 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 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 to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expense in the periods in which they are incurred.

The Council currently has no material finance leases.

Operating Leases

Leases that do not meet the definition of finance leases are accounted for as operating leases. Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council has a number of vehicles it leases. The Council also leases Leyburn Community Office on a short-term lease, which has been accounted for as Operating Leases.

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

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
149,756	Not later than one year	-
-	Later than one year and not later than five years	-
-	Later than five years	-
149,756		-

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

2021/2022		2022/2023
£		£
355,668	Minimum lease payments	345,783
-	Contingent rents	-
355,668		345,783

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. 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.

The Council has granted a 20 year operating lease to Richmondshire Leisure Trust for Richmond Swimming Pool, for an annual rent of one peppercorn, if requested. This lease will enable Richmondshire Leisure Trust to provide leisure facilities to the district. The Swimming Pool has been revalued as a result of the lease, and the carrying value of the asset has been adjusted in the balance sheet. No other entries have taken place in the accounts.

The net value of the swimming pool as at 31 March 2023 is £3,537,249 with a Gross cost of £3,742,091 and accumulated depreciation of £204,842.

33. Impairment Losses

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting requires disclosure by class of assets of the amounts for impairment losses and impairment reversals charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. These disclosures are consolidated in Notes 12 and 14 reconciling the movement over the year in the Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Asset balances.

34. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the costs 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, which is administered by North Yorkshire County Council's Pension Fund. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement – this is an unfunded benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The North Yorkshire County Council's pension 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 North Yorkshire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pension Fund Regulations. The investment managers of the fund are appointed by the committee and consist of the Strategic Director - Resources of North Yorkshire County Council and AON Hewitt Ltd.

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.

Post Employment Benefit

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

- The liabilities of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund 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, using a discount rate of 4.7% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond [iBoxx Sterling AA corporate bond]).
- The assets of the North Yorkshire 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
 - Property – market value

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into a number of 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 revenue accounts of services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Net Cost of Services in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability / (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability / (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability / (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in the net interest on the net defined benefit liability / (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - Contributions paid to the North Yorkshire Local Government Pension Fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are actually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in the 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.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
<i>Service Cost Comprising:</i>		
• Current service cost	2,476	2,368
• Past service costs	-	29
• (Gain)/loss from settlements	-	-
• Curtailments	-	-
• Administration expenses	26	34
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
• Net interest expense	246	222
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,748	2,653
Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
<i>Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:</i>		
• Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	90	8,379
• Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(773)	633
• Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(4,746)	(22,842)
• Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in liability experience	244	3,476
• Other (gains) and losses	-	-
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(5,185)	(10,354)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
• Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(2,748)	(2,653)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
• Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	1,045	998

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the actuarial gains and losses on pensions assets and liabilities line was at 31 March 2023 a gain of £10,354,000 and at 31 March 2022 a gain of £5,185,000.

The net pensions liability was based on the 2022 actuarial valuation. It includes a share of the overall Pension Fund investment assets. The assumptions made to calculate the net liability are affected by a multitude of factors. One such assumption, the discount rate, has seen a significant increase over the year, which has led to an apparent accounting surplus result for the Council as at 31 March 2023. However, further calculations carried out by the Pension Fund’s actuary indicated that it is unclear that the surplus can be recognised under IAS 19 (paragraph 8 & 64) in this case. The Council has therefore adopted a prudent approach to limit the asset (asset ceiling) and restrict the surplus recognition to nil.”

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	76,517	60,262
Fair value of plan assets	(67,769)	(60,213)
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	8,748	49

Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of the Scheme (Plan) Assets

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	67,025	67,769
Interest income	1,402	1,817
Remeasurement gain/(loss):		
• The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(90)	(8,379)
• Other	-	-
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	-	-
Contributions from employer	1,045	998
Contributions from employees into the scheme	338	364
Benefits Paid	(1,951)	(2,356)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	67,769	60,213

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligation)

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	79,255	76,517
Current service cost	2,476	2,368
Interest cost	1,648	2,039
Contributions from scheme participants	338	364
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:		
• Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(773)	633
• Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(4,746)	(22,842)
• Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in liability experience	244	3,476
• Other	26	34
Past service cost	-	29
Losses / (Gains) on curtailment	-	-
Liabilities assumed on entity combinations	-	-
Benefits paid	(1,951)	(2,356)
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		
Closing balance at 31 March	76,517	60,262

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Fair value of scheme assets (a)	
	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	745	843
Bonds:		
<i>By sector</i>		
• Corporate	5,218	4,335
• Government	11,385	6,623
Sub-total bonds	16,603	10,958
Property:		
<i>By type</i>		
• Retail	-	-
• Commercial	5,015	3,854
• Residential	-	-
Sub-total property	5,015	3,854
Private equity:		
• UK	37,748	31,372
• Overseas	-	-
Sub-total private equity	37,748	31,372
Other investment funds:		
• Infrastructure	-	-
• Property	7,658	9,995
Sub-total other investment funds	7,658	9,995
• Multi Asset Credit	-	3,191
Total Assets	67,769	60,213

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.

Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by AON Hewitt Ltd, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2023.

The significant assumptions used by the actuaries have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2022/23
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
• Men	21.8 yrs	22.6 yrs
• Women	23.8 yrs	25.0 yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
• Men	23.5 yrs	23.5 yrs
• Women	25.7 yrs	26.0 yrs
Rate of inflation	3.0%	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.25%	3.95%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.0%	2.7%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7%	4.7%

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 inter-related. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected 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.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme £000
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	1,490
Rate of increase to pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	787
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	56
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	843

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 27 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on the 31 March 2022.

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 31 March 2015 (or service after 31 March 2016 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). 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 estimates it will pay £1,086,000 expected contributions to the scheme in 2023/2024.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 15.3 years 2022/2023 (19.1 years 2021/2022).

35. 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 below.

