



Audit Committee

Date **Friday 30 September 2016**
Time **11.00 am**
Venue **Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2016 (Pages 1 - 8)
3. Declarations of interest, if any
4. Audit Completion Report 2015/2016 - Durham County Council - Report of External Auditor (Pages 9 - 40)
5. Audit Completion Report 2015/2016 - Pension Fund - Report of External Auditor (Pages 41 - 62)
6. Governance Statement for the year April 2015 to March 2016 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 63 - 86)
7. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 87 - 326)
8. Internal Audit Progress Report for the quarter ended 30 June 2016 - Report of Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager (Pages 327 - 354)
9. Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

10. Internal Audit Progress Report for the quarter ended 30 June 2016 - Report of Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager (Pages 355 - 366)

11. Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
22 September 2016

To: **The Members of the Audit Committee**

Councillor E Bell (Chairman)
Councillor J Rowlandson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Armstrong, C Carr, J Carr, M Davinson, J Robinson,
W Stelling and O Temple

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Beavis and Mr C Robinson

Contact: Jackie Graham

Tel: 03000269704

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Audit Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 29 July 2016 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor E Bell (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Rowlandson (Vice-Chairman), C Carr, J Carr, M Davinson and O Temple

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Beavis and Mr C Robinson

1 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L Armstrong.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of interest, if any

Councillor C Carr declared an interest as a Member of the Combined Fire Authority – Audit and Risk Committee.

4 2015/2016 Final Outturn for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director Resources which provided details of the final outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Collection Fund for 2015/16 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor O Temple raised a query regarding the Housing Revenue Account and monies accrued. In response the Interim Corporate Director advised that this was as a result of prudent management of borrowing against the stock transfer and debt repayment. It was further noted that surplus funds were allocated to the general fund reserve where not all capital expenditure had been utilised during the year.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

5 Treasury Management Outturn 2015/2016

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director Resources which provided details of the Annual Treasury Management Review and final outturn on treasury management activities for 2015/16 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor M Davinson in referring to paragraph 15 of the report and rate returns on total investments, asked why this rate was higher than that seen on pension return rates. The Finance Manager advised that the rate was slightly higher due to the fact that the investments were over a longer term and attracted a higher rate of interest. It was noted that this rate was provided on cash only.

The Chairman commented that he was aware that banks could now impose charges up to 0.25% on savings. In response the Interim Corporate Director advised that this applied to personal banking only and the council was already charged for transactions. Councillor Carr asked whether rates were fixed within the banking contracts. It was noted that this was the case.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

6 Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director Resources which presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 and highlighted significant issues arising from the accounts (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Temple raised a number of questions, the first relating to unused shares as highlighted on page 140 of the report. It was noted that a response would be provided following the meeting in this regard. He further raised queries regarding the reduction in the pupil premium grant, cost of exit packages and finally in relation to tribunal and court claims. In particular where detail regarding the associated costs could be located. In response the Interim Corporate Director Resources advised that detail relating to tribunal and court claim costs, is reported in the Cabinet Outturn reports where they would be shown against the relevant service grouping. It was further noted that there was no Code requirement to report this separately. Councillor Bell advised that he would further take up the points raised by Councillor Temple and report back to him with responses to each.

Councillor J Carr commented that it was concerning to see how low business rates had been during the year. In response the Finance Manager advised that rates were kept under review, however last years low figures could be attributed to the number of appeals which had been lodged. The Interim Corporate Director advised that during the year a number of speculative appeals had been lodged as a result of the new evaluation.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

7 External Audit - Progress Report July 2016

The Committee considered a report of the External Auditor which presented progress on the external audit of Durham County Council to date (for copy see file of minutes).

J Collins, Mazars advised that there had been 1 internal control recommendation made relating to, IT General Controls and signing off the final “go live” approval. It was noted that this recommendation had now been actioned. Overall, the audit had concluded that reliance could be placed on IT General Controls and was not considered of sufficient significance to have an impact on the financial accounts.

Mr C Robinson asked whether the system identified was data or financial. In response J Collins advised that they were mainly related to financial systems and the final stage showing lack of evidence at final approval. The Interim Corporate Director further clarified that the recommendation related to the end point of project closure and it had been found to be a general weakness across IT systems. This had been taken on board and was to be built in to future system upgrades.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

8 Compliance with International Auditing Standards

The Committee considered a report of the Chair of the Audit Committee which advised Members of a response that had been prepared relating to a letter sent from Mazars, the Council’s external auditor, regarding compliance with International Auditing Standards (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the response be noted.

9 Strategic Risk Management

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director Resources which highlighted the strategic risks facing the Council and to give an insight into the work carried out by the Corporate Risk Management Group during the period April to June 2016 (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that as at 30 June 2016, there were 26 strategic risks, the same number as at 31 March 2016.

Mr D Beavis raised a query regarding risks in meeting annual cuts and sustaining those cuts in light of Brexit. In response the Interim Corporate Director advised that this was factored into the MTFP as a general risk and would continue to be a feature. Although cuts were becoming increasingly difficult to achieve, the council

through robust financial planning were in a sustainable position whilst also having to face unprecedented demographic pressures.

Further discussion took place regarding the recent ICT issue. The Chairman added that the Council sought assurance that this type of issue would not reoccur. In response the Interim Corporate Director Resources advised that IT risks would continue to be picked up via risk reporting. It was however noted, that the particular issue referred to did demonstrate that the Business Continuity Plan did operate effectively. In addition work had been undertaken at Comeleon House to prevent any further reoccurrence of similar issues.

Councillor C Carr added that had been experiencing issues with loss of signal on council mobile phones and was aware that other members had experienced similar issues on a regular basis. The Interim Corporate Director advised that he would take this issue back for further investigation.

Mr C Robinson raised a query regarding third party IT and what assurances the council had from those suppliers that the systems were resilient in case of any downtime. Further discussion took place regarding internal and external providers and further reference was made to the business continuity plan and business critical systems. It was also noted that in the event of any major issue at one of the larger council owned sites, agile working practices ensured that employees could attend work at any other council building.

In conclusion the Chairman suggested that a seminar should be arranged for members to provide training on how to approach and deal with risk management.

Resolved:

That the report provided assurance that strategic risks are being effectively managed within the risk management framework across the Council.

10 Annual Review of the System of Internal Audit 2015/2016

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager which provided members with the opportunity to comment of the Annual Review of the System of Internal Audit (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Temple commented that he was pleased to learn that apprenticeships were being considered within the team. He added that this would ultimately mitigate risks associated with succession planning and business continuity.

Councillor Carr commented that he was pleased to see such an improvement in the internal audit service and gave his compliments to the staff for their hard work in enhancing the reputation of the team. He further added that he was also pleased to hear that staff were being trained up and that the level of expertise within the service had grown.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY CLLR TEMPLE REGARDING THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

Question 1 – page 140 of the July Audit Committee papers (page 86 of the Statement of Accounts)

Is there a listing to breakdown the £12.308m of shareholdings in organisations that are not listed on the stock exchange?

Answer

Page 80 of the Statement of Accounts presented at the 29 July 2016 Audit Committee indicates the Shareholdings that make up the £12.308m. Please note that this is now found on page 83 of the revised Statement of Accounts which is being considered at agenda item no. 7 at the meeting to be held on 30 September 2016.

Question 2 – page 159 of the July Audit Committee papers (page 105 of the Statement of Accounts)

Can an explanation be given to account for the increase in the cost of exit packages from £4.667m in 2014/15 to £7.764m in 2015/16?

Answer

Even though the number of exit packages reduced from 288 in 2014/15 to 216 in 2015/16 the cost increased due to the increased number of exit packages in the higher monetary bands. From the table only 11 exit packages were in the bands £60,001 to £250,000 in 2014/15 compared with 42 in 2015/16. The main increase in cost was in respect of the early access to pension which increased from £1.153m in 2014/15 to £3.953m in 2015/16.

Question 3 – page 162 of the July Audit Committee papers (page 108 of the Statement of Accounts)

Why has the Pupil Premium Grant reduced from £21.595m in 2014/15 to £0.911m in 2015/16?

Answer

This was a mistake which has now been corrected in the revised Statement of Accounts which is being considered at agenda item no. 7 at the meeting to be held on 30 September 2016. The figure is £20.961m and not £0.911m – this was incorrectly classified in the general ledger on an incorrect account code and the

amendment is also disclosed in the External Auditor's Annual Completion Report on page 15.

Question 4 - page 185 of the July Audit Committee papers (page 131 of the Statement of Accounts)

Where can details of the settled costs in respect of Tribunal and Court Claims for 2015/16 be located?

Answer

As there is no requirement in the Statement of Accounts to publish these details separately, the Interim Corporate Director Resources advised that the costs are charged to the appropriate service grouping and reported as part of the Outturn reports that are taken to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.



AUDIT COMMITTEE

30 September 2016

External Audit: Audit Completion Report Year Ended 31 March 2016 – Durham County Council

Report of the External Auditor

Purpose of the Report

1. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the attached External Auditor report on the completion of the audit of the statement of accounts for the County Council for year ended 31 March 2016.

Background

2. This report (attached at Appendix 2) illustrates the findings of the external audit completed by Mazars for the year ended 31 March 2016 for Durham County Council.
3. The audit has been completed in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Summary of Audit Progress

4. Work is now complete on the audit of the Durham County Council Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Recommendation

5. The Committee is requested to:
 - Note the adjustments to the financial statements included in the report at Appendix 2.
 - Approve the letter of representation at Appendix 3 on behalf of the Council before the opinion and conclusion are issued.

Contact: James Collins

Tel: 03000 267452

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

None

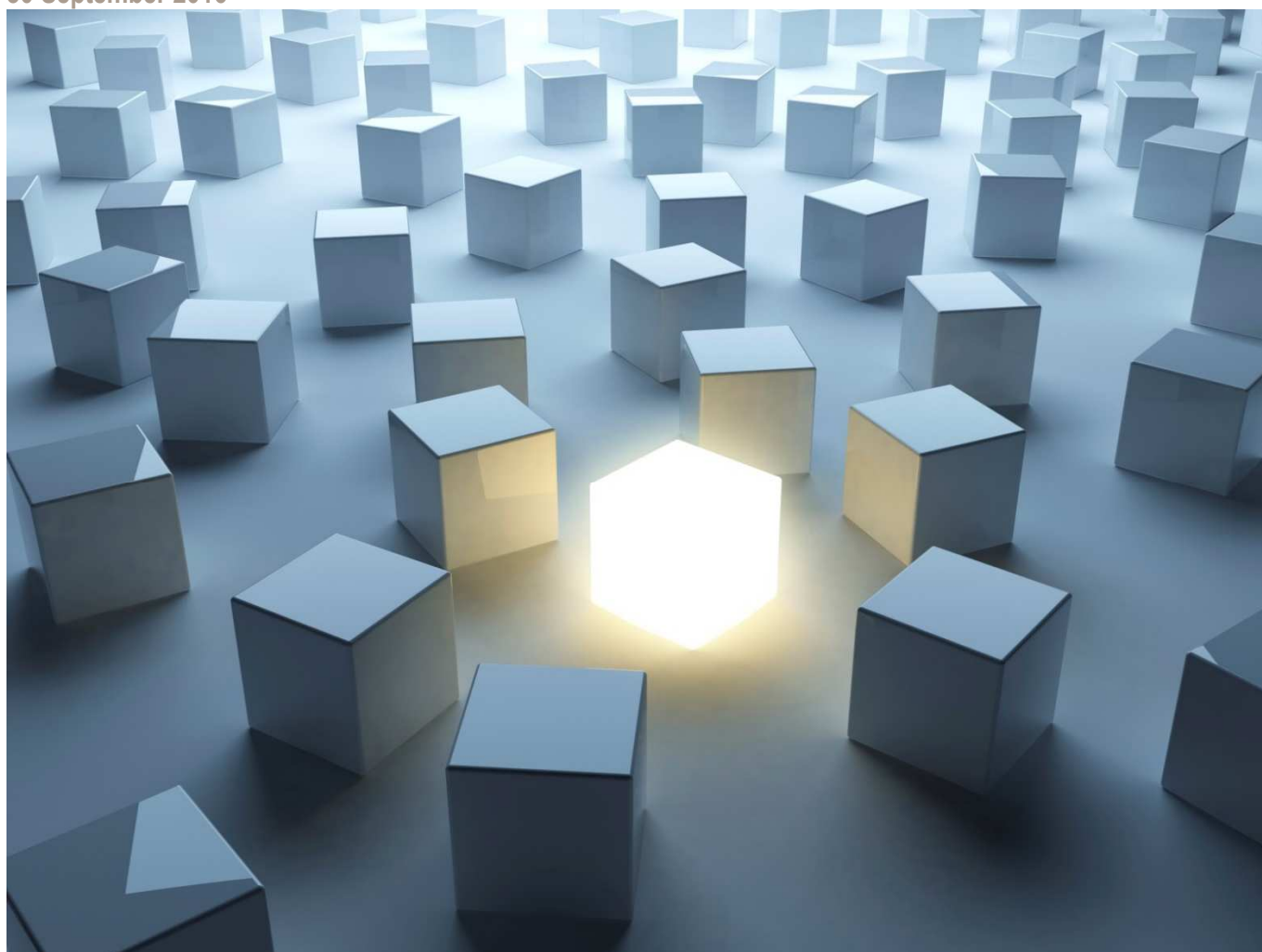
Legal Implications

Statutory approval of the statement of accounts.

Audit Completion Report

Durham County Council – year ended 31 March 2016

30 September 2016



Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Members of the Audit Committee
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UE
30 September 2016

Dear Members

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2016

We are delighted to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2016. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and areas of management judgement was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented on 17 May 2016. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks and areas of management judgement remain appropriate.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to your officers for their assistance during the course of our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0191 383 6343 or cameron.waddell@mazars.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Cameron Waddell
Mazars LLP

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Our reports are prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the audited body and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

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01 Executive summary

Purpose of this document

This document has been prepared to communicate the findings of our audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 to the Audit Committee of Durham County Council (the Council) and forms the basis for discussion at the Audit Committee meeting on 30 September 2016.

Our communication with you is important to:

- share information to assist both the auditor and those charged with governance to fulfil our respective responsibilities;
- provide you with constructive observations arising from the audit process;
- ensure, as part of the two-way communication process, we gain an understanding of your attitude and views in respect of the internal and external operational, financial, compliance and other risks facing Durham County Council; and
- receive feedback from yourselves as to the performance of the engagement team.

Our work on the Council's accounts is designed to provide reasonable assurance that they are free from material misstatement. In performing our audit, we apply the concept of materiality, following the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) (ISA) 320: Materiality in planning and performing an audit. The standard states that 'misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements'. We consider materiality when planning and performing our work and in assessing audit results.

At the planning stage, we made a judgement about the size of misstatements which we would consider to be material and which gave a basis for determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures, identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. We determined overall materiality to be £24,929,000 (being 2% of gross revenue expenditure), with a clearly trivial threshold of £748,000 below which identified errors will not usually be reported. We also set lower materiality values for accounting entries we consider to be more sensitive, for example, senior officer's remuneration.

We updated our materiality calculation when we received the draft accounts and set the overall level at £24,936,000 (being 2% of gross revenue expenditure) with a clearly trivial threshold of £748,000. Following an adjustment to gross revenue expenditure (see section 5) our materiality was amended to £24,627,000 and clearly trivial threshold £739,000. Appendix C provides more information on our approach.

As outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) which means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement. Section 2 of this report includes our conclusions on the significant risks and areas of management judgement that we set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

We also set out details of internal control recommendations in section 3 and a summary of misstatements discovered as part of the audit in section 4.

Status and audit opinion

We have substantially completed our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016. At the time of preparing this report, the following significant matters remain outstanding:

Area outstanding	Work to be completed
Pension disclosures	We will complete our procedures when we receive a letter of assurance from the pension fund auditor.
Post balance sheet events	Review of events after the balance sheet date
Closure procedures	Completion of our procedures (including value for money)

We will provide an update to you in relation to the significant matters outstanding above through issuance of a follow up letter.

Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the remaining audit work, we anticipate:

- issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on your statement of accounts; and
- concluding that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

We also anticipate completing our work in respect of your Whole of Government Accounts submission in line with the group instructions issued by the National Audit Office by the deadline of 21 October 2016.

Our proposed audit report is set out in Appendix B.

02 Significant findings

Set out below are the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- Our audit conclusions regarding the significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum.
- Our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. In this section we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year.
- Any further significant matters discussed with management.
- Any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by completing the following audit procedures:

- reviewing accounting estimates affecting amounts included in the financial statements;
- reviewing and considering any significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and
- applying a risk based approach to journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our audit has provided the assurance we sought and not highlighted any issues in this area to report.

Revenue recognition

Description of the risk

There is a risk of fraud in financial reporting relating to income recognition due to the potential to inappropriately record revenue in the wrong period. ISA 240 allows the presumption of fraud relating to revenue recognition to be rebutted in exceptional circumstances, but given the Council's range of revenue sources we have concluded that there are insufficient grounds for rebuttal in 2015/16.

How we addressed this risk

We considered the design and implementation of controls to mitigate the risk of income being recognised in the wrong period. In addition, we completed a number of substantive procedures including:

- testing revenue items recorded in the General Ledger in March, April and May 2016 to ensure they have been recognised in the correct accounting period;
- testing adjustment journals;

- testing debtors; and
- agreeing major grant income to third party documentation.

Audit conclusion

Our audit has provided the assurance we sought and not highlighted any issues in this area to report.

Pension liability

Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of the retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures, both assets and liabilities, can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions. This results in an increased risk of material misstatement.

How we addressed this risk

We completed the following audit procedures:

- evaluating the Council's arrangements (including relevant controls) for making estimates in relation to pension entries within the financial statements; and
- considering the reasonableness of the Actuary's assumptions that underpin the relevant entries made by the Council in its financial statements, through the use of an expert commissioned by the National Audit Office.

At the time of preparing this report, we have not yet received and reviewed the required assurance from the auditors of the Durham County Council Pension Fund over IAS 19 (pensions) related entries in the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Subject to a satisfactory response from the Pension Fund auditor, our work has provided the assurance we sought and has not highlighted any issues to bring to your attention.

Accounting for LSVT

Description of the risk

In April 2015 the Council transferred its housing stock to County Durham Housing Group. The accounting treatment for the transfer of the housing stock is material and potentially complex. In particular the accounting treatment for the disposal of the assets and write off of HRA debt.

How we addressed this risk

We completed the following audit procedures:

- evaluating the design of the entity's related controls and determined whether they had been implemented; and
- reviewing the accounting entries for the disposal of the assets and write off of HRA debt.

Audit conclusion

Our audit has provided the assurance we sought and not highlighted any issues in this area to report.

Key areas of management judgement

Valuation of property, plant and equipment (PPE)

Description of the area of management judgement

The financial statements contain material entries on the Balance Sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the Council's holding of PPE.

The value of the Council's PPE is material to the accounts and involve management judgements over the valuations and useful lives of assets.

How we addressed this area of management judgement

We addressed this management judgement with the following procedures:

- considering the Council's arrangements for ensuring that PPE values are reasonable;
- engaging our own expert to provide data to enable us to assess the reasonableness of the valuations provided by the Council's Valuer;
- assessing the competence, skills and experience of the Valuer; and
- reviewing a sample of individual assets to ensure that the basis and level of valuation was appropriate.

Audit conclusion

Our audit has provided the assurance we sought and not highlighted any issues in this area to report.

Accounting policies and disclosures

We have reviewed Durham County Council's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16.

Significant matters discussed with management

Consett Academy: Note 5, Material Items of Income and Expense, detail the accounting treatment of Consett Academy. The Council recognised a loss on disposal of £28.836 million in 2015/16. At the start of the year the asset was held as an Asset Under Construction (AUC). During the year, and prior to its disposal, the asset became operational and was transferred to Land and Buildings. This movement is reflected in Note 12, Property, Plant and Equipment. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounts (the Code) requires operational land and buildings to be measured at current value. In the case of assets where there is no active market current value is measured using depreciated replacement cost (DRC). This is different to the measurement of AUC which are carried at cost. The Code states DRC is:

“a method of valuation which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for all physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation (para 4.1.2.7).”

Given the asset had just been constructed management made a judgement that the cost of the asset was a fair approximation of its current value and therefore no revaluation of the asset was completed before its disposal. We challenged management's assumption. As a consequence the Council's Valuer valued the assets at the date of its transfer using the DRC method. This valuation valued the asset at £25.685 million. The overall difference was £3.151 million which is not material. Based on this we are satisfied there is no indication of a material misstatement in management's judgement.

Had the asset been revalued at its transfer to land and buildings the council would have charged the downward revaluation to net cost of services (£3.151m) with other operating expenditure reducing by the same amount. The requirements of local authority capital accounting means both amounts would then have been reversed from the surplus or deficit on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement through the Movement in Reserves Statement (via note 7) with the reverse entry being made to the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA). Therefore the overall impact on the General Fund would be nil. We are satisfied that management's treatment of this disposal does not lead to a material misstatement.

Business rates provision for appeals: The Collection Fund includes a provision for appeals of £18.247 million. This is an increase from the £7.685 million provided in 2014/15. In line with NNDR allocations £8.941 million (49%) is reflected as a provision in the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016. In 2015/16 management have relied on Analyse Local, a national company providing services to local authorities, to calculate the provision. The company compare the number of appeals lodged with national statistics detailing the success of past appeals on different

property types. Management reviewed the provision prior to it being applied to the Collection Fund. We challenged the estimation by comparing the Durham provision to the provisions made by other local authorities. We identified no evidence to suggest that Durham's provision is materially misstated.

The work of experts

During the audit we identified an additional management expert which we had not previously reported in our Audit Strategy Memorandum. The details of this expert are documented in the following table:

Item(s) of account	Management's expert	Our expert
NNDR appeals provision (material for the Collection Fund)	Analyse Local	None required. The audit team completed procedures to challenge the estimate.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Electors' rights to inspect the accounts

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 ('the regulations'), introduced new requirements in respect of publishing the financial statements and the period within which local electors may raise questions on the financial statements or make an objection to an item of account. For 2015/16 the Authority set this period as 1 July 2016 to 11 August 2016. We received no questions or objections within this period.

03 Internal control recommendations

The purpose of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters we report are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and that we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified more deficiencies to be reported or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

We reported findings and recommendations to the Audit Committee on 29 July 2016. The recommendation related to our review of the IT control environment. We also raised a number of recommendations in our 2014/15 Audit Completion Report relating to our IT control environment work. We were satisfied that the current arrangements have sufficiently addressed the 2014/15 recommendations.

Since our report in July 2016 we have identified an additional matter. Our findings and recommendation is set out below. We have assigned a priority ranking to the recommendation. This reflects the importance that we consider the recommendation poses to your organisation and, hence, our recommendation in terms of the urgency of required action. In summary, our priority rankings fall into the following categories:

Priority ranking	Description	Number of issues
1 (High)	In our view, there is potential for financial loss, damage to reputation or loss of information. This may have implications for the achievement of business strategic objectives. The recommendation should be taken into consideration by management immediately.	1
2 (Medium)	In our view, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency. The recommendations should be actioned in the near future.	0
3 (Low)	In our view, internal control should be strengthened in these additional areas when practicable.	0

Significant deficiencies in internal control – (Level 1)

Payroll Documentation

Description of deficiency

We completed substantive testing of employee costs. Part of this testing included review of HR folders primarily to confirm the employee pay grade.

HR was unable to locate the employee folder for one of the employees in our sample (we tested 23 employees in total). We obtained the necessary assurance by completing an alternative audit procedure.

Potential effects

Employee information, which is likely to be sensitive information, could be lost.

Recommendation

There should be procedures to ensure employee folders are held in a secure location. When a folder is removed there should be a record of where the folder is.

Management response

There is a clear procedure for the removal and logging of removed files. It appears that we have been unable to locate this file following relocation of HR in March 2016.

All personal files are now filed electronically for newly appointed employees and we are in the process of moving all of the personal files relating to existing employees onto the electronic document storage facility.

04 Summary of misstatements

The misstatements identified for adjustment during the course of the audit that are above the trivial level, are set out below. The first table outlines the identified misstatements which management has assessed as not being material, either individually or in aggregate to the financial statements, and does not currently plan to adjust.

The second table outlines the misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

Unadjusted misstatements 2015/16

		CIES		Balance Sheet	
		Dr £'000	Cr £'000	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
1	Dr: Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: Other Housing Services: Gross expenditure	5,305			
	Cr: Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: Other Housing Services: Gross income		5,305		
<p>Our expenditure cut off testing identified that a rent allowance payment for the period 07/03/2016 to 03/04/2016 had been coded to the financial year 2016/17. We queried why this had not been coded to 2015/16. Historically similar payments have been coded to the following year, with the Council ensuring that there was always 12 payments in any financial year. When we requested information to confirm this was the same in 2015/16 it was identified that the equivalent payment in April 2015 had been coded to the financial year 2014/15. This means rent allowance expenditure in 2015/16 is understated by the 2015 payment, which in total was £5.305 million.</p> <p>We noted that the subsidy income associated with the payment was also received in 2014/15. To be consistent this amount should also have been charged to 2015/16.</p> <p>The overall net impact of this error on cost of services would be nil given the expenditure would have been met with corresponding subsidy income.</p>					
2	Dr: Land and buildings: Accumulated depreciation			97	
	Cr: Land and buildings: Gross cost or valuation				1,068
	Dr: Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: Other operating expenditure: Gains/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	971			
	Dr: Capital Adjustment Account			971	
	Cr: Movement in Reserves Statement: Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (note 7)				971
	Dr: Revaluation Reserve			844	
	Cr: Capital Adjustment Account				844

The year-end reconciliation of the Fixed Asset Register and General Ledger identified an error in the accounting treatment of a Chester-le-Street Church of England school. As a voluntarily controlled school it should not be recognised in the Balance Sheet as a Council asset. The school has not been removed and as such remains in the Council's land and building balance (note 12) as at the 31 March 2016.

The net book value of the asset held is £0.971 million. This amount should have been written out of land and buildings and charged to Other Comprehensive Expenditure as a loss on disposal. This transaction would have no impact on the General Fund as local authority capital accounting means the loss would have been written out of the General Fund, via the Movement on Reserves Statement, with the reverse charge being made to the Capital Adjustment Account.

The asset also had a balance on the Revaluation Reserve for previous gains which would reversed and charged to the Capital Adjustment Account.

3	Dr: Surplus Assets (note 12)			657	
	Dr: Assets under Construction (note 12)			1,958	
	Dr: Heritage Assets (note 13)			199	
	Dr: Investment Properties (note 14)			9	
	Dr: CIES: Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)	219			
	Cr: Land and buildings (note 12)				1,830
	Cr: Community Assets (note 12)				1,212
<p>A number of misclassifications were identified in the 2015/16 reconciliation between the Fixed Asset Register and the General Ledger. These are misclassifications between asset headings. The charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement would be reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement and therefore there would be no impact on the General Fund balance.</p> <p>Officers confirmed these reclassifications will be corrected in 2016/17.</p>					

4 Note 1, Accounting policy 21 PPE

A de minimus level for PPE accounting is not disclosed in accounting policies as required by the Code (para 4.1.4.1)

Unadjusted misstatements 2014/15

		CIES		Balance Sheet	
		Dr £'000	Cr £'000	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
1	Dr: Land and buildings (note 12)			473	
	Dr: Investment Property (note 14)			116	

	Dr: Community Assets (note 12)			7	
	Cr: Surplus Assets (note 12)				83
	Cr: Assets under Construction (note 12)				483
	Cr: CIES: REFCUS		30		
	A number of misclassifications were identified in the 2014/15 reconciliation between the Fixed Asset Register and the General Ledger. Officers confirmed these reclassifications had not been corrected in 2015/16 and therefore remain as an error.				
2	Dr: Land and buildings			1,739	
	Cr: Revaluation Reserve				1,739
	The 2014/15 reconciliation of the fixed asset register to General Ledger identified £1.739 million of omitted revaluation gains not reflected in the accounts. This related to gypsy and traveller sites. This has meant the asset as at 31 March 2016 remains understated by £1.739 million.				

Adjusted misstatements 2015/16

		CIES		Balance Sheet	
		Dr £'000	Cr £'000	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
1	Dr: Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: Gross Expenditure, Adult Social Care	15,431			
	Cr: Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: Gross Income, Adult Social Care		15,431		
	Review of the accounting treatment for the Better Care Fund (BCF) identified the Council had recognised all income and expenditure associated with the BCF. This totalled £43.735 million. Discussion shows this includes elements of Clinical Commissioning Group expenditure where the Council is considered to be an agent (rather than principal). As such £15.431 million recognised as income and expenditure should not be recognised in the Councils net cost of services. This has no impact on the net cost of services position.				
		Cash Flow Statement			
		Dr £'000	Cr £'000		
2	Dr: Investing activities (Note 28)	207,034			

Cr: Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provisions of services for non-cash movements (note 25)		207,034
Both figures include £207 million in relation to capital grant income for housing stock transfer. This was not a cash receipt, hence should be excluded. This adjustment also affects notes 25 and 28 which have also been amended as a result.		

Disclosure amendments

Note 12, Property, Plant and Equipment, note 14 Investment Property and note 20, Assets Held for Sale: additional disclosures added regarding fair value to meet the requirements of IFRS 13 (Fair Value Measurement).

Note 12, Property, Plant and Equipment: The revaluations and impairments recognised in the revaluation reserve and surplus/deficit on the provision of services has been amended owing to incorrect signage.

Note 15, Financial Instruments: The following amendments have been made to the financial instruments disclosed in note 15:

Financial Instrument	Figure per draft accounts £000	Final figure £000	Adjustment £000	Note
Debtors: Loans and Receivables (Current)	£44,604	£41,494	£3,110	A
Creditors: Financial liabilities at amortised cost	£98,616	£82,982	£15,634	B
Short Term Creditors (Carrying amount and fair value)	£107,449	£82,982	£24,467	C
Short Term Creditors (Carrying amount and fair value) – 31 March 2015	£114,269	£94,343	£19,926	D
Short term debtors (carrying amount and fair value)	£44,605	£41,494	£3,111	C

Note A: error was due to payments in advance, which are not financial instruments, incorrectly being included in the debtor balance.

Note B: error was due to non-financial instruments such as payments in advance, being included in the creditor balance.

Note C: The short term creditor and short term debtors figures disclosed in the fair value tables were amended to be consistent with those figures shown in the first table in note 15.

Note D: The prior year comparatives have been amended in the fair value table so they are consistent with the figure shown with the figures shown in the first table in note 15.

The narrative of note 15 was amended to make it clearer to the reader of the accounts that the fair value of the PWLB loans shown in the table was based on the new borrowing rate. There were also a small number of trivial adjustments made to the note.

Note 24, Unusable Reserves (Capital Adjustment Account): Narrative relating to disposal proceeds from the sale of the housing stock was omitted in the draft accounts.

Notes 25-29, Cash Flow Statement: There were a number of amendments to the figures and presentation of the Cash Flow Statement disclosure notes (the largest of these is detailed above).

Note 30, Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions: Note was amended to disclose as a separate line depreciation and impairment charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Note 35, External Audit Costs: note updated to include disclosure of non-audit services provided during the year.

Note 37, Grant Income: The following adjustments were made to the grant and contribution income credited to services disclosure in note 37:

Grant and Contribution	Figure per draft accounts £000	Final figure £000	Adjustment	Note
Clinical Commissioning Groups – Better Care Fund	£39,193	£23,762	£15,431	A
Pupil Premium	£911	£20,961	£20,050	B
Early Years Single Funding Formula	£773	£0	£773	C

Note A: This relates to the incorrect treatment of the Better Care Fund income and expenditure detailed above.

Note B: Amounts incorrectly classified in the General Ledger meant they were omitted when the note was prepared.

Note C: This amount was double counted as it was already included in the Dedicated Schools Grant figure of £282.206 million.

Bar the treatment of the Better Care Fund income the other items are classification errors and have no impact on net cost of services.

Note 38, Related Parties: There were a number of minor adjustments to the related party disclosures, this included disclosures regarding Beamish and Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited.

Note 50. Pooled Budget – Better Care Fund: the expenditure table was updated to reflect the split between revenue and capital.

Note 51, Prior Period Adjustments: Note has been updated to reflect the changes to comparatives on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Collection Fund: Share of NNDR deficit, £3.845 million, was incorrectly shown as being allocated to Durham Police and Crime Commissioner. This has been amended and correctly allocated to Central Government. Tables for arrears percentages for both Council Tax and NNDR have been updated. Some other trivial amendments were made to the Collection fund disclosure notes.

Housing Revenue Account: There were a small number changes made to the HRA disclosures.

Annual Governance Statement: There was a small number of amendments to the AGS following our review.

There were also a small number of other non-material disclosure misstatements which have been corrected by management. These mainly were minor errors, omissions, clarifications and typographical errors. All were corrected by management.

05 Value for money

We are required to conclude whether the Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources by considering one overall criterion which is made up of three sub-criteria.

The overall criterion set out by the National Audit Office (NAO) is:

'In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.'

The three sub-criteria are:

Sub-criteria	Guidance
Informed decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance.• Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information (including, where relevant, information from regulatory/monitoring bodies) to support informed decision making and performance management.• Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities.• Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control.
Sustainable resource deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions.• Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.• Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities.
Working with partners and other third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities.• Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.• Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.

In our Audit Strategy Memorandum we identified no significant risks relevant to the value for money conclusion. We have continued to revisit our value for money risk assessment and have identified no significant risk.