At 31 March 2023, the Council had one material contingent liabilities:

- During 2005/2006 a number of staff were TUPE (*) transferred from Richmondshire District Council to Richmondshire Leisure Trust. Part of the agreement was that the pension deficit relating to these staff was also transferred to Richmondshire Leisure Trust. Richmondshire Leisure Trust were admitted to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund provided that Richmondshire District Council acted as guarantor with regard to the pension liability. In the event of Richmondshire Leisure Trust ceasing to exist, any liability on the Pension Fund relating to Richmondshire Leisure Trust staff will be transferred back to Richmondshire District Council.

In the event of the liability being transferred back to Richmondshire District Council, there would be no requirement for an immediate payment of this amount. The liability would need to be recovered over a number of years by increasing the employer's contributions to the Pension Fund.

(* TUPE stands for Transfer Undertakings Protection of Employment)

36. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have the funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- Market risk – The possibility that financial loss may arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central finance team, under policies approved by the Council. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and other financial institutions. The Council annually approves a Treasury Management Strategy which, for 2022/23, determined that deposits with an individual institution would be limited to 50% of total investments or £9m per counterparty whichever is the lower. This limits the amount of credit risk exposure.

In addition the Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by LINK Treasury Services. This service has been progressively enhanced and now uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moodys and Standard and Poors, forming the core element. However, it does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays: -

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

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches, credit outlooks and CDS spreads in a weighted scoring system for which the end product is a series of bands, which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These bands, in turn, are used by the Council to determine the duration for investments and are therefore referred to as “durational bands”.

The maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies is difficult to assess, as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to that individual institution. The expected credit loss values provided by LINK show the risk of default is very low for the institutions that the Council regularly invests with and that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all the Council’s deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2023 that this was likely to crystallise and at the expected loss values, the loss would not be material. Deposit protection arrangements will limit any losses that might arise to a minimum.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £355,461 of the £494,228 balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£	£
Less than one month	107,099	143,432
One to two months	45,448	74,012
Two to three months	2,365	1,317
More than three months	190,486	136,700
	345,398	355,461

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cashflow management process that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The strategy is to ensure that not more than 50% of loans are due to mature within any rolling three year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	2021/2022	2022/2023
	£	£
Less than one year	1,111,566	1,140,318
Between one and two years	1,140,318	1,169,811
Between two and five years	3,600,988	3,694,128
More than five years	7,899,978	6,637,027
	13,752,850	12,641,284

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

Market Risk

Interest rate risk

The Council is exposed to significant 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 Council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall

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

During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. The risk of loss is ameliorated by the fact that a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the Council's cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of higher costs.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether the new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2023, if all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

2021/22		2022/23
£		£
(296,800)	Total Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(248,200)
(25,200)	Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	(22,970)

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

The 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 regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the HRA Statement.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £	£
	Expenditure		
2,200,832	Repairs and maintenance	2,125,713	
1,547,180	Supervision and management	1,635,653	
54,040	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	46,292	
(1,575,016)	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	771,014	
54,436	Movement in the allowance for bad debt provision	41,737	
2,281,472	Total Expenditure		4,620,409
	Income		
(6,035,778)	Dwelling rents	(6,250,667)	
(124,602)	Non-dwelling rents	(134,599)	
(25,306)	Contributions towards expenditure	(47,551)	
(325,163)	Charges for services and facilities	(361,341)	
(6,510,849)	Total Income		(6,794,158)
(4,229,377)	Net Expenditure or (Income) for HRA Services		(2,173,749)
18,160	HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core	20,659	
18,160	Net cost of services not allocated to specific services		20,659
(4,211,217)	Net Expenditure or (Income) for HRA Services as included in the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(2,153,090)
	HRA share of operating income and expenditure included in the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
(315,953)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	47,090	
373,630	Interest payable and similar charges	385,212	
-	Amortisation of premiums and discounts	-	
(5,285)	Interest and investment income	(38,769)	
44,526	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	38,628	
(4,114,299)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services		(1,720,929)

MOVEMENT ON THE HRA STATEMENT

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
(1,274,369)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	(999,330)
(3,870,757)	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,720,929)
4,145,796	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	1,988,968
275,039	Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to or from reserves	268,039
-	Transfer to/(from) earmarked reserves	-
275,039	Increase or (decrease) in year on HRA	268,039
(999,330)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	(731,291)

NOTE TO THE MOVEMENT ON THE HRA STATEMENT

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
	Items included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but excluded from the movement on the HRA Balance for the year	
14,538	Accumulated Absences Accrual adjustment	3,538
3,317,007	Transfers to or (from) Capital Adjustment Account	1,209,304
315,953	Gain or (loss) on sale of HRA fixed assets	(47,090)
(302,175)	Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	(279,965)
3,345,323		885,787
	Items not included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but included in the movement on HRA Balance for the year	
(8,385)	Transfers to or (from) Major Repairs Reserve	(8,385)
-	Transfers to or (from) Housing Repairs Account	-
-	Transfers to or (from) other housing reserves	-
-	Employer's contributions payable to the North Yorkshire Local Government Pension Fund and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	-
1,083,540	Voluntary set aside for debt repayment	1,111,566
-	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	-
1,075,155		1,103,181
4,420,478	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA Balance for the year	1,988,968

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT NOTES

1. Analysis of Gross Rental Income

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
(6,148,781)	Dwellings	(6,355,747)
113,003	Less Voids	105,080
(6,035,778)		(6,250,667)
(114,932)	Garages	(123,624)
(9,250)	Shops	(6,060)
(420)	Other	(3,315)
(6,160,380)		(6,383,666)
(270,871)	Add Income from Welfare Charges	(283,408)
(54,292)	Other Charges/Income	(77,932)
(6,485,543)		(6,745,006)

2. Rent Arrears

2021/2022 £	Arrears as at 31 March	2022/2023 £
224,511	Current Tenant Arrears	230,321
120,908	Former Tenant Arrears	136,976
345,419		367,297

The gross arrears outstanding of rents and service charges are shown above.