In our Audit Strategy Memorandum we did identify areas where we believed additional work was necessary to fully understand the Council's arrangements. This additional work was completed by focusing on the following areas:

Sub-criteria	Additional work	Results of additional work
Sustainable resource deployment	<p>The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), including review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the Council has developed its MTFP and updated for LG Spending review; • the delivery of 2015/16 savings against plans; • the arrangements for 2016/17 savings, including review of the robustness of identified plans; and • the arrangements for identifying savings in 2017/18 to 2019/20. 	<p>We discussed arrangements for developing the MTFP with officers. No significant changes to arrangements from previous years were identified and the MTFP had been updated where required. We reviewed a sample of 2015/16 savings plans. For each we confirmed that savings had either been delivered in full or where they had not, mitigating actions had been identified at an early stage. Arrangements meant there was regular monitoring and reporting of savings throughout the financial year.</p> <p>We reviewed a sample of 2016/17 and 2017/18 savings. In all cases we identified that plans were based on robust assumptions, had been sufficiently scrutinised and would be monitored. Our work identified no issues that suggest a weakness in arrangements.</p> <p>We considered the arrangements for 2017/18 and beyond through discussions with officers and review of documentation. The Big Board programme means future plans will follow a similar timetable to those already successfully delivered. Arrangements mean 2017/18 plans are in place with 2018/19 ones being initiated. We also considered the Transformational Programme which will review how the Council delivers services. This will work alongside the current arrangements. Our work identified no issues that suggest a weakness in arrangements.</p>
Working with partners and other third parties	<p>Better Care Fund (BCF), including review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCF performance; • BCF partnership arrangements; and • 2016/17 BCF plan. 	<p>We considered the arrangements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) through discussions with officers and review of documentation. It was reported to the Health and Well Being Board on the 26th July 2016 that all 2015/16 BCF schemes incurred expenditure in line with budgets, resulting in the budget of £43.735 million being achieved. Performance of the BCF is monitored against 6 Key Performance Indicators. As at quarter 4 two indicators (out of 6) had a red rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent admission of older people (aged 65yrs+) to residential / nursing homes per 100,000 population • Number of non-elective admissions to hospitals <p>Despite not meeting its targets there were signs of improvement in performance compared to previous years.</p> <p>Partnership arrangements are managed through the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>The 2016/17 BCF plan was submitted to NHS England on the 3 May 2016. At the time of this report the Council was still awaiting formal approval of the plan. The 2016/17 plan focuses on stability. Partners to the BCF agreed to roll forward all of the existing schemes and projects from the 2015/16 plan. The</p>

		<p>2016/17 plan is monitored and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>Our work identified no issues that suggested a weakness in arrangements.</p>
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Commentary on arrangements

The table below summarises our findings in respect of the three sub-criteria applicable to the Council specified by the NAO.

Informed decision making

Proper arrangements	Arrangements at Durham County Council	Audit Assurance obtained?
Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance	<p>The Council has an established Constitution which is subject to regular review. This clearly details the governance structure of the Council.</p> <p>The Council has an active Audit Committee.</p>	Yes
Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information (including, where relevant, information from regulatory/monitoring bodies) to support informed decision making and performance management.	<p>The Council produced regular finance reports which were presented throughout the financial year to the Cabinet. This is supported by monthly budget monitoring by management. The council's financial position, including delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan savings, have been clearly reported throughout the year. This reporting has allowed the Council to continually report, and deliver, a surplus in 2015/16.</p> <p>Performance reports have also been produced in a timely manner and there are robust arrangements in place for collecting and reporting performance. Performance measures are linked to the Altogether priority themes and are intended to measure service delivery against the background of increasing demand on services and falling resources. Performance indicators are reviewed by officers and members to ensure those used are still relevant. Our review of performance reports, whilst identifying some areas of challenge, identified no specific risk to the value for money conclusion.</p>	Yes
Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities.	As above the Council continues to produce regular finance reports which are presented throughout the financial year to the Cabinet. Reports are easy to read and clearly set out the financial position of the Council. The year-end position is not significantly different to that forecast during the year.	Yes
Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control.	<p>The Council has a Corporate Risk Management Group which has senior officer and member representation. Risks are identified and linked to the Council Altogether Corporate Themes. Actions to help mitigate each risk are identified and reported. The Council has an active Audit Committee which receives regular strategic risk management updates.</p> <p>The Council has a comprehensive Internal Audit plan and Internal Audit provide reports at each Audit Committee meeting.</p>	Yes

Sustainable resource deployment

Proper arrangements	Arrangements at Durham County Council	Audit Assurance obtained?
Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions.	<p>Robust budgetary control arrangements mean the council delivered a surplus in 2015/16 financial year, with all services reporting cash limit underspends at the year end. This included delivery of £16.3million savings. The final outturn for was presented to Cabinet on the 13 July 2016 with quarterly forecast outturn reports being presented to Cabinet throughout the year.</p> <p>The Council has a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which is regularly reviewed and updated. Regular updates on the MTFP have also been presented to Cabinet members. Additionally, where required, service reviews have been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committees. MTFP (6) forecasts savings of £104.3 million between 2016/17 -2019/20. The council has already delivered £153.2million of savings between 2011/12 and 2015/16 which will mean by the end of 2019/20 the council will have achieved savings of £257.5 million.</p> <p>Robust planning arrangements mean the Council identifies savings in advance of any financial year. The latest plan, MTFP (7), covering the 2017/18-2019/20, was presented to Cabinet in July 2016. The delivery of MTFP savings continues to be the number one risk in the Councils Strategic Risk Register. The Council's Big Board arrangements mean savings plans have been identified for 2017/18. Plans for 2018/19 are currently being initiated at service level and will be presented to members in early 2017. The Councils Transformational Programme will sit alongside the current arrangements. At the time of our review the scope of the programme was still being devised. The first Transformation Board met in September 2016 to determine its terms of reference. The Board has representatives from Corporate Management Team and Cabinet, this means the programme has prominence within the Council.</p>	Yes
Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.	<p>Through prudent financial management, at 31 March 2016, the Council reserves were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Fund balance - £29.1 million • Earmarked Reserves - £241.6 million <p>This will help the Council to manage the impact of expected future reductions in funding. The Council has planned to utilise reserves in a structured way to support future MTFP's. This includes use of the Business Support Reserve to support delivery of the MTFP in 2016/17 and 2017/18. Budget setting arrangements mean the Council regularly review earmarked reserves. Where reserves, previously earmarked for specific schemes, are no longer relevant the reserve is released and used to support pressures. The Budget Support Reserve at the 31 March 2016 had a balance of £30.0 million.</p> <p>The Council has a capital plan in place.</p>	Yes

Proper arrangements	Arrangements at Durham County Council	Audit Assurance obtained?
Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities.	<p>There has been significant levels of employees leaving the council in recent years. In 2016/17 the Council is forecasting a further reduction of 400 posts including the deletion of 60 anticipated vacant posts. The council continues to survey staff and monitors staff sickness levels for any indication of changes in overall morale. The Council also monitors service performance which may drop as a result of inappropriate staffing levels. Performance is monitored against the Council's Altogether priorities. Service Groupings review workforce reduction. Recommendations made in the recent Ofsted report, regarding staffing levels, are being addressed through the Improvement Action Plan which is monitored by the Quality Improvement Board.</p> <p>Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) are seen as an essential part of the development of savings. EIA ensure the lawfulness and fairness of savings are considered. Assessments look at the impact to service users and staff of any potential savings. EIA's are available to members to inform their decisions on savings proposals.</p>	Yes

Working with partners and other third parties

Proper arrangements	Arrangements at Durham County Council	Audit Assurance obtained?
Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities.	<p>The Council has a track record of working with partners. Area Action Partnerships are in place and allow the Council to work with local residents and organisations. Through the County Durham Partnership the Council works with other organisations and partnerships to promote and develop County Durham. The Council has a good record of consultation with the public.</p> <p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) was considered as part of our additional work (see table above). The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight and receives quarterly updates on performance and financial information. The BCF is managed through a joint board to ensure balanced working between the parties. A Joint Finance Group, including appropriate Finance representation from the three partner organisations, meets on a regular basis to review financial information to support the reporting process.</p> <p>The Council is a member of the North East Combined Authority. At the time of our report proposals for further devolution in the region was uncertain given a decision on 6 September 2016. Arrangements in place should ensure the MTFP is updated for any significant changes which may impact on the Council through any future decision. The Strategic Risk Management has also identified devolution as an emerging risk and one being monitored by the council.</p>	Yes
Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.	The Council Constitution details the arrangements for contracting with third parties.	Yes

Proper arrangements	Arrangements at Durham County Council	Audit Assurance obtained?
Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities.	We have identified no matters to suggest services procured are not delivering the Council's strategic priorities.	Yes

Having gathered evidence of the Council's arrangements for each of the sub-criterion we conducted a 'reality check', building upon our existing knowledge of the Council and considering the robustness of our assessment by referring to:

- reports by statutory inspectorates or other regulators;
- achievement of performance and other targets; and
- performance against budgets and other financial targets.

Evidence	Auditor assessment
Reports by statutory inspectorates or other regulators	<p>In 2015/16 the Council received an overall 'requires improvement' rating from Ofsted. This followed an inspection of Children's Services and the Local safeguarding Children's Board. This rating was a fall from the previous 'good' score the Council had received at its last inspection. Whilst the Ofsted report identified several areas of good performance it also made 14 recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>We reviewed the arrangements put in place by the Council following the inspection, including its Improvement Action Plan. The plan covers each of the identified recommendations and identifies actions that the service will take, assigns a lead officer to each action, a start and end date, key milestones and the expected outcome. The Plan is being monitored by the Quality Improvement Board (QIB) which was established before the inspection. The QIB has senior officer and member representation. Our review identified that arrangements have been put in place by the Council to manage the result of the Ofsted Inspection.</p> <p>We reviewed the value for money profiles (based on data from Public Sector Audit Appointments). Based on this review, there were no indicators which would suggest weaknesses in the Council's arrangements, or any information contrary to our knowledge of the Council.</p>
Achievement of performance and other targets	We reviewed the latest performance reports and identified no matters suggesting a weakness in the Council's arrangements or any information contrary to our knowledge of the Council.
Performance against budgets and other financial targets	The Council has a history of achieving budget targets.

Overall conclusion

Having completed our assessment, and having carried out a 'reality check', we can conclude that our initial risk assessment remains appropriate and we can be confident in our conclusion that the Council has adequate arrangements in place for each criterion.

Overall the Council continues to respond well to the financial and other pressures it has faced, at a time of unprecedented reductions in public sector spending, and continues to have a strong record of delivering savings and keeping within budget.

We intend to issue an unqualified Value for Money conclusion as set out in Appendix B.

Appendix A – Draft management representation letter

Durham County Council - audit for year ended 31 March 2016

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the statement of accounts for Durham County Council ('the Council') for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the statement of accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the statement of accounts and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the statement of accounts in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the statement of accounts such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Council you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as interim Director of Resources that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the Council in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Council have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as interim Director of Resources / s151 Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the statement of accounts may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Council involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Council's statement of accounts communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Council's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Service Concession Arrangements

I am not aware of any material contract variations, payment deductions or additional service charges in 2015/16 in relation to the Council's PFI schemes that you have not been made aware of.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Council will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements as included in the auditor's draft Audit Completion Report are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the statement of accounts as a whole.

Yours sincerely

Interim Director of Resources / s151 officer

Date.....

Appendix B – Draft audit report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion on the Authority financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resource is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resource; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Durham County Council as at 31 March 2016 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007 and the December 2012 addendum;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Pension Fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director of Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts, which includes the Pension Fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on Pension Fund financial statements

In our opinion the Pension Fund's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2016 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2016 other than liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the end of the scheme year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under section 20 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office, requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the National Audit Office.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

We are required to conclude whether the Authority has put in place arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

We have planned and undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice as issued by the National Audit Office and had regard to relevant guidance. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion published by the National Audit Office, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Durham County Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Cameron Waddell

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Rivergreen Centre

Aykley Heads

Durham

DH1 5TS

30 September 2016

Appendix C - Materiality

Materiality is an expression of the relative significance or importance of a particular matter in the context of financial statements as a whole.

Misstatements in financial statements are considered to be material if they, individually or in aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Judgements on materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances and are affected by the size and nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both. Judgements about materiality are based on consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group and not on specific individual users.

The assessment of what is material is a matter of professional judgement and is affected by our perception of the financial information needs of the users of the financial statements. In making our assessment we assumed that users:

- have a reasonable knowledge of business, economic activities and accounts;
- have a willingness to study the information in the financial statements with reasonable diligence;
- understand that financial statements are prepared, presented and audited to levels of materiality;
- recognise the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgement and the consideration of future events; and
- will make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.

We considered materiality whilst planning and performing our audit.

Whilst planning, we made judgements about the size of misstatements which we considered to be material and which provided a basis for determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures, identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

In 2015/16 we set materiality at the planning stage at £24,929,000 (2% of gross revenue expenditure) with a clearly trivial threshold of £748,000 below which identified errors will not usually be reported. We set lower materiality levels for the accounting entries we consider to be more sensitive, for example, senior officer's remuneration, as we considered these items to be of specific interest to users of the accounts sufficient to warrant audit procedures which would not otherwise be applied based on the materiality level for the audit as a whole. The materiality determined at the planning stage did not necessarily establish an amount below which uncorrected misstatements, either individually or in aggregate, would be considered as immaterial.

We revised materiality for the financial statements as our audit progressed. Our closing assessment of materiality in 2015/16, based upon the final version of the financial statements, was £24,627,000 with a clearly trivial threshold of £739,000 below which identified errors were not reported.

We discussed with management any significant misstatements or anomalies that we identified during the course of the audit and we reported in our Audit Completion Report all unadjusted misstatements we identified other than those which were clearly trivial, and obtained written representation that explained why these remain unadjusted.

Appendix D – Independence

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

The following matters do not impact on our independence but we wish to bring them to your attention to ensure Members are fully aware of the services that we provide to the Council or to its related parties:

Support provided by Mazars	Perceived threats and safeguards
Potential assurance services in relation to the Teachers' Pensions, Skills Funding Agency returns for 2015/16.	<p>We have considered threats and safeguards for all grants work as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self Review: The review does not involve the preparation of information that has a material impact upon the financial statements subject to audit by Mazars.• Self Interest: The total fee level is not deemed to be material to the Council or Mazars. The work undertaken is not paid on a contingency basis.• Management: The work does not involve Mazars making any decisions on behalf of management.• Advocacy: The work does not involve Mazars advocating the Council to third parties.• Familiarity: Work is not deemed to give rise to a familiarity threat given these pieces of assurance work used to fall under the Audit Commission's certification regime and were the responsibility of the Council's appointed auditor.• Intimidation: The nature of the work does not give rise to any intimidation threat from management to Mazars.

AUDIT COMMITTEE



30 September 2016

External Audit: Audit Completion Report Year Ended 31 March 2016 – Pension Fund

Report of the External Auditor

Purpose of the Report

1. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the attached External Auditor report on the completion of the audit of the statement of accounts for the Pension Fund for year ended 31 March 2016.

Background

2. This report (attached at Appendix 2) illustrates the findings of the external audit completed by Mazars for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the Pension Fund.
3. The audit has been completed in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Summary of Audit Progress

4. Work is now complete on the audit of the Durham Pension Fund Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Recommendation

5. The Committee is requested to:
 - Note the adjustments to the financial statements included in the report at Appendix 2.
 - Approve the letter of representation at Appendix 3 on behalf of the Council before the opinion and conclusion are issued.

Contact: Sharon Liddle

Tel: 03000 267452

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

None

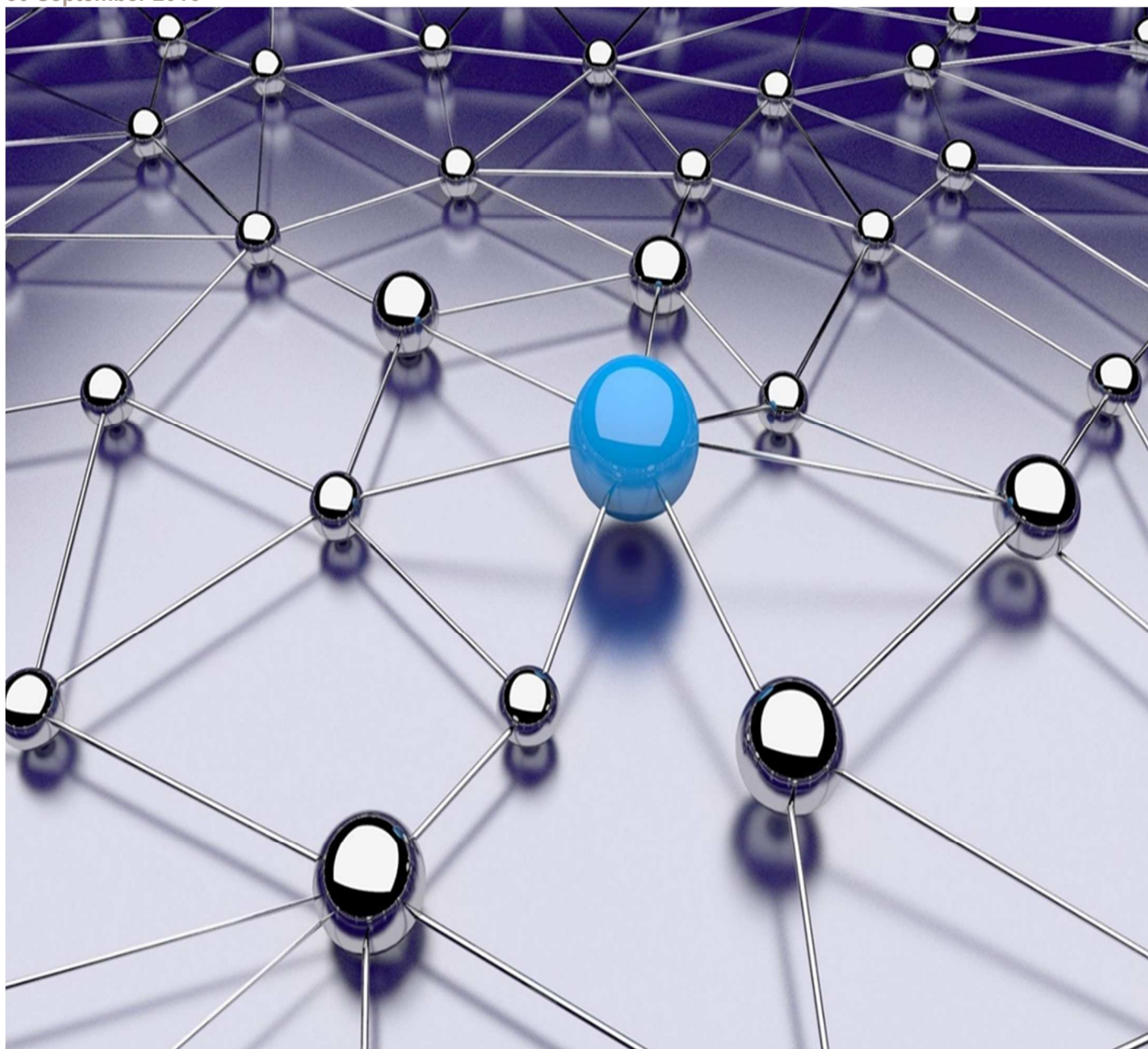
Legal Implications

Statutory approval of the statement of accounts.

Audit Completion Report

Durham County Council Pension Fund – year ended 31 March 2016

30 September 2016



Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Audit Committee Members
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UE

30 September 2016

Dear Members

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2016

We are delighted to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2016. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and areas of management judgement was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented on 17 May 2016. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks remain appropriate.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to your officers for their assistance during the course of our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0191 383 6343 or cameron.waddell@mazars.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Cameron Waddell
Partner and Engagement Lead
Mazars LLP

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Our reports are prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the audited body and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

01 Executive summary

Purpose of this document

This document has been prepared to communicate the findings of our audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 to the Audit Committee of Durham County Council Pension Fund and forms the basis for discussion at the Audit Committee meeting on 30 September 2016.

Our communication with you is important to:

- share information to assist both the auditor and those charged with governance to fulfil our respective responsibilities;
- provide you with constructive observations arising from the audit process;
- ensure, as part of the two-way communication process, we gain an understanding of your attitude and views in respect of the internal and external operational, financial, compliance and other risks facing Durham County Council Pension Fund; and
- receive feedback from yourselves as to the performance of the engagement team.

As outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) which means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement. Section 3 of this report includes our conclusions on the significant risks that we set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

We also set out details of internal control recommendations in section 3 and a summary of misstatements discovered as part of the audit in section 4.

Status and audit opinion

We have substantially completed our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016.

At the time of preparing this report, the following matters remain outstanding:

- return on investments;
- review of the Pension Fund Annual Report; and
- completion of our review procedures.

We will provide an update to you in relation to the matters outstanding above by issuing a follow up letter.

Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the remaining audit work, we anticipate issuing:

- an unqualified opinion, without modification, on your statement of accounts, to be included in the opinion issued on the Council's financial statements. Our proposed report is set out in Appendix B.
- an unqualified consistency report on the pension fund's financial statements, to be included in the annual report. Our proposed report is set out in Appendix C.

02 Significant findings

Set out below are the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- Our audit conclusions regarding the significant risks outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum.
- Our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures in your financial statements. We have concluded that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year.
- Any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

International Standards on Auditing 240 – *The auditor's responsibility to consider fraud in an audit of financial statement* (ISA 240) requires us to consider the potential for management override because controls that may be sufficient to detect error may not be effective in detecting fraud.

In all entities, management at various levels within an organisation is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, we consider there to be a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and thus a significant risk on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by:

- reviewing accounting estimates affecting amounts included in the financial statements;
- reviewing and considering any significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and
- applying a risk based approach to journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the assurance we sought and has not highlighted any material issues to bring to your attention.

Valuation of unquoted investments for which a market price is not readily available

Description of the risk

As at 31 March 2016, the fair value of investments which were not quoted on an active market was £496 million, which accounted for 21% of the Fund's net investment assets. As prices for these investments are not quoted in active markets, the values used in the accounts are those provided by fund managers mostly based on Net Asset Value statements, although in some cases are based on forward looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. This results in an increased risk of material misstatement.

How we addressed this risk

In addition to our standard programme of work in this area we completed the following tests:

- reviewed the management controls in place to assess the reasonableness of the valuation;
- agreed holdings from fund manager reports to the global custodian's report;
- agreed the valuation to supporting documentation including investment manager valuation statements and cashflows for any adjustments made to the investment manager valuation;
- agreed the investment manager valuation to audited accounts. Where these were not available, agreed the investment manager valuation to other independent supporting documentation;
- where audited accounts were available, checked that they are supported by a clean opinion; and
- agreed the price to independent evidence, for those valuations not supported by valuation statement.

Audit conclusion

Fund managers estimate the value of unquoted investments based on the best available information of the year end value at the time the financial statements are prepared. At the time of audit, additional information was available to fund managers relating to the year-end value of investments which was not available at the time the financial statements were prepared. This timing issue is unavoidable due to the time constraints on fund managers providing information for inclusion in the financial statements.

The most recently available information was used to review the investments included in our sample testing, to allow us to ascertain whether the most up to date information highlighted a risk of material misstatement. For the sample tested, information provided by fund managers indicates a higher net asset value of £0.77 million than the estimates included in the financial statements. Our extrapolation indicates a potential difference of £0.83 million if the sample results were true for the whole population. We consider the extrapolation does not indicate a risk of material misstatement.

Actuary's report disclosure

Description of the risk

The funding arrangements disclosure note sets out the key elements of the funding policy and key information regarding the most recent triennial valuation as at 31 March 2013, including contributions to be paid by participating bodies to allow the fund to achieve 100% solvency over 18 years. While there are no accounting entries associated with this disclosure, the triennial valuation determines future employer contribution rates and the disclosure itself is material. The calculation of these figures can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions. There is a risk of material misstatement due to high estimation uncertainty.

How we addressed this risk

In addition to our standard program of work we have:

- reviewed the management controls you have in place over the source data;
- considered the reasonableness of the actuary's output, using our expert's report on all actuaries nationally which is commissioned annually by the National Audit Office; and
- reviewed source data on a sample basis.

Audit conclusion

We have identified no matters to report arising from our work on the actuary's report disclosure.

Accounting policies and disclosures

We have reviewed Durham County Council Pension Fund's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

Electors' rights to inspect the accounts

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 ('the regulations'), introduced new requirements in respect of publishing the financial statements and the period within which local electors may raise questions on the financial statements or make an objection to an item of account. For 2015/16 the administering authority set this period as 1 July 2016 to 11 August 2016. We received no questions or objections within this period relating to the pension fund.

03 Internal control recommendations

The purpose of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

Other than as noted below, we have identified no matters to report. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified additional deficiencies to be reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

The classification of investments in the BlackRock reports is different to that required by the Code. Officers were unaware of this until part way through the financial year when some misclassified investments were identified. These were corrected during the year. During the audit it became apparent that there were additional investments which were not classified in accordance with The Code at which point officers undertook an exercise to identify and correct all such investments. This resulted in significant amendments to the draft accounts, as detailed in section 4 of this report.

Going forward, officers plan to interrogate the quarterly reports in order to identify investments which require reclassifying prior to posting transactions to the ledger.

As part of our audit we completed a review of IT general controls, in conjunction with a review undertaken at Durham County Council. One issue was identified and reported to the Audit Committee on 29 July 2016 regarding change management which would be applicable to the Pension Fund.

04 Summary of misstatements

The misstatements identified for adjustment during the course of the audit that are above the trivial level, are set out below. Table 1 outlines the identified misstatements which management has assessed as not being material, either individually or in aggregate to the financial statements, and does not currently plan to adjust.

Table 2 outlines the material misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

There have also been material misstatements to the notes within the Pension Fund statements that have been adjusted by management. These are outlined in Table 3.

Table 1: Unadjusted misstatements 2015/16

		Fund Account		Net Assets Statement	
		Debit £'000	Credit £'000	Debit £'000	Credit £'000
1	Debit: Investment assets	-	-	828	-
	Credit: Profit and losses on disposal of and changes in the market value of investments (CIMV)	-	828	-	-
	Difference between the estimated valuation of unquoted investments at 31 March 2016 included in the accounts and a later estimate of year end valuation using more up to date information available at time of audit, as detailed in the audit conclusion on the valuation of unquoted investments for which a market price is not readily available, on 5 of this report. The figure is extrapolated from the results of sample testing to the whole population. The actual difference identified is £777k. This would also affect the Fund Account and notes 14, 15 and 16 in the pension fund accounts.				
2	Debit: Short term investments	-	-	688	-
	Credit: Current liabilities	-	-	-	688
	Book overdraft on current accounts set off against short term investments in the accounts. This error would also affect notes 14, 15, 16 and 18 in the accounts.				

Table 2a: Adjusted misstatements 2015/16

		Fund Account		Net Assets Statement	
		Debit £'000	Credit £'000	Debit £'000	Credit £'000
1	Debit: Fund manager cash	-	-	17,111	-
	Debit: Derivative liabilities	-	-	27,360	-
	Debit: Fixed Interest Securities	-	-	19,289	-
	Credit: Derivative asset	-	-	-	44,471
	Credit: Pooled Investment Vehicles	-	-	-	19,289
Reclassification of BlackRock investments at 31 March 2016. This also affected the disclosure of investments in notes 14, 15 and 16.					

Table 2b: Adjusted misstatements 2014/15

1	Debit: Pooled Investment Vehicles	-	-	30,080	-
	Credit: Equities	-	-	-	30,080
Reclassification of BlackRock investments at 31 March 2015. This also affected the disclosure of investments in notes 14, 15 and 16.					

Table 3: Disclosure amendments

Note reference	Amendment
Note 14: Investments – Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2015/16	<p>Material reclassification of BlackRock transactions:</p> <p>Fixed interest purchases - £17.193m increase</p> <p>Fixed interest sale proceeds - £27.596m increase</p> <p>Fixed interest CIMV - £10.403m increase</p> <p>Equity purchases - £4.651m decrease</p> <p>Equity sale proceeds - £3.907m decrease</p> <p>Equity CIMV - £0.744m decrease</p> <p>Pooled Investment Vehicle purchases - £12.721m decrease</p> <p>Pooled Investment Vehicle sale proceeds - £23.868m decrease</p> <p>Pooled Investment Vehicle CIMV - £11.147m decrease</p>

Table 3: Disclosure amendments

Note reference	Amendment
<p>Note 14: Investments – Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2014/15.</p>	<p>Material reclassifications of BlackRock 2014/15 transactions and market values at 31 March 2015:</p> <p>Pooled Investment Vehicle purchases - £31.442m increase Pooled Investment Vehicle market value at 31.3.15 - £30.080m increase Pooled Investment Vehicle CIMV - £1.062m decrease Equity purchases - £31.442m decrease Equity market value at 31.3.15 - £30.080m decrease Equity CIMV - £1.062m increase</p>
<p>Note 14: Investments – Analysis of investments 2015/16</p>	<p>Material reclassifications of BlackRock investments at 31 March 2016:</p> <p>Overseas Corporate quoted – £19.289m increase Managed Property, non property, UK quoted - £77.739m increase Managed Property, non property, overseas quoted - £97.028m decrease</p>
<p>Note 14: Investments – Analysis of investments 2014/15</p>	<p>Material reclassifications of BlackRock:</p> <p>Overseas Corporate quoted – £30.669m increase Overseas – Public sector quoted - £30.669m decrease</p>

Appendix A – Draft management representation letter

Durham County Council Pension Fund - audit for year ended 31 March 2016

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the statement of accounts for Durham County Council Pension Fund ('the Pension Fund') for the year ended 31 March 2016 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the statement of accounts give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the statement of accounts and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the statement of accounts in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the statement of accounts such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Pension Fund you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as interim Director of Resources that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information. As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Pension Fund and Committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Pension Fund's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by the Pension Fund in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Pension Fund have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Pension Fund has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as interim Director of Resources for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the statement of accounts may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Pension Fund involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Pension Fund's statement of accounts communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Pension Fund's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Pension Fund will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the

going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements as included in the auditor's draft Audit Completion Report are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the statement of accounts as a whole.

Specific representation on unquoted investments

Unquoted investments are included in the net assets statement at the value provided by our fund managers which have been estimated in accordance with the guidelines used by the industry, and based on the latest information to hand at the time of the valuation. I am satisfied, based on the knowledge I have, with the valuations, and am not aware of any subsequent events that would have a material impact on the estimated value of the unquoted investments.

Yours sincerely

Interim Director of Resources

Date.....

Appendix B – Draft audit report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion on the Authority financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resource is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resource; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Durham County Council as at 31 March 2016 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007 and the December 2012 addendum;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Pension Fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director of Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts, which includes the Pension Fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on Pension Fund financial statements

In our opinion the Pension Fund's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2016 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2016 other than liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the end of the scheme year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under section 20 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office, requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the National Audit Office.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

We are required to conclude whether the Authority has put in place arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

We have planned and undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice as issued by the National Audit Office and had regard to relevant guidance. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion published by the National Audit Office, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, *Durham County Council* put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Cameron Waddell

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

30 September 2016

Appendix C – Draft consistency report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have examined the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Director of Resources and the auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the pension fund's financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the pension fund financial statements within the pension fund annual report with the pension fund financial statements in the statement of accounts of Durham County Council, and its compliance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

We also read the other information contained in the pension fund annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the pension fund financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Auditor Guidance Note 07 Auditor Reporting issued by the National Audit Office. Our report on the administering authority's full annual statement of accounts describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the pension fund financial statements are consistent with the full annual statement of accounts of Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 and comply with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Cameron Waddell

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

30 September 2016

Appendix D – Independence

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum in April 2016 and therefore we remain independent.

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Audit Committee

30 September 2016

**Annual Governance Statement for April
2015 – March 2016**



Report of Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director Resources

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report seeks approval of the final Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to be published as part of the Council's audited Statement of Accounts 2015/16.

Background

- 2 CMT considered the draft AGS on 8 June 2016, with the Audit Committee approving the draft AGS on 30 June 2016.
- 3 As part of the audit of the Statement of Accounts, the External Auditor (Mazars) reviews the AGS to ensure it is materially accurate and that it is a correct reflection of known governance issues throughout the year. As part of this review the External Auditor has requested a small number of amendments to the draft AGS prior to its approval as part of the audited Statement of Accounts at Audit Committee.

Proposed changes to the Draft Annual Governance Statement

- 4 The proposed amendments are highlighted below. For reference purposes, the paragraph number in the revised AGS is highlighted, and the paragraph in the original draft AGS is also noted (in brackets) for each change:-
 - (i) Paragraph 20 (20) currently reads:

Assurance can also be taken from the following external independent sources that, through good governance, the Council continues to maintain and improve the quality of services:-

- *An inspection of children's services and review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board by Ofsted under their single inspection framework. A Quality Improvement Board provides strategic oversight of the Ofsted implementation plan and quality assurance developments in Children's Services.*

Following agreement with the Interim Corporate Director, Children and Young Peoples Service it is suggested that we remove this bullet point on the grounds of making the AGS a more accurate reflection of the findings of the Ofsted Report. A new paragraph (21) is suggested containing the following text:

‘During the year, an inspection of children’s services and a review of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board were undertaken by Ofsted under their single inspection framework. A Quality Improvement Board, which had already been established to oversee quality assurance developments in Children’s Services, will also provide strategic oversight of the Ofsted implementation plan.’

(ii) Paragraph 84 (83) currently reads:

The Council’s [Constitution](#) sets out the governance roles and responsibilities of these functions. In addition:

- Internal and External Audit provide independent assurance on the effectiveness of the corporate governance framework*

At the request of the external auditor it is proposed that this bullet point is re-worded as follows:

‘External Audit provides an independent opinion on whether the Annual Governance Statement is materially accurate.’

- 5 A copy of the final proposed AGS is attached in Appendix 2 and this will be included in the audited Statements of Accounts.

Recommendation

- 6 The Audit Committee to approve the final AGS in Appendix 2.

Contact: David Marshall Tel: 03000 269648

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Financial planning and management is a key component of effective corporate governance.

Staffing - Ensuring the adequate capability of staff meets a core principle of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) guidance.

Risk – Delivery of the corporate governance action plan will strengthen the decision making and strategic and operational management of the Council's business.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty - Engaging local communities including hard to reach groups meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Accommodation – None directly, although asset management is a key component of effective corporate governance

Crime and Disorder – None.

Human Rights - None.

Consultation - Engaging local communities meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Procurement – None.

Disability issues – Ensuring access to services meets a core principle of the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Legal Implications – Ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, and ensuring that expenditure is lawful, is a key component of effective corporate governance

Appendix 2: Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Durham County 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.
2. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to prepare an Annual Governance Statement, which must accompany the Statement of Accounts. 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.
3. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
4. In January 2015, the Council approved, adopted and published on its website, a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”.
5. This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6 (1) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

6. The governance framework comprises of 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 for the people of County Durham.
7. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and 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.