In addition, Court Fees were introduced to the rent control in 2019/20. Arrears for court debt at end of 2022/23 is £22,667 (£14,786 in 21/22)

During the year 2022/2023 all rent arrears as a proportion of gross rent and charges due was 5.52% (5.38% in 2021/2022).

The provision for Bad Debts as at 31st March 2023 was £316,296 (£294,360 as at 31st March 2022). This includes a £10,170 provision for outstanding court fees.

An amount of £15,349 was written off during the year 2022/23 (£18,693 in 2021/2022). This included no court fees arrears (£435 in 2021/22)

3. Housing Stock & Valuation

A summary of the Council's housing stock is as follows:-

Stock as at 31 March 2022	Sales / Demolitions in 2021/2022		Stock as at 31 March 2023	Sales / Demolitions in 2022/2023
638	11	DWELLINGS	633	5
353	3	Houses	352	1
402	-	Flats	402	-
85	-	Bungalows	83	2
1,478	14	Total Dwellings	1,470	8
310	-	OTHER HRA	310	-
4	-	Garages	4	-
2	-	Shops	2	-
316	-	Land (sites)	316	-
£'000		ASSET VALUATION	£'000	
71,979		Housing Stock	82,831	
534		Garages	515	
1		Community Assets	1	
150		Other HRA	146	
72,664			83,493	

As at 31 March 2022 £	Balance Sheet Values	As at 31 March 2023 £
684,247	Land and Property	660,560
71,979,190	Houses	82,831,070
1,334	Other Community Assets	1,334
72,664,771		83,492,964
72,664,771	Operational	83,492,964
-	Non-operational	-
72,664,771		83,492,964

In accordance with MHCLG Guidance, a full revaluation of the housing stock was undertaken during 2016/2017. This full revaluation is carried out every 5 years with desk top reviews being carried out annually in between.

4. Existing Use Value – Vacant Possession (EUV-VP)

The vacant possession value as at 1 April 2022 was £174.704m (£175.559m as at 1 April 2021). The vacant possession value is an opinion of the best sale price that could have been obtained for the property on the date of the valuation. The balance sheet valuation contains an adjustment to reflect the fact that the properties involved have sitting tenants subject to sub-market rents and statutory rights, including the right to buy. This adjustment has been an element of the valuation process for a number of years and was reviewed by DCLG and new guidance was issued in November 2016 setting a new adjustment factor for application in the 2016/17 accounts. This adjustment factor of 41%

measures the difference between market and sub-market rents. The adjusted valuation is called “Existing Use Value – Social Housing” (EUV-SH). The difference between the vacant possession value and the balance sheet value therefore shows the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than open market value.

5. Depreciation & Impairment

The following amounts were charged to the account in respect of depreciation.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
1,709,920	Houses	1,948,246
32,072	Other	32,072
1,741,992	Total	1,980,318
1,741,992	Operational	1,980,318
	Non-operational	
1,741,992	Total	1,980,318

The amount charged to the HRA as depreciation on dwellings is the annual amount calculated as for the Major Repairs Allowance, and represents the estimated annual cost of maintaining the dwelling stock in decent condition, over a 30-year life. Non-dwelling assets are depreciated over 20 years.

Housing Revenue Account Impairments charged to the Service Revenue Accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
-	Land	-
315,953	Houses	(47,090)
-	Other	-
315,953	Total	(47,090)

Impairment occurs because something has happened either to the fixed assets, or to the economic environment in which they are used. A review for impairment of a fixed asset whether carried at historical cost or valuation should be carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the fixed asset may not be recoverable.

Capital Charges

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
373,630	Interest Payable	385,212
373,630	Capital Asset Charge	385,212

The interest paid on the use of internal and external loans is included in the Housing Revenue Account Operating Account, ensuring that the HRA bears its share of the actual cost of interest paid.

The consolidated rate of interest charged in year was 2.76% (1.22% in 2021-22).

In addition to this interest charged on historic debt, the Council pays interest on a loan from the PWLB as part of the HRA Self-financing arrangements that were put in place on the 1st April 2012. The rate of interest paid on this debt is 2.57% and is fixed over the 20 year period of the loan.

7. IAS 19 Retirement Benefits

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
190,507	Direct service costs chargeable to the HRA Less Current Service Costs (IAS19)	171,818
(448,156)		(412,032)
(257,649)		(240,214)
298,288	Interest Cost	354,786
(253,762)		(316,158)
213,123		201,586
257,649		240,214
	Expected Return on Assets	
	Net appropriation reversal	

It is now a requirement to show the costs of pensions and any contributions to/from the Pensions Reserve. The HRA was charged with the employer's superannuation costs direct to each service. The net IAS 19 based costs are transferred out of the appropriation section of the Housing Revenue Account.

8. Major Repairs Reserve

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
530,262	Opening Balance 1 April	616,852
1,702,466	Transfer from CFA (equivalent to HRA depreciation)	1,971,933
-	Transfer to HRA – Depreciation on Non-Dwellings	-
(1,615,875)	Financing of Capital Expenditure in Year – Housing	(2,177,074)
616,852	Closing Balance 31 March	411,712

9. Housing Capital Receipts

Total Usable 2021/2022 £		Receipts 2022/2023		
		Total £	Pooled £	Usable £
452,295	House Sales	359,200	-	359,200
-	Discount Repaid	-	-	-
-	Mortgage Repaid	-	-	-
-	Sale of Land	-	-	-
452,295	Total	359,200	-	359,200

The total value of usable capital receipts is relatively low in comparison to the total receipt. Up until April 2012, 75% of the net capital receipt had to be pooled and paid to central government. However, from April 2012, the formula for this was revised and calculated automatically on a quarterly basis by DCLG based on the number of Right to buy sales.

6 dwellings were sold under Right to buy in 2022-23 (14 dwellings sold in 2021-22).