8. The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

9. The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements are detailed in the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is documented in the Council's [Constitution](#). This sets out the key documents and processes that determine the way the Council is directed and controlled to meet the six core principles of the CIPFA/ SOLACE Framework.
10. The following sections demonstrate assurance that the Council has complied with each of these principles in practice, and also highlights where we have further improved our corporate governance arrangements during 2015/16.

The Six Principles of Good Governance

Principle 1: Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area

11. The [Sustainable Community Strategy \(SCS\) 2014 – 2030](#) which has been produced by the Council in conjunction with its partners on the County Durham Partnership, demonstrates its shared long-term vision for the future of County Durham. This vision for County Durham, namely 'Altogether Better Durham' outlines two areas of focus – **Altogether Better Place** and **Altogether Better for People** and five priority themes, which represent the major issues identified by residents:
 - Altogether wealthier – focusing on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of all our plans. This theme is supported by the [Regeneration Statement 2012 – 2022](#) and the [County Durham Plan](#);
 - Altogether better for children and young people – ensuring children and young people are kept safe from harm and that they can 'believe, achieve and succeed'. This theme is supported by the [Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015 - 2018](#);

- Altogether healthier – improving health and wellbeing, supported by the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 - 2019](#);
 - Altogether greener – ensuring an attractive and ‘liveable’ local environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges. This theme is supported by the [County Durham Plan](#);
 - Altogether safer – creating a safer and cohesive county, supported by the [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015 - 2018](#) and the [Police and Crime Plan 2015 - 2017](#).
12. The SCS was renewed and launched in November 2014 and identified six new areas of cross-thematic focus that will benefit from additional joined up working: Job Creation, Volunteering, Inequalities, Alcohol, Mental Wellbeing and Think Family. The 2014 version of the strategy reflects changes in local priorities and the need to deliver services with fewer resources. The strategy will undergo a substantial review during 2016/17.
 13. The County Durham Partnership, which is the strategic partnership for the County, is made up of key public, private and voluntary sector partners, and is underpinned by thematic partnerships set around the five priority themes. Operationally, it is supported by the Delivery and Improvement Group, whose role is to monitor performance towards implementing the SCS, and consider strategically how plans align and where efficiencies and value can be maximised through integration, shared services and joint commissioning.
 14. The [Council Plan 2016 - 2019](#) was approved in April 2016 and contains the Council's corporate priorities and the key actions to take in support of delivering the longer term goals in the SCS and the Council's own improvement agenda. The [Council Plan](#) is supported by a series of Service Plans at a Service Grouping level which detail the planned actions to deliver the Council's vision.
 15. The [Medium Term Financial Plan 2016 - 2019 \(MTFP\)](#) was approved by the Council in February 2016. This provides a financial framework associated with the [Council Plan](#) that enables members and officers to ensure policy initiatives can be planned for delivery within available resources and can be aligned to priority outcomes. It also enables the continued provision of value for money (VFM). The key risk facing the Council continues to be the challenge of managing unprecedented budget reductions in the current period of economic austerity. To meet this challenge, a comprehensive schedule of savings targets has been programmed to achieve the necessary savings to enable us to deliver a balanced budget and [MTFP](#). Assurance over the delivery of this programme is gained by detailed and frequent monitoring undertaken by Corporate Management Team (CMT) and, during the five years up to the end of March 2016, a sum of £153m of savings has been delivered. These

arrangements will equip the Council well for dealing with further austerity measures announced as part of the latest central government spending review. The Council has maintained prudent levels of reserves enabling us to meet unanticipated expenditure as necessary whilst still achieving planned savings targets and meeting service level expectations.

16. Despite sustained, large-scale Government spending cuts and rising demand for services, the MTFP seeks to deliver some very positive outcomes for the people of County Durham. Significant capital investment in town centres and industrial estates will support regeneration, the Council's highest priority, in order to protect existing jobs and create new ones. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme provides continued support for low-income, working age households; and ongoing work with partners aims to maximise health and social care funds for the benefit of vulnerable people.
17. In April 2014, the Council submitted the County Durham Plan to the Government and this was followed by an examination in public. After the Planning Inspector's Report rejected the plan, the council challenged the report, which was subsequently quashed by the High Court. Following discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Planning Inspectorate, legal advice was sought and the Council decided to undertake a three stage process in preparation of a new local plan, which will also ensure meaningful engagement with the community and other stakeholders. In the meantime, members have endorsed a revised Policy Position Statement to clarify how development proposals will be handled to ensure that appropriate sustainable development is not delayed.
18. To manage and measure service improvement, the Council has a locally led performance management framework that links to the SCS and the [Council Plan](#) and ensures that attention is focused on Council priorities. Key target indicators are used in areas where improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the Council and its partners. Where possible, performance is compared with that of other Councils using a recognised, online tool. A new indicator set and targets were developed for 2015/16 to ensure that our efforts continue to be focused on the right areas, and these were agreed by Cabinet in June 2015.
19. There are numerous examples of internally-driven improvements during 2015/16 that evidence the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements:-
 - Successful transfer of ownership of the Council's housing stock to the new County Durham Housing Group Ltd in April 2015, representing a significant opportunity to increase investment in homes, local

neighbourhoods and housing services to further improve the lives of tenants;

- Established localised, multi-disciplinary 'Families First' teams to help children, young people and their families achieve and maintain good progress;
- Increased self-serve facilities, allowing people to access more services through our website on a 24/7 basis;
- A new mobile-friendly website, Locate, provides an improved directory of vital care and support services, replacing the Durham Information Guide;
- Effectively managed the reductions in library opening hours, rather than closing them, in response to consultation with service users;
- Refurbishment of three waste transfer stations giving improved recycling facilities and more scope to recycle.

20. Assurance can also be taken from the following external independent sources that, through good governance, the Council continues to maintain and improve the quality of services:-

- An assessment of leisure centres against the QUEST quality standard.
- The Strategic Waste Team's management of seven former landfill sites and 11 closed landfill sites is regulated by the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water;
- A programme of independent audits evaluates, for accreditation or certification, activities such as asset management, safety management and collaborative business relationships.

21. During the year, an inspection of children's services and a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board were undertaken by Ofsted under their single inspection framework. A Quality Improvement Board, which had already been established to oversee quality assurance developments in Children's Services, will also provide strategic oversight of the Ofsted implementation plan.

22. The Council continues to seek value for money (VFM) through its high level objective 'effective use of resources' under the Altogether Better Council theme. In this way, pursuit of VFM is built into all of the Council's plans and activities, and numerous reviews have been undertaken across the Council to provide assurance that VFM services are being provided. Senior Management Teams have used benchmarking data from statutory returns, such as budget statements collected by the Department for Education and the Personal Social Services Expenditure Return, to inform programmes of VFM reviews and savings options in various service areas. Where necessary, this has been supplemented by data from commercial benchmarking clubs, such as

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), to facilitate meaningful comparisons with other organisations. The results of these benchmarking exercises demonstrate that the Council compares favourably against other Councils in the majority of cases. Nevertheless, in the context of continuous improvement, the Council assesses any weaknesses identified from these exercises where improvements in performance can be achieved. Independent assurance of our VFM was also gained from our External Auditor, who issued an unqualified VFM conclusion for our 2015/16 Accounts.

23. The Council's Cabinet is responsible for monitoring performance and ensures that effective arrangements are put in place to deal with any failures in service delivery. Assurance is gained through quarterly performance reporting to Cabinet and through performance clinics between the Chief Executive and individual Corporate Directors and the Assistant Chief Executive during the year. Members have robustly scrutinised the performance of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key scrutiny reviews of Council services during 2015/16, which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#).
24. The Annual Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee in September 2015, taking account of the views of the External Auditor, in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. Further independent assurance of the Council's financial management was provided by the External Auditor in both their Audit Completion Report and Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report. Governance reviews are also led by Services, such as the quality assurance team in Children and Adults Services, who carried out a number of audits during the year.
25. To enable better use of resources, the Council has made the following changes:
 - A new banking service was implemented in December 2015, following the previous supplier's withdrawal from the local authority market in 2014;
 - Chapter Homes established as an arms-length private company to develop council-owned land for housing to be sold and rented at market values. This is in line with the overall aim to capitalise on our assets in order to improve our economic performance and the prospects of our people;
 - Ensuring all contracts contain clauses requiring providers to have appropriate procedures in place to prevent unlawful discrimination in employment.
26. A programme management approach for key corporate projects is embedded, supported by project management training across the Council. Examples which demonstrate that rigorous programme management has enabled

effective delivery of major projects include the transfer of Community Buildings, the Housing Stock Transfer, the new banking contract and a two year, £3.4 million programme of repairs to Seaham North Pier. Assurance is gained by regular monitoring of the delivery of these projects by Corporate Management Team.

27. The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) and Property Strategy were approved by Cabinet in July 2013. The CAMP sets out the Council's approach to ensuring that it makes best use of its assets in terms of service benefit, financial benefit and value for money. The Property Strategy sets out the main principles to ensure that opportunities to share the use of property are identified, and to make sure that assets are fit for purpose, cost effective and used to support regeneration and economic development. The Council is now a forerunner in asset transfer, having successfully assigned a number of leisure centres, a golf course and children's centres to community organisations. The recently completed community buildings programme was one of six national winners in the Carnegie Trust's Enabling State Awards and was described as ground-breaking and innovative. A key element of the programme is to work with local communities and our partners to consider alternative ways of continuing to provide front line services.
28. Service Asset Management Plans are also in place and these include any heritage assets of the holding service.

Principle 2: Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

29. The key governance documents supporting this principle are contained in the [Constitution](#). These arrangements are further strengthened by a number of formal member and officer working groups.
30. The [Constitution](#) sets out how the Executive is made up and how appointments to this committee are made. The roles and responsibilities allocated by the Leader under the terms of the [Constitution](#), to individual members and the committee as a whole, are set out in detail in the [Constitution](#) as well as the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers. The [Constitution](#) allows joint arrangements to be established for specific purposes such as the provision and maintenance of crematoria, and sets out details of existing joint arrangements, including purpose, parties and effective dates.
31. The Constitution Working Group, which consists of the lead members of each political party, and is chaired by the Leader of the Council, proposed amendments to the [Constitution](#) during the year which were approved by the

Council. Changes following the annual review of the [Constitution](#) were approved by the Council in May 2016.

32. The arrangements and rules of procedure for the Overview and Scrutiny function, including the membership, functions and scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and each Committee is set out in detail in the [Constitution](#). Terms of Reference for the Board and Committees are set within the context of the [Council Plan](#) and the [Sustainable Community Strategy](#).
33. Under the terms of the [Constitution](#), the Council elected a Leader and made appointments to a number of committees with various regulatory and scrutiny responsibilities. The Leader has nominated nine other councillors, including a Deputy Leader, with specific responsibilities to form the Cabinet.
34. The Health and Wellbeing Board, a Committee of the Council, was established as a consequence of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Public Health responsibilities also transferred to the Council from the NHS with effect from April 2013. Its functions include:
 - Developing and agreeing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Promoting integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of people in its area; and
 - Developing a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
35. An example of members and officers working together is the Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) assessing capital bids in the development of the MTFP. Bid submissions were considered taking key factors account, such as the Service Grouping's assessment of priority, availability of capital financing and whether schemes could be self-financing. MOWG also recognised the need for caution in committing to high levels of prudential borrowing at this stage for future years.
36. A new Chief Executive was appointed following the retirement of the previous post-holder. The process was overseen by the Chief Officer Appointments Committee, which is made up of 11 Members of the Council including the Leader and Deputy Leader who are Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The decision was approved in October 2015 by full council, in line with the Council's Constitution.
37. The Council has appointed the Corporate Director Resources as Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer to fulfil the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local

Government (2010). The Chief Financial Officer, who is a member of the CMT and reports directly to the Chief Executive, has been involved in all CMT discussions, and has reviewed all reports to Cabinet which have financial implications. The Chief Financial Officer has also provided an opinion under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the reserves for the Council, which Members considered when setting the budget.

38. The Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services with professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The Council completed a Local Test of Assurance (LTA) in accordance with statutory guidance, and this was reported to Audit Committee in September 2015. The purpose of the LTA is to ensure that the focus on outcomes for children and young people is not weakened or diluted as a result of combining this statutory role with other functions.
39. The new Chief Executive progressed plans to implement, during 2016, a revised chief officer structure to reflect the challenges faced by the Council whilst building on existing organisational strengths.
40. Members and Officers work together on the work programme of the Cabinet which is managed through a system of Cabinet pre-agenda meetings. To support this, Corporate Directors have held regular briefing sessions with Cabinet Portfolio Members and their support Members.
41. Members' remuneration is overseen by an independent panel, and their report was approved by Council in October 2015.

Principle 3: Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

42. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#), the [Council Plan](#) and the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.
43. The Standards Committee has the key governance role of promoting and monitoring high standards of conduct by elected Members, independent Members and co-opted Members. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and an ethical framework was adopted accordingly.
44. In terms of disclosure of gifts, hospitality and interests, assurance is gained over Member declarations and registrations by the Monitoring Officer maintaining and monitoring the Register of Gifts, Interests and Hospitality for Members, which is available online. Staff declarations are maintained and monitored by their Head of Service. An Internal Audit report recommending

improved arrangements for maintaining registers was approved by Corporate Management Team in March 2015.

45. A climate of openness has been encouraged by the Council Leader who holds regular Cabinet meetings at various locations throughout County Durham. The key elements of the Council's approach to communicating and embedding the expected standards of behaviour for Members and staff are also detailed in the Council [Constitution](#). The Council's Codes of Conduct included in the [Constitution](#) also apply to its partnership working, and the revised Code of Conduct for Employees was approved by Corporate Management Team in September 2014. The [Constitution](#) also sets out a protocol for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council that includes an expectation of political neutrality and acting as the conscience of the Council.
46. The values of the Council are further promoted in the [Equality Policy](#), which was approved in January 2014 and includes 'protected characteristics' covered by the Equality Act. Supporting this scheme is an impact assessment process, which ensures that the impact on equality is considered in the Council's decision making. For example, the proposals in the 2016/17 MTFP strategy have been shaped by residents' and stakeholders' views with high level analysis of the equalities impact. A schedule of impact assessments is monitored through the Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Working Group. The implementation of the Access Strategy is monitored by the Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Working Group and a programme is in place for making access improvements to identified priority buildings.
47. During 2014/15, a new CCTV Policy and Code of Practice were implemented to improve the way the Council uses its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Principle 4: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

48. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#); the [Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure](#); the Risk Management Strategy and Policy; the [Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy](#); and the [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#).
49. The Council's [Constitution](#) sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures followed to ensure that these are effective, transparent and accountable to local people. Amendments made to the Constitution during the year include updated officer scheme of delegations, the inclusion of a civic handbook and an update to the Members' Allowance Scheme.

50. All major decisions as identified in the officer delegations scheme are documented, with the reports and decisions made for those that are in the public domain being available on the website. All Cabinet reports must state that legal advice on proposals has been sought, as well as the source of the advice, and Chief Officers and Heads of Service were briefed on this by way of a refresher in February 2014 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
51. The following improvements to governance arrangements in this area were implemented during the year:-
- The complaints process was modified to resolve issues more quickly and informally with service groupings taking the lead in resolving matters, allowing the corporate complaints unit to focus on investigating cases where people are not satisfied with the handling of their complaint;
 - An internal audit of the Officer Scheme of Delegations concluded that there is a sound system of control with only minor risk to achieving system objectives; and
 - As a positive response to the Local Government Transparency Code, a transparency and accountability web page was set up.
52. A notice of key decisions covering a rolling period of four months is published on the Council's website. Decisions made by the Executive are published on the Council's website within two days of the respective meeting.
53. The key mechanism provided for employees, and contractors and suppliers providing services for the Council, to raise concerns about potential breaches of conduct in decision-making is the [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#), which is part of the Council's [Constitution](#), and is monitored by the Audit Committee. The policy is referenced in the Scheme of Financing of Schools, and the School Financial Value Standard requires schools to have appropriate whistleblowing procedures. A revised [Confidential Reporting Code](#) was approved by Audit Committee in May 2014. An updated [Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy and Fraud Response Plan](#) were approved by Audit Committee in February 2016. In June 2015, the Council established the Corporate Fraud Team to further strengthen its robust counter fraud arrangements, demonstrated by examples such as the development of proactive processes to identify and tackle suspicious insurance claims have been implemented during the year.
54. Overview and Scrutiny, which consists of an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and six committees, has the key role to make decision-making processes transparent, accountable and inclusive and to improve

services for people by being responsive to their needs. Where appropriate, Members have scrutinised the decisions of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key reviews which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#). They also contributed to a number of consultations and policy development areas, such as:

- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Housing Strategy; and
- Flood Risk Management Authorities flood mitigation plans for County Durham.

55. A number of key in-depth evidence based reviews have also been carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:

- Attendance Management;
- CRM system development and implementation; and
- Alcohol and the demand upon Emergency services.

56. The Council has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation on governance and council planning.

57. As part of the annual review of the [Constitution](#), the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Committees were updated to reflect the refresh of the co-optee appointments. This demonstrates that the work of Overview and Scrutiny contributes to the strategic priorities of the Council and its partners, and reflects the legislative requirements placed on the Council in respect of scrutiny arrangements.

58. With regard to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, key points to note include:

- The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been conferred with the Council's powers of review and scrutiny in respect of NHS Service changes in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012;
- Cross party representation on all Overview and Scrutiny Committees serves to promote an independent, non-partisan approach in their activities;
- A Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils formally engages and responds to proposals to reconfigure

emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

59. The Police and Crime Panel, which includes councillors from Durham County Council and from Darlington Borough Council, scrutinises the annual report, decisions and actions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). In March 2015, the Panel approved the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2015 – 2017. An update on activity from the Panel is presented to each meeting of the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
60. The Council's Monitoring Officer oversees the arrangements for conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality. Members are required to review their declarations of gifts and hospitality annually. Officers and members are required to declare annually any conflicts of interest.
61. The Council's decision-making processes are also supported by:
 - A risk management strategy and policy;
 - An Audit Committee with responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the risk, control and governance processes and associated assurance processes; and
 - The Council ensuring that it complies with legal requirements in its decision making by ensuring that all reports requiring a decision include the legal implications, report authors confirming that they have obtained legal advice on proposals contained in reports, and the source of that legal advice.
62. An Audit Charter, which was approved in line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PIAS), is in place. The Council's self-assessment against both the principles of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit and the PIAS, which were presented to Audit Committee in June 2014, illustrates a high degree of compliance.
63. A Corporate Complaints policy is in place for non-statutory complaints, and details of complaints, and of investigations by the Commissioner for Local Administration, have been reported to Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
64. A Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy and Publication Scheme are in place, and details of how to make a FOI request for information can be found on the Council's website.

65. To strengthen the Council's arrangements for maintaining good-quality information, a number of further improvements to governance in this area have been implemented in 2015/16. For example:

- The Assistant Chief Executive was designated Senior Information Risk Officer and holds regular meetings with the Head of Planning and Performance, Head of ICT Services and the Council's designated Caldicott Guardian;
- An online Data Protection Act training module was developed, which the majority of officers had completed by April 2015;
- Data protection arrangements regarding data sharing were improved through standardised subject access requests, improved use of privacy impact assessments and a rolling programme of audits. A privacy impact assessment process was agreed and successfully piloted in September 2015.

Principle 5: Developing the capacity and capability of Members and Officers to be effective

66. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#); the Member Learning and Development Strategy; Organisational Development Strategy; Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy; and the Recruitment and Selection Policy.

67. The Council is committed to continually reviewing the development needs of Members and Officers.

68. Our approach to Member development is outlined in the Member Learning and Development Strategy, and the Member Learning and Development Policy, both of which were revised in October 2014. Induction training was provided for new Members elected during 2015/16 and individual training and development plans exist for all Members.

69. The Council continues to be a member of the North East Public Service Academy, which promotes excellence in learning across the public sector. Improvements to further develop the capacity and capability of officers during the year include:

- Numerous developments aimed at helping employees to meet the challenges of sustained reductions in finance and the consequent widespread changes in policy and service delivery;
- The "The Durham Manager" programme continues to be evaluated, developed and promoted to support managers in meeting the changing needs of the organisation. Recent training courses include project; management, 'succeeding through change' and 'difficult conversations';

- Resources Management Team agreed a three-year e-learning strategy in December 2015 following evaluation of the current process. This enables more training to be delivered on-line, ranging from corporate induction to recognising and managing stress in the workplace;
 - The processes for undertaking appraisals after a restructure were reinforced, including the rollout of the Business Intelligence module;
 - Training and development is promoted regularly in the Buzz magazine, through employee updates and via the intranet.
70. A revised corporate Health and Safety policy was launched in May 2014, and a revised Health and Safety and Wellbeing strategy was issued in June 2014. Independent assurance over the effectiveness of the Council's Occupational Health Service was demonstrated when it was awarded Safe, Effective, Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS) accreditation, which is the formal recognition that it has demonstrated the competence to deliver against the measures in the SEQOHS Standards developed by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. The Council also continues to support employees through the change process with, for example, Jobcentre Plus information sessions and confidential counselling services through the Employee Assistance Programme.
71. The Council continued to drive improvements in employee attendance with support for both employees and management through targeted health and wellbeing initiatives, training and changes to processes. The Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of attendance management, which was reported to Cabinet in December 2015. The new Attendance Management Policy focuses on rehabilitation to support attendance at work and the main changes include early intervention with assistance from Occupational Health and a revised procedure for managing short-term absences.
72. The Council has taken steps, in consultation with various organisations, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to improve arrangements around managing water safety. A new Open Water Safety Policy was implemented following consultation with the Council's Water Safety Group and the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategic Group.

Principle 6: Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

73. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#); the [Consultation and Engagement Strategy](#); and the County Durham Partnership Community Engagement and Empowerment Framework.

74. As the strategic partnership for the County, the County Durham Partnership (CDP) is the lead umbrella partnership for most other partnerships in County Durham, and the Leader of the Council is the chair of the CDP. The Council's relationships with partners are managed through the Partnership Governance Framework. There are several examples of effective partnership working by the Council, including County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP). The EU Investment Plan was created through the CDEP and used to inform the strategic approach developed through the Strategic Economic Plan and North East European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy for the effective use of funds to address Durham priorities. Clarity on relationships between the Council and these partners is provided through the County Durham Economic Partnership governance prospectus.
75. There were two significant developments around strategic partnership working in 2015/16. Firstly, the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership was established to ensure that Durham's support for refugees placed in the county is joined up and will promote cross-service and agency working, as well as engagement with communities. The partnership is led by the Council and will also look to work with churches, the voluntary sector and other partners. Secondly, a newly-established Chief Officer Group provides support and oversight to chief officers across all statutory agencies of the safeguarding arrangements for children and adults services. The Group has an independent Chair and includes officers from the Council, NHS and the Police.
76. The Council's approach to engaging stakeholders is outlined in the [Consultation and Engagement Strategy](#). This is complemented by the County Durham Partnership Community Engagement and Empowerment framework, which has shaped and supported a common vision and approach for community engagement by partners in County Durham. The County Durham Compact provides a framework for partnership and engagement with the voluntary and community sector, and most partners within the County Durham Partnership are signatories. E-learning on the Compact has been delivered to partners and [VCS](#) organisations. Attendance by the public at Council meetings and the protocols for asking questions are contained in the [Constitution](#).
77. Three examples of active consultation and engagement with the public follow. Firstly, the consultation process for refreshing the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy involved a range of stakeholders and included a 'Big Tent' engagement event, which was attended by over 260 people. Secondly, the Council continued to work with community groups to explore opportunities for the transfer of council assets so that they can be sustainable into the future through the 'Durham Ask' initiative. Thirdly, the Council took account of a poll of County Durham voters, to inform its approach to the proposed Devolution

Agreement for the North East Combined Authority. Advertisements informing residents of the poll were placed in the local press and ran on local radio, generating a significant amount of interest with a turnout of 21.7%. The agreement, if signed, would devolve significant powers, funding and responsibilities around transport, investment, jobs, skills, housing and business support.

78. The Council has a strong commitment to working with partners to meet the needs of its communities. There are 14 [Area Action Partnerships \(AAPs\)](#) in place across the County, who are each governed by a board comprising members of the public, partner organisations and elected Councillors. These are multi-agency partnerships that are fully engaged with the community in identifying and addressing local priorities, and utilise locality budgets to drive improvements to the local area.
79. Through its partnership governance framework, the Council has gained assurance that:
- Members are clear about their roles and responsibilities both individually and collectively in relation to the partnership and to the authority;
 - there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership; and
 - representatives or organisations both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions.
80. Customer service arrangements have improved significantly. The Council's Customer First Strategy, which aims to put people at the heart of everything the Council does, continues to transform the way in which our residents, visitors, businesses and partners access our services. A new Customer Relationship Management System was procured to support the delivery of the strategy and its implementation and benefits will be monitored by Cabinet. The new system will build on progress made with the launch of the new website in October 2014 to provide further automated transactions and enhanced service information, reducing unnecessary direct customer contact. Since October 2014, the average number of visits to the site is over 290,000 per month with the most popular pages including traffic cameras, job vacancies and planning applications.
81. The Council continues to engage with employees with positive and productive outcomes. February's employee roadshows were attended by around 850 people, many of whom took the opportunity to raise issues directly with the new chief executive. Also, more than 2,000 employees took part in an internal communications survey at the end of 2015. Almost 75 per cent said they

would 'always' or 'mostly' speak highly of the council, which is above the national average across all business sectors. The information collected is now being used to improve internal communications, with further work being done to give employees more opportunities to have a say on council issues. Finally, in response to a staff suggestion through the Open Doors scheme, opening hours at the council's main headquarters were temporarily extended to help employees avoid peak traffic times and, in this way, reduce the impact on commuters during repairs to Durham City's Milburngate Bridge.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

82. The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the senior managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.
83. Maintaining the effectiveness of the corporate governance framework involves the key Member and Officer roles outlined below, namely:
- The Executive;
 - Chief Financial Officer;
 - Monitoring Officer;
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - Standards Committee;
 - Audit Committee.
84. The Council's [Constitution](#) sets out the governance roles and responsibilities of these functions. In addition:
- The Corporate Director Resources co-ordinates and oversees the Council's corporate assurance arrangements by:
 - Preparing and maintaining the Council's Code of Corporate Governance as a formal framework for the Council's governance arrangements;
 - Reviewing the systems, processes and documentation to determine whether they meet the requirements of this Code, reporting any breaches and recommending improvements;
 - Preparing an Annual Governance Statement to demonstrate how far the Council complies with the principles of good governance and recommending improvements.

- Internal Audit provides independent assurance on the effectiveness of the corporate governance framework;
 - External Audit provides an independent opinion on whether the Annual Governance Statement is materially accurate.
85. The review was also informed by a statement provided by each Corporate Director and the Assistant Chief Executive commenting on the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements generally and how they impacted on their service areas. These included consideration of the effectiveness of internal controls.
86. Based on the delivery of the internal audit plan, Internal Audit is able to provide a moderate overall assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control operating across the Council in 2015/16. This opinion ranking provides assurance that, whilst there is basically a sound system of control, there are some weaknesses, which may put some of the system objectives at major risk. Given the extent of change across the Council and the overall reduction in resources during the year, the sustainment of this assurance opinion should be regarded as a positive outcome.

SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

87. We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Audit Committee. The Council is fully committed to the principles of corporate governance, and has made further progress during the past twelve months in developing its arrangements.

Update on improvements identified in the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement

88. Following the production of the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15, one improvement action was identified for 2015/16.

No.	Actions to be taken	Lead Officer
1	Production of County Durham Plan Strategy in response to interim report from Planning Inspector	Head Of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development

In April 2014, the Council submitted the County Durham Plan to the Government and this was followed by an examination in public. After the Planning Inspector's Report rejected the plan, the council challenged the report, which was subsequently quashed by the High Court. Following

discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Planning Inspectorate, legal advice was sought and the Council decided to undertake a three stage process in preparation of a new local plan, which will also ensure meaningful engagement with the community and stakeholders. In the meantime, members have endorsed a revised Policy Position Statement to clarify how development proposals will be handled to ensure that appropriate sustainable development is not delayed. An Issues and Options paper was presented to Cabinet on 15 June 2016 to start the consultation process on developing a new Local Plan.

Conclusion

89. In conclusion, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2015/16 were fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework. As a result of the review of governance arrangements, and the work of both internal and external audit, we have identified two actions as being necessary to improve governance arrangements in 2016/17. This is shown in the table below.

Proposed Governance Improvements required during 2016/17

No.	Actions to be taken	Lead Officer
1	Implement an action plan to enable approval of the County Durham Plan within statutory requirements	Head Of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development
2	Implement a new chief officer structure to reflect the challenges faced by the Council whilst building on existing organisational strengths	Chief Executive Officer

Signed:

Simon Henig
Leader of Durham County Council

Terry Collins
Chief Executive

Paul Darby
Interim Corporate Director, Resources

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Audit Committee

30 September 2016



**Statement of Accounts for the year ended
31 March 2016**

**Report of Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director Resources
Councillor Alan Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek approval of the Statement of Accounts for the Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

Background

- 2 The 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015' stipulate a two stage approval process for the Statement of Accounts; the first stage is in June each year. The Regulations require that the responsible financial officer, by no later than 30 June 2016, signs and certifies that the Statement of Accounts presents a 'true and fair view' of the financial position of the Council for the year to 31 March previous, subject to the views of the External Auditor. This stage was completed on 30 June 2016.
- 3 The second stage, as set out in the Regulations, requires that on or before the 30 September, approval needs to be given to the Statement of Accounts by resolution of a committee, which for Durham County Council is the Audit Committee. This approval needs to take into account the views of the External Auditor. Once approved, the Statement of Accounts can then be formally published.
- 4 The External Auditor has completed the audit of the Statement of Accounts and any amendments to the Statement of Accounts and the Audit Completion Reports are to be presented by the Auditor to the Committee today.
- 5 During the audit, working in collaboration with the Auditor, a number of amendments have been identified and have already been included in the Statement of Accounts presented today.

Statement of Accounts

- 6 The Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2015/16 has been prepared in accordance with the 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16' (the Code) as published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

- 7 The Code is based on approved accounting standards. In England and Wales, the local authority Code constitutes 'proper accounting practice' under the terms of section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council is therefore legally required to follow this Code of Practice. Explanatory notes are included in the document to assist in the interpretation of the accounts, which by nature, are unavoidably technical and complex.
- 8 A number of changes to the Notes to the Core Financial Statements to assist the reader's understanding of the document, to correct errors and ensure compliance with the requirements of the Code have been made.
- 9 During the Auditor's consideration of the Statement of Accounts, a number of 'misstatements' were identified and have been amended in the Statement of Accounts. These are listed in section 04 of the Audit Completion Report.
- 10 In addition, a number of 'non material misstatements' have been identified and remain unadjusted. These are also listed in section 04 of the Audit Completion Report. The total of these unadjusted misstatements do not materially affect the accuracy/integrity of the Statement of Accounts. It is therefore not intended to adjust the Statement of Accounts for these items.
- 11 A separate Audit Completion Report has been provided for the Pension Fund. A number of 'misstatements' were also identified during the Audit of the Accounts. The material misstatements and have been amended in the Statement of Accounts and again a number of 'non material misstatements' have been identified and remain unadjusted. These are listed in section 04 of the Audit Completion Report for the Pension Fund.
- 12 The audit of the Statement of Accounts was completed by 30 September and there may be additional misstatements which may be adjusted or remain unadjusted. Should there be any, these will be presented to the Committee today.
- 13 At the time that the audit of the accounts is completed, a "letter of representation" will be completed and the reasons for not adjusting these items will be set out in that letter.
- 14 To help Members in reading and interpreting the contents, Appendix 2 to this report briefly explains the purpose of each section of the Statement.

Audit Opinion

- 15 On completion of the audit of the accounts, auditors must give their opinion on the financial statements of Durham County Council and the Pension Fund, including:
 - whether they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and the Pension Fund and their expenditure and income for the year in question; and

- whether they have been prepared properly, in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.
- 16 The Auditor can issue a 'qualified opinion' where he has some reservations or concerns, or an 'unqualified opinion' where he does not have any reservations.
- 17 In addition, the Auditor issues a 'Value for money conclusion' which is the auditor's conclusion on whether the audited body has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources by considering one overall criterion set out by the National Audit Office. This overall criterion is 'In all significant aspects, the Council had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people'. This is made up of and is measured against the following three sub-criteria:
- Informed decision-making,
 - Sustainable resource deployment, and
 - Working with partners and other third parties
- 18 For 2015/16 the Auditor intends to issue an unqualified opinion on the accounts of the Council and the Pension Fund Accounting Statements. He also concluded that proper arrangements have been put in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's use of resources in the Value for Money conclusion.
- 19 The Auditor can formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate as the audit work on the Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack is expected to be completed by 30 September.

Recommendation

- 20 That the Audit Committee approves the Statement of Accounts for the Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

Contact: Paul Darby Tel: 03000 261943

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

This report details the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2016.

Staffing -

None

Risk -

None

Equality and Diversity -

None

Accommodation -

None

Crime and Disorder -

None

Human Rights -

None

Consultation -

None

Procurement -

None

Disability -

None

Legal Implications -

None

Appendix 2: Statement of Accounts - Summary and Explanation

Item	Pages	Explanation of Purpose and Content
Narrative Report	3 – 23	To offer interested parties an easily understandable effective guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	24 – 25	Sets out the responsibilities of the Council and the Corporate Director Resources for the Statement of Accounts.
Independent Auditor's Report to Durham County Council	26 – 29	Once the Audit is completed the Auditor's report will be signed.
Durham County Council Core Financial Statements		
Movement in Reserves Statement	30 – 31	This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council analysed into 'usable' reserves and other reserves
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (CIES)	32	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.
Balance Sheet	33	The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date (31 March 2016) of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council.
Cash Flow Statement	34	The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.
Notes to the Core Financial Statements	35 - 141	The notes are important in the presentation of a true and fair view. They aim to assist in understanding by presenting information about the basis of preparation of the core financial statements; by disclosing information required by the Code that is not presented elsewhere; and by providing information that is not provided elsewhere but is relevant to the understanding of the accounts and shows the policies and procedures adopted in compiling the Accounts.

Item	Pages	Explanation of Purpose and Content
The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	142 – 147	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.
Collection Fund	148 – 154	The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities, such as the Council, 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.
Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts	155 – 198	Shows the operation and membership of the Pension Fund, the expenditure and income during the year and its financial position at 31 March 2016. Following the Accounts are notes providing further information.
Annual Governance Statement	199 – 218	Gives assurance that appropriate mechanisms are in place for the maintenance of good governance across the activities of the Council.
Glossary of Terms used in the Accounts	229 - 235	To help the reader understand terminology used in the Statement of Accounts.



Statement of Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2016

I hope that this document proves to be both informative and of interest to readers. The Council is keen to try to improve both the quality and suitability of information provided. On that basis your feedback would be welcome.

If you have suggestions or comments on either the format of the report or its content, or you would like any further information or further copies of this document, please contact:

Interim Corporate Director Resources
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UE

e-mail: help@durham.gov.uk
Telephone: 03000 260000

Paul Darby C.P.F.A.
Interim Corporate Director Resources

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1. Message from Paul Darby CPFA – Interim Corporate Director Resources

In the face of continued and unprecedented reductions in government funding, Durham County Council remains committed to the delivery of its vision and priorities, developed in consultation with the public, all of our partners and stakeholders.

All our plans setting out the aspirations and goals of the Council over the coming four years continue to be influenced and shaped by the Government's ongoing financial austerity programme and fundamental central policy changes which continue to dominate and challenge the Council, local government, and the public sector more generally.

It is the Council's view that the financial landscape for all local authorities will remain extremely challenging until at least 2019/20, resulting in the longest period of austerity in modern times and that this will undoubtedly be worsened by the outcome of the European Referendum vote to leave the European Union.

By the end of 2015/16, the Council had delivered £153.2m of financial savings and our forecasts currently show that the Council will need to make an estimated further £104.8m of savings over the four year period 2016/17 to 2019/20, resulting in a cumulative spending reduction of over £258m since 2010 to the end of 2019/20.

That said, the Council has continued to deliver a high standard of services during 2015/16, while successfully achieving all of our challenging savings targets in very difficult circumstances, in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan. All service groupings of the Council will continue to work together and build on our achievements in order to provide the best possible services for the people of County Durham.

Future savings requirements will have an increased impact on front line services. The emphasis since 2011/12 has been to minimise savings from front line services by protecting them wherever possible whilst maximising savings in management and support functions. This is becoming much more difficult however, as the scope for further savings in managerial and back office efficiencies are becoming exhausted following the delivery of the savings to date.

This document presents the published accounts for Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 – the 'Statement of Accounts'.

The Council continues to have a robust financial standing with sound and continuously improving financial management procedures and processes in place.

I aim to give the readers of these accounts and all interested parties, including electors, local residents, Council Members, partners and other stakeholders, information about the money that the Council has received and spent, and provide assurance that it has been accounted for properly, that the financial standing of the Council continues to be safe and secure and that services are being delivered using value for money principles at all times.

I hope that this document proves to be both informative and of interest to readers. The Council is keen to try to improve both the quality and suitability of information provided and your feedback would be welcome.

Paul Darby CPFA

Interim Corporate Director Resources

2. Introduction

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to give members of the public, electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances so they can:

- Understand the financial position of the Council and the outturn for 2015/16;
- Have confidence in the Council's stewardship of public money and that it has been used and accounted for in an appropriate manner; and
- Be assured that the financial position of the Council is sound and secure.

The Statement of Accounts begins with this Narrative Report and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The style and format of the Statement of Accounts complies with CIPFA standards and is similar to that used in 2014/15.

This Narrative Report (a change in the requirements for 2015/16 and replacing the previous Explanatory Foreword) provides information about Durham, including key issues affecting the Council and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position as at 31 March 2016 and details of the non-financial performance of the Council in 2015/16. The purpose is to provide an understandable guide to the most significant aspects of the Council's financial performance, year-end financial position and cash flows. The Narrative Report focuses on the matters that are of relevance to the principal users of the Statement of Accounts. As well as complementing and supplementing the information provided in the Accounts, it also provides a review of the issues that have affected the Council's development, performance and position during 2015/16 and those that are likely to impact in the future. This narrative report is structured as below:

1	Message from the Interim Corporate Director Resources
2	Introduction
3	An Introduction to Durham
4	An Introduction to Durham County Council
5	Financial Performance of the Council 2015/16
6	Non-Financial Performance of the Council 2015/16
7	Significant Issues for 2017 and Beyond
8	Corporate Risks
9	Summary Position
10	Receipt of Further Information
11	Explanation of Accounting Statements

3. An Introduction to Durham

County Durham is a unique place with a rich cultural history. Durham City has been an important spiritual centre and place of pilgrimage from early medieval times. Today, the castle and cathedral are recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage site because of their international, cultural and physical significance and are a top attraction in the county for tourists from around the world. The historic market towns of Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland also date from the Middle Ages. In its later history, County Durham became a centre for the industrial revolution, providing the country and developing empire with coal, steel and ships. The area also saw the development of the world's first passenger steam railway in 1825. An economic past of heavy industry based around mining, metal production and manufacturing leaves a legacy of diverse spatial geography across 12 main towns and numerous villages and smaller communities.

Today, Durham is a county of economic, cultural and environmental contrasts. It stretches from the remote rural North Pennine area of outstanding natural beauty in the west to the more densely populated East Durham heritage coastline, the whole of which has been extensively reclaimed from its heavy industrialised past.

Life expectancy at birth in County Durham has been improving over time for both males and females, although not as fast as for England. The absolute gap is increasing for both males and females. In County Durham, males from the most affluent areas will live 8.2 years longer than those from the most deprived areas. Females in the most affluent areas will live 6.7 years longer than those in the most deprived areas. These gaps have not changed significantly over time. Whilst the gap for males is smaller than the national average and similar to the England average for women, it should be noted that almost 50% of County Durham's population live in deprived areas and life expectancy is relatively low, therefore the difference between the most and least deprived is likely to be limited compared to the national average. There are a number of factors affecting health including lifestyle choices and wider determinants such as the social conditions in which we are born and live.

Durham is the most deprived authority in the North East region in terms of the scale of income deprivation with nearly half (42.4%) of its population living in the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. Latest data (2011) show that 22.1% of children live in low income families in County Durham compared to 17.5% nationally. 11.4% of households are also defined as living in fuel poverty i.e. they spend more than 10% of their income on fuel to maintain a standard level of warmth.

Interesting facts about your county:

- County Durham has a population of 517,773 the highest population of any local authority area in the North East region and the sixth largest all-purpose council in the country;

- All areas of the county have shown a growth in population since 2001 with Durham City and North Durham experiencing the largest growth rates;
- The working age population in County Durham has increased by 3% since 2001 but the population aged 65+ has increased by 24% in the same period;
- Key industries in County Durham are manufacturing with approximately 97% being small and micro businesses;
- Durham Castle and Cathedral is one of only 17 sites in England considered to be of such cultural importance that it is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site;
- The remote and unspoiled countryside of the Durham Dales forms part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding National Beauty; and
- The county has one of the finest coastlines in the country which has been recognised by Natural England and granted Heritage Coast status.

4. An Introduction to Durham County Council

Durham County Council was established along with other county councils in England and Wales in 1888. The latest reorganisation of local government in Durham in 2009 saw the abolition of the seven district and borough councils in the county and the creation of Durham County Council as a single all-purpose unitary authority providing the full range of local government services to the public.

We operate a leader and cabinet style model of political governance and the cabinet is made up of ten councillors. Our overview and scrutiny function is made up of six committees with an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board providing an oversight of the work of these committees which is made up of 26 councillors and 5 other representatives.

We are broadly comparable with a major company in size. We provide a large range of services that include: teaching our young people and caring for our older people; lending the latest best sellers and protecting 900 year old documents; fixing road bridges and creating bridges in our communities; helping children to swim and helping adults to work; planting trees in nature reserves and recycling paper from our homes. In fact, any local service you can think of, we will probably have a hand in it somewhere. To help us manage this undertaking, we employ a Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and four Directors who make up the Corporate Management Team of the Council.

Interesting facts about your Council:

- Durham County Council has a gross budget of over £860m and employs around 8,500 staff - excluding schools;
- The Council maintains 3,690 km of highway, over 80,000 street lights, owns and manages 39 libraries, 10 leisure centres, 8 customer access points and 245 schools (excluding academies);

- We have 126 councillors representing 63 electoral divisions within County Durham, making us the largest elected body in England outside of the UK Parliament;
- The political makeup of the Council is as follows:
 - o 96 Labour,
 - o 17 Independent,
 - o 9 Liberal Democrat
 - o and 4 Conservative;
- Our administrative staff are concentrated at five strategic centres in Crook, Seaham, Spennymoor, Meadowfield and in our headquarters at County Hall in Durham;
- The council has 14 Area Action Partnerships which cover the whole county, these give residents the chance to set local priorities which are acted on through local projects.

5. Financial Performance of the Council 2015/16

Revenue Outturn Position

The Council's revenue outturn is shown in the table below. The original budget was set at the Council meeting on 25 February 2015 at £421.821million. The original budget set out how the Council planned to allocate its funding during the year in order to deliver services to the people and communities of Durham. During the financial year amendments were made to the Council's budget on a quarterly basis and approved by Cabinet.

In overall terms, the outturn was a variance (underspend) of £20.092million for the financial year when comparing actual net expenditure to the revised budgeted/planned net expenditure. The surplus for the year in respect of Service Groupings (£15.044million) has been allocated to the individual Cash Limit Reserves to meet future service demands. Of the remaining £5.048million, an additional amount of £4.844million was contributed to the Pension Deficit Earmarked Reserve, in lieu of a possible one off payment into the pension fund in 2016/17 to reduce future liabilities and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) pressures associated with Pension Deficit payments in future years. The remaining balance of £0.204million was allocated to the Council's General Reserve.

	Original Budget	Revised Budget (Including Qtr 4 Cash Limit Adjustments)	Service Groupings Final Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Service Groupings				
Assistant Chief Executive	10,163	10,458	10,200	-258
Children and Adults Services	251,450	248,775	238,084	-10,691
Neighbourhood Services	104,236	104,855	103,995	-860
Regeneration and Economic Development	41,535	26,828	25,012	-1,816
Resources	15,855	16,842	15,423	-1,419
Sub - Total	423,239	407,758	392,714	-15,044
Corporate Finance				
Contingencies	5,690	3,194	0	-3,194
Centrally Held Budgets	0	-1,572	-1,548	24
Corporate Costs	4,980	4,439	4,181	-258
Capital, Treasury and Technical Accounting	-12,088	-4,543	-5,982	-1,439
Levies	0	16,555	16,555	0
Sub - Total	-1,418	18,073	13,206	-4,867
Total Net Expenditure	421,821	425,831	405,920	-19,911
Funded By:				
Council Tax	-174,134	-174,134	-174,137	-3
Use of (-) / contribution to earmarked reserves	-11,511	22,149	22,305	156
Estimated net surplus on Collection Fund	-500	-500	-500	0
Start up Funding Assessment	-215,540	-215,540	-215,541	-1
New Homes Bonus	-8,322	-8,322	-8,323	-1
New Homes Bonus - Re-imbursement	-377	-377	-374	3
Section 31 Grant - Small business rate relief	-2,398	-2,398	-2,475	-77
Section 31 Grant - Settlement Funding Assessment Adj.	-919	-919	-919	0
Section 31 Grant - Retail Adjustment	-1,681	-1,681	-1,779	-98
Education Services Grant	-6,002	-6,002	-6,006	-4
Forecast contribution to / from (-) Cash Limit Reserve	-437	-15,107	-15,107	0
Forecast contribution from HRA Reserve	0	-23,000	-23,156	-156
Total Funding	-421,821	-425,831	-426,012	-181
Variance	0	0	-20,092	-20,092

The main variances contributing to the underspend are as follows:

- There were cost pressures in respect of Home to School Transport and high demand and increased costs relating to 'Looked After Children' that were offset in Children and Adults Services (CAS) by the early achievement of a number of future year MTFP management and support service proposals. This, together with the careful management and control of vacancies and general budgets across the Adults area of the service has created a net underspend for the year of approximately £6.5million. A review of short term funds across adult care produced an additional estimated £3million of monies available to support future pressures. £1.1million of this one-off sum is to be carried forward to future years for specific projects, with the balance contributing to the CAS Cash Limit Reserve in 2015/16;
- £3.194million of the Contingencies budget remained unspent at the end of the financial year; and
- There has been an overachievement of investment income of £1.536m which is due to the higher than anticipated levels of cash balances held during 2015/16. This is due in the main to lower than expected use of reserves and

re-profiling of capital expenditure originally anticipated to be expended in 2015/16.

Capital Outturn Position

The original General Fund capital budget for 2015/16, taking into account the budgets approved by Council on 25 February 2015 and adjustments for re-profiling of underspends at 2014/15 year end was £167.216 million. This was agreed by Cabinet on 15 July 2015.

Throughout the year, the Capital Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) has continually reviewed progress in delivering the capital programme to take into account changes in planning and delivery timescales and analysis of changes in demands on resources. Regular updates to the capital programme were reported to and approved by Cabinet as part of the quarterly budgetary control reports in year. Requests for re-profiling capital programme underspends at 31 March 2016 have also been considered by MOWG.

The Council spent £115.421million on its capital expenditure in 2015/16 compared to the revised forecast spend of £131.734million, representing an underspend of £16.313million. The Capital Programme was financed through a number of sources including borrowing, Government grants, revenue contributions, earmarked reserves and capital receipts. The capital expenditure incurred during the year and financing of this expenditure is shown in the table below:

	Revised Budget	Service Groupings Final Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Service Groupings			
Assistant Chief Executive	3,990	1,454	-2,536
Children and Adults Services	40,682	34,868	-5,814
Neighbourhood Services	40,903	37,721	-3,182
Regeneration and Economic Development	34,543	31,993	-2,550
Resources	11,616	9,385	-2,231
Total	131,734	115,421	-16,313
Funded By:			
Grants and Contributions	-52,318	-52,172	146
Revenue and Reserves	-13,167	-23,770	-10,603
Capital Receipts	-16,631	-10,183	6,448
Borrowing	-49,618	-29,296	20,322
Total	-131,734	-115,421	16,313

The variance between the revised capital budget and the final outturn for the year was £16.313million. This underspend of planned expenditure will be re-profiled into 2016/17 and future years, together with the associated financing and therefore this does not present any financial issues for the Council.

Other Key Financial Items in 2015/16

Material Assets and Liabilities:

- As at 31 March 2016, the Council held £1,631.844million of Long Term Assets, £265.185million of Current Assets, £128.696million of Current Liabilities and £1,200.204million of Long Term Liabilities.
- Long Term Assets have reduced by £185.485million, which includes the following significant items:
 - A reduction of £167.475million in Property, Plant and Equipment assets which is mainly due to the transfer of the Housing Stock to the County Durham Housing Group Limited which took place on 13 April 2015, and assets written out of the balance sheet due to schools converting to Academy status.
 - A reduction of £18.250million in Long Term Investments mainly due to a £20million investment maturing in 2016/17 and as a result it was moved to Short Term Investments.
- Current Assets have increased by £31.397million, which includes the following significant items:
 - An increase of £73.188million in Short Term Investments due to investment management activities which result in movements between Short Term Investments, Long Term Investments and Cash and Cash Equivalents.
 - A reduction of £6.947million in Short Term Debtors, most of which is due to debts relating to Housing which were sold to the County Durham Housing Group Limited as part of the stock transfer.
 - A reduction of £39.772million in Cash and Cash Equivalents due to investment management activities and day to day cash flow changes.
- Current Liabilities have decreased by £7.152million, which includes the following significant items:
 - A reduction of £5.574million in the Cash and Cash Equivalents (overdraft).
 - An increase of £8.638million in Short Term Borrowing from Long Term Borrowing due to a number of loans maturing in 2016/17.
 - A reduction of £6.820million in Short Term Creditors.
- Long Term Liabilities have decreased by £248.518million in year, which includes the following significant items:
 - An increase of £4.866million in Long Term Provisions which takes into account an increase of £5.175million in the provision for appeals in respect of Business Rates.
 - A reduction of £221.531million in Long Term Borrowing, reflecting the repayment of £211.738million of outstanding Housing debt in 2015/16

as a result of the stock transfer and the movement of loans maturing in 2016/17 which were moved to Short Term Borrowing.

- A reduction of £31.450million in Other Long Term Liabilities mainly due to a reduction of £32.016million in the Pension Fund Liability.

Council's Borrowing Position:

- The Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18, Revenue and Capital Budget 2015/16 and 2015/16 Council House and Garage Rent Proposals Report, approved by Council on 25 February 2015, details the 2015/16 borrowing limits for the Council.
- The specific borrowing limits set relate to two of the prudential indicators that are required under the Prudential Code. The Council is required to set borrowing limits for the following three financial years. The limits for 2015/16 were as follows:
 - Authorised limit for external debt of £561million.
 - Operational boundary for external debt of £508million.
- As part of the Council's Treasury Management operation, these indicators are monitored on a daily basis, and neither was exceeded during 2015/16. The highest level of external debt incurred by the Council during the year was £457.375million.

6. Non-Financial Performance of the Council 2015/16

Against a backdrop of reducing resources and changing demand it is critical that the Council continues to actively manage performance and ensure that the impact on the public of the difficult decisions the Council has had to make is minimised.

The Council works hard to provide the best services for people living in, working in and visiting County Durham. To measure how we are doing and find where we need to improve, we monitor a set of performance indicators. This information is compiled in quarterly reports and discussed at Cabinet meetings every quarter. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:

- Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the Council and its partners; and
- Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the Council and its partners only partially influence.

Throughout 2015/16 the Council improved or maintained performance in 67% of the key target performance indicators compared with 76% in 2014/15. 70% of the target indicators

were approaching, meeting or exceeding target compared to 77% in 2014/15. Performance for tracker indicators is more positive with 83% improved or maintained compared to 65% in 2014/15. 93% of Council Plan actions have been achieved or are on target to be achieved by the deadline, the same proportion as in 2014/15.

You can find the full Quarter Four 2015/16 Performance Management Report on our website - [Cabinet agenda and minutes 15 June 2016 \(Agenda Item 5\)](#).

Council Plan 2016-2019

The Council Plan is the high level plan and is underpinned by a series of plans for service groupings. The Council Plan and service plans cover three years and are updated annually.

The Plan links closely with the Budget/Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and sets out how we will consider our corporate priorities for improvement, and the key actions we will take, working with our partners, to deliver the longer-term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy and our own improvement agenda.

The actions within the Plan are structured around the five priority themes for County Durham, plus an additional one specifically for the council:

- **Altogether Wealthier** - focusing on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of all our plans. This theme remains the top priority of the Council, with its main aim to improve the economy and job prospects across the county.

Objectives

- Thriving Durham City
- Vibrant and successful towns
- Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
- Competitive and successful people
- A top location for business

Achievements 2015/16

- Established 'Chapter Homes' a new housing delivery company which will build new housing for market rent and sale commencing with Phase 1 in Newton Aycliffe which will provide 125 homes.
- Hosted the 4th Lumiere festival in November 2015, which attracted around 200,000 visitors to the City, along with the Magna Carta exhibition in the summer of 2015 which attracted 25,000 visitors from across the globe.

- Supported the development of Bishop Auckland as a major tourist destination including a medieval open air night show 'Kynren' which will create employment in the town and visitors to the area.
 - Supported the opening of Hitachi rail manufacturing in Newton Aycliffe and the creation of thousands of high value employment opportunities.
 - Secured £20m of additional funding to provide additional infrastructure in Newton Aycliffe and Sedgefield to support additional high tech and manufacturing employment opportunities.
 - Successful completion of traffic projects in Durham City; Sunderland Bridge Roundabout and Milburngate Bridge which was completed ahead of schedule.
 - Secured over £18m of European and external funding to support a major employment support programme for young people in the county.
 - Delivered physical regeneration improvements to enhance the economic viability of major town centres, including: footpath, lighting, signage and seating at Peterlee, Seaham, Crook and Consett.
 - Delivered superfast broadband through the Digital Durham programme with over 63,040 premises able to access improved broadband services since the programme began in April 2014.
 - Durham County Council was awarded the PATROL Annual Report Award (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) for proactively publishing information about traffic management to help the public better understand parking regulations. This good practice approach has been adopted by other local authorities.
 - Transferred our remaining housing stock to the County Durham Housing Group Ltd.
- **Altogether Better for Children and Young People** - enabling children and young people to develop and achieve their aspirations, and to maximise their potential in line with Every Child Matters.

Objectives

- Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families

Achievements 2015/16

- New 'Families First' teams have been established across the county, made up of social workers, family support workers and other

specialist staff who have a wide range of skills and expertise to help children, young people and their families achieve and maintain good progress. The teams also work with the voluntary and community sector to ensure that there are long-term sustainable plans in place for the family when they no longer need our support.

- Established a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which works as a central point for the screening, gathering, sharing and analysing of information about children who may be at risk of harm or who may need support services.
- Successfully completed Phase 1 of the Stronger Families Programme, to improve poor school attendance, unemployment, youth crime and adult anti-social behaviour, as well as a wide range of local criteria such as health, housing and domestic abuse. By March 2015, 1,320 families had a successful intervention (100% of County Durham overall target).
- Engaged with over 8,000 secondary school pupils through the Student Voice Survey to determine their views on a range of subjects and issues to inform our services, in particular our Education services.
- The council became responsible for commissioning 0-5 years health services including the health visitor service. Whilst carrying out our statutory duties, we have also reviewed commissioning for services for 5-19 year olds and are putting in place an integrated approach to health improvement services and service delivery for 0-19 year olds.

- **Altogether Healthier** – improving Health and Wellbeing.

Objectives

- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
- Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population

Achievements 2015/16

- The County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board, which promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care and includes representatives from the council and health services was shortlisted for a national award for its effectiveness.

- Survey results show that service users and carers in the county were more satisfied with the care and support services they received than the national average.
 - The number of people whose discharge from hospital was delayed is lower in County Durham than nationally and regionally.
 - County Durham was selected as a national pilot site for a diabetes prevention programme. The programme is led by Public Health in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Groups and is one of only seven in the country.
 - We launched an online directory of care and support services called LOCATE, which provides local people with details of available services and information.
 - Joint Consett Academy and Leisure Centre opened.
 - Pearl Izumi Tour Service cycle race attracted 12,500 spectators to Durham City contributing almost £300,000 to the local economy.
- **Altogether Safer** - creating a safer and more cohesive county.

Objectives

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
- Reduce re-offending
- Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
- Implement measures to promote a safe environment
- Embed the Think Family approach

Achievements 2015/16

- The County Durham Youth Offending Service received an award for its work on Speech, Language and Communication Needs, to support young people who offend.
- Supported the establishment of the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, which aims to reduce re-offending in the county, protect the public and provide successful and effective rehabilitation services for offenders.
- Introduced an integrated drug and alcohol recovery service and developed six recovery centres across the county, to provide consistent, high quality, recovery-focused interventions for all people irrespective of age or level of substance misuse.
- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system continues to reduce. We have achieved an 82.9% reduction in first time entrants, from 1,129 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15.

- Durham has the lowest overall crime rate when compared to similar police force areas.
 - Implemented a Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS) to provide tailor-made support to help vulnerable and 'at risk' adults.
 - Introduced a programme of riverside safety improvements in Durham City in partnership with Durham City Safety Group.
 - Promoted a safer and healthier road environment by introducing Phase 1 of part-time 20 mph speed limits on main and distributor roads near schools in the county.
 - New, revised open water safety policy/procedures outlining how open water risks are managed and promoting good practice across privately owned open water sites.
- **Altogether greener** - ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges.

Objectives

- Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment
- Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
- Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

Achievements 2015/16

- Delivered a programme of effective campaigns to tackle environmental crime, including dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter.
- Reduced the carbon footprint of our operations through re-programming our refuse and recycling routes, reducing energy across our buildings and reducing business mileage.
- Replaced 32,000 street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme saving energy costs to the taxpayer and reducing carbon emissions.
- Increased energy production from landfill capping where electricity is generated from landfill gas.
- Delivered a programme of waste campaigns designed to help reduce contamination in household recycling ('Bin It Right') and encourage students to recycle waste ('Green Move Out').
- Extended wildflower planting schemes to roundabouts and verges helping reverse the trend of habitat loss and creating food and homes for wildlife.
- Continuation of the work of our Community Action Teams to improve the condition of local housing and environments.

- Delivered our flood defence programme including the refurbishment of Seaham's historic North Pier and flood prevention works at Witton Gilbert.
 - Development of the Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality across Durham City.
 - Refurbished three waste transfer stations giving improved recycling facilities and more scope to recycle.
 - Fly Tipping incidents continue to fall following education and proactive enforcement activity.
 - Over 96% of waste collected by the council has been diverted from landfill to recycling reuse, composting and generating energy.
- **Altogether better council** - ensuring corporate improvements are achieved against the five priority themes.

Objectives

- Putting the customer first
- Working with our communities
- Effective use of resources
- Support our people through change

Achievements 2015/16

- Delivered £153.2m of financial savings to 31 March 2016 since the beginning of austerity in 2011.
- A new website which is quicker and easier to use was launched last year which is also better to use with tablets and mobile phones.
- Procurement of a new customer system to more effectively track and manage communications with and improve the customer experience.
- Improved our customer complaints process to respond to complaints more quickly and efficiently.
- More self-serve facilities have been introduced which allow people to access services through our website on a 24/7 basis.
- Managed a successful Parliamentary election in May 2015.
- Received £1.4m from the Government's Transformation Challenge Award fund to help achieve the Durham Ask ambition. This is an exciting opportunity we are offering to local communities to take over the management and delivery of Council services and facilities by transferring assets to local community control.
- Secured £90,000 of 'Delivering Differently' funding to work with town and parish councils on clean and green services.

- Nearly 11,000 residents and businesses have registered to access and manage their council tax, business rates or housing benefits payment accounts online.
- Community Buildings Strategy, one of the biggest and most ambitious asset transfer programmes in the UK:
 - 97 centres have been maintained for community use through this initiative
 - Shortlisted for two 2016 LGC Awards
 - Local management groups have already accessed £639,000 external funding not available to the Council and have bid for a further £5.2m.

7. Significant Issues for 2016/17 and Beyond

Economic climate

Since 2010 Durham County Council has faced significant financial challenges due to reductions in funding from central government along with cost pressures within services and greater volatility in financing. This austerity programme is on-going and will last until at least 2019/20. The Council will need to review its position in light of Government policy announcements and take account of the impact of the European Referendum result as it feeds through into Government spending plans. In November 2015 the Autumn Statement set out the strategic direction for public expenditure. This outlined a number of significant changes to the local government funding regime which will have a significant impact on the Council's finances over time. These included:

- Providing local authorities with the power to levy a 2% increase on Council Tax to fund adult social care. For Durham, this equates to an additional £3.574m of revenue;
- By the end of the Parliament local government will retain 100% of business rate revenues to fund local services. In addition the Uniform Business Rate will be abolished and any local area will be able to cut business rates at their discretion. The earliest these reforms are likely to be implemented is 2020;
- Greater flexibility for local authorities to use capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of business transformation projects;
- The government announced real-terms public health savings of 3.9% over the next 5 years and the Autumn Statement indicated that social care funds of £1.5bn would be made available by 2019/20 (beginning from 2017/18) for local government, to be included in an improved Better Care Fund; and
- A National Funding Formula for Schools will be introduced in 2017/18.

Government figures highlight significant challenges ahead for councils who will have to make savings, despite receiving a flat-cash settlement over the next four years, sufficient

to compensate for any additional cost pressures they face. These include those arising from general inflation, cost pressures in the care sector, increases in the number of adults and children needing support and rising levels of need, increases in demand for everyday services as the population grows, and increases in core costs such as national insurance, the National Living Wage and pension contributions.

The MTFP sets out the Council's approach to achieving a sustainable budget over the medium term whilst ensuring that all revenue resources are directed towards corporate priorities. The MTFP describes the financial direction of the Council over the planning period and outlines the financial pressures it will face.

Highways Network Assets

The adoption of the measurement requirements of the Code of Practice on Highways Network Assets in the 2016/17 Code require Highways Network Assets to be recognised as a separate class of Property, Plant and Equipment and measured at depreciated replacement cost for the first time in the 2016/17 financial statements. This will have a material impact on the Statement of Accounts in 2016/17 although there is no need to restate prior year comparators.

Devolution

The North East Combined Authority and seven north east authorities have been in discussions with the Government regarding the devolution of a number of powers and the election of a regional mayor. At a meeting held on 11 May 2016 Cabinet agreed to move to the next stage of the devolution process - to create a mayoral combined authority for the North East.

The decision is subject to a number of conditions, including that County Durham is not left worse off by the Government's proposals on transport and highways funding; that conditions are met in relation to mayoral powers and governance; and the commitment that ongoing discussions with Government will deliver fair funding.

In March 2016 Cabinet members deferred their decision in relation to the devolution proposals so that further clarification and commitment could be sought from Government in relation to a number of outstanding issues.

The report to Cabinet in May 2016 sets out the progress made in addressing the outstanding issues raised in March, as well as the potential consequences of agreeing or not agreeing to be part of a mayoral combined authority area.

Pensions

The next triennial review of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) will be as at 31 March 2016, and will impact from 2017/18. Given historic trends, the valuation is likely

to result in additional cost pressures. Increased pension deficit payments have been included in the Council's MTFP.

EU Referendum

While unclear what the actual local implications may be at this stage, the impact of the vote to leave the European Union is expected to lead to increased instability and uncertainty in respect of the financial context for councils and regions. The Council will continue to update its MTFP projections as appropriate.

8. Corporate Risks

The Council has an embedded process to manage risks and assist with the achievement of its strategic objectives, alongside national and local performance targets. The Strategic Risk Register plays an integral role in the production of the Corporate Plan and is subject to a quarterly review by Audit Committee, including when it approves the Statement of Accounts.

The Council's key strategic risks are:

- If there was to be slippage in the delivery of the agreed MTFP savings projects, this will require further savings to be made from other areas, which may result in further service reductions and job losses;
- Ongoing Government funding cuts which now extend to at least 2019/20 will continue to have an increasing major impact on all Council services; and
- If the Council were to fail to comply with Central Government's Public Services Network Code of Connection and PPCI criteria for our computer applications, this would put some of the core business processes at risk, such as Revenues and Benefits, which rely on secure transfer of personal data.

9. Summary Position

It is clear that the Council's financial and non-financial performance in 2015/16 continues to be good. The revenue outturn with a £20.092m underspend is in line with expectations and quarter three projections, capital outturn has been managed to minimise the level of re-profiling required at the year end and the Council has sufficient reserves and balances to provide financial resilience for 2016/17 and future years.

In 2015/16, the Council has faced and dealt successfully with significant change. This trend will continue and indeed accelerate as the devolution agenda takes shape and the outcome of European Referendum result becomes clear but the Council is well placed to adapt to the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities offered. There are risks as highlighted above, but there are well established and robust risk management processes in place and, together with robust financial management and reporting, the Council is in a strong position as it moves into 2016/17.

10. Receipt of Further Information

If you would like to receive further information about these accounts, please contact the Interim Corporate Director Resources, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UE.

11. Explanation of Accounting Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement

This 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. The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

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

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 (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement

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

Notes to the Accounts

The notes are fundamentally important in the presentation of a true and fair view. They aim to assist understanding and have three significant roles: presenting information about the basis of preparation of the financial statements and the specific accounting policies used; disclosing information required by the Code that is not presented elsewhere in the financial statements, for example sub-classification of the Property, Plant and Equipment; and providing information that is not provided elsewhere in the financial statements, but is relevant to the understanding of any of them. This applies to information that is material in a qualitative rather than quantitative sense, for example, transactions with Related Parties.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

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 the legislative framework; 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.

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.

Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts

Shows the operation and membership of the Fund, the expenditure and income during the year and its financial position at 31 March 2016. Following the Accounts are notes providing further information.

Annual Governance Statement

This Statement gives assurance that the Council has conducted a review of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and that the appropriate mechanisms are in place for the maintenance of good governance across the activities of the Council.

Glossary of Terms

A glossary of financial terms is provided to assist the reader's understanding.

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

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

The Corporate Director Resources' Responsibilities

The Corporate Director Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which is in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Corporate Director Resources has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the local authority Code.

The Corporate Director Resources has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate of the Interim Corporate Director Resources

I certify that the Statement of Accounts, which includes the Pension Fund financial statements, present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2016 and its expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Paul Darby

Interim Corporate Director Resources

30 September 2016

Certificate of Chairman

In accordance with Regulation 9 (2) (c) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, I certify that these Accounts were approved by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 30 September 2016.