10. Capital Expenditure & Sources of Finance

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
	Capital Expenditure	
-	Land and Infrastructure	-
1,684,375	Houses	2,254,247
-	Other – Self Financing Arrangements	-
9,500	Other	7,026
1,693,875	Total	2,261,273
	Sources of Finance	
-	Loans (Internal)	-
1,615,875	Major Repairs Reserve	2,177,073
50,000	Capital Receipts	50,000
-	Reserves	-
28,000	Revenue Contributions	34,200
1,693,875	Total	2,261,273

On the 29th March 2012 the Government required all Authorities to “buy out” of the subsidy system by paying over an amount that they calculated to reflect future subsidy payments. Authorities were required to borrow funds to finance this unique arrangement. A 20 year fixed term loan was arranged with the PWLB and annual repayments commenced from 2012/2013.

COLLECTION FUND

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 distribution to local authorities and the Government of council tax and non-domestic rates.

Business Rates £	2021/2022 Council Tax £	Total £		Business Rates £	2022/2023 Council Tax £	Total £
	(39,842,408)	(39,842,408)	INCOME		(41,432,657)	(41,432,657)
(10,156,293)		(10,156,293)	Council Tax Receivable	(10,775,301)		(10,775,301)
160,738		160,738	Business Rates Receivable	43,046		43,046
(9,995,555)	(39,842,408)	(49,837,963)	Transitional Protection Payments	(10,732,255)	(41,432,657)	(52,164,912)
			EXPENDITURE			
			Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus/(Deficit)			
(3,456,220)		(3,456,220)	Central Government	(614,821)		(614,821)
(2,624,678)	(70,904)	(2,695,582)	Richmondshire District Council	(491,857)	(57,146)	(549,003)
(548,733)	(381,806)	(930,539)	North Yorkshire County Council	(110,668)	(308,880)	(419,548)
(66,966)	(20,355)	(87,321)	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	(12,296)	(59,850)	(72,146)
	(74,422)	(74,422)	North Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner		(16,370)	(16,370)
(6,696,597)	(547,787)	(7,244,084)		(1,229,642)	(442,246)	(1,671,888)
			Precepts, Demands and Shares			
7,022,478		7,022,478	Central Government	5,711,014		5,711,014
5,617,982	5,116,096	10,734,078	Richmondshire District Council	4,568,811	5,158,726	9,727,537
1,264,046	27,803,978	29,068,024	North Yorkshire County Council	1,027,982	29,034,352	30,062,334
140,450	1,460,889	1,601,339	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	114,220	5,561,315	5,675,535
	5,341,091	5,341,091	North Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner		1,496,090	1,496,090
14,044,956	39,722,054	53,767,010		11,422,027	41,250,483	52,672,510
			Charges to the Collection Fund			
-	-	-	Less: write offs of uncollectable amounts	-	-	-
(76,970)	161,318	84,348	Less: Increase / Decrease (-) in Bad Debt Provision	129,773	187,879	317,652
(753,037)		(753,037)	Less: Increase / Decrease (-) in Provision for Appeals	(1,663,301)		(1,663,301)
140,233		140,233	Less: Cost of Collection	101,975		101,975
-		-	Less: Disregards - Renewable	27,859		27,859
(689,774)	161,318	(528,456)		(1,403,694)	187,879	(1,215,815)
(3,336,970)	(506,523)	(3,843,493)	(Surplus)/Deficit arising during the year	(1,943,564)	(436,541)	(2,380,105)
6,884,662	1,174,131	8,058,793	(Surplus)/Deficit brought forward 1 April	3,547,692	667,608	4,215,300
3,547,692	667,608	4,215,300	(Surplus)/Deficit carried forward 31 March	1,604,128	231,067	1,835,195

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

These accounts represent the transactions of the Collection Fund which is a statutory fund prepared on an accruals basis.

1. Council Tax

The Council Tax is a property based tax with properties allocated to valuation bands A to H. The tax base for Richmondshire was calculated at 19,786.93 for 2022/23 being the total number of properties converted to an equivalent number of band D dwellings.

The average Council Tax for Richmondshire at Band D was £2,049.02 made up as follows:

2021/2022 £		2022/2023 £
225.00	Richmondshire District Council	225.00
1,411.05	North Yorkshire County Council	1,467.35
271.06	North Yorkshire Police Authority	281.06
74.14	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	75.61
1,981.25	TOTAL	2,049.02

2. Business Rates (BR)

Business Rates are collected locally on the basis of a nationally determined rate in the pound of 51.2p for 2022/2023 for all Businesses not entitled to Small Business Rate Relief and 49.9p for those that are entitled to the relief (51.2p and 49.9p in 2021/22), charged on the rateable value of the property. Small Business Rate Relief was introduced by Central Government from 1 April 2005 and broadly gives assistance to those ratepayers who pay rates on 1 property only, up to a maximum of £50,999 rateable value. The 2017 National Revaluation has meant that the Baseline for the Rate Poundages and the limit for Small Business Rate reliefs was reset from 1 April 2017.

The BR income was based on an aggregate rateable value for the Council's area of £38,676,439 for the year (£38,751,909 in 2021/2022).

A Glossary of Terms

Accruals:

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

Amortised Premiums/Discounts:

The amounts due/receivable following the premature repayments of loan debt.

Appropriations:

Amounts transferred to or from revenue or capital reserves in the form of amounts set aside from revenue to provide for the repayment of external loans and finance capital expenditure, in accordance with statutory requirements, or to provide for the future replacement of fixed assets.

Asset:

An item owned by the Council, which has a monetary value. Assets are defined as current or fixed:

- Current assets will be consumed or cease to have value within the next financial year, e.g. stocks and debtors
- Fixed assets provide benefits to the Council and to services it provides for a period of more than one year, for example, land, buildings, vehicles and equipment.

Balance Sheet:

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of an accounting period.

Capital Adjustment Account:

A reserve that reflects the difference between the cost of fixed assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them. This account replaces the FARA (Fixed Asset Restatement Account) and the Capital Financing Account.

Capital Charge:

A charge to service revenue accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services.

Capital Expenditure:

Payments made for the purchase or provisions of assets of long term value to the Council e.g. land, buildings, plant and machinery.