James Rowlandson

Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee

Chair of the meeting approving the Accounts

30 September 2016

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Opinion on the Authority financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement and Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resource is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resource; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Durham County Council as at 31 March 2016 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007 and the December 2012 addendum;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24, schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Pension Fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of Durham County Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the interim Corporate Director of Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the interim Corporate Director of Resource's Responsibilities, the interim Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the

preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts, which includes the Pension Fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the interim Corporate Director of Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on Pension Fund financial statements

In our opinion the Pension Fund's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2016 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2016 other than liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the end of the scheme year; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under section 20 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by

the National Audit Office, requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the National Audit Office.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

We are required to conclude whether the Authority has put in place arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

We have planned and undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice as issued by the National Audit Office and had regard to relevant guidance. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion published by the National Audit Office, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, *Durham County Council* put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Cameron Waddell

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Rivergreen Centre

Aykley Heads

Durham

DH1 5TS

30 September 2016

2015/16:

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2015 brought forward	28,897	214,557	26,078	-	219	609	270,360	196,187	466,547
Movement in Reserves during 2015-16									
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-67,444	-	111,180	-	-	-	43,736	-	43,736
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,845	57,845
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-67,444	-	111,180	-	-	-	43,736	57,845	101,581
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	71,577	-	-114,101	-	143	-85	-42,466	42,466	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	4,133	-	-2,921	-	143	-85	1,270	100,311	101,581
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	-3,929	27,086	-23,157	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in Year	204	27,086	-26,078	-	143	-85	1,270	100,311	101,581
Balance at 31 March 2016 carried forward	29,101	241,643	-	-	362	524	271,630	296,498	568,128

2014/15:

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2014 brought forward	28,135	165,952	7,155	1,043	219	722	203,226	479,547	682,773
Movement in Reserves during 2014-15									
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	59,989	-	-324,391	-	-	-	-264,402	-	-264,402
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,176	48,176
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	59,989	-	-324,391	-	-	-	-264,402	48,176	-216,226
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	-10,622	-	342,271	-	-	-113	331,536	-331,536	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	49,367	-	17,880	-	-	-113	67,134	-283,360	-216,226
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	-48,605	48,605	1,043	-1,043	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in Year	762	48,605	18,923	-1,043	-	-113	67,134	-283,360	-216,226
Balance at 31 March 2015 carried forward	28,897	214,557	26,078	-	219	609	270,360	196,187	466,547

2014-15 (restated)			Note	2015-16		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
437,685	-365,421	72,264		469,667	-370,104	99,563
208,821	-82,152	126,669		222,077	-96,064	126,013
71,142	-19,757	51,385		85,678	-42,376	43,302
48,242	-19,214	29,028		47,529	-22,234	25,295
45,283	-16,149	29,134		54,827	-14,280	40,547
54,354	-9,852	44,502		59,397	-6,794	52,603
406,762	-72,641	334,121		4,721	-2,141	2,580
215,783	-196,393	19,390		201,223	-187,490	13,733
45,394	-46,763	-1,369		49,155	-48,627	528
11,832	-3,545	8,287		11,825	-3,231	8,594
24,467	-15,553	8,914		20,673	-11,218	9,455
6,485	-433	6,052		4,579	-417	4,162
1,576,250	-847,873	728,377	Cost of Services	1,231,351	-804,976	426,375
22,618	-13,938	8,680	Other Operating Expenditure*	9 213,330	-128,015	85,315
149,426	-104,901	44,525	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	10 199,671	-89,435	110,236
-	-517,181	-517,181	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	11 -	-665,662	-665,662
	264,401		Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services			-43,736
			Items that will not be reclassified to Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services			
		-165,529	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of PPE / Heritage assets	12,13		-14,342
		2,964	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to revaluation reserve	12,13		10,588
		114,380	Re-measurements of the defined benefit liability	24		-54,480
		8	Difference between actuary's estimate and actual employer's pension contributions	24		389
		-48,177	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			-57,845
	216,224		Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			-101,581

* 2014/15 comparative figures have been restated as follows:

- To reallocate some expenditure and income from Environmental and Regulatory Services to Cultural and Related Services in respect of open spaces. There is no net impact on the Cost of Services.

- In Other Operating Expenditure: to split the net gain or loss on disposal of non-current assets between expenditure (net book value and costs) and income (capital receipts). There is no impact on Net Expenditure.

31 March 2015 £000	Notes	31 March 2016 £000
1,746,421 Property, Plant & Equipment	12	1,578,946
15,459 Heritage Assets	13, 48	15,445
3,743 Investment Property	14	2,267
1,757 Intangible Assets		1,177
30,577 Long Term Investments	15	12,327
19,372 Long Term Debtors	15	21,682
1,817,329 Long Term Assets		1,631,844
83,443 Short Term Investments	15	156,631
3,231 Assets Held for Sale	20	6,660
3,567 Inventories	17	5,066
64,349 Short Term Debtors	18	57,402
79,198 Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	39,426
233,788 Current Assets		265,185
-6,010 Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	-436
-4,442 Short Term Borrowing	15	-13,080
-114,269 Short Term Creditors	21	-107,449
-4,498 Provisions	22	-3,397
-6,629 Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	37	-4,334
-135,848 Current Liabilities		-128,696
-9,291 Provisions	22	-14,157
-457,752 Long Term Borrowing	15	-236,221
-981,276 Other Long Term Liabilities	40, 41, 45	-949,826
-403 Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	37	0
-1,448,722 Long Term Liabilities		-1,200,204
466,547 Net Assets		568,129
270,360 Usable Reserves	23	271,630
196,187 Unusable Reserves	24	296,499
466,547 Total Reserves		568,129

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
264,401	Net surplus (-) or deficit on the provision of services	-43,736
-374,227	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provisions of services for non-cash movements (Note 25)	-121,578
13,207	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 26)	124,027
-96,619	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	-41,287
105,109	Investing Activities (Note 28)	-5,736
-30,869	Financing Activities (Note 29)	81,221
-22,379	Net increase (-) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	34,198
50,809	Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	73,188
73,188	Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	38,990

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

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The values within the financial statements are disclosed with roundings which are appropriate to their individual presentation. Consequently, the tables in the Statement of Accounts may contain rounding differences.

Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2015/16 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2016. The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts. In line with the Regulations, the Statement of Accounts is prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

Those practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The Code requires that a Local Authority's Statement of Accounts is prepared on a 'going concern' basis, that is, the accounts are based on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed - where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received, rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument, rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. The County Council has a policy of not accruing for manual sundry creditor or sundry debtor provisions for less than £1,000 other than in exceptional circumstances.

3. Business Improvement District Schemes

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme was applied across Durham City centre. The scheme is funded by a BID levy paid by city centre non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts as the billing authority for the scheme (collecting and distributing the levy income). The BID levy income is revenue due to The Durham BID Company Limited (the BID body) and as such the Council has nothing to show in its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, since it is collecting the BID levy income as an agent on behalf of the BID body.

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in 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.

5. Exceptional Items

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

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

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

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

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

7. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance (Minimum Revenue Provision), by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

8. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees. These are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the 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 revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the 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. These benefits are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for restructuring. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits. These are replaced with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Durham County Council.
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Services Authority

These schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council. However, the arrangements for the Teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children's and Education Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year. The Public Health line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the NHS Pension scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Durham County Council 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 3.4% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds, Aon Hewitt GBP Select AA Curve).
- The assets of Durham County Council Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 1. Quoted securities – current bid price.
 2. Unquoted securities – professional estimate.
 3. Unitised securities – current bid price.
 4. Property – market value

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

- Service cost, comprising:
 - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
 - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
 - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), 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.
 - Gains or losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs.
- Remeasurements, comprising:

- the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Durham County Council 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 pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The 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 (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

9. Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

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

10. Financial Instruments

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 respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan. 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 financial 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 voluntary organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, and amounts are material, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain 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.

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

Available-for-Sale Financial Assets

Available-for-sale financial 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 the 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 in 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.
- Equity shares with no quoted market prices – at cost.

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

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

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets. 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 or loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale 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 effective 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 derecognition 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 Available-for-Sale Reserve.

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

11. Foreign Currency Translation

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end, they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

12. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as 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.

13. Heritage Assets

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets

A tangible heritage asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

An intangible heritage asset is defined as an intangible asset with cultural, environmental, or historical significance. Examples of intangible heritage assets include recordings of significant historical events. At present, the Council has no assets of this nature to be disclosed in the Balance Sheet.

A key feature of heritage assets is that they have cultural, environmental or historical associations that make their preservation for future generations important. Heritage assets are maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. Where an asset meets the definition of a heritage asset but is used for operational purposes, it is not classified as a heritage asset. For example, a historic building used as a museum is classified within land and buildings, as this is its primary purpose, but the exhibits within it may be classified as heritage.

Recognition and measurement

Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets and the County Council's approach is as follows:

- Heritage assets' valuations are based on insurance values, where available, as this is the most appropriate and relevant basis. In some cases, these values are supported by professional valuations, for example by auction houses.
- Insurance values are reviewed regularly and assets will be revalued where a change is deemed to be significant.
- In the absence of insurance values, for example where an asset is either not insured or is self-insured, the asset's most recent valuation before reclassification is used. This is usually historic cost but some buildings and monuments were measured on an Existing Use Value (EUV) basis prior to reclassification.
- Where no appropriate valuation is available, heritage assets are not recognised on the Balance Sheet, however they are disclosed in the narrative notes to the financial statements.

Items are recognised on the balance sheet where they are held by the Council on long-term loan or where the Council has the risks and rewards of ownership, as evidenced by the need to insure them. Similarly, items that the Council has lent out long-term are not recognised. Items held on short-term loan, for example for temporary exhibitions, are not recognised.

The Council is custodian or guardian of a number of monuments or sites. These are considered to be heritage assets; however they do not usually have any appropriate valuation so they are not recognised on the Balance sheet.

The Council's collections of heritage assets are accounted for as follows:

Museum Collections and Artefacts

This includes museum exhibits and items such as books of remembrance and miners' banners. Some items in this collection are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance value, others at the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers.

Artwork, including Public Art and Sculptures

This includes paintings, sculptures and outdoor public art installations around the county. Some items in this collection are reported at insurance value, others at cost and some at the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers. There are a number for which no value is available so they are not reported on the Balance Sheet.

The distinction between sculptures, monuments and statues can be subjective. However for the purposes of classification, the Council has determined that sculptures are generally modern, commissioned pieces of art, monuments can be modern or historic and are usually dedicated to people or events and statues are usually historical structures. Monuments and statues are included under the heading "Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings" below.

Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings

This includes war and colliery memorials, statues and non-operational historic buildings around the county. Some items in this collection are reported at insurance value, some at existing use value and some at cost. There are a number for which no value is available and are not reported on the balance sheet.

Civic Regalia and Silverware

This includes civic chains, badges of office and silverware used for civic purposes, and are recorded at insurance value, or the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers.

Geophysical / Archaeological

This includes pit wheel sites and Roman archaeological sites. No appropriate or relevant valuations are available for these assets so they are not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

Depreciation

Depreciation is not charged on heritage assets which have indefinite lives.

Impairment

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment.

Disposal

Heritage assets are rarely disposed of. However, in such cases, disposal proceeds are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

If you would like more information about Durham County Council's heritage assets, contact details can be found on the front page of this document.

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 asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 the Capital Receipts Reserve.

15. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Code requires local authorities to produce group accounts to reflect significant activities provided to Council Taxpayers by other organisations in which an authority has an interest. The Council has reviewed its interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities against the criteria for group accounts, as set out in the Code, and has concluded that there are no such material interests that require the preparation of group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

16. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the weighted average costing formula.

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.

17. Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. 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 the Capital Receipts Reserve.

18. Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where contractual agreements are in place under which the Council and one or more other parties share control. The joint venturers have rights to assets and obligations in relation to liabilities. The Council accounts only for its share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the arrangement.

19. Leases

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

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

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The County 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 expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

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 County Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases

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

20. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used - the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core - costs relating to the Council's status as a multifunctional, democratic organisation.

- Non Distributed Costs - the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SeRCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, within the net cost of services.

21. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price;
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management;
- 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.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets

Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Council offices – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV), except for a few offices that are situated close to the council's housing properties, where there is no market for office accommodation, and that are measured at depreciated replacement cost (instant build) as an estimate of current value
- School buildings – current value, but because of their specialist nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value
- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

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

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

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

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

All valuations have been undertaken by or under the supervision of a fully qualified Chartered Surveyor (MRICS – Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors). The effective date for valuations is 1 April of the financial year and assets are revalued on a five-year rolling programme. Council dwellings are reviewed annually. All valuations undertaken in 2015/16 were carried out by Council staff. In addition to this rolling programme, assets which have been subject to potentially material change as a result of transactions in any given year will be revalued as and when such changes occur.

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all 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 up to a maximum of 50 years.

- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight line allocation over the useful life of the asset as advised by a suitably qualified officer, mainly up to a maximum of 10 years, however, some specialised items are depreciated over up to 25 years.
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 40 years.
- Surplus Assets – Buildings up to 50 years, Land not depreciated

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has a value greater than £5m and major components greater than 20% of the value of the asset, the components are depreciated separately at rates representative of their useful life.

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 losses previously recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to 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 Assets Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale. When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal 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 the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). 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.

22. Service Concession Arrangements (Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts)

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

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

For the Building Schools for the Future Schools PFI Project, the liability was written down by an initial capital contribution of £0.270m.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Council. The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- Fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Finance cost – an interest charge of 10.15% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- Payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease).
- Lifecycle replacement costs – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

23. Provisions

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

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

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

24. Carbon Reduction Commitment Allowances

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. This scheme is currently in the initial year of its second phase, which ends on 31 March 2019. The Council is required to purchase allowances, either prospectively or retrospectively, and surrender them on the basis of emissions, i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is emitted (i.e. as energy is used), a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. The cost to the Council is recognised and reported in the costs of the Council's services and is apportioned to services on the basis of energy consumption.

25. Contingent Liabilities

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

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

26. 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 an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

27. Reserves

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

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council - these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

28. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

29. Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

30. Schools

In line with accounting standards on group accounts and consolidation, all maintained schools in the County are now considered to be entities controlled by the Council. Rather than produce group accounts the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school are recognised in the Council's single entity accounts. The Council has the following types of maintained schools under its control:

- Community
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Foundation/Foundation Trust

Schools Non-Current (fixed) Assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet where the Council directly owns the assets, where the Council holds the balance of control of the assets or where the school or the school Governing Body own the assets or have had rights to use the assets transferred to them.

Community schools are owned by the Council and are, therefore, recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The Council's Voluntary Aided and Controlled schools are owned by the respective Diocese with no formal rights to use the assets through a licence arrangements passed to the School or Governing Bodies. As a result these schools are not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The ownership of the Council's Foundation Schools is with the school or the schools Governing Body and as a result the school is recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet.

31. Collection Fund Statement

Council Tax Income

Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the accrued income for the year. The difference between the accrued income for the year and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund will be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the General Fund balance Movement in Reserves Statement. Any balances owed to or from each preceptor will be shown as a creditor or debtor in the Council's accounts.

Business Rates Income

Business Rates income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the accrued income for the year. The difference between the accrued income for the year and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund will be taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the General Fund balance Movement in Reserves Statement. Any balances owed to or from each preceptor or central government will be shown as a creditor or debtor in the Council's accounts.

2. Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2016/17 Code:

- IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements. This standard provides guidance on the form of the financial statements. The 'Telling the Story' review of the presentation of the Local Authority financial statements as well as the December 2014 changes to IAS 1 under International Accounting Standards Board Disclosure Initiative will result in changes to the format of the accounts in 2016/17. The format of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement in Reserves Statement will change and introduce a new Expenditure and Funding Analysis.
- Other minor changes are not expected to have a material effect on the Council's Statement of Accounts.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2016 and there is therefore no impact on the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

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

- Funding of Local Government - 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.
- Academy and Foundation Trust Schools - three schools transferred to academy and foundation trust status in 2015/16. At the completion of a statutory process, the

governing bodies of the relevant schools have agreed to change from Local Authority maintained schools. The assets are removed from the Council's Balance Sheet and a loss on disposal is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account at the completion of the statutory process.

- PFI - In 2009/10, the Council signed a Private Finance Initiative contract for the provision of three sets of new school buildings; Sedgefield Community College, Shotton Hall School (now The Academy at Shotton Hall) and Shotton Hall Primary School. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangement and the assets are recognised in the balance sheet as they are deemed to fall within the scope of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) 12. The total net value of land and buildings for these schools is £20.110m. Further details can be found in Note 41.
- Accounting for Schools – Balance Sheet Recognition – The Council recognises the land and buildings used by schools in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice. It states that property used by local authority maintained schools should be recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property. The Council recognises the schools land and buildings on its Balance Sheet where it directly owns the assets, the school or school Governing Body own the assets or rights to use the assets have been transferred from another entity.

Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Council, school or school Governing Body then it is not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

Judgements have been made to determine the arrangements in place and the accounting treatment of the land and building assets. The types of schools that have been assessed are shown below:

	Type of School	Nursery Schools	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Total
a)	Community	12	142	13	9	176
b)	Voluntary Controlled (VC)	-	16	-	-	16
b)	Voluntary Aided (VA)	-	47	2	-	49
c)	Foundation	-	-	2	-	2
d)	Pupil Referral Unit	-	-	1	-	1
d)	Endowed Parochial	-	1	-	-	1
	Maintained Schools	12	206	18	9	245
e)	Academies	-	12	14	1	27
	Total	12	218	32	10	272

- a) All Community schools are owned by the Council and the land and buildings used by the schools are included on the Council's Balance Sheet.
 - b) Legal ownership of VC and VA school land and buildings usually rests with a charity, normally a religious body. VC schools are owned by the Diocese who has granted a licence to the school to use the land and buildings. Under this licence arrangement, the rights of use of the land and buildings have not transferred to the school and thus are not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.
 - c) Foundation schools were created to give greater freedom to the Governing Body responsible for school staff appointments and who also set the admission criteria. For a Foundation school, as the school Governing Body has legal ownership of the land and buildings they have been included on the Council's Balance Sheet in line with the Council's judgement.
 - d) The Pupil Referral Unit and Endowed Parochial School are owned by the Council and the land and buildings used are included on the Council's Balance Sheet.
 - e) Academies are not considered to be maintained schools in the Council's control. Thus the land and building assets are not owned by the Council and not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.
- Group Accounts – The Council has financial relationships with other related companies, joint ventures and joint arrangements, details of which can be found in Note 38. There are a number of criteria by which the Council must determine whether its interest in such bodies is significant enough to be included in the Council's consolidated accounts. After consideration of these criteria, the Council has determined that the consolidation of related companies would have no material effect on the Council's financial position and therefore it is not necessary to produce Group Accounts for 2015/16.
 - Closed Landfill Sites – the Council considers that there is likely to be a liability in respect of restoration works and after care costs for a number of closed landfill sites. A full review of the liability has been undertaken, and a final report was received in May 2014. This report recommended proposals for the management of the retained sites, and work is on-going to determine the financial liabilities associated with these proposals. The Environment Agency, the regulatory body for permitted closed landfill sites is working closely with the Council recommending priority order for works to sites. As the full value and timing of this liability remains uncertain, it has been included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

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 2016 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 impact of a change in valuation or useful life would be to affect the carrying value of the asset in the balance sheet and the charge for depreciation or impairment in the CI&E. These changes do not have an impact on the Council's General Fund position as the Council is not required to fund such non-cash charges from council tax receipts.
Property, plant and equipment	Property, plant and equipment (with the exception of infrastructure, community assets, assets under construction and small value items of vehicles, plant and equipment) are revalued on a periodic basis and tested annually for indicators of impairment. Judgements are required to make an assessment as to whether there is an indication of impairment. Advice has been provided by valuers employed by the Council.	If the actual results differ from the assumptions the value of PPE will be over or understated. This would be adjusted when the assets are next revalued.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements such as the discount rate, future salary increases, mortality expectations, future inflation, and the expected rate of return on the Pension Fund's investments. The Pension Fund engages a firm of specialist actuaries to	The effects on the net pensions 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 £43.1m. In order to understand the magnitude of the possible volatility in the balance sheet position and to understand

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
	provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	which assumptions are most important in determining the size of the liabilities, it is helpful to understand how sensitive the results are to key assumptions. IAS19 now requires entities to disclose information about the sensitivity of the defined benefit obligation to changes in key assumptions. The results from the sensitivity analysis are disclosed in note 45 and indicate how the figures are sensitive to the assumptions used.
Equal Pay	Provision has been made for the likely payments in respect of Equal Pay settlements in respect of Schools only. These are provided for in short term provisions and have been included at current prices. There are a number of potential claims in respect of individuals who were identified as potentially being eligible for an Equal Pay settlement but have not yet approached the Council. Due to the uncertainty an amount has been set aside in earmarked reserves rather than in provisions.	Payments are likely to be made within 12 months; the provision will be reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly. The residual settlements made in future years will be reviewed to ensure the adequacy of the balance set aside in earmarked reserves.
Insurance Provision	The value of provisions that will be used in 2016/17 is uncertain. Based on previous experience, an amount of £3.259m has been classified as short term to reflect the likely use of this provision in 2016/17.	If the short term provision is not used during 2016/17, the annual review of the insurance provision will ensure that an appropriate amount is included in the 2016/17 accounts.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Arrears	At 31 March 2016, the Authority had a balance of debtors of £80.09m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 32.21% (£25.80m) 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, a doubling of the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £25.80m to be set aside as an allowance.

5. Material Items of Income and Expense

In September 2014, Cabinet agreed to transfer the Council's housing stock of circa 18,500 dwellings to County Durham Housing Group.

The transfer of the Housing Stock to the County Durham Housing Group Limited and its component housing management organisations, Dale and Valley Homes Limited, Durham City Homes Limited and East Durham Homes Limited took place on 13 April 2015, a date agreed with the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The transfer price for the dwellings and associated assets is largely determined by a prescribed formula set by Government and reflects the current value of the future income and expenditure streams of the assets over the next 30 years and is known as the Tenanted Market Value (TMV). The transfer price agreed with CDHG was £114.4m and this was used to repay part of the outstanding HRA debt in 2015/16.

In 2015/16 the Council received an Overhanging Debt Grant of £207.035m from the government to repay its remaining housing attributable debt of £129.6m and premia of £77.435m associated with the premature repayment. These figures are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure respectively and included in Notes 11 and 10.

During 2011/12, Consett Community Sports College and Moorside Community College combined and transferred to Academy status, becoming Consett Academy. No loss on disposal of the school buildings was recorded at the time, as new buildings were being constructed by the Council, which were recognised as assets under construction on the Council's balance sheet. The old school buildings remain the property of the Council, and

were leased on a short-term basis to the Academy until completion of the new buildings in 2015/16. On completion, the new buildings transferred to the Academy and were written out of the Council's balance sheet, resulting in a loss on disposal of £28.836m in 2015/16.

6. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Interim Corporate Director Resources on 30 June 2016. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2016, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Academy Schools

Four local authority schools are due to convert to Academy status during 2016/17 which was a non-adjusting event in 2015/16. This change in status will lead to the removal of these schools from the Balance Sheet in 2016/17 and the loss on disposal will be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement below the Net Cost of Services. The estimated loss on disposal is £20.494m.

7. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations

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

The presentation of this note has been amended to reflect new Code requirements to aggregate or disaggregate disclosures so that useful information is not obscured by either the inclusion of a large amount of insignificant detail or the aggregation of items that have different characteristics. The 2014/15 comparator has been restated accordingly. There is no impact on the Total Adjustments line.

2015/16:

	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
• Pensions Costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	-22,075	-	-	-	-	22,075
• Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	79	-	-	-	-	-79
• Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund)	1,220	-	-	-	-	-1,220
• Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	1,802	-	-	-	-	-1,802
• Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital items (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account):						
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	-55,755	-	-	-	-	55,755
Revaluation and impairment losses on non-current assets, and movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	-17,066	-	-	-	-	17,066
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale	-55,268	-130,534	-	-	-	185,802
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-29,868	-	-	-	-	29,868
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CI&E Statement	52,087	129,600	-	-	-	-181,687
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	-124,844	-934	-	-	-	125,778
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	12,962	115,035	-124,028	-	-	-3,969
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	-34	-	34	-	-	-
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	16,569	-	-	-	-	-16,569
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	23,770	-	-	-	-	-23,770
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital	53,267	115,035	-123,994	-	-	-44,308
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	124,584	-	-	-124,584
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Application of capital grants unapplied to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	85	-85
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	-	-	-733	-	-	733
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	-	-	123,851	-	85	-123,936
Total Adjustments	-71,577	114,101	-143	-	85	-42,466

2014/15 (restated):

	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
• Pensions Costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve	-19,671	480	-	-	-	19,191
• Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	79	-	-	-	-	-79
• Council Tax and NDR (transfers to or from Collection Fund)	2,759	-	-	-	-	-2,759
• Holiday pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	-2,220	-1	-	-	-	2,221
• Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital items (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account):						
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	-51,930	-7,500	-	-	-	59,430
Revaluation and impairment losses on non-current assets, and movements in the fair value of Investment Properties	7,223	-366,231	-	-	-	359,008
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale	-8,037	-2,239	-	-	-	10,276
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-16,873	-62	-	-	-	16,935
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CI&E Statement	56,594	18,682	-	-	-	-75,276
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	-32,076	-356,871	-	-	-	388,947
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	10,619	3,314	-13,208	-	-	-725
Payments to the government housing receipts pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	-1,414	-	1,414	-	-	-
Posting of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	7,468	-	-7,468	-	-
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	15,730	-	-	-	-	-15,730
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	17,763	3,818	-	-	-	-21,581
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital	42,698	14,600	-11,794	-7,468	-	-38,036
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	12,976	-	-	-12,976
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	7,468	-	-7,468
Application of capital grants unapplied to finance capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	113	-113
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	-	-	-1,182	-	-	1,182
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	-	-	11,794	7,468	113	-19,375
Total Adjustments	10,622	-342,271	-	-	113	331,536

8. 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.

	Balance at 1 April 2014 £000	Transfers out 2014-15 £000	Transfers in 2014-15 £000	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000	Transfers out 2015-16 £000	Transfers in 2015-16 £000	Balance at 31 March 2016 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	24,684	-438	-	24,246	-163	-	24,083
AAP / Members Reserve	3,277	-5	427	3,699	-498	406	3,607
AAP Reserve - Neighbourhoods	38	-	2	40	-	8	48
Assistant Chief Executive - Grant Reserve	230	-39	3	194	-	1,218	1,412
Assistant Chief Executive - Operational Reserve	132	-8	-	124	-8	631	747
Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre Reserve	1,387	-185	-	1,202	-998	-	204
Budget Support Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Business Growth Fund Reserve	-	-	913	913	-97	-	816
Cabinet Reserve	220	-220	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure Reserve	2,797	-	5	2,802	-3,802	1,000	-
Cash Limit Reserve	22,384	-7,481	7,462	22,365	-15,107	15,044	22,302
Community Safety Reserve	6	-6	-	-	-	-	-
Continuing Professional Development Reserve	993	-	42	1,035	-	167	1,202
Corporate Reserve	2,219	-1,604	369	984	-59	-	925
Customer Services Reserve	387	-14	-	373	-140	-	233
Dedicated Schools Grant and Education Reserve	7,354	-	5,452	12,806	-352	1,978	14,432
Direct Services Reserve	3,675	-1,242	610	3,043	-725	673	2,991
DWP Grant Reserve	699	-50	589	1,238	-56	205	1,387
Economic Development Reserve	900	-194	339	1,045	-77	166	1,134
Elections Reserve	1,036	-136	136	1,036	-26	-	1,010
Employability and Training Reserve	644	-186	-	458	-229	1,478	1,707
Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Reserve	516	-97	581	1,000	-86	33	947
Equal Pay Reserve	17,405	-3,683	394	14,116	-4,798	210	9,528
Funding and Programmes Management Reserve	132	-	8	140	-	14	154
Health Promotion Access Catalogue (HPAC)	-	-	259	259	-259	-	-
Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve	2,198	-1,453	-	745	-245	-	500
Housing Solutions Reserve	1,079	-228	16	867	-19	295	1,143
Housing Stock Transfer Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Human Resources Reserve	-	-	65	65	-	-	65
Insurance Reserve	13,058	-75	2,620	15,603	-7,000	1,626	10,229
Land Search Fees Reserve	1,000	-	-	1,000	-556	-	444
Legal Reserves	200	-	-	200	-	154	354
LSVT Reserve	100	-100	-	-	-	-	-
MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve	16,255	-6,204	830	10,881	-7,023	10,000	13,858
North Pennines Partnership Reserve	638	-309	-	329	-124	-	205
Office Accommodation Reserve	1,000	-	7	1,007	-310	-	697
Office Accommodation Capital Reserve	-	-	8,000	8,000	-	34,481	42,481
Other Childrens Services Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,010	1,010
Pension Deficit Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Performance Reward Grant Reserve	1,308	-264	-	1,044	-358	-	686
Planned Delivery Programme (PDP) Reserve	-	-	20,000	20,000	-20,000	-	-
Planning Reserve	1,173	-	250	1,423	-174	80	1,329
Public Health Reserve	4,992	-44	35	4,983	-3,734	3,705	4,954
Regeneration Reserve	1,689	-713	778	1,754	-162	740	2,332
Restructure Reserve	729	-66	-	663	-475	-	188
Revenue and Benefit Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	200	200
School Condition Survey Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,409	1,409
Single Fraud Incentive Scheme Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	257	257
Social Care Reserve	19,365	-4,561	22,132	36,936	-25,482	1,910	13,364
Special Projects Reserve	60	-23	-	37	-37	-	-
Sport and Leisure Reserve	1,963	-387	1,618	3,194	-753	673	3,114
Strategic Waste Reserve	425	-177	1,548	1,796	-1,660	-	136
System Development Reserve	2,021	-451	141	1,711	-245	1,134	2,600
Tackling Troubled Families Reserve	1,558	-613	1,082	2,027	-330	-	1,697
Technical Services Reserve	1,619	-300	1,603	2,922	-443	1,873	4,352
Transformation Reserve	-	-	1,483	1,483	-	1,441	2,924
Transport Asset Management Programme Reserve	318	-	-	318	-158	-	160
Transport Reserve	329	-42	-	287	-36	-	251
Welfare Reserve	1,760	-94	498	2,164	-1,477	148	835
Total	165,952	-31,692	80,297	214,557	-98,281	125,367	241,643

The significant earmarked reserves at 31 March 2016, together with a brief explanation of their purpose, were as follows:

Schools' Revenue Balances

Surplus or deficit balances of locally managed schools, which are committed to be spent on the education service. The net surplus at 31 March 2016 comprised individual school balances totalling £24.083m, net of loans outstanding of £0.191m.

AAP / Members Reserve

To ensure the projects can be funded in 2016/17 where an agreed spending plan exists.

Budget Support Reserve

To enable the Council to protect frontline services for a period and ensure that the Council is able to plan effectively and consult fully on future years' savings plans.

Capital Expenditure Reserve

To provide resources to fund capital expenditure items in 2016/17 and beyond.

Cash Limit Reserve

To carry forward under and overspends to meet future service demands.

Dedicated Schools Grant and Education Reserve

To carry forward the unspent, central element of Dedicated Schools Grant funding for multi-agency operations, and to provide education business links between schools and local businesses.

Direct Services Reserve

To hold contingency sums for issues such as building services defects liabilities, building repairs and maintenance dilapidations, flooding and street cleansing.

Equal Pay Reserve

To provide resources to meet the cost of additional employee costs as a result of Equal Pay and Job Evaluation.

Insurance Reserve

To provide resources to cover selected risks. The major risks relate to fire, public liability and employer's liability claims below the policy excess levels.

MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve

To provide for the costs of approved redundancy and early retirements.

Office Accommodation Capital Reserve

To provide a resource for the review of Office Accommodation across the County.

Pension Deficit Reserve

To provide a resource to reduce future liabilities and MTFP pressures associated with pension deficit payments.

Public Health Reserve

Mainly represents sums set aside to meet future costs associated with the decommissioning and recommissioning of various Public Health contracts.

Social Care Reserve

To fund expected demographic pressures in future years and for projects jointly agreed by Childrens and Adults Services and Health and the Primary Care Trust.

Sport and Leisure Reserve

To provide resources to meet the costs associated with various Sport and Leisure activities in 2016/17 and beyond.

Technical Services Reserve

To provide resources to meet the costs associated with Winter Maintenance in order to ensure funds for are available for increased expenditure in the event of harsh winter, Drainage Inspections and other Highways related issues.

Transformation Reserve

To provide a resource to support a major transformation of the Children's Services delivery model on the provision of social work services and early help services to improve the service.

9. Other Operating Expenditure

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
10,450	Parish council precepts	10,921
472	Levies	16,555
1,414	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	34
-3,656	Gains/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	57,805
8,680	Total	85,315

10. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
24,449	Interest payable and similar charges	15,110
-	- Premium payable on repayment of debt (Housing Stock Transfer)	77,435
33,160	Pensions net interest on the net defined benefit liability	28,920
-2,395	Interest receivable and similar income	-4,894
270	Impairment of Financial Investments	-
-267	Movement in fair value of investment properties	-406
-10,692	Other investment income	-5,929
44,525	Total	110,236

11. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
-179,705	Council tax income *	-190,752
-54,725	Non domestic rates	-50,836
-217,149	Non-ringfenced government grants	-180,607
-65,602	Capital grants and contributions	-36,432
-	- Government grant in respect of Housing Stock Transfer	-207,035
-517,181	Total	-665,662

* Council tax income includes Council Tax, Collection Fund Surplus and Parish Precepts

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movement on Balance 2015/16:

	Operational					Non-Operational		
	Council Dwellings £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation								
At 1 April 2015	114,353	1,121,819	125,990	488,709	2,864	81,377	29,880	1,964,991
Additions	-	32,852	12,510	30,885	2,176	1	10,042	88,466
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-	-4,738	7	-27	-	-3,952	-	-8,709
Derecognition - disposals	-114,282	-73,077	-5,739	-	-	-7,197	-	-200,294
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-8,079	-	-8,079
Other reclassifications	-71	47,195	-	-	2	-8,118	-38,655	353
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2016	-	1,124,050	132,769	519,567	5,042	54,033	1,267	1,836,727
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2015	-	-19,223	-89,336	-109,323	-88	-601	-	-218,571
Depreciation charge	-	-31,108	-10,849	-12,650	-	-302	-	-54,908
Depreciation written out on revaluation	-	8,368	-	-	-	423	-	8,790
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-	-13,405	-23	-	-	-34	-	-13,462
Derecognition - disposals	-	14,669	5,406	-	-	208	-	20,283
Other reclassifications	-	-70	-	-	-	86	-	16
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	70
At 31 March 2016	-	-40,769	-94,802	-121,973	-88	-150	-	-257,782
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2016	-	1,083,282	37,967	397,594	4,953	53,883	1,267	1,578,945
At 31 March 2015	114,353	1,102,596	36,654	379,386	2,775	80,776	29,880	1,746,420
The Revaluations / Impairments above:								
Revaluation	-	-4,738	7	-27	-	-3,952	-	-8,709
Depreciation written out	-	8,368	-	-	-	423	-	8,790
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-	-13,405	-23	-	-	-34	-	-13,462
	-	-9,775	-16	-27	-	-3,564	-	-13,381
Are recognised as follows:								
In the Revaluation Reserve	-	6,468	-	-	-	-2,747	-	3,721
In the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-16,243	-16	-27	-	-817	-	-17,102
	-	-9,775	-16	-27	-	-3,564	-	-13,381

Comparative Movements in 2014/15:

	Operational						Non-Operational	
	Council Dwellings £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation								
At 1 April 2014	455,286	997,382	127,148	455,141	2,660	64,385	12,418	2,114,419
Additions	42,757	36,966	7,654	33,689	162	751	20,703	142,682
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-381,584	127,038	0	-48	16	-4,921	-	-259,497
Derecognition - disposals	-2,167	-13,634	-8,685	-0	-1	-4,026	-	-28,512
Derecognition - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-2,973	-	-	-	-260	-	-3,234
Other reclassifications	62	-22,291	-128	-	26	25,449	-3,241	-123
Other movements in cost or valuation	-2	-670	-	-73	-	-	-	-744
At 31 March 2015	114,353	1,121,819	125,990	488,709	2,864	81,377	29,880	1,964,991
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2014	-6,657	-51,092	-84,835	-97,482	-88	-2,426	-	-242,580
Depreciation charge	-6,799	-27,522	-11,684	-11,844	-	-439	-	-58,288
Depreciation written out on revaluation	13,441	51,518	-	-	-	2,978	-	67,938
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-114	-4,371	-	-	-	-358	-	-4,842
Derecognition - disposals	132	11,049	7,176	-	-	835	-	19,192
Derecognition - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Intangible	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other reclassifications	-4	1,194	6	-	-	-1,191	-	6
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
At 31 March 2015	0	-19,223	-89,336	-109,323	-88	-601	-	-218,571
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2015	114,353	1,102,596	36,654	379,386	2,775	80,776	29,880	1,746,420
At 31 March 2014	448,629	946,290	42,313	357,659	2,572	61,959	12,418	1,871,839
The Revaluations / Impairments								
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-381,584	127,038	0	-48	16	-4,921	-	-259,497
Depreciation written out	13,441	51,518	-	-	-	2,978	-	67,938
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-114	-4,371	-	-	-	-358	-	-4,842
	-368,256	174,186	0	-48	16	-2,300	-	-196,401
Are recognised as follows:								
In the Revaluation Reserve	-2,024	161,112	-	-0	16	3,640	-	162,743
In the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-366,231	13,074	0	-48	-	-5,940	-	-359,145
	-368,256	174,186	0	-48	16	-2,300	-	-196,401

Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings – up to 50 years
- Land and Buildings – Buildings up to 50 years, Land not depreciated
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment – mainly up to 10 years, however some specialised items are depreciated over up to 25 years
- Infrastructure – 40 years
- Surplus Assets – Buildings up to 50 years, Land not depreciated

Surplus Property

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 are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets;
- Level 2: inputs other than those in Level 1 that are observable, directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3: unobservable inputs.