Capital Receipts:

The money received from the sale of assets.

CIPFA:

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This is the professional institute governing how public money is used and how it has to be reported.

Collection Fund:

A fund administered by the Billing Authority (District Councils) into which is paid Council Tax it collects together with the payment it receives for National Non-Domestic (Business) Rates (NNDR) collected from business ratepayers. Precepts are paid from the fund to precepting authorities including the billing authority.

Community Assets:

Assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions in their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account:

A summary of all the resources that the Council has generated, consumed or set-aside in providing services during the year. It is intended to show the true financial position of the Council before allowing for concessions to raise council tax and for the ability to divert expenditure to be met from capital resources.

Contingency:

A condition which exists at the balance sheet date where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events.

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 inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

Contributions to funds:

Contributions made from the General Fund to provide a reserve for a specific use in the future.

Corporate and Democratic Core:

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same services. There is therefore no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

Council Tax:

This is a banded property tax which is levied on domestic properties throughout the District. The banding is based on estimated property values as at 1st April 1991.

Creditors:

Amounts incurred by the Council but not yet paid.

Debtors:

Amounts due to the Council but not yet received.

Defined Benefit Scheme:

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

Deferred Capital Receipts:

Amounts due to the Council from the sale of fixed assets that are not receivable immediately on sale e.g. repayments on mortgages granted on the sale of Council houses.

Depreciation:

The amount charged to revenue accounts, as part of the capital charges, to represent the reducing value of fixed assets.

Expected Rate of Return on Pension Assets:

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Fair Value:

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arms length transaction.

Fixed Assets:

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

Financial Reporting Standards:

Publications that set out certain standards of accounting practice which, by law, must be followed by bodies, often including local authorities.

General Fund:

The main account of the Council which records the cost of services.

Government Grants:

A payment by central government towards the cost of local authority services either specifically, such as Disabled Facilities Grants, or generally, in the form of Revenue Support Grants.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

A statutory account maintained separately to the General Fund. It includes all revenue expenditure and income relating to the provision, maintenance and administration of council housing and associated areas.

Housing Subsidy:

Housing subsidy is calculated in line with a Government determined series of formulae and can be either a positive (receivable) or negative (payable) amount.

IAS 19:

The accounting standard for employee benefits. The principle underlying this standard is that the cost of providing employee benefits should be recognised in the period in which the benefit is earned by the employee, rather than when it is paid or payable.

Income:

Amounts that the Council receives or expects to receive from any source, including fees, charges, sales and grants.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS):

Accounting reporting Standards, with which local authorities should comply when preparing their accounts so that the accounts are presented fairly.

Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at average cost, with an allowance made for obsolete items. The effect of this valuation method as opposed to the lower of cost and net realisable value is not material.

Investments (Non Pensions Fund):

A long-term investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the Council. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long-term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor's ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments (Pensions Fund):

The investments of the Pensions Fund will be accounted for in the statement of that Fund. However, authorities (other than town, parish and community councils and district councils in Northern Ireland) are also required to disclose, as part of the transitional disclosures relating to

retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

Liability:

A liability is where a council owes payment to an individual or another organisation:

- A current liability is an amount which will be payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which, by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future, or to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

Long-term Contracts

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year.

Major Repairs Allowance:

This allowance is part of the overall housing subsidy and is used to fund the cost of major repairs, component replacements or upgrades to council housing in order to maintain the dwellings in a decent standard.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP):

Represents the minimum amount that must be charged to a revenue account in each financial year to repay external debt.

National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR):

NNDR poundage is set annually by Central Government based on the assessed value of properties used for business purposes and is collected by charging authorities. The proceeds are redistributed by the Government between local authorities based on population.

Non Distributed Costs:

Comprises the following elements excluded from the definition of total cost of a service (as per CIPFA BVACOP); past service costs, settlements, curtailments, costs associated with unused shares of IT facilities and costs of shares of other long term unused but unrealisable assets.

Operational Assets:

Fixed assets held and occupied used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Precepting Authorities:

Local authorities that cannot levy Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates directly on the public but have the power to precept. Billing authorities (District Councils) subsequently pass on the requirements of precepting authorities (County Council and Parish Councils) in the total Council Tax levy. The Non-Domestic Rate levy is set by Central Government.

Prior Period adjustments

These are material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Provision for Credit Liabilities:

This represents the sum set aside for the repayment of debt. This provision is subsumed within the capital financing reserve.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB):

This is a Central Government Agency that provides loans for one year and above to authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government itself can borrow.

Reserves:

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council. Some capital reserves such as the Revaluation Reserve cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

Retirement Benefits:

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either (i) an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date or (ii) an employer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

Revaluation Reserve:

This is a reserve that contains the revaluation gains recognised since April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revenue Expenditure:

Recurring expenditure on day to day expenses such as salaries, wages, electricity and telephones.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute:

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

Revenue Support Grant:

Paid by central government to assist in the provision of local government services.

Scheme Liabilities:

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method to reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

SerCOP

Service Reporting Code of Practice.

Set-aside Capital Receipts:

The money received from the sale of assets which is required to be set aside to redeem debt or defray future borrowing.

Stocks:

Items of raw materials and stores a council has produced to use on a continuing basis and which it has not yet used. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale.

TUPE:

Transfer of Undertakings – Protection of Employment.

Work in progress:

The cost of work done on uncompleted projects at the balance sheet date, which should be accounted for.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

1.0 Scope of Responsibility

- 1.1 Richmondshire District Council ('the Council') is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- 1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

2.0 The Purpose of the Governance Framework

- 2.1 The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with, and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically.
- 2.3 Following Local Government Elections, the Council revised its governance framework in 2011. The Council has continued to operate a Leader and committee model and updated the constitution in February 2019.

3.0 Richmondshire District Council's Governance Framework

- 3.1 The key elements of the Council's Governance Framework are as follows:
- 3.1.1 The Council's Strategy is reflected in its Corporate Plan. The current Plan, which was approved by Corporate Board, covers the period 2019-23 and sets out three corporate themes that the Council will work on, which have been identified and developed in consultation with the public and key partners. A new Council Plan was produced in November 2019 to reflect the priorities of the new administration.

- 3.1.2 The formal Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are lawful, efficient, transparent, and accountable to local people. This incorporates the Members' Code of Conduct and a number of other locally agreed codes and protocols.
- 3.1.3 The Council's budget and policy framework is set by the Full Council. The Corporate Board has delegated authority to operate and make decisions within the framework. Some powers are delegated to senior officers.
- 3.1.4 In addition to the Corporate Board, there are two specific regulatory committees for Licensing and Planning. These have independent powers within their legislative frameworks. Each of these acts within defined terms of reference agreed by the Full Council.
- 3.1.5 The Standards Committee was combined with the Audit and Governance Committee in 2012 when the Localism Act 2011 removed the statutory requirement to establish and maintain a Standards Committee. The Council adopted a set of arrangements for dealing with allegations of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. These arrangements were adopted on 24 July 2012 and came into effect that day.
- 3.1.6 The Corporate Board's decisions are subject to review by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, which has the ability to call in and review decisions and also to contribute to the development of policy. There are two statutory scrutiny committees: Internal Business and External Business Scrutiny. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee also contributes to scrutiny and overview.
- 3.1.7 The Council has developed and adopted a community engagement strategy with other Councils and Agencies and has established five Area Partnerships, working with them in the development of locally based service delivery options using spare and limited funds.
- 3.1.8 Meetings are open to the public except when exempt or confidential matters are being disclosed. The public has an opportunity to participate in some of the meetings, such as Area Partnership meetings, and can contribute to the discussions at Corporate Board / Council / Planning Committee, if agreed by the Chair of that Committee / Council meeting.
- 3.1.9 A number of areas are delegated to officers for the purposes of decision making; however, limits on the exercise of delegation are laid down in an approved Scheme of Delegation to Officers forming part of the Council's Constitution. Officers can also be called to Scrutiny to give account of decisions made.
- 3.1.10 The Council has adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance which is reviewed by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.
- 3.1.11 The Council also has a separate Whistleblowing Policy and Counter Fraud and Corruption Policies, which were reviewed and approved in March 2021 / September 2020. The low level of cases points towards a Council that has

a strong and effective counter fraud and corruption culture.

- 3.1.12 The Corporate Director (Strategy and Regulatory) has been appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer. The appointment of a Monitoring Officer is required in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It is the function of the Monitoring Officer to report to Members upon any contravention of any enactment or rule of law or any maladministration by the Council. The Monitoring Officer also has responsibilities relating to the Members' Code of Conduct. No issues were raised relating to Members' conduct during 2022/23.
- 3.1.13 The Corporate Director (Resources) and S151 Officer is the officer with statutory responsibility for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. In compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ('CIPFA')'s "Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government", Richmondshire District Council is in full compliance as the Corporate Director (Resources) and S151 Officer, is a member of the Senior Management Team.
- 3.1.14 Both the statutory officers referred to above have unfettered access to information, to the Chief Executive and to Members of the Council, in order that they can discharge their responsibilities effectively. The functions of these officers and their roles are clearly set out in the Council's Constitution.
- 3.1.15 The Council's financial management framework comprises the following:
- Financial and Contract Procedure Rules as part of the Council's Constitution;
 - A four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy which provides the framework for financial planning;
 - Medium term financial planning is updated annually, to align resources to corporate priorities;
 - Service and financial planning integrated within the corporate performance management cycle;
 - Annual budget process involving scrutiny and challenge;
 - Monthly monitoring by management of revenue and capital budgets – with regular reports to Corporate Board and Senior Management Team;
 - Embedded arrangements for securing efficiencies and continuous improvement;
 - Producing a Statement of Accounts annually, compliant with the requirements of local authority accounting practice; and
 - Compliance with requirements established by CIPFA.
- 3.1.16 The Council's performance management framework provides an explicit link between the corporate priorities and personal objectives of Council staff. Performance is reported to Members and the Council's Senior Management Team on a systematic basis with areas of poor performance investigated. Key features of the performance management framework include the following:

- A regular review of the Corporate Plan to ensure that priorities are reviewed, remain relevant and reflect the aims of the Council;
 - Service Plans are produced with explicit goals and associated performance targets in order to ensure that achievement of performance is measurable;
 - The Council's performance review system links personal objectives directly to Service Plans;
 - Regular quarterly performance and finance reports set out performance on key indicators, actions and budget management; and
 - The use of performance briefings, which focus on performance management with a smaller group of Members.
- 3.1.17 The Council maintains a professional relationship with Ernst & Young, the body responsible for the external audit of the Council.
- 3.1.18 Recruitment and selection procedures are based on recognised good practice and all staff posts have a formal job description and person specifications. Services are delivered and managed by staff with the necessary knowledge and expertise with training needs identified via the formal appraisal process contributing to a corporate training plan.
- 3.1.19 Pay is governed by a Pay Policy considered and approved annually by Council.
- 3.1.20 The maintenance of systems and processes identifies and manages the key strategic and operational risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives.
- 3.1.21 Risk management is an integral part of the Council's performance management framework. Corporate and strategic risks are reviewed annually and service risks six monthly, with relevant actions included in Service Plans. The risk management framework includes the following:
- A Risk Management Policy and Strategy has been adopted by the Council and is reviewed annually;
 - The establishment of a risk register comprising both Corporate and Operational risks for the Council as a whole, assigned to designated officers, with appropriate counter measures and an action plan established for each key risk;
 - The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee reviews and approves the Risk Management Strategy;
 - The use of Internal Audit of a risk based approach in the preparation and delivery of the internal audit plan;
 - The requirement for Council officers to consider risk management issues when submitting reports to the Senior Management Team and Corporate Board for consideration by Members; and
 - The Council utilises a corporate project management and business review approach that has been rolled out to managers for use in managing all the Council's projects.