When the fair values cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets for identical properties (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. quoted prices for similar properties or the discounted cash flow model). 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.

The fair value for the above properties at 31 March 2016 (£53.883m) has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2016 the Council had entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2016/17 and future years budgeted to cost £20.224m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2015 were £35.651m. The commitments are:

- Building Schools for the Future £2.964m

• School Projects	£2.306m
• Wharton Park	£0.805m
• Thornley Waste Transfer Station	£5.078m
• Digital Durham	£7.703m
• Forrest Park	£1.234m
• Villa Real	£0.134m

13. Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the carrying value of Heritage Assets held by the Council.

	Museum Collection and Artefacts £000	Artwork, Public Art and Sculptures £000	Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings £000	Civic Regalia and Silverware £000	Total Assets £000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2014	9,494	987	4,501	654	15,636
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-433	37	27	192	-177
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Property Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015	9,061	1,024	4,528	846	15,459
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2015	9,061	1,024	4,528	846	15,459
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-1	1	-	-
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Property Plant and Equipment	-	-	-15	-	-15
Other reclassifications	-108	-204	-	312	-
At 31 March 2016	8,953	819	4,514	1,158	15,444

Museum Collections and Artefacts

Where museum exhibits and artefacts are recognised on the balance sheet they are reported at insurance value, or at the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers.

Artwork, including Public Art and Sculptures

Where items of artwork are recognised on the balance sheet they are reported at insurance value, others at cost and some at the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers.

Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings

Where monuments, statues and historic buildings are recognised on the balance sheet they are reported at insurance value, where available, otherwise at existing use value or at cost.

Civic Regalia and Silverware

Civic regalia and silverware are recorded at insurance value, where available, or the amount at which they have been valued by professional valuers.

Insurance values are reviewed regularly and assets will be revalued where a change is deemed to be significant.

14. Investment Properties

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

2014-15 £000	2015-16 £000
3,481 Balance at start of the year	3,743
Additions:	
- Enhancements	-
- Disposals	-1,575
267 Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	437
Transfers:	
-5 To/from Property, Plant and Equipment	-339
3,743 Balance at end of the year	2,266

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or for repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

The fair value for the above properties at 31 March 2016 (£2.266m) has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

15. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

2014-15			2015-16	
Long-term £000	Current £000		Long-term £000	Current £000
		Investments		
20,019	83,444	Loans and receivables	19	156,631
10,558	-	Available-for-sale financial assets	10,558	-
-	-	Unquoted equity investment at cost	1,750	
30,577	83,444	Total Investments	12,327	156,631
		Debtors:		
19,372	45,032	Loans and receivables	21,682	41,494
19,372	45,032	Total Debtors	21,682	41,494
		Borrowings:		
-457,752	-4,442	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-236,221	-13,081
-457,752	-4,442	Total Borrowings	-236,221	-13,081
		Other Long term Liabilities:		
-44,975	-3,190	PFI and finance lease liabilities	-45,541	-3,762
-44,975	-3,190	Total other long term liabilities:	-45,541	-3,762
		Creditors:		
-	-94,343	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-	-82,982
-	-94,343	Total Creditors	-	-82,982

In addition to the above categories of financial instruments, cash and cash equivalents are also financial instruments as defined by International Accounting Standard (IAS) 32. Further details can be found in Note 19.

Under accounting requirements the carrying value of the financial instrument is shown in the balance sheet. This includes the principal amount borrowed or lent and further adjustments for breakage costs or stepped interest loans (measured by an effective interest rate calculation) including accrued interest. Accrued interest is shown separately in current assets/liabilities where the payments/receipts are due within one year. The effective interest rate is essentially accrued interest receivable under the instrument, adjusted for the amortisation of any premiums or discounts reflected in the purchase price.

Soft Loans

The Council will sometimes make loans at less than market rates, where a service objective justifies making a concession. The Code requires the discounted interest rate to be recognised as a reduction in the fair value of the asset when measured for the first time. This treatment reflects the economic substance of the transaction, i.e. the Council is

locking itself into an arrangement where it will incur an effective loss on interest receivable over the life of the instrument.

Loans to Voluntary Organisations

The Council has made a number of loans to voluntary organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). The value of soft loans issued by the Council at 31 March 2016 was £0.061m (31 March 2015 £0.063m). They are not considered to be material.

The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of soft loans to voluntary organisations is not considered material and therefore no adjustments have been made.

Employee Car Loans

The Council made loans for car purchase to 72 employees. These employees are in posts that require them to drive regularly on the Council's business. Interest is charged on the loans based on the emissions of the vehicle. At the current level of interest rates, the Council assesses that the rate for such loans are no longer less than market rates. The scheme is no longer available to employees.

The value of soft loans issued by the Council at 31 March 2016 was £0.023m (31 March 2015 £0.102m).

The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of soft loans is not considered material and therefore no adjustments have been made.

Soft Loans received by the Council

There are also occasions when the Council is in receipt of loans that are interest free or at less than prevailing market rates. If material, the effective interest rate of these loans should be calculated so that the value of the financial assistance provided to the Council can be separated from the financing cost of the transaction.

At 31 March 2016, the value of soft loans received by the Council was nil (31 March 2015, nil).

The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of soft loans is not considered material and therefore no adjustments have been made.

Reclassifications

There have been no reclassifications for the financial year 2015/16.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

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

2014-15						2015-16					
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables	Financial Assets: Available for sale	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total		Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables	Financial Assets: Available for sale	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	Total	
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
24,449	-	-	-	24,449	Interest expense	92,545	-	-	-	92,545	
-	270	-	-	270	Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	
24,449	270	-	-	24,719	Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	92,545	-	-	-	92,545	
-	-2,393	-	-	-2,393	Interest income	-	-4,894	-	-	-4,894	
-	-2	-	-	-2	Interest income accrued on impaired financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-2,395	-	-	-2,395	Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-4,894	-	-	-4,894	
24,449	-2,125	-	-	22,324	Net gain/(loss) for the year	92,545	-4,894	-	-	87,651	

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost (in long term assets/liabilities with accrued interest in current assets/liabilities). Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments (level 2), using the following assumptions:

- For loans from the PWLB and other loans payable, new borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- For loans receivable, prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value;

- No early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months, or is a trade or other receivable, the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount or the billed amount;
- 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 2015			31 March 2016		
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	
-405,501	-533,892	PWLB debt	-193,983	-224,988	
-51,651	-62,189	Non-PWLB debt	-51,639	-63,398	
-223	-223	Short term borrowing	-10,002	-10,002	
-94,343	-94,343	Short term creditors	-82,982	-82,982	
-2,389	-2,389	Short term finance lease liability	-2,833	-2,833	
-	-	Long-term creditors	-	-	
-3,916	-3,916	Long-term finance lease liability	-5,411	-5,411	
-558,023	-696,952	Total Liabilities	-346,850	-389,614	

The financial liabilities are held with PWLB and market lenders. All of these investments and borrowings were not quoted on an active market and a Level 1 valuation is not available. To provide a fair value which provides a comparison to the carrying amount, we have used a financial model valuation provided by Capita Asset Services. This valuation applies the Net Present Value approach, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms as at the balance sheet date. This is a widely accepted valuation technique commonly used by the public sector. Our accounting policy uses new borrowing rates to discount the future cash flows.

The fair value of the liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the balance sheet date.

This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2016) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £224.988m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates.

However, the authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. A supplementary measure of the additional interest that the authority 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 £193.984m would be valued at £224.988m. But, if the authority 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 £243.058m.

31 March 2015			31 March 2016		
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	
83,444	83,444	Short term investments	156,631	156,631	
20,019	20,130	Long term investments	19	19	
45,032	45,032	Short term debtors	41,494	41,494	
19,372	19,372	Long-term debtors	21,682	21,682	
167,867	167,978	Total Assets	219,826	219,826	

The fair value for loans and receivables have been determined by reference to similar practices as above which provide a reasonable approximation for the fair value of a financial instrument, and includes accrued interest. The comparator market rates prevailing have been taken from indicative investment rates at each balance sheet date. In practice, rates will be determined by the size of the transaction and the counterparty, but it is impractical to use these figures, and the difference is likely to be immaterial.

Available for sale financial assets and assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are carried in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

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

Some of the authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them.

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Equity Shareholdings

The Authority's equity shareholdings are shown in the table above– the shares in these companies are not traded in an active market and fair value of £12.308m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market transactions or available market data. The valuation has been made at cost as there is no intention to sell.

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

There were no transfers between input levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Changes in the Valuation Technique

There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for the financial instruments.

16. 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 funds available to meet its commitments to make payments
- Re-financing risk – the possibility that the Council might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms.
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks and potential adverse effects on resources available to fund services. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework based on the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations and are carried out by the Council's Treasury Management team.

These regulations require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and investment guidance issued through the Act.

Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- by formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice;
- by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
- by approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing;
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt;

- Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government guidance.

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

The annual Treasury Management Strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 25 February 2015 and updated on 24 February 2016 and is available on the Council's website.

The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2015/16 was set at £561m. This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long term liabilities.
- The Operational Boundary was set at £508m. This is the expected level of debt and other long term liabilities during the year.
- The maximum amounts of fixed and variable interest rate exposure were set at 100% and 30% based on the Council's net debt.

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

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria

outlined above. Additional selection criteria are also applied after these initial criteria are applied. Details of the Investment Strategy can be found on the Council's website.

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

- Credit ratings of Short Term of F1, Long Term A, Support BB and Individual 3 (Fitch or equivalent rating), with the lowest available rating being applied to the criteria.
- UK institutions provided with support from the UK Government;
- Building Societies which meet the ratings for banks outlined above.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £195.444m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk that deposits may be irrecoverable applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2016 that this was likely to be the case.

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

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, although £18.647m of the £55.755m balance is past its due date for payment. The amount past its due date for payment can be analysed by age as follows:

31 March 2015		31 March 2016
£000		£000
11,002	Less than three months	13,527
1,080	Between three and six months	873
1,142	Between six months and one year	1,457
2,474	More than one year	2,790
<u>15,698</u>	Total	<u>18,647</u>

The Council initiates a legal charge on property where, for instance, clients require the assistance of social services but cannot afford to pay immediately. The total collateral at 31 March 2016 was £3.362m.

Credit Risk – Icelandic Investments Disclosure

The County Council had £7m deposited across the Icelandic banks Glitnir Bank hf (£4m), Landsbanki (£2m) and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (£1m), which all collapsed financially in October 2008.

The only outstanding balance as at 31 March 2016 is in relation to the investment with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (KSF). All monies with KSF are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The Council's recovery position at 31 March 2016 is that 82.5% of the outstanding balance has been repaid. 85.5%-86.5% recovery is anticipated in the long run.

Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer term funds. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

There are sums owing of £213.650m, all of which is due to be paid in less than one year.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

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

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

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through

either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and

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

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows, (as approved by Council in the Treasury Management Strategy):

31 March 2015		31 March 2016
£000		£000
223	Less than one year	10,002
15,234	Between one and two years	2
41,650	Between two and five years	32,008
99,490	Between five and ten years	62,621
80,124	Between ten and fifteen years	89,895
82,173	Between fifteen and twenty years	4,004
55,818	Between twenty and twenty five years	-
82,663	More than twenty five years	47,090
457,375	Total	245,622

Market Risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise.
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall (no impact on revenue balances);
- 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 (no impact on revenue balances).

Borrowings are not carried at 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 affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

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

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 new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2016, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be a decrease of £26.380m in the fair value of fixed rate borrowings, although this would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

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

Price Risk

The Council, excluding the Pension Fund, does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds.

However, the Council does have shareholdings to the value of £12.308m (£10.558m in 2014/15) in organisations that are not listed on the stock exchange. The Council is therefore not exposed to losses arising from the movement in the price of shares, but is exposed to loss from revaluations of these shares.

The Council also has a shareholding in Durham Tees Valley Airport which is not listed on the stock exchange. They are held at nil value.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements for Financial Assets Carried at Fair Value
Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy for Financial Assets:

31 March 2015				31 March 2016			
Unquoted Shares £000	Other £000	Total £000		Unquoted Shares £000	Other £000	Total £000	
10,558	-	10,558	Opening balance	10,558	-	10,558	
-	-	-	Transfers into Level 3	-	-	-	
-	-	-	Total gains and losses for the period	-	-	-	
-	-	-	Included in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	
-	-	-	Included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	
-	-	-	Additions	1,750	-	1,750	
-	-	-	Disposals	-	-	-	
10,558	-	10,558	Closing Balance	12,308	-	12,308	

17. Inventories

Year to 31 March 2016

	Balance outstanding at start of year £000	Purchases £000	Recognised as an expense in the year £000	Adjustment for internal inventories £000	Reversals of write-offs in previous years £000	Balance outstanding at year-end £000
Consumable Stores	2,918	10,567	-9,607	-	-	3,878
Maintenance Materials	428	915	-923	-	-	420
Client Services Work in Progress	-44	631	-269	-	-	318
Rechargeable Works	265	459	-274	-	-	450
Total	3,567	12,572	-11,073	-	-	5,066

Year to 31 March 2015

Consumable Stores	2,329	10,755	-10,166	-	-	2,918
Maintenance Materials	479	3,866	-3,917	-	-	428
Client Services Work in Progress	212	73	-329	-	-	-44
Rechargeable Works	107	363	-205	-	-	265
Total	3,127	15,057	-14,617	-	-	3,567

18. Short Term Debtors

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
20,850	Central government bodies	10,923
2,597	Other local authorities	11,379
1,650	NHS bodies	2,037
-	- Public corporations and trading funds	-
63,347	Other entities and individuals	55,755
-27,688	Less: Impairment Allowance	-25,802
<u>60,756</u>		<u>54,292</u>
3,593	Payments in advance	3,110
<u>64,349</u>	Total	<u>57,402</u>

19. Cash and Cash Equivalents

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
585	Cash at bank	613
-6,010	Overdraft	-436
58,737	Cash held on demand (call accounts)	37,901
19,876	Deposits held for liquidity purposes	912
<u>73,188</u>	Cash and Cash Equivalents balance	<u>38,990</u>

20. Assets Held For Sale (Current)

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
940	Balance outstanding at start of year	3,231
	Assets newly classified as held for sale:	
3,234	Property, Plant and Equipment	8,005
-	- Revaluations	-368
	Assets declassified as Held for Sale:	
-	- Property, Plant and Equipment	-
-943	Assets sold	-4,208
<u>3,231</u>	Balance outstanding at year-end	<u>6,660</u>

The fair value for the above properties at 31 March 2016 (£6.660m) has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

Assets Held For Sale are also valued at market value using a combination of comparable method, investment method and/or development method to arrive at an opinion of value. If the asset is specialised and is a trading property then the valuer could also use the accounts method.

21. Short Term Creditors

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
-19,141	Central government bodies	-25,205
-740	Other local authorities	-1,516
-2,143	NHS bodies	-2,211
-19	Public corporations and trading funds	-
-88,136	Other entities and individuals	-70,711
-110,179		-99,644
-4,091	Receipts in Advance	-7,805
-114,269	Total creditors	-107,449

22. Provisions

The provisions at 31 March 2016 were as follows:

Insurance Provision

The Council operates a self-insurance scheme for the following risks:

- Claims below the excess level for externally insured risks
- Schools contents
- Theft of cash
- Flood damage

The provision is based on external insurers' estimates of the cost of identified claims for damages and associated costs in respect of fire, public and employer's liabilities, to be borne by the Council. Settlement of the claims will continue over the coming years and the provision will be reassessed on an annual basis.

Equal Pay

A provision has been created to recognise in the accounts those costs relating to Equal Pay and Job Evaluation that have been calculated but will be settled in future periods.

NDR Appeals

The provision represents the Council's share of the provision held for successful appeals against business rates.

Other

This includes a general purpose provision of £0.064m for commuted sums.

	Insurance £000	Equal Pay £000	NDR Appeals £000	Other Provisions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April 2015	8,898	61	3,766	1,064	13,789
Additional provisions made in 2015-16	4,549	13	5,611	-	10,173
Amounts used in 2015-16	-2,532	-	-436	-1,000	-3,968
Unused amounts reversed in 2015-16	-2,440	-	-	-	-2,440
Unwinding of discounting in 2015-16	-	-	-	-	0
Balance at 31 March 2016	8,475	74	8,941	64	17,554
As shown in Balance Sheet					
Long Term Provisions	5,216	-	8,941	-	14,157
Short Term Provisions	3,259	74	-	64	3,397
Balance at 31 March 2016	8,475	74	8,941	64	17,554

23. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

31 March 2015 £000	31 March 2016 £000
219 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	362
609 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied	524
26,078 Housing Revenue Account	-
28,897 General Fund Balance	29,101
214,557 Earmarked Reserves	241,643
270,360 Total	271,630

Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

Proceeds of non-current assets' sales available to meet future capital investment.

Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied

The balance is in respect of capital grants or contributions (or part thereof) that has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution that has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date.

Housing Revenue Account

Resources available to meet future running costs for council housing.

General Fund Balance

Resources available to meet future running costs for services other than council housing.

Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserves are shown in more detail in Note 8 and are resources set aside for future spending plans.

24. Unusable Reserves

31 March 2015	31 March 2016
£000	£000
539,632 Revaluation Reserve	504,364
597,603 Capital Adjustment Account	694,829
-2,040 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	-1,960
888 Deferred Capital Receipt	4,125
-15,035 Short Term Accumulating Absences Account	-13,233
-936,301 Pensions Reserve	-904,286
10,280 Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	10,280
1,160 Collection Fund	2,380
196,187 Total	296,499

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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.

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
393,396	Balance at 1 April	539,632
210,688	Upward revaluation of assets	48,371
	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the	
-48,123	Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-44,618
	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or	
162,565	Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,753
-12,264	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	-16,438
-4,065	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-22,583
-16,329	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	-39,021
539,632	Balance at 31 March	504,364

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 subsequent costs, because 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

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 7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2014-15 £000 (restated)	2015-16 £000
893,779 Balance at 1 April	597,603
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
-64,436 - Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-57,732
-352,770 - Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	-14,648
-1,141 - Amortisation of intangible assets	-846
-16,935 - Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-29,868
-10,276 - 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	-185,802
-445,558	-288,896
16,329 Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	39,022
-429,229 Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	-249,874
Capital financing applied in the year:	
12,976 - Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	10,183
- Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to repay debt - Housing Stock Transfer	114,400
7,468 - Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-
75,276 - Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	52,087
- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to repay debt - Housing Stock Transfer	129,600
113 Application of grants and contributions to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied account	85
15,730 - Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	16,569
21,581 - Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	23,770
133,144	346,694
-91 Movements in the fair value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	406
597,603 Balance at 31 March	694,829

The 2014/15 comparator has been restated to show revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS) on a gross rather than net basis and the other side of the net position is reflected in the capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing.

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
1,345	Balance at 1 April	888
725	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	3,970
-1,182	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-733
<u>888</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>4,125</u>

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
-12,814	Balance at 1 April	-15,035
12,814	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	15,035
-15,035	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	-13,233
-2,221	Amount by which office 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	1,802
<u>-15,035</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>-13,233</u>

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 pay 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. Further detail can be found in Note 45.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
-802,722	Balance at 1 April	-936,301
-114,380	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	54,480
-8	Difference between Actuary's estimate and Actual Employers' Pension Contributions	-389
-80,230	Reversals 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	-83,850
61,039	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	61,775
<u>-936,301</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>-904,285</u>

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
10,280	Balance at 1 April	10,280
-	- Transfer of historic Available for Sale balance to Available for Sale Reserve	-
-	- Upward revaluation of investments	-
-	- Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-
<u>10,280</u>		<u>10,280</u>
-	- Accumulated gains on assets sold and maturing assets written out to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Other Investment Income	-
<u>10,280</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>10,280</u>

25. Cash Flow Statement – Non-Cash Movements

2014-15 £'000	2015-16 £'000
-58,288 Depreciation	-54,908
-359,144 Impairment and downward revaluation	-17,472
-1,141 Amortisations	-846
-270 Impairment of Icelandic assets	-
2,221 Transfer to/from Accumulated Absences account	-1,802
421 Increase/decrease in the provision for bad debts	-2,469
-1,778 Increase/decrease in creditors	-5,018
-4,281 Increase/decrease in debtors	-4,478
440 Increase/decrease in inventory	1,499
-19,191 Pension liability	-22,075
-10,276 Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	-71,520
77,060 Other non-cash items	57,511
-374,227	-121,578

26. Cash Flow Statement – Adjustments for items included in net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities

2014-15 £000	2015-16 £000
13,207 Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	124,027
13,207 Net cash flows from investing activities	124,027

27. Cash Flow Statement – Cash Flows from Interest and Dividends Received and Paid Included in Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2014-15 £000	2015-16 £000
19,436 Interest paid	14,176
-1,076 Interest received	-4,674
- Dividends received	-
18,360 Net cash flows from operating activities	9,502

28. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2014-15		2015-16
(Restated)		
£000		£000
136,406	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	90,925
312,260	Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments	549,213
3,240	Other payments for investing activities - external trading	4,245
-13,207	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, non-current assets held for sale, investment property and intangible assets	-124,027
-266,618	Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments	-494,275
-66,972	Other receipts from investing activities (inc. external trading)	-31,817
105,109	Net cash flows from investing activities	-5,736

29. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
-25,000	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	-
-12,466	Other receipts from financing activities	-8,969
2,139	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	8,038
4,458	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	82,152
	Other payments for financing activities	
-30,869	Net cash flows from financing activities	81,221

30. Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions

The tables below are a reconciliation of the 2015/16 internal management reports (monitoring and outturn) used by the Council's Cabinet to make decisions and the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

The income and expenditure of the Council's principal Services recorded in the internal management reports for the year is as follows:

2015/16:

Subjective Analysis	Childrens and Adults Services £000	Neighbourhood Services £000	Regeneration and Economic Development £000	Corporate Resources £000	Assistant Chief Executive £000	Total £000
Fees, charges and other service income	-193,959	-140,665	-46,424	-64,044	-3,168	-448,260
Government grants	-377,015	-1,061	-8,170	-182,172	-1,466	-569,884
Total Income	-570,974	-141,726	-54,594	-246,216	-4,634	-1,018,144
Employee Expenses	355,705	80,639	28,050	42,222	6,720	513,336
Other operating expenses	381,940	108,379	38,418	205,289	5,569	739,595
Depreciation	23,070	22,224	6,244	1,926	1,444	54,908
Impairment	4,463	11,695	1,238	-7	83	17,472
Support recharges	43,880	22,784	5,656	12,209	1,018	85,547
Total Operating Expenses	809,058	245,721	79,606	261,639	14,834	1,410,858
Net Cost of Services	238,084	103,995	25,012	15,423	10,200	392,714

Reconciliation to cost of services in the CIES**£000**

Net cost of services in service analysis	392,714
Services not included in the main analysis	-6,951
Amounts not reported to management	6,445
Amounts not included in the CIES	34,167

Cost of Services in CIES**426,375**

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis	Service Analysis £000	Services not in Analysis £000	Not reported to Mngmt £000	Not Included in CI+E £000	Cost of Services £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
Fees, charges and other service income	-448,260	-	-	-	-448,260	-	-448,260
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	111	111	-4,893	-4,782
Income from Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-190,752	-190,752
Government Grants and Contributions	-569,884	-	-	35,201	-534,683	-474,910	-1,009,593
Total Income	-1,018,144	-	-	35,312	-982,832	-670,555	-1,653,387
Employee Expenses	513,336	-	-	-	513,336	-	513,336
Other service expenses	739,595	-	-	-4,302	735,293	-	735,293
Support Service recharges	85,547	-	-	-	85,547	-	85,547
Depreciation	54,908	-	-	-	54,908	-	54,908
Impairment	17,472	-	-	-	17,472	-	17,472
Contribution to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	-	34	34
Interest Payable	-	-	-	-	-	92,545	92,545
Impairment of Financial Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Trading	-	-	-	5,929	5,929	-5,929	-
Precepts and Levies	-	-	-	-	-	27,475	27,475
HRA	-	-	2,580	-	2,580	-	2,580
Gain or Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	57,805	57,805
Direct Revenue Financing	-	-	-	-3,197	-3,197	-	-3,197
Movement in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	-	-	406	406	-406	-
Other Adjustments	-	-	3,865	19	3,884	-	3,884
IAS19	-	-6,951	-	-	-6,951	28,920	21,969
Total Operating Expenses	1,410,858	-6,951	6,445	-1,145	1,409,207	200,444	1,609,651
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	392,714	-6,951	6,445	34,167	426,375	-470,111	-43,736

The tables below are a reconciliation of the 2014/15 internal management reports (monitoring and outturn) used by the Council's Cabinet to make decisions and the 2014/15 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES).

2014/15:

Subjective Analysis	Childrens and Adults Services £000	Neighbourhood Services £000	Regeneration and Economic Development £000	Corporate Resources £000	Assistant Chief Executive £000	Total £000
Fees, charges and other service income	-151,766	-160,408	-29,643	-64,791	-2,967	-409,575
Government grants	-384,026	-886	-5,981	-195,336	-36	-586,265
Total Income	-535,792	-161,294	-35,624	-260,127	-3,003	-995,840
Employee Expenses	349,482	86,474	28,867	40,224	6,718	511,765
Other operating expenses	348,394	116,759	34,427	222,364	5,400	727,344
Depreciation	20,653	21,271	6,072	1,657	1,162	50,815
Impairment	-13,615	-5,371	11,285	0	387	-7,314
Support recharges	39,988	20,197	5,259	9,479	1,148	76,071
Total Operating Expenses	744,902	239,330	85,910	273,724	14,815	1,358,681
Net Cost of Services	209,110	78,036	50,286	13,597	11,812	362,841

Reconciliation to cost of services in the CIES**£000**

Net cost of services in service analysis	362,841
Services not included in the main analysis	-13,267
Amounts not reported to management	337,204
Amounts not included in the CIES	41,599

Cost of Services in CIES**728,377**

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis	Service Analysis £000	Services not in Analysis £000	Not reported to Mngmt £000	Not Included in CI+E £000	Cost of Services £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
Fees, charges and other service income	-409,575	-	-	-	-409,575	-	-409,575
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-2,395	-2,395
Income from Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-179,705	-179,705
Government Grants and Contributions	-586,265	-	-	45,372	-540,893	-337,476	-878,369
Total Income	-995,840	-	-	45,372	-950,468	-519,576	-1,470,044
Employee Expenses	511,765	-	-	-	511,765	-	511,765
Other service expenses	727,344	-	-	-4,379	722,965	-	722,965
Support Service recharges	76,071	-	-	-	76,071	-	76,071
Depreciation	50,815	-	-	-	50,815	-	50,815
Impairment	-7,314	-	-	-	-7,314	-	-7,314
Contribution to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	-	1,414	1,414
Interest Payable	-	-	-	-	-	24,449	24,449
Impairment of Financial Investments	-	-	-	-	-	270	270
Net Trading	-	-	-	10,550	10,550	-10,692	-142
Precepts and Levies	-	-	-	-472	-472	10,922	10,450
HRA	-	-	334,121	-	334,121	-	334,121
Gain or Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	-3,656	-3,656
Direct Revenue Financing	-	-	-	-9,413	-9,413	-	-9,413
Movement in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	-	-	-91	-91	-267	-358
Other Adjustments	-	-	3,083	32	3,115	-	3,115
IAS19	-	-13,267	-	-	-13,267	33,160	19,893
Total Operating Expenses	1,358,681	-13,267	337,204	-3,773	1,678,845	55,600	1,734,445
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	362,841	-13,267	337,204	41,599	728,377	-463,976	264,401

31. Trading Operations

The surplus for the year on trading operations relating to Direct Services and Technical Design Services is charged as Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure - Other investment income (see Note 10). The summary revenue account for these services is shown below.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	£000	£000	£000

Highways Operations

The Council runs a Highways Services trading operation which maintains the network of roads, footpaths and street lighting throughout the County. The service also undertakes major road works and the maintenance of transport and bridge structures, as well as carrying out various infrastructure works for external bodies. The design and build elements of transport related schemes is included in the trading area. The trading objective of the team is to meet the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative surplus over the last three financial years: £20.875m

Turnover	-38,581	-46,581	-40,958
Expenditure	32,545	38,199	34,501
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-6,036	-8,382	-6,457

Fleet

The Council operates an in house Fleet Management Service which has the direct responsibility for the management and safeguarding of the Council's Operators Licence along with the responsibility of the safe and cost effective maintenance and procurement of the Council's circa 1,000 vehicles. Whilst the objective of the service is to only recover the actual the capital cost and maintenance of the fleet, the service also undertakes taxi vehicle examinations along with maintenance work for external bodies through Service level agreements. The cumulative deficit over the last three financial years: £0.526m

Turnover	-17,914	-16,532	-14,806
Expenditure	17,301	17,153	15,324
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-613	621	518

Depots

The Council operates from five main strategic depots and two satellite depots covering the County of Durham. The depots along with possessing vehicle maintenance facilities provide operational bases to front line services for the Authority. The service also lets depot accommodation to external bodies. The trading objective is to meet the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative deficit over the last three financial years : £1.189m

Turnover	-2,088	-2,261	-2,161
Expenditure	2,438	1,882	3,379
Surplus(-)/Deficit	350	-379	1,218

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
£000	£000	£000

Buildings Repairs & Maintenance and Construction

The Council runs a 'Building Services' team which procures, maintains buildings and constructs major and minor projects on behalf of all Five Directorates within Durham County Council as well as a wide range of other service users. 'Building Services' also complete and carry out work for external bodies both private and public. The in-house team demonstrates Value for Money by delivering services on time, within cost and to the required standard using a combination of directly employed staff and supply chain partners. The costs of services is benchmarked with other Local Authorities and as the 'Building Services' organisation continues to improve its outputs, the hourly rates for tradesmen have fallen from the levels previously. The trading objective of the team is to meet the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative surplus over the last three financial years: £3.965m

Turnover	-17,811	-24,527	-23,387
Expenditure	16,682	22,853	22,225
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-1,129	-1,674	-1,162

Housing Maintenance

The Council provided a housing repairs and maintenance service on behalf of Durham City Homes until 13 April 2015 when the housing stock was transferred to County Durham Housing Group. The Durham Housing Maintenance Team procured services, maintained tenant's homes and carried out decent homes' improvements to approximately 6,100 homes. The trading objective of the team was to meet the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative surplus over the last three financial years: £1.080m

Turnover	-10,754	-9,707	-60
Expenditure	9,652	9,570	219
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-1,102	-137	159

Cleaning Services

The Council runs a Building Cleaning Service which procures services and maintains buildings, working across the entire portfolio of Durham County Council's buildings. The Building Cleaning Services also undertake works on behalf of a number of service users both internal and external to Durham County Council. The costs of services are benchmarked with other Local Authority providers from across the UK. The trading objective of the team is to meet the net cash limit target set. The cumulative deficit over the last three financial years £0.691m

Turnover	-2,934	-2,820	-2,126
Expenditure	2,587	2,589	2,013
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-347	-231	-113

Catering Services

The Council runs a Catering Service which procures goods and services, and provides both canteen services and an event catering service. These services are available to both internal and external bodies. The in-house team demonstrates Value for Money having been awarded the catering for Durham County Council following a competitive tender. Services are provided using a combination of directly employed staff and Agency Workers. The trading objective of the team is to meet the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative deficit over the last three financial years £0.500m

Turnover	-655	-547	-623
Expenditure	940	681	704
Surplus(-)/Deficit	285	134	81

Trading operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Some are an integral part of one of the Council's services to the public (e.g. highways), whilst others are support services to the Council's services to the public (e.g. schools catering). The expenditure of these operations is allocated or recharged to headings in the Net Operating Expenditure or Continuing Operations. Only a residual amount of the net surplus on trading operations is charged as Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (see Note 10).