- 3.1.22 Managing information governance and data protection (currently primarily focussed on the implementation of the requirement of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018) has been prioritised, and a corporate group manages the action plan; this is regularly updated at Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and progress is satisfactory. The Corporate Director (Resources) and S151 Officer is the Senior Information Risk Owner ('SIRO') who sponsors and drives the work forward.
- 3.1.23 The maintenance of an adequate and effective system of Internal Audit is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. From 1 April 2012, responsibility for the provision of the internal audit service transferred to Veritau North Yorkshire Ltd ('VNY'), part of the Veritau group. It operates in accordance with the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), the CIPFA Local Government Application Note (2019) and CIPFA guidance on the role of the Head of Internal Auditor (2019 edition).
- 3.1.24 Internal Audit examines and evaluates the adequacy of the Council's system of internal controls as a contribution to ensuring that resources are used in an economical, efficient and effective manner. Internal Audit is an independent and objective appraisal function established by the Council for reviewing the system of internal control.
- 3.1.25 This work is delivered by way of a Strategic Audit Plan developed using a risk-based approach, following consultation with and input from the Council's Senior Management Team. Audit plans are agreed and monitored by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee with client responsibility assigned to the Corporate Director (Resources) and S151 Officer. Internal Audit is required to give an opinion on the adequacy of the Council's system of internal control each year.
- 3.1.26 The Council seeks to ensure resources are utilised in the most economic, effective, and efficient manner whilst delivering continuous improvement. It aims to achieve this by a variety of means, including the following:
- Service / process transformation and efficiency reviews;
 - Working with partners; and
 - External and Internal Audit feedback.
- 3.1.27 The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee also monitors progress on the Council's approach to Equalities and Diversity to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice.

4.0 Review of Effectiveness

- 4.1 The Council has a responsibility for conducting, at least on an annual basis, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. This review takes account of the work of Internal Audit and the Council's Senior Management Team, which has a responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, and also by comments made by external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

- 4.2 The purpose of a review is to identify and evaluate the key controls in place to manage principal risks. It also requires an evaluation of the assurances received, identifies gaps in controls and assurances, and should result in an action plan to address significant internal control issues.
- 4.3 The process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control includes the following:
- 4.3.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer oversees the operation of the Constitution to ensure its aims and principles are given full effect.
- 4.3.2 The arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny have operated throughout the year allowing for the review of key policy areas and providing opportunities for public involvement in specific matters of business. The arrangements that have operated since May 2011, were confirmed as continuing as part of the review of the Constitution.
- 4.3.3 The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee met throughout the year and received reports on the progress by Internal Audit against their work plan. The Committee also considered auditable areas where Internal Audit raised any internal control concerns.
- 4.3.4 The Corporate Director (Resources) and S151 Officer supports the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and attends all meetings of the Committee.
- 4.3.5 Internal Audit completes a programme of scheduled audits during the year according to its plan, including follow up audits. There were no specific investigations in the year. All high risk and key financial systems were audited. The overall opinion expressed by Internal Audit stated:
- “The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework of governance, risk management and control operating in the Authority is that it provides **Substantial Assurance**. There are no qualifications to this opinion and no reliance was placed on the work of other assurance bodies in reaching that opinion. There are also no significant control weaknesses which, in the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit need to be considered for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement”.
- 4.3.6 Internal Audit has not raised any specific overall concerns about internal controls across the Council.
- 4.3.7 The Council's Risk Register has been maintained under review during the year and updated accordingly. Reports on risk management have been considered by the Senior Management Team and the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee has approved a revised Risk Management Strategy.
- 4.3.8 Monitoring information on key areas of performance has been provided to Senior Management Team and Members on a regular basis with attention focused on those areas that are considered by the Council to be vulnerable.

- 4.3.9 A follow up to the June 2017 Corporate Peer review took place in October 2018; an updated action plan was developed and agreed with the new political administration in 2019.
- 4.3.10 The External Auditor's annual letter confirmed that the Council had satisfactory arrangements to secure value for money. In respect of the Council's Statement of Accounts, an unqualified opinion was issued.
- 4.3.11 The External Auditor did not identify any significant weaknesses in our internal control arrangements.
- 4.3.12 The Government announced in July 2021 that North Yorkshire would undergo **Local Government Reorganisation** with effect from April 2023. This decision has impacted on the direction of travel with a significant amount of focus now being placed on ensuring the new Council will be operating in a 'safe and legal' way with effect from vesting day (1 April 2023).

In giving the assurances above, we would note that preparations for local government reorganisation (LGR) have, over the last year, required a significant investment of time, effort and resources across the organisation. This has put strain on the Council's control environment and its business operations.

The Council has had to operate during periods of uncertainty and substantial change all while maintaining service delivery and other key support functions. The unique circumstances and uncertainty brought about by the LGR transition have combined to create a very challenging operating environment.

5.0 Significant Governance Issues

- 5.1 The key issue facing Richmondshire District Council during 2022/23 and moving into 2023/24 is preparation for the Local Government Reorganisation (effective from April 2023). Item 13 in the action plan below identifies relevant actions to cover these issues.
- 5.2 The Council has worked closely with the government and community to ensure core services have continued and additional support has been provided directly to the community and businesses.
- 5.3 A **Local Government Ombudsman** Annual Review letter for Richmondshire was published in July 2022. The report considered no complaints referred to the Ombudsman in for the year ended 31 March 2022.
- 5.4 The letter is published online at <https://www.lgo.org.uk/documents/councilperformance/2022/richmondshire%20district%20council.pdf>. No system of governance or internal control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. This Statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance. In concluding this review of the Council's Governance Framework and Internal Control arrangements, new issues identified

have been included in the detailed Action Plan. A detailed plan to address existing weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement in the system of internal control has been produced in response and this will be subject to regular monitoring by the Council's Senior Management Team and the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, where appropriate. The aim is for officers of North Yorkshire Council to address these areas of concern during the 2023/24 financial year.

Signed
Cllr Angie Dale
Leader of the Council
Signed
Tony Clark
Chief Executive
27 October 2022

ACTION PLAN – completed actions from 2022/23

Action No.	Year	Issue(s) Identified	Source(s) of Evidence	Update / Summary of Action(s) Taken, and Action(s) Proposed	By when By whom	Current Position
03	2014/15 onwards	<p>Financial Sustainability An updated MTFS will be considered to reflect the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and LGR. This will reflect known and estimated impacts and any updated information provided by Government.</p> <p>No savings plan will be put in place as a result of ensuring recovery from the pandemic.</p> <p>Increased concerns have been raised about inflation, and the cost-of-living increases following the pandemic and war in Ukraine.</p>	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) February 2021	<p>a) Regular monitoring and reporting on impacts of cost of living and additional LGR costs</p> <p>b) Ongoing support to transition to the new Unitary Council</p> <p>c) ensure compliance with s24 notice</p>	SMT	<p>A balanced budget was set for 2022/23, and a Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved.</p> <p>Business process improvements were halted due to staff leaving and LGR processes overtaking the improvements flagged by the District Council.</p> <p>The Government continued to introduce further grants that the Council administered, which has required the retention of additional members of staff to deliver.</p> <p>The fair funding review was deferred for a further year because of other Government business and the pandemic. LGR work has continued to escalate and is expected to continue to increase as we moved towards vesting day (1 April 2023).</p>

		As a result of LGR, the government has put in place a s24 notice which requires the approval of the County Council executive for any excessive expenditure. Richmondshire needs to ensure it complies with this requirement.				
08	2020/21	The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted across all areas of the Council business; a full review of all aspect of service delivery and governance will take place over the forthcoming two to three years. A full recovery plan was drawn up and is being worked through.	Global pandemic	The outstanding items in the recovery plan are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Controls over processes for remote and electronic working b) Cyber security c) Potential fraud d) Working practices and support for staff Continued support relating to economy and community.	SMT	Due to staycations and the nature of Richmondshire, the area did relatively well following the pandemic. It is important this continues. The pandemic has not materially impacted on either the finances of the Council or the performance during 2022/23. Likewise, work has tightened up on cyber security and the Council did not suffer from any issues during 2022/23
11	2021/22	RDC has significant controls on its IT systems. Cyber Security continues to be a major risk as	National advice and findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health check to be done by external consultant, to include on-site visit. 	SMT	The Council has replaced its servers prior to undertaking the PSN health check (submitted to Cabinet Office in February 2023).

						The identified actions from the PSN health check continue to be worked through.
12	2021/22	<p>Richmondshire is starting to suffer from significant resourcing issues across the services it provides. Currently this is prevalent in planning, Environmental Health and Homelessness, but given the national picture on recruitment and impending Local Government Reorganisation this is likely to become more of an issue moving forward.</p>	Internal findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of options in services with significant vacancies <p>Support in the short term through Agency staffing and working with partners across the region</p>	SMT	Short term solutions were found to the resourcing issues across services across the Council. However, with LGR resourcing issues continue to be a major concern moving forward, and the Council is working closely with NYCC to provide cost effective solutions.
13	2021/22	Successful transition of services to the new Council	Government policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure RDC contributes across all Resources areas to successful transition, leading on specific activities. Flag any areas of concern, gaps, and duplication to 	SMT	All officers have been involved in the transition work involved in moving services to North Yorkshire Council. Many officers have led on specific parts of the transition.

				<p>relevant workstreams for action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor staffing resource availability to support transition and continuing to deliver core RDC services 		
14	2021/22	Council Housing regulatory reforms	Government policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for, and implement where necessary, anticipated regulatory reforms and requirements, particularly those that come into force prior to 31st March 2023. 	SMT	
15	2021/22	Planning service delivery	Internal findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case management to continue up to March 23 Quarterly monitoring of backlog case numbers, officer case load and new cases logged Management of backlog via capita contract 	SMT	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of Agency support in addition to new permanent appointments Planned business support intervention in management of the portal and ongoing case management data entry 		
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ACTION PLAN - for 2023/24

Action No.	Year	Issue(s) Identified	Source (s) of Evidence	Update / Summary of Action(s) Taken, and Action(s) Proposed	By when By whom	Current Position
03	2014/15 onwards	<p>Financial Sustainability An updated MTFS has been considered to reflect the impact of LGR. This will reflect known and estimated impacts and any updated information provided by Government.</p> <p>A savings plan will be put in place because of the need to balance the budget for North Yorkshire Council.</p>	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) February 2022	<p>a) Regular monitoring and reporting on impacts of cost of living and additional LGR costs</p> <p>b) Ongoing support to transition to the new Unitary Council</p>	New Resources Directorate	

11	2022/23	RDC has significant controls on its IT systems. Cyber Security continues to be a major risk as cyber attackers become more sophisticated.	National advice and findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address issues raised because of the submission to Cabinet office. • Action plan to be completed on undertaking to address high risk issues identified. • Continue to review options for further protection and controls on an ongoing basis, implementing as needed 	New IT Directorate	
12	2022/23	Richmondshire is starting to suffer from significant resourcing issues across the services it provides. Currently this is prevalent in planning, Environmental Health and Homelessness, and this is ongoing into the new Council.	Internal findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of options in services in the new North Yorkshire Council with significant vacancies • Support in the short term through Agency staffing and working with partners across the region 	New Resources Directorate	
13	2022/23	Successful transition of services to North Yorkshire Council. Given the new Council has approved a budget incorporating current services, there is little, short-term	Government policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to contribute to and flag any areas of concern, gaps, and duplication to relevant directorates to action, and actively support the transition to ensure continuity of service. 	New Resources Directorate	

		concern over 'going concern' issues. Value for money will be determined as transformation takes place over the next few years.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to monitor staffing resource availability to support transition and continuing to deliver core ongoing services		
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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