32. Agency Services

The County Council provides a range of services to other bodies such as Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, Academies, Surestart, Colleges, Arm's Length Management Organisations, Parish Councils, Registered Social Landlords, Primary Care Trusts and Ofsted. Charges for these services are made through a number of Service Level Agreements.

In 2015/16 £9.064m (£8.027m (restated) in 2014/15) was received for the following services: Finance, Information and Communications Technology, Human Resources, Legal Advice and Support, Inspections and Subject Reviews, Cleaning, Care Connect, Ground Maintenance and Crematorium Services.

The 2014/15 comparator has been restated to include £0.291m of income received from schools outside of the Durham area.

The increase in Agency Services from 2014/15 to 2015/16 is mainly due to the increase in services provided to County Durham Housing Group.

The cost of providing the services is met by the income received.

33. Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year.

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
1,665	Basic Allowance	1,667
282	Special Responsibility Allowance	284
7	Broadband Allowance	7
84	Expenses	79
<u>2,038</u>	Total	<u>2,037</u>

34. Officers' Remuneration

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

Name	Period	Salary, Fees and Allowances £	Bonuses £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for Loss of Office £	Pensions Contribution £	Total £
Chief Executive - George Garlick (to 31/1/2016)	2015-16	168,590		142		-	168,732
	2014-15	200,000		172		-	200,172
Chief Executive - Terry Collins (from 1/2/2016)	2015-16	30,833		-		4,255	35,088
	2014-15	-		-		-	-
Corporate Director - Resources	2015-16	140,000		579		-	140,579
	2014-15 R	140,000		261		-	140,261
Corporate Director - Children and Adults Services	2015-16	140,000		3		19,320	159,323
	2014-15 R	140,000		49		19,320	159,369
Corporate Director - Neighbourhood Services	2015-16	116,667		-		16,100	132,767
	2014-15	140,000		66		19,320	159,386
Interim Corporate Director - Neighbourhood Services	2015-16	23,333		-		3,220	26,553
	2014-15	-		-		-	-
Corporate Director - Regeneration and Economic	2015-16	140,000		115		19,320	159,435
	2014-15	140,000		-		19,320	159,320
Assistant Chief Executive	2015-16	120,000		-		16,560	136,560
	2014-15	120,000		-		16,560	136,560
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)	2015-16	110,000		-		14,888	124,888
	2014-15	110,000		42		14,887	124,929

R = Restated

The 2014/15 comparator has been restated to reflect the removal of non-taxable expenses in line with the disclosure requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. The overall impact of this restatement was £432.

The Council's employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts (this table excludes details of the senior employees, shown in the previous table):

Remuneration band	2014-15 (restated) Number of Employees			2015-16 Number of Employees		
	School Staff	Other Staff	Total	School Staff	Other Staff	Total
£50,000 - £54,999	118	68	186	102	72	174
£55,000 - £59,999	95	36	131	117	27	144
£60,000 - £64,999	37	21	58	39	16	55
£65,000 - £69,999	18	2	20	24	11	35
£70,000 - £74,999	12	6	18	10	7	17
£75,000 - £79,999	4	8	12	2	10	12
£80,000 - £84,999	3	3	6	4	6	10
£85,000 - £89,999	4	2	6	4	6	10
£90,000 - £94,999	3	-	3	2	2	4
£95,000 - £99,999	2	7	9	5	7	12
£100,000 - £104,999	1	1	2	1	1	2
£105,000 - £109,999	-	3	3	-	3	3
£110,000 - £114,999	1	4	5	-	6	6
£115,000 - £119,999	-	2	2	-	1	1
£120,000 - £124,999	-	-	-	-	1	1
£135,000 - £139,999	-	-	-	-	1	1
£145,000 - £149,999	-	1	1	-	-	-
	298	164	462	310	177	487

The costs of Exit Packages comprise two elements: redundancy costs payable to the employee and early access costs, where the employee is also taking early retirement. The latter element is payable to the Pension Fund and is charged to the General Fund in the year of Retirement.

In 2014/15 the costs of Exit Packages reflect a change in policy. The additional costs of early retirement are included for a period of up to five years. Prior to 2014/15, a maximum of one year's costs were included.

This has resulted in a higher cost being shown for some employees. However, in 2014/15, a higher proportion of redundancies in the lowest band were not eligible for early retirement, leading to lower average costs for that band.

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) Exit package cost band (including special payments)	(b) Number of compulsory redundancies		(c) Number of other departures agreed		(d) Total number of exit packages by cost band [(b) + (c)]		(e) Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15 £000	2015-16 £000
£0 - £20,000	158	30	50	80	208	110	1,490	978
£20,001 - £40,000	16	3	38	40	54	43	1,516	1,275
£40,001 - £60,000	2	1	13	20	15	21	685	1,000
£60,001 - £80,000	-	1	5	11	5	12	335	874
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	3	10	3	10	266	910
£100,001 - £150,000	1	1	1	15	2	16	216	1,928
£150,001 - £250,000	-	-	1	4	1	4	159	799
Total	177	36	111	180	288	216	4,667	7,764

35. 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. The appointed auditor for 2014/15 and 2015/16 is Mazars LLP.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
333	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	251
31	Fees payable in the year for the certification of grant claims and returns by the appointed auditor	20
13	Fees payable in the year for other services carried out by the appointed auditor	7
377	Total	278

36. Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Department for Education; the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An element of DSG is recouped by the Department to fund academy schools in the Council's area. DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2014. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2015/16 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £000	ISB £000	Total £000
A Final DSG for 2015/16 before Academy Recoupment			356,636
B Academy figure recouped for 2015/16			74,623
C Total DSG after Academy Recoupment for 2015/16			282,013
Plus			
D Brought forward from 2014/15			10,557
Less			
E Carry forward to 2016/17 agreed in advance			10,557
F Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2015/16	35,573	246,440	282,013
G In year adjustments	-14,035	14,035	-
H Final budgeted distribution for 2015/16	21,538	260,475	282,013
Less			
I Actual central expenditure	21,070		21,070
Less			
J Actual ISB deployed to schools		259,315	259,315
Plus			
K Local authority contribution for 2015/16	-	-	-
L Carry forward to 2016/17	468	1,160	12,185 *

* Total carry-forward (£12.185m) is the carry forward on central expenditure (L) (£0.468m) plus carry forward on ISB (L) (£1.160m) plus carry forward 2016/17 already agreed (E) (£10.557m).

A: Final DSG figure before any amount has been recouped from the Council excluding the January 2016 early years block adjustment.

B: Figure recouped from the Council in 2015/16 by the DfE for the conversion of maintained schools into Academies.

C: Total figure after EFA Academy recoupment for 2015/16.

D: Figure brought forward from 2014/15 as agreed with the Department.

E: Any amount which the Council decided after consultation with the Schools Forum to carry forward to 2016/17 rather than distribute in 2015/16 – this may be the difference between estimated and final DSG for 2015/16, or a figure (positive or negative) brought forward from 2014/15 which the authority is carrying forward again.

F: Budgeted distribution of DSG, adjusted for carry-forward, as agreed with the Schools Forum.

G: Changes to the initial distribution, for example, adjustments for exclusions or final early years block adjustment.

H: Budgeted distribution of DSG as at the end of the financial year.

I: Actual amount of central expenditure items in 2015/16.

J: Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools (ISB is regarded for DSG purposes as spent by the Council once it is deployed to schools' budget shares).

K: Any contribution from the local authority in 2015/16 which will have the effect of substituting for DSG in funding the Schools Budget.

L: Carry forward to 2016/17:

- For central expenditure, difference between final budgeted distribution of DSG (H) and actual expenditure (I), plus any local authority contribution (K).
- For ISB, difference between final budgeted distribution (H) and amount actually deployed to schools (J) plus any local authority contribution (K).
- Total is carry-forward on central expenditure (L) less carry forward on ISB (L) plus carry forward 2016/17 already agreed (E).

£0.279m of the DSG has been used to fund capital expenditure in schools. This expenditure is not included in the net cost of Children's and Education Services as it is not a proper charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The expenditure forms part of the Movement in Reserves Statement.

37. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2015/16:

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income:		
Non Ring-fenced Government Grants:		
-138,710	- Revenue Support Grant	-100,240
-59,357	- Top Up Grant	-60,491
-4,386	- Section 31 Grants	-5,173
-7,531	- Education Funding Agency Grant	-6,006
-6,783	- New Homes Bonus Scheme Grant	-8,323
-381	- New Homes Bonus Scheme Topslice Reimbursement	-374
-65,602	Capital Grants and Contributions	-36,432
	- Government Grant in respect of Housing Stock Transfer	-207,035
-282,750		-424,074

Grant and Contribution Income Credited to Services

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
	Credited to Services:	
-435	Adoption Reform Grant	-
-568	Arts Council Eng - NE	-550
-33	Arts Projects	-170
-51	Asylum Seekers Grant	-43
-	Clinical Commissioning Groups-Better Care Fund	-23,763
-359	Darlington Borough Council	-379
-2,544	DCSF Grant	-2,605
-281,273	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	-282,206
-306	DEFRA Grant	-309
-250	Department of Health Grant	-897
-2,973	Department for Transport Grant	-5,508
-1,096	Discretionary Housing Payment Grant	-982
-512	Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	-514
-276	Education Authorities-other	-321
-9,525	Education Funding Agency	-9,681
-445	Educational Visits	-534
-48	ERDF Grant	-32
-	Growth Fund Grant	-1,971
-1,197	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant	-1,095
-3,211	Housing Benefit - Admin Grant	-2,900
-148,136	Housing Benefit Grant - Rent Allowance	-175,072
-41,479	Housing Benefit Grant - Rent Rebate	-575
-880	LCTSS - Administration Grant	-874
-156	Natural England	-137
-18,616	NHS - Care Costs	-6,573
-610	NHS - Integrated Services	-417
-5,890	NHS - Joint Arrangements	-2,155
-600	NNDR Cost of Collection Allowance	-601
-	North East Combined Authority	-16,076
-813	Other Local Authorities	-756
-190	PCTs	-
-5,261	PFI Grants	-5,519
-46	Probation Service	-48
-45,780	Public Health Grant	-47,538
-21,595	Pupil Premium Grant	-20,961
-2,527	Skills Funding Agency	-2,672
-72	Sports Council Grant	-79
-390	Supporting People 18 to 21	-
-	Transformation Challenge Award Grant	-1,400
-2	TSI	-
-1,900	Welfare Assistance Programme Funding	-
-33	Youth Justice Grant	-
-7	Youth Music Grant	-9
-815	Youth Offending Teams Grant	-691
-22,628	Other Grants and Contributions	-27,656
-623,528		-644,269

Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance

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:

2014-15			2015-16		
Long Term Liabilities £000	Short Term Liabilities £000		Long Term Liabilities £000	Short Term Liabilities £000	
Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance					
-	-6	Broadband Delivery UK	-	-91	
-	-133	CLG - Disabled Facilities Grant	-	-	
-	-418	CLG - Empty Homes Cluster	-	-	
-	-196	CLG - Netpark	-	-	
-	-724	Department for Transport - Highways	-	-408	
-	-402	Department for Transport - Integrated Transport	-	-	
-	-3,152	Education Funding Agency	-	-146	
-	-4	English Heritage	-	-	
-	-706	Environment Agency	-	-90	
-	-256	Five Lamps Organisation	-	-	
-	-	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant - Wharton Park	-	-55	
-	-25	Living Streets	-	-25	
-	-	North East Combined Authority	-	-498	
-	-200	Public Health England	-	-200	
-	-	Sunderland City Council	-	-126	
-202	-176	Sustrans	-	-307	
-201	-231	Other	-	-2,388	
-403	-6,629	Total Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance	-	-4,334	

38. 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 effective control 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).

Members

Members of the County Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2015/16 is shown in Note 33.

It is the nature of local government that the majority of members and sometimes a close family member are involved in the local community through various organisations such as voluntary bodies, youth groups and community associations as well as holding positions such as school governors or being a member of a Local Parish or Town Council. Details of all these organisations are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, open to public inspection at County Hall during office hours. Following a review of the declarations made by members, it was established that there were no material transactions.

The local environmental projects, youth groups and community associations, in which members are involved, received grant funding to the value of £0.318m in 2015/16 (£0.306m in 2014/15). In all instances, the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the grants. Members are also involved in:

- the Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) delivering advice services across the county, which received financial support to the value of £0.725m in 2015/16 (£0.749m in 2014/15 – Restated)
- VISIT County Durham, the tourism management board for County Durham for which there were transactions to the value of £0.027m in 2015/16 (£0.059m in 2014/15) with the Council.
- County Durham Community Foundation provides grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people, received £0.024m in 2015/16 (£0.128m in 2014/15).

- Groundwork North East, carrying out environmental works for which there were transactions of £0.339m in 2015/16 (£0.287m in 2014/15).
- Durham Community Action, formerly Durham Rural Community Council, providing support to communities throughout County Durham £0.353m in 2015/16 (£0.299m in 2014/15)
- Consett YMCA for work done with various schools including the Pupil Referral Unit £0.113m in 2015/16 (£0.108m in 2014/15)
- The Bowes Museum for services to schools £0.311m in 2015/16 (£0.329m in 2014/15)
- Leisureworks £1.927m in 2015/16 (£2.294m in 2014/15)
- Glebe Centre £0.029m in 2015/16 (£0.034m in 2014/15 - Restated)

During 2015/16, works and services to the value of £0.041m (£0.045m in 2014/15) were commissioned from companies in which some members had an interest. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Chief Officers

Chief Officers of the Council are also required to complete a Related Party Declaration. It should be noted that the following declarations have been made:

Chief Officer	Related party declaration
Chief Executive	Director of Durham Regatta
Corporate Director - Regeneration and Economic Development	Director of North East Enterprise Company Limited Director of VISIT County Durham Director of Durham Villages Regeneration Limited
Assistant Chief Executive	County Durham Community Foundation - Trustee

No further declarations were identified.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The Council has financial relationships with a number of related companies, those considered significant, for example due to the level of investment, are detailed below.

Dale and Valley Homes Limited

Dale and Valley Homes Limited was established as an Arm's Length Management Organisation by Wear Valley District Council on 1 April 2006 to carry out the management and maintenance of council houses. As from 13 April 2015, Dale and Valley Homes Limited became part of County Durham Housing Group Limited.

East Durham Homes Limited

East Durham Homes Limited was created as an Arm's Length Management Organisation in April 2004 to carry out the housing management and maintenance functions on behalf of

Easington District Council. As from 13 April 2015, East Durham Homes Limited became part of County Durham Housing Group Limited.

Chapter Homes

Chapter Homes Durham Limited was established as a private company limited by shares on 10 August 2015 and is owned 100% by Durham County Council. The Company has been established as a trading company to develop Council owned land for market housing sale and private market rent to generate revenue income, capital receipts and contribute to housing regeneration in County Durham. Construction work commenced in January 2016 on the first pilot site at Newton Aycliffe for the development of up to 125 homes. The statement of accounts for the period ending 31 March 2016 are currently being prepared.

Forrest Park (Newton Aycliffe) Limited

This is a joint venture arrangement of which the Council owns 51% of the share capital of the Company. The Company has been established to develop Forrest Park as a prime location for manufacturing, logistics and administration. The aims of the Company will be to develop the site and maximise economic benefits from the commercial developments. The Company was established on 31 March 2016 and its first statement of accounts are due for the period ending 31 March 2017.

Central Durham Crematorium

The Central Durham Crematorium was built in 1960 and is overseen by the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee, comprising Durham County Council and Spennymoor Town Council. The net assets of the crematorium at 31 March 2016 are £3.161m (31 March 2015: £3.207m). Durham County Council is the administrative body and employing authority for the crematorium.

It should be noted that the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committees Return is still subject to external audit and copies can be obtained from the Registered Office at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UT, or alternatively accessed via the DCC website.

Mountsett Crematorium

The Mountsett Crematorium was built in 1964 and is overseen by the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee, comprising Durham County Council and Gateshead Council. The net assets of the crematorium at 31 March 2016 are £1.243m (31 March 2015: £0.962m). Durham County Council is the administrative body and employing authority for the crematorium.

It should be noted that the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committees Return is still subject to external audit and copies can be obtained from the Registered Office at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UT, or alternatively accessed via the DCC website.

Service Direct NewCo Limited

Service Direct NewCo Limited is a Local Authority Trading Company established to provide services to non local authority customers initially focused around building maintenance, civil engineering, grounds maintenance, vehicle fleet services and domestic services. Durham County Council owns 100% of NewCo, which began trading in 2007/08.

NIAL Holdings Limited

Under the Airport Act 1986, Newcastle International Airport Limited (NIAL) was formed and seven local authorities were allocated shares in consideration for all the property, rights and liabilities that were transferred into the new company. On 4th May 2001, the seven local authority shareholders of NIAL (the "LA7") created NIAL Holdings Limited, which is 51% owned by LA7 and 49% owned by AMP Capital Investors Limited following their purchase on 16th November 2012. The 51% holding is held in the Newcastle Airport Local Authority Holding Company Limited (NALAHCL), a company wholly owned by the seven authorities. NALAHCL has a called up share capital of 10,000 shares with a nominal value of £1 each. The Council holds a 12.15% interest in NALAHCL, valued at £10.558m. The shares are not held for trading outside of the LA7.

The valuation of the holding is reviewed each year to consider whether any events have occurred which would materially change the valuation. The last valuation is based on the sale of shares to AMP Capital Investors Limited in 2012. As no such events have occurred during 2015/16 the valuation has remained unchanged.

Through its shares in NALAHCL the Council has an effective shareholding of 6.20% in NIAL (and the group companies of NIAL Group Limited and NIAL Holdings Limited). The principal activity of NIAL (registered number 2077766) is the provision of landing services for both commercial and freight operators. No dividend was received for the year ended 31 December 2015 (nil for the year ended 31 December 2014).

Members of the LA7 entered into a loan agreement with NIAL Group Limited in 2012/13, issuing £67.665m shareholder loan notes. The loan notes will be repayable in 2032 with interest being received up to that date on a 6 monthly basis. Otherwise there are no outstanding balances owed to or from NIAL at the end of the year.

NIAL Group Limited made a profit before tax of £2.300m and a profit after tax of £4.556m for the year ended 31st December 2015. In the previous year, the Group made a profit before tax of £0.496m and a profit after tax of £0.277m.

Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited

The former Teesside Airport Limited became a limited company under the Airports Act 1986. In consideration of the transfer of the property, rights, liabilities and functions, the former constituent authorities received share allocations. The Council received £7.600m (40%) of the issued share capital. With effect from February 2012, 89.09% of the total

shareholding in Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited is now held by Peel Investments (DVTA) Ltd. The Council now holds 1.45% of the total shareholding in Durham Tees Valley Airport. For the year ended 31 March 2015, Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited made an operating loss of £2.104m (loss of £4.075m for year ended 31 March 2014) and a loss of £1.262m after taxation (loss of £3.900m for year ended 31 March 2014). The Company accounts for 2015/16 are not yet available.

Further information regarding the Company's accounts can be obtained from its Registered Office at Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited, Darlington, DL2 1LU

Beamish Museum Companies

The Joint Committee was responsible for the assets of the Museum and made all decisions on capital schemes and procuring grants for capital development. However, the Joint Committee was dissolved with effect from 1 April 2014, in accordance with the agreed recommendations made by the Joint Committee at its final meeting held on 28th March 2014. The main impact from this saw the Joint Committee's net assets transfer to Beamish Museum (BM) on 1 April 2014. Beamish Museum was established in 1970 and the Council has been a constituent member Authority of Beamish North of England Open Air Museum since its inception. The Council made a contribution of £20,000 towards the running costs of the Museum in 2015/16 (£20,000 in 2014/15).

Beamish Museum (BM) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is responsible for capital development and the management and operation of the Museum. Beamish Museum Trading Limited (BMTL), a subsidiary of BM, manages all of the retailing and catering operations of the Museum. In the accounts for 2015/16, the BM and BMTL group made an operating loss of £0.375m (before pension scheme actuarial gains and (losses)). Copies of the BM Group Accounts can be obtained from the Museum Director, Regional Resource Centre, Beamish Museum, County Durham, DH9 0RG. The restated figures for 2014/15 showed an operating profit of £23.522m (£0.663m profit excluding £22.859m of assets transfer). The group had net assets of £21.969m (2014/15 restated net assets of £21.837m). The Council receives no income or contributions from the above reported arrangements.

Copies of the BM Group Accounts can be obtained from the Museum Director, Regional Resource Centre, Beamish Museum, County Durham, DH9 0RG

Durham County Council Pension Fund

Durham County Council administers the Durham County Council Pension Fund on behalf of 116 bodies, including borough, parish and town councils, colleges, academy schools, statutory bodies and admitted bodies. During 2015/16, the Pension Fund had an average balance of £51.288m (£35.929m in 2014/15) of surplus cash deposited with the Council. In 2015/16 the Council paid the fund a total of £0.223m (£0.155m in 2014/15) in interest on these deposits.

39. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI/PP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the 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.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
607,260	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	636,459
	Capital investment:	
140,510	Property, Plant and Equipment	83,179
2,172	Property, Plant and Equipment - Finance Leases	5,298
536	Intangible Assets	274
-	- Investment Properties	-
-	- Acquisition of share capital	1,750
18,993	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	30,218
	Sources of finance:	
-12,976	Capital receipts	-10,260
-	- Capital receipts to repay debt (stock transfer)	-114,400
-	- Overhanging debt grant (stock transfer)	-129,600
-75,389	Government grants and other contributions	-52,172
-7,468	Major Repairs Allowance	-
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
-21,581	- Direct revenue financing	-23,770
-15,730	- Minimum Revenue Provision	-16,569
	Adjustment to Capital Financing Requirement:	
132	Housing Revenue Account non-dwelling revaluation/impairment losses	-
636,459	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	410,407
	Explanation of movements in year	
-10,220	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (supported by government financial assistance)	-9,812
37,247	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	-221,538
2,172	Assets acquired under finance leases	5,298
29,199	Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	-226,052

40. Leases

Council as Lessee

Finance leases

The Council has acquired a number of operational vehicles and equipment under finance leases.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2015 £000		31 March 2016 £000
	- Other Land and Buildings	-
8,308	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	10,926
<u>8,308</u>		<u>10,926</u>

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

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

31 March 2015 £000		31 March 2016 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
2,389	Current	2,833
3,916	Non-Current	5,411
458	Finance costs payable in future years	618
<u>6,763</u>	Minimum lease payments	<u>8,862</u>

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

31 March 2015			31 March 2016		
Minimum Lease Payments £000	Finance Lease Liabilities £000		Minimum Lease Payments £000	Finance Lease Liabilities £000	
2,624	2,389	Not later than one year	3,091	2,833	
4,087	3,850	Later than one year and not later than five years	5,586	5,232	
52	66	Later than five years	185	179	
<u>6,763</u>	<u>6,305</u>		<u>8,862</u>	<u>8,244</u>	

There are no contingent rents payable in respect of the leases.

The Council has not sub-let any of the vehicles and equipment under these finance leases.

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired a number of administrative buildings by entering into operating leases, with typical lives of five years. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31 March 2015 £000	31 March 2016 £000
653 Not later than one year	998
2,298 Later than one year and not later than five years	2,693
4,097 Later than five years	3,723
<u>7,048</u>	<u>7,414</u>

Where assets acquired under operating leases are sub-let, disclosure is required of the future minimum sublease payments expected to be received by the Council, per paragraph 4.2.4.2(7) of the Code.

31 March 2015 £000	31 March 2016 £000
154 Minimum lease payments	1,806
-630 Sublease payments receivable	-2,406
<u>-476</u>	<u>-600</u>

Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

There are no finance leases in respect of property, plant and equipment where the Council is the lessor.

Operating leases

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

- for the provision of community services, such as child care and community centres
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.

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

31 March 2015		31 March 2016
£000		£000
2,851	Not later than one year	2,813
4,137	Later than one year and not later than five years	4,738
6,523	Later than five years	7,414
13,511		14,965

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

In 2015/16 no rents were received by the authority in respect of contingent rents (2014/15 Nil).

41. Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts

Schools

In 2009/10, the Council signed a Private Finance Initiative contract for the provision of three sets of new school buildings. The schools are:

- Sedgefield Community College (Design Capacity = 850 pupils)
- Shotton Hall School (Design Capacity = 1,000 pupils)
- Shotton Hall Primary School (Design Capacity = 350 pupils)

Sedgefield and Shotton Hall Schools are part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. Shotton Hall Primary is located on the same site as Shotton Hall School and received funding through the Primary Capital Programme.

The contract is for the design, construction and finance of the new school buildings and their maintenance for 25 years after commencement of operations. The contract runs over two phases - construction and operational.

The operational phase starts when the buildings are released for use by the schools. For Shotton Hall Primary the operational phase started on 6 September 2010 and for Sedgefield Community College and Shotton Hall School the operational phases started on 4 January 2011. The operational phase for all schools will end on 3 January 2036, which marks the end of the contract, at which point the contractor is required to handover the buildings to the Council in a good state of repair and at nil cost.

Shotton Hall School became an Academy on 1 February 2011. The Council has granted the Academy lease of the land and buildings at a peppercorn rent for 125 years. The PFI contract remains with the Council and the Academy has signed an agreement with the Council to cover the operation of the contract as it affects the Academy and the Academy contributions to meeting the costs of the contract.

The assets associated with PFI schools that have transferred to academy status (Shotton Hall) are not reflected in the Council's balance sheet as the assets were written out in 2010/11.

During the operational phase the contractor is responsible for the following services:

- Buildings and Grounds Maintenance
- Caretaking
- Cleaning
- Energy and Utilities

The contractor is not responsible for the provision of education services or governance and management of the schools, which remain the responsibility of their governing bodies and staff.

In return for providing school buildings the contractor receives monthly payments from the Council during the operational phase. These payments can be reduced where the buildings are not provided to the standard defined in the contract.

The Council's Balance Sheet includes both assets and liabilities arising from the contract.

Value of Assets

31 March 2015 £000 (restated)		31 March 2016 £000
14,451	Net book value at 1 April	18,516
471	Additions	-
-426	Depreciation	-404
4,020	Revaluations	-
<u>18,516</u>	Net book value at 31 March	<u>18,112</u>

In addition to the net book value of £18.112m in respect of the PFI assets, the balance sheet also includes the value of the land on which the schools are built. The value of the land is £1.998m and the total net value of land and buildings for these schools carried forward is £20.110m.

Value of Liabilities

The assets included in the Balance Sheet are offset by a liability equal to the initial value of the assets financed by contractor. This liability is written-down over the life of the contract by charging part of the annual payments to the contractor against the liability.

Movements in the values in 2015/16 are summarised below:

31 March 2015 £000		31 March 2016 £000
42,604	Balance outstanding at start of year	41,860
-744	Payments during the year	-800
<u>41,860</u>	Balance outstanding at year-end	<u>41,060</u>

Estimates of Future Payments Due

	Payments for Services £000	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure £000	Interest £000	Total £000
Payable in 2016-17	2,225	929	4,166	7,320
Payable within two to five years	10,215	4,018	15,690	29,923
Payable within six to ten years	14,360	7,724	16,900	38,984
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	17,290	11,452	12,214	40,956
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	18,749	16,936	5,379	41,064
Total	<u>62,839</u>	<u>41,059</u>	<u>54,349</u>	<u>158,247</u>

Contract payments are partially linked to inflation as measured by the RPIX index (all items excluding Mortgage Interest Payments). These estimates assume that after 2015/16 RPIX increases at 2.5% a year for the remainder of the contract.

Other reasons why costs might vary significantly in future years are:

- The provision of facilities management (FM) services is subject to benchmarking and / or market testing every five years. Payments to the contractor will be adjusted to reflect the outcome of these exercises, which could reduce or increase costs.
- Once PFI contracts are operational it is sometimes possible to 're-finance' the contract which reduces the cost of borrowing incurred by the contractor. The contractor provides for the Council to receive some of the savings arising from re-financing. Re-financing is only possible if market conditions allow. The Council has not been informed by the contractor of any plans for re-financing.

42. Impairment and Revaluation Losses

The value of the Council's assets has been reduced by £67.416m in 2015/16 (£454.395 in 2014/15), charged partly to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and partly to the Revaluation Reserve. This reduction includes both the consumption of economic benefits and also revaluation losses due to the downturn in the economy as well as the on-going review of the Council's asset base since Local Government Reorganisation in 2009/10.

43. Termination Benefits

The authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2015/16. The value of the redundancy payments charged to services in 2015/16 was £4.349m and in 2014/15 was £4.571m. The table below analyses the payments made in the relevant financial years. The majority of the payments made in 2015/16 were due to the rationalisation of services within the Authority.

2014-15 £000	2015-16 £000
1,110 Children's and Education Services	1,007
1,543 Adult Social Care	1,359
237 Highways and Transport Services	146
123 Planning Services	160
271 Cultural and Related Services	484
218 Environmental and Regulatory Services	70
381 Other Housing Services (including Supporting People)	41
60 Public Health	-
53 Corporate and Democratic Core	-
481 Central Services to the Public	1,071
94 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Trading)	11
4,571 Total	4,349

In addition to the above redundancy payments, the pension enhancement value in 2015/16 was £3.953m and in 2014/15 was £1.153m.

44. Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Business Services Limited. The Scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The Scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the Scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient

reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2015/16, the Council paid £18.408m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 14.1% of pensionable pay from 1 April to 31 August 2015 and 16.48% of pensionable pay from 1 September 2015 (£16.858m and 14.1% in 2014/15). There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. The costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in Note 45.

NHS Pension Scheme

NHS Staff who transferred to the Council in 2013/14 have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The Scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However, the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2015/16, the Council paid £0.148m to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits, representing 14.3% of pensionable pay (£0.171m and 14.0% in 2014/15). There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

45. 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 cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments for those benefits and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered locally by Durham County Council – this is a funded defined benefit career average revalued earnings

scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

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

The Durham County Council Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the LGPS and responsibility for the Pension Fund has been delegated from Durham County Council to the Pension Fund Committee. The Corporate Director Resources has a statutory duty to ensure the Pension Fund remains solvent and is administered effectively, adhering to the LGPS regulations in order to meet any current and future liabilities. The Pension Fund has seven investment managers who are appointed by the committee to invest the Fund's assets in compliance with constraints imposed by the Fund's Statement of Investment Principles and in compliance with applicable legislation. Further information on Durham County Council's Pension Fund can be found in the Pension Fund Accounts later in this document.

The principal risks to the authority 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.

Discretionary Post-retirement Benefits

Discretionary post-retirement benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. There are no plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

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 eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is 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 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:

2014-15			2015-16		
Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000		Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
Cost of services:					
Service cost comprising:					
41,310	-	- Current service cost	48,706	-	
3,140	10	- Past service cost (including curtailments)	3,810	-	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:					
2,610	-	- Current service cost	2,414	-	
30,090	3,070	- Net interest on net defined benefit liability	26,650	2,270	
77,150	3,080	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	81,580	2,270	
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:					
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:					
-93,820	-	- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	60,960	-	
218,830	4,810	- Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	-90,200	-1,760	
-13,390	-2,050	- Actuarial gains and losses due to liability experience	-22,200	-1,280	
188,770	5,840	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	30,140	-770	
Movement in Reserves Statement					
-77,150	-3,080	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	-81,580	-2,270	
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:					
55,163	-	- Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	56,096	-	
-	5,876	- Direct retirement benefits payable to pensioners	-	5,679	

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 is as follows:

2014-15			2015-16		
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
-2,455,280	-75,970	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	-2,402,560	-69,590	
1,594,560	-	Fair value of plan assets	1,568,010	-	
-860,720	-75,970	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	-834,550	-69,590	
233	156	Difference between actuaries' figures and actual contributions	-215	69	
-860,487	-75,814	Adjusted Total *	-834,765	-69,521	

* To produce a more accurate assessment of the Council's IAS 19 liability the adjusted total line shows the Net Liabilities per the actuaries' figures adjusted for actual contributions made to the scheme.

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

2014-15			2015-16		
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
1,452,460	-	Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,594,560	-	
62,180	-	Interest Income	50,780	-	
93,820	-	Remeasurement gain/loss (-)	-60,960	-	
54,930	5,720	Contributions from employer	56,310	5,610	
14,090	-	Contributions from employees into the scheme	14,050	-	
-82,920	-5,720	Benefits paid	-86,730	-5,610	
1,594,560	-	Closing fair value of scheme assets	1,568,010	-	

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

2014-15			2015-16		
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
2,179,340	75,850	Opening balance at 1 April	2,455,280	75,970	
43,920	-	Current service cost	51,120	-	
92,270	3,070	Interest cost	77,430	2,270	
14,090	-	Contributions by scheme participants	14,050	-	
		Remeasurement gains (-) and losses:			
218,830	4,810	Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	-90,200	-1,760	
-13,390	-2,050	Actuarial gains and losses due to liability	-22,200	-1,280	
3,140	10	Past service cost (including curtailments)	3,810	-	
-82,920	-5,720	Benefits paid	-86,730	-5,610	
2,455,280	75,970	Closing balance at 31 March	2,402,560	69,590	

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets comprised:

The Discretionary Benefits arrangements have no assets to cover its liabilities. The Local Government Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories:

31 March 2015			31 March 2016		
Fair Value of scheme assets £000 (restated)			Fair Value of scheme assets £000		
Quoted	Unquoted	Total	Quoted	Unquoted	Total
696,823	-	696,823	639,748	-	639,748
22,324	74,944	97,268	20,384	105,057	125,441
405,018	94,079	499,097	407,683	94,081	501,764
-	148,294	148,294	-	141,121	141,121
153,078	-	153,078	159,937	-	159,937
1,277,243	317,317	1,594,560	1,227,752	340,259	1,568,011
		Total			

The 2014/15 comparators have been restated to reflect that equity investments were 100% quoted.

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 assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, 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 2013.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2014-15		2015-16	
Local Government Pension Scheme	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	Local Government Pension Scheme	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements
Mortality assumptions:			
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:			
22.6	22.6 - Men	22.7	22.7
25.1	25.1 - Women	25.2	25.2
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:			
24.8	n/a - Men	24.9	n/a
27.4	n/a - Women	27.5	n/a
Principal financial assumptions (% per annum)			
2.9	2.9 - Rate of inflation (RPI)	2.9	2.9
1.8	1.8 - Rate of inflation (CPI)	1.8	1.8
3.3	n/a - Rate of increase in salaries	3.3	n/a
1.8	1.8 - Rate of increase in pensions	1.8	1.8
3.2	3.1 - Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	3.4	3.4

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below are based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assume for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit cost method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in 2014/15.

The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2016 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31 March 2017 is set out below:

Discount rate assumption

Adjustment to discount rate	+ 0.1% per annum	Base Figure	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,359,490	2,402,560	2,446,420
Change in present value of total obligation	-1.8%		1.8%
Projected service cost (£000)	48,100	49,710	51,360
Approximate change in projected service cost	-3.2%		3.3%

Rate of general increase in salaries

Adjustment to salary increase rate	+ 0.1% per annum	Base Figure	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,413,990	2,402,560	2,391,260
Change in present value of total obligation	0.5%		-0.5%
Projected service cost (£000)	49,710	49,710	49,710
Approximate change in projected service cost	0.0%		0.0%

Rate of increase to pensions in payment and deferred pensions assumption, and rate of revaluation of pension accounts assumption

Adjustment to pension increase rate	+ 0.1% per annum	Base Figure	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,434,900	2,402,560	2,370,690
Change in present value of total obligation	1.3%		-1.3%
Projected service cost (£000)	51,360	49,710	48,100
Approximate change in projected service cost	3.3%		-3.2%

Post retirement mortality assumption

Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption *	- 1 year	Base Figure	+ 1 year
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,464,790	2,402,560	2,340,330
Change in present value of total obligation	2.6%		-2.6%
Projected service cost (£000)	51,390	49,710	48,030
Approximate change in projected service cost	3.4%		-3.4%

* a rating of + 1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual who is 1 year older than them.

Impact on the Authority's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over 18 years from 1 April 2014. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation will be based on the position at 31 March 2016 and will take effect from the 1 April 2017.

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 other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 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 anticipates paying £54.780m contributions to the scheme in 2016/17 (£53.710m in 2015/16).

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 18.1 years at 31 March 2016 (18.1 years at 31 March 2015).

46. Contingent Liabilities

a) Job Evaluation

A contingent liability has been disclosed in respect of the implementation of a second phase of job evaluation, the costs and scope of which have yet to be fully determined.

b) Pension Contributions on Equal Pay Payments

Equal pay settlements were not originally deemed to be pensionable however, this has now changed and an element of choice has been introduced. Individuals can choose to have their settlements considered to be pensionable, which would lead to a liability for the Council to make employer contributions to the Pension Fund. This provision has now been added to agreements that individuals with pending Equal Pay Settlements will sign up to. There is no certainty that an individual will decide to pay pension contributors on their Equal Pay settlement. The agreements signed by individuals are 'open-ended' in that an individual's ability to determine their settlement as 'pensionable' is not time limited, so the timing of any liability to pay contributions are not certain.

c) Equal Value Claims

Solicitors representing a number of individuals have lodged claims under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to "work of equal value". These types of cases are complex and so far only partial information has been supplied by the claimants' solicitors. Currently the claims are split into two groups. A small group of claims are more advanced and may have to be settled. The much larger group is less advanced and it is not clear whether the Council will have to make settlement payments or in what amount if payments are required.

d) Municipal Mutual Insurance

Historically, the Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (MMI) was the principal provider of insurance to the Council. In the early 1990's it became clear that MMI was in danger of becoming insolvent. It was determined that MMI would close to new business and there would be an orderly run down of all the existing and prospective claims. The Council signed up to this agreement and as remaining assets have proven to be insufficient to cover potential future liabilities, the Scheme of Arrangement was invoked on 13 November 2012. At the current time, the Council's maximum potential liability that can be clawed back is £6.0m.

The Council's Insurance Adviser initially recommended that adequate provision should be held against future calls in the range of 25% to 30%. As at 31 March 2015 the Council provided for 28% (£0.774m) of the value of the total potential liability in the Scheme of Arrangement, after the levy payments totaling £0.856m were made in 2013/14 and 2014/15. However, during 2015/16 a further levy of £0.616m was paid and as a result of a

further deterioration in the MMI balance sheet it was felt prudent to increase the provision to 34% of the outstanding liability net of the levy payments made to date. As the provision is not for the total amount of the potential liability, there is the possibility of future claims, the Council considers there to be a contingent liability as it has no certainty about the timing or the amount of any future liability.

Any increase in the provision in respect of the Scheme of Arrangement will be met from the Insurance Reserve.

e) Closed Landfill Sites

The Council continues to own a number of closed landfill sites, with various degrees of restoration. The Council is responsible for restoration maintenance works and after care costs, which include site maintenance, gas management, environmental monitoring and leachate (liquid waste) management. Much of this work was contracted to Premier Waste until 31 May 2013, when responsibility transferred to the Council. The Council considers that there is likely to be a liability in respect of restoration works and after care costs for a number of closed landfill sites. A full review of the liability has been undertaken, and a final report was received in May 2014. This report recommends proposals for the management of the retained sites and work is on-going to determine the financial liabilities associated with these proposals. The Environment Agency, the regulatory body for permitted closed landfill sites is working closely with the Council recommending priority order for works to sites. As the full value and timing of this liability remains uncertain, it has been included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

f) Joint Stocks Phase 1 and Phase 2 Landfill Site

The Environment Agency is the regulator of the Landfill site as described in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Under these regulations a Permit to operate this landfill site was transferred to the Council following the liquidation of Premier Waste on 31 May 2013. The Council became responsible for managing the site's Environmental Permit from 1 June 2013 and has allocated resources within its MTFP to restore and maintain the facility, which is no longer operational. Capping and restoration works to Phase 2 were completed to the Environment Agency's satisfaction in May 2015. Soil importation is progressing as part of the final Phase 1 works. It is anticipated Phase 1 works will be split into two parts, the first commencing in March 2017/18 subject to successful procurement. A performance deed has been established to ensure that the Environment Agency has the resources to meet the legal obligations associated with the site in the event that the Council fails to do so. The amount secured by this deed is £4.25m for the first year which is reviewable annually and subject to RPIJ (Jevons) increases. The first review by the Environment Agency actually took place in June 2015 resulting in a small increase of the provision to £4.34m. This provision will stabilise and gradually diminish over the next 60 years as the liability reduces. The Council has no immediate financial liability as a payment under the performance deed would only be required if the Council failed to meet its legal requirements. At the current time it is considered unlikely that the Council will fail to meet its obligations in the future therefore it has been included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

g) Tribunal and Court Claims

The Council is currently involved in a number of tribunal and court claims where potentially damages may be awarded against the Council. There is no certainty of the outcome of these cases, or of amounts involved; therefore a contingent liability has been included in the accounts.

h) Warranties in relation to LSVT of Housing Stock

The Council has given CDHG certain warranties in relation to staff transferring, property and environmental pollution. These warranties to both CDHG and its Funders are for a maximum period of 30 years. The potential liability to the Council is unquantifiable. However, the risks are considered low and not expected to have a material impact on the accounts. Insurance cover for environmental risks has been purchased to protect the Council.

i) Claims by NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts for Non-Domestic Rating Relief

The Council has received requests for mandatory relief from Business Rates from a number of NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts. Under s.43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the central issue is whether a NHS Trust or Foundation Trust is an institution or other organisation established for charitable purposes only, and if so, it will be entitled to 80% mandatory relief. To date these applications have been dismissed in line with the stance taken by many other Councils. The Council is currently working with the Local Government Association and taking appropriate legal advice. If the Council had to implement this and award mandatory relief an estimate of the cost of the refund has been estimated to be £12.9m for the period 2010/11 to 2015/16. Of this amount £6.3m relates to Durham County Council and the annual impact to the Council going forward is likely to be £1.3m. However, there is no certainty of the outcome of these applications; therefore a contingent liability has been included in the accounts.

47. Contingent Assets**a) LSVT - VAT Shelter**

The Council and CDHG have entered into a VAT shelter arrangement to enable CDHG to reclaim VAT on future improvement works to the transferred stock. This scheme has been devised and implemented in nearly all stock transfers since 2003 and has approval from HMRC and the Government. Based on development works of £319m and adjusting for VAT on disabled adaptations works, the Council is entitled to a 50% share of VAT recovered by CDHG from this VAT shelter arrangement. The estimated proceeds are £29.25m for the Council over a 15 year period.

b) VAT claims

There are a number of potential VAT claims for which the Council may be entitled to a repayment of VAT paid to Her Majesty's Custom and Revenues (HMRC). The likelihood and extent of a repayment and the timing of it remains uncertain, it therefore is included in the accounts as a contingent asset.

48. Heritage Assets: Further Information on the Council's Collection Museum Collections and Artefacts

This includes:

- Museum exhibits owned by or on long-term loan to the Council at Killhope Lead Mining Museum, Durham Town Hall and Shildon Locomotion Museum (excluding items belonging to the National Railway Museum). The museums are open to the public. Killhope holds the national collection of spar boxes, ornate mineral creations developed by miners in the North Pennines. Further details of the collections can be found on the museums' websites.
- Artefacts held by the Council's Learning Resources service. These items are not on public display but are available for schools and other educational establishments to borrow via an online catalogue.
- Items held by Durham County Record Office, including documents, photographs, films and sound recordings. Public access to the record office is by appointment and an online catalogue is available. The records are stored securely with appropriate temperature and humidity control. These items are not recognised on the Balance Sheet as they have no separate insurance values.
- Books of remembrance and miners banners held in civic buildings

Artwork, including Public Art and Sculptures

This includes items of art, including paintings and murals, many of which are open to the public, and public art and sculptures around the county which are publicly accessible. A number of public artworks are not recorded on the Balance Sheet as they have no insurance value and there is no recent cost information available.

Items of art in the public and administrative areas of civic buildings are not recorded on the Balance Sheet as their insurance value cannot be separately distinguished from the buildings and contents insurance values.

Paintings held at Durham Town Hall and by Durham Learning Resources are included in the Museum Collections category above.

Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings

This includes war and colliery memorials, statues and non-operational historic buildings around the county, which are all publicly accessible. Included here are the historic buildings at Killhope Lead Mining Museum, although they could also be classed as museum exhibits.

A number of monuments and statues are not recorded on the Balance Sheet as they have no insurance value.

Civic Regalia and Silverware

This includes civic chains, badges of office and silverware used for civic purposes. These items are held in safe storage when they are not being used for official purposes.

Geophysical / Archaeological

This includes pit wheel sites around the county and excavations at Binchester Roman Fort (the Council is the guardian of the site). They are not recorded on the Balance Sheet, as they have no insurance value and the land has no cost or market value. Binchester is open to the public from April to September. The pit wheel sites are publicly accessible. Various archaeological items found around the county are on deposit at Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle. They are not recognised as heritage assets by the Council as they are held by the museum.

Preservation and Management

Since the Local Government Reorganisation in 2009 the Council has developed a strategy in order to rationalise office accommodation throughout the county. The office accommodation project team has produced procedural guidelines to set out the agreed approach to dealing with heritage assets during office accommodation moves and/or refurbishments, including working with other local museums, services and specialists where needed, to assess the feasibility, and make suggestions for re-homing of other items.

Options for re-homing items that need to be relocated include:

- adding to the museums service collection
- temporary removal then reinstating in the refurbished building (where possible and suitable security measures can be made)
- relocation to another civic or community building
- gifting the item to a local museum
- disposal (in line with the Council disposal procedure)

Some items are currently in safe storage until they can be returned for display at a suitable location.

49. Exceptional Items

Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT)

The Council transferred its housing stock to County Durham Housing Group (CDHG) on 13 April 2015. This has had a significant impact on the Council's accounts and this note explains the main issues and implications for the accounts in 2014/15, 2015/16 and beyond.

- **Assets transferred and retained** - the Council transferred 18,427 dwellings, various small land holdings within housing estates which did not have any future development potential, various operational properties and 3,103 garages. In addition, a total of 194 staff transferred to the housing association. In respect of un-adopted roads and paths, a mutually beneficial agreement has been reached and accommodated in the Transfer Agreement. Across the transferred estates, 101 sites contain roads and footways which are not formally adopted but are, nonetheless, the liability of the County Council. A significant number of them require repair or improvement to restore amenity and mitigate risk and liability. They are not all immediate priorities for attention using the Council's own resources, although they would require attention in due course. However, as part of the wider transfer negotiations, CDHG has agreed to pay the Council up to £1.8m to repair and improve these roads and footways over the next seven years. The work will be agreed between the parties annually and, where practicable, will be integrated with CDHG's investment work in respective neighbourhoods. Accordingly the Council will adopt the roads and footpaths in question by the end of the year after their improvement.
- **Transfer price and associated costs** - the transfer price for the dwellings and associated assets is largely determined by a prescribed formula set by Government and reflects the current value of the future income and expenditure streams of the assets over the next 30 years and is known as the Tenanted Market Value (TMV). The transfer price agreed with CDHG was £114.4m. This valuation of housing stock, which is applied for stock transfer, is significantly different to the valuation of dwellings in the Balance Sheet based on the Existing Use of the stock as Social Housing with secure tenancies. The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015 reflected the value of Council Dwellings based on the TMV and this led to a revaluation loss of £331.08m, of which £329.79m was charged to the HRA Cost of Services with the balance of £1.29m being charged to the Revaluation Reserve. Whilst the £329.79m resulted in an exceptional charge to the HRA Cost of Services in 2014/15, it was offset by being reversed out of the HRA via the Movement in the Housing Revenue Account Statement. The transfer price agreed with CDHG (£114.4m) was used to repay part of the outstanding HRA debt in 2015/16. In 2015/16 the Council received an Overhanging Debt Grant of £207.03m from the government to repay its remaining housing attributable debt of £129.6m and premia of £77.43m associated with the premature repayment.
- **VAT Shelter arrangements** - in normal circumstances, housing associations are not able to reclaim VAT on improvement works to dwellings. The VAT Shelter is an arrangement, used in every transfer since 2002, with Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC) agreement, whereby CDHG can reclaim VAT on future improvement works to the transferred stock. The Council has agreed a 50% share of the reclaimed VAT with CDHG over a 15 year period. The value of the development agreement for catch-up works on the transferred stock is £319m and the associated VAT at 20% is £58.5m (after adjusting for disabled adaptations works). The Council will therefore receive 50% of the VAT reclaimed resulting in £29.25m of receipts over the 15 year period.

- **Pension Deficit** - the pension deficit in respect of the staff transferring to CDHG has been transferred to the group of registered providers. This will be paid to the pension fund in accordance with existing arrangements for all pension fund employers. The financial provision for this has been built into the business plan of CDHG.
- **Service Level Agreements (SLAs)** - agreements were negotiated with CDHG to provide them with a range of services post transfer. The main SLAs include grounds maintenance and ICT.
- **Rent Arrears** - the Council transferred to CDHG the rent arrears due from existing tenants and former tenants. The amount paid to the Council for these arrears was based on a percentage of their value and reflected the value of the arrears to the Council and the cost to CDHG of pursuing them.
- **Contingent Liabilities** - as is usual in stock transfers, the Council gave CDHG certain warranties in relation to staff transferring, property and environmental pollution. The potential liability to the Council is unquantifiable. However, the risks are considered to be low and not expected to have a material impact on the accounts, and insurance cover has been purchased to protect the Council.
- **Disposals Clawback Agreement** – The Council negotiated a clawback from the future sale / disposal of any transferred land and buildings. CDHG have agreed to pay the Council a proportion of any gain as set out in Schedule 14 of the Transfer Agreement.
- **Closure of the HRA** - the Council obtained secretary of state approval to close the HRA and the HRA was closed during 2015/16, and all reserves held were transferred to the General Fund (£23.156m).

50. Pooled Budget – Better Care Fund

The Council has entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement under the Better Care Fund (BCF) Agreement for Health and Social Care initiatives.

The BCF was introduced by the Government on 1 April 2015 and the Pooled Budget arrangement will support the BCF vision of improving the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reducing health inequalities.

The Pooled Budget partners consist of Durham County Council (Local Authority), North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs).

The Pooled Budget is hosted by the Local Authority on behalf of the three partners to the agreement.

31 March 2015	31 March 2016
£000	£000
Funding Provided to BCF	
0 Local Authority (capital)	4,542
0 CCGs	39,193
0	43,735
Expenditure met from BCF	
0 Local Authority (revenue)	23,762
0 Local Authority (capital)	4,542
0 CCGs	15,431
0	43,735
0 Net surplus on pooled budget	0
0 Authority share of the net surplus arising from pooled budget	0

51. Prior Period Adjustments (PPAs)

Comparator Restatement – Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The 2014/15 comparative figures have been restated to reallocate some expenditure and income from Environmental and Regulatory Services to Cultural and Related Services in respect of open spaces. This error came to light as part of the annual review of the Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP) and was deemed a material error so the figures have been corrected retrospectively by amending the comparative amounts for the prior period. No other errors were found as part of the annual review. There is no net impact on the Cost of Services and the restatement only affected the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a record of revenue income and expenditure relating to the Council's housing stock. Its primary purpose is to ensure that expenditure on managing tenancies and maintaining dwellings is funded by rents charged to tenants. Consequently the HRA is a statutory account, ring-fenced from the rest of the General Fund, so that rents cannot be subsidised from Council Tax. The statement has two parts:

1. HRA Income and Expenditure Statement, and
2. Movement on the HRA Statement.

Notes to the HRA follow these two statements.

On 13 April 2015 the Council's housing stock was transferred to County Durham Housing Group.

HRA Income and Expenditure Statement

2014-15 £000		Notes	2015-16 £000
	Income		
-64,834	Dwelling Rents (Net of voids)	6	-1,304
-1,075	Non Dwelling Rents (Net of voids)		-17
-193	Charges for Services and Facilities		-53
-3,161	Contributions towards Expenditure		-541
-69,263	Total Income		-1,915
	Expenditure		
12,957	Repairs and Maintenance	8	3,813
13,915	Supervision and Management	8	682
422	Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	9	-
175	Debt Management Costs		-
373,958	Depreciation and Impairment of Non-Current Assets	10 & 11	-
423	Movement in the Allowance for Bad Debts	7	-
62	Sums directed by the Secretary of State that are expenditure in accordance with the Code		-
401,912	Total Expenditure		4,495
332,649	Net Expenditure of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		2,580
1,085	HRA Services Share of Corporate and Democratic Core		-
386	HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority net expenditure of continuing operations but not allocated to specific services		-
334,120	Net Expenditure for HRA Services		2,580
-1,075	Gain (-) or Loss on Sale of HRA Non-Current Assets		15,499
10,501	Interest Payable and Similar Charges		420
-	Premium payable on repayment of debt (Housing Stock Transfer)		77,435
-473	Interest and Investment Income		-78
-18,682	Capital Grants & Contributions Receivable		-
-	Government Grant in respect of Housing Stock Transfer		-207,035
324,391	Deficit / Surplus (-) for the Year on HRA Services		-111,179

Movement on the HRA Statement

This statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000	£000
7,155	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year		26,078
-324,391	Deficit (-) / Surplus for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	111,179	
342,271	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	-114,101	
17,880	Net Increase or decrease (-) before transfer to or from reserves	-2,922	
1,043	Transfers to (-) or from reserves	-	
-	Transfer to (-) General Fund	-23,156	
18,923	Increase or decrease (-) in the year on the HRA		-26,078
26,078	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year		-

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government approved the closure of the HRA in 2015/16 following Housing Stock transfer. All reserves held were transferred to the General Fund.

Note to the Movement on the HRA Statement

1. Analysis of Movement of the HRA Statement

This note further analyses the Movement on the HRA Statement and shows the adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
7,468	Transfer to/from the Major Repairs Reserve	-
-355,112	Transfer to/from the Capital Adjustment Account	129,600
1,075	Gain or loss (-) on sale of HRA Non-Current Assets	-15,499
480	HRA Share of Contributions to or from the Pension Reserve	-
3,818	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	-
-342,271	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	114,101

Notes to HRA Income and Expenditure Account

1. Exceptional Item – Housing Stock Transfer

On 13 April 2015 the Council's housing stock was transferred to County Durham Housing Group. In 2015/16 there were a small number of transactions up to the date of transfer, as well as transactions to account for the transfer and write off remaining balances. Further details can be found in Note 49 of the Core Financial Statements.

2. Housing Stock

The following table shows the movements in stock numbers at the beginning and end of the year, and shows that the Council held no housing units following stock transfer:-

Movements in the Year	Houses	Flats	Bungalows	Total
Stock at 1 April 2015	11,156	1,827	5,445	18,428
Less:				
Sales	1	-	-	1
Stock Transfer	11,155	1,827	5,445	18,427
Stock at 31 March 2016	-	-	-	-

3. Housing Assets Valuation

The total Balance Sheet value of the land, houses and other property within the Housing Revenue Account was as follows:

Valuation at 1 April 2015 £000	Asset Type	Valuation at 31 March 2016 £000
114,353	Operational Assets	-
7,598	Dwellings	-
	Garages	-
121,951	Total Dwellings including Garages	-
6,900	Other Land and Buildings	-
18	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	-
7,760	Non-Operational Assets	-
136,629	Balance Sheet Valuation	-

No housing assets were held at 31 March 2016 reflecting the transfer of assets out of the Housing Revenue Account as a consequence of stock transfer.

There were 6 Housing Assets in Land and Buildings that did not transfer to County Durham Housing Group. A direction was granted by the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 74 (3) (d) and 87 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the assets not to be held within the Council's Housing Revenue Account with effect from 14 April 2015.

4. Capital Expenditure and Financing

The Council spent £0.000m during 2015/16 (£42.826m in 2014/15) on its HRA Assets:

2014-15 £000	Expenditure	2015-16 £000
42,826	Improvements to Council Housing Assets	-
42,826	Total Expenditure	-

This expenditure was financed as follows:

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
	Financing	
7,468	Majors Repairs Reserve	-
1,346	Capital Receipts	-
11,512	Prudential Borrowing (Housing Improvements)	-
18,682	Capital Grants	-
3,818	Revenue Contributions	-
42,826	Total Financing	-

5. Capital Receipts

During 2015/16 the Council generated £0.642m gross capital receipts from the sale of its Housing assets as shown in the following table:

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
	Source of Receipt	
2,590	Council House Sales (RTB Legislation)	30
572	Qualifying Council House Disposals	604
16	Council House Mortgage Repayments	8
154	Housing Land & Other Sales	-
3,332	Total Capital Receipts	642

Under the Capital Receipts Pooling Arrangements the Council had to pay over to the Government £0.034m of the above sale proceeds in 2015/16. This is shown in the following table:

	Capital Receipt £000	Usable Element £000	Poolable Element £000
Source of Receipt			
Council House Sales (RTB Legislation)	30	2	28
Qualifying Council House Disposals	604	604	-
Council House Mortgage Repayments	8	2	6
Housing Land & Other Sales	-	-	-
Total	642	608	34

6. Dwelling Rents

This sum represents the gross rental income due for one week of the year in 2015/16 (the full year in 2014/15) after allowance is made for empty properties.

7. Rent Arrears and Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts

The amount of rent arrears at 31 March 2016 was £0.000m (£3.356m at 31 March 2015).

The aggregate balance sheet provision in respect of uncollectable debts at 31 March 2016

is £0.000m (£2.772m at 31 March 2015). The actual charge to the HRA in respect of bad debts provision and debts written off in 2015/16 was £0.000m (£0.457m in 2014/15).

All rent arrears were transferred to County Durham Housing Group as part of stock transfer and consequently no amounts were retained by the Council at 31 March 2016.

8. Repairs and Maintenance, and Supervision and Management

There were minimal repairs and management costs during 2015/16, reflecting one week's costs. The most significant element of spend was a sum of £3.300m in respect of repairs in the Easington area. This spend was in respect of outstanding contractual payments to a contractor for work completed before the end of March 2015.

9. Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other

This includes all items which the Council is liable to pay in respect of HRA property, including Council Tax on empty properties, lease rental on properties, rates and water charges payable on non-dwellings and landlord insurance costs. There were no transactions during the short period the stock was held during 2015/16.

10. Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Authorities are required to charge depreciation on all HRA properties calculated in accordance with proper practices, including non-dwelling properties. There was no charge for depreciation in 2015/16 (£7.499m in 2014/15):

2014-15 £000	Asset type	2015-16 £000
6,799	Operational Assets: Dwellings	-
674	Operational Assets: Other Buildings e.g. Garages	-
26	Operational Assets: Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	-
<u>7,499</u>	Total Depreciation Charge	<u>-</u>

11. Impairment and Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment

There was no charge to the Housing Revenue Account for impairment and revaluation losses in 2015/16 (£372.260m in 2014/15) for losses where there had either been a general fall in the value of the assets or where the Council had incurred expenditure on assets for which there had not been an equivalent increase in the value of the asset.

12. Movement on Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

Prior to stock transfer, the Council was required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve (MRR). The items to be credited to the reserve were an amount equal to HRA dwelling depreciation for the year, and transfers from the HRA required by statutory provision. There were no movements in the Major Repairs Reserve during 2015/16, which started with a nil balance.

The Housing Revenue Account

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
	Movement on Reserve	
-	Balance as at 1st April	-
-7,468	Depreciation on HRA Assets	-
7,468	HRA Capital Expenditure funded from MRR	-
-	Balance as at 31st March	-

This account reflects a statutory requirement to maintain a separate Collection Fund. It shows the transactions relating to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) and illustrates the way these have been distributed to Central Government, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and to Durham County Council General Fund. Notes to the statements follow.

Income and Expenditure Account

2014-15		2015-16		
£000		Council Tax £000	NNDR £000	Total £000
Income				
-219,895	Council Tax due from Taxpayers	-227,357		-227,357
-116,565	Income from Business Ratepayers		-116,611	-116,611
-446	Deferred Rates 2012/13			
	Recovery of Previous Year's Estimated Deficit			
-336,906	Total Income	-227,357	-116,611	-343,968
Expenditure				
Precepts and Demands				
168,845	Durham County Council	174,134		174,134
10,450	113 Towns and Parishes and 1 Charter Trust	10,921		10,921
20,592	Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	21,235		21,235
11,893	County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	12,261		12,261
Recovery of Previous Year's Deficit (-) / Payment of Previous Year's Surplus				
-1,624	Central Government		510	510
-1,591	Durham County Council		500	500
-32	County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority		10	10
Business Rates				-
55,051	Payment to Central Government		55,916	55,916
1,101	Payment to County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority		1,118	1,118
53,968	Payment to Durham County Council, including Renewable Energy		54,810	54,810
600	Costs of Collection - Business Rates		601	601
Bad & Doubtful Debts				-
7,526	Write Offs	1,403	1,722	3,125
2,346	Change in Provision for Bad Debts	613	34	647
2,493	Provision for Appeals		10,563	10,563
331,618	Total Expenditure	220,567	125,784	346,351
-5,288	Movement on Fund Balance	-6,790	9,173	2,383
3,273	Surplus(-) /Deficit on Fund Brought Forward	-491	-1,524	-2,015
-2,015	Fund Balance Carried Forward	-7,281	7,649	368
Allocated to :				
-1,158	Durham County Council	-6,106	3,769	-2,337
-50	Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	-744		-744
-44	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-431	77	-354
-762	Central Government		3,845	3,845
-1	Durham County Council - Renewable Energy		-42	-42
-2,015		-7,281	7,649	368

Notes to the Collection Fund Accounts

i. The Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account

This statement represents the transactions of the Collection Fund, a statutory fund separate from the General Fund of the Council. The Collection Fund accounts independently for income relating to Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates on behalf of those bodies (including the Council's own General Fund) for which the income has been raised. The costs of administering the Collection Fund are accounted for in the General Fund.

ii. Council Tax

Council Tax was introduced by the Government to replace the Community Charge with effect from 1 April 1993. It is a tax based on property values, which are grouped into eight bands ranging from A to H.

Durham County Council is the billing authority for its administrative area and collects Council Tax to cover its own requirements and those of Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and, where applicable, Town and Parish Councils.

Based on information on the Valuation Lists, the properties in each area are classified into Bands A to H. Adjustments are made to the number of properties in each Band by taking into account those occupied by a single Council Taxpayer (25% discount), long-term empty (50% premium) and other discounts and exemptions. A factor is then applied to each band to convert the properties into Band D equivalents and finally an allowance for non-collection to give the Tax Base.

The Council Tax Base is then divided into the County Council Demand and the Precepts requested by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and, where applicable, Town and Parish Councils to calculate the standard Band D Council Tax. The other bands' liabilities are calculated by reference to the same proportion used to convert to band D:

Property Value	Council Band	Number of Properties in	Proportion of Band 'D'	Band 'D' Equivalent
Up to £ 40,000	Band A	143,377	6/9ths	95,585
Over £ 40,000 up to £ 52,000	Band B	30,272	7/9ths	23,545
Over £ 52,000 up to £ 68,000	Band C	28,936	8/9ths	25,721
Over £ 68,000 up to £ 88,000	Band D	19,894	9/9ths	19,894
Over £ 88,000 up to £120,000	Band E	9,727	11/9ths	11,889
Over £120,000 up to £160,000	Band F	3,739	13/9ths	5,401
Over £160,000 up to £320,000	Band G	2,051	15/9ths	3,418
Over £320,000	Band H	260	18/9ths	520
		238,256		185,973
Net effect of discounts, reliefs, exemptions and premiums				55,480.00
Chargeable Properties (Taxbase) 2015/16:				130,493.0

The Council Tax Base for 2014/15 was 129,047.4

In 2015/16, the Band D charge was £1,591.12 (£1,591.12 2014/15) made up of Durham County Council £1,334.43 (£1,308.39 2014/15), Durham Police Authority £162.73 (£159.57 2014/15) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority £93.96 (£92.16 2014/15). In addition, Band D Town and Parish precepts between £0 and £297.88 (£0 and £276.32 2014/15) are chargeable and there are some areas with no Town or Parish Council.

Any surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund – Council Tax estimated in mid-January each year must be taken into account when setting the following year's Council Tax by those authorities precepting upon the fund and either collected from or paid over to those bodies during the following financial year.

The Collection Fund - Council Tax estimated a £7.031m surplus for 2015/16, which will be distributed to major preceptors during 2016/17. At 31 March 2016, the actual outturn was a surplus of £7.281m (surplus of £0.491m at 31 March 2015).

Provision for Bad Debts

Each year the provision made for uncollectable amounts on Council Tax is revised by examining the aged debt analysis and applying the basis outlined below:

Arrears at 31 March 2016 have been analysed by age of debt and stage of recovery action being taken. These have been put into three broad categories:

- Category 1 No reminder yet sent;
- Category 2 First, second or final reminder; and,
- Category 3 Summons (including liability orders, bailiff and bankruptcy)

A percentage has been applied to the total arrears in various groupings as below:

Category of Arrears	Year	Percentage provision applied
Category 1- No reminders yet sent	2015/16	20%
	2014/15	50%
	2013/14 and older	100%
Category 2- First, second or final reminder	2015/16	40%
	2014/15	65%
	2013/14 and older	100%
Category 3- Summons etc	2015/16	55%
	2014/15	90%
	2013/14 and older	100%

At 31 March 2016, the calculated provision of £19.177m covered 78% of arrears (£18.563m, 78% at 31 March 2015).

Collection Fund – Council Tax Balance

The Collection Fund - Council Tax balance at 31 March 2016 amounted to a surplus of £7.281m (surplus of £0.491m at 31 March 2015).

Durham County Council and the major preceptors, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue, each account for a share of the Collection Fund balance in proportion to their Precept or Demand on the fund.

This also applies to the balances for arrears and prepayments on the Council Taxpayers account and the Provision for Doubtful Debts for Council Tax.

The following table shows how the Council Tax balances have been allocated between Durham County Council and the major precepting authorities:

Authority	Year end Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund - Council Tax £000	Provision for Bad Debts - Council Tax £000	Council Tax Arrears £000	Council Tax Overpayments and Prepayments £000
Durham County Council	-6,106	-16,134	20,575	-3,103
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	-744	-1,930	2,460	-371
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-431	-1,113	1,420	-214
Total Allocated	-7,281	-19,177	24,455	-3,688

iii. **Business Rates (National Non Domestic Rates)**

Business Rates are determined on a national basis by Central Government, which sets an annual non-domestic multiplier each year. This multiplier is applied to the rateable value of the property to give, subject to various reliefs and exemptions, the rates payable for the year.

In 2015/16, the general multiplier was £0.493 (£0.482 in 2014/15) and the small business multiplier was £0.480 (£0.471 in 2014/15). The total non-domestic rateable value for Durham County Council at 31 March 2016 was £307.581m (VOA schedule dated 30 March 2016) (£302.522m at 18 March 2015).

From 1 April 2013, the Business Rates Retention Scheme was introduced. Instead of paying into a central pool, the business rates income for the Durham County Council administrative area is shared between Central Government (50%), Durham County Council (49%) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (1%). Any income from certain business areas, e.g. Renewable Energy, accrues only to Durham County Council. This scheme aims to give Authorities a greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates.

The business rates due to be paid over during 2015/16 were estimated before the start of the year on the NNDR1, a statutory document submitted in January 2015. In addition, during 2015/16, the estimated surplus for 2014/15 was paid to shareholders as shown on the Income and Expenditure Account.

The estimated outturn for 2015/16 was included on the NNDR1 for 2016/17, submitted in January 2016. This predicted a deficit of £6.692m (surplus £1.021m estimated for 2014/15) of which Durham County Council's share would be £3.279m (surplus of £0.500m for 2014/15). Any estimated surplus or deficit is either paid to or recovered from each shareholder in the following financial year. The difference between the estimated outturn and the actual at 31 March is carried forward and taken into account in a future financial year. At 31 March 2016, the actual outturn was a deficit of £7.691m (surplus of £1.523m in 2014/15). In addition, income from Renewable Energy amounted to £0.042m (£0.001m in 2014/15).

Provision for Bad debts

Each year the provision made for uncollectable amounts on Business Rates is revised by examining the aged debt analysis and applying the basis outlined below:

Arrears at 31 March 2016 have been analysed by age of debt and stage of recovery action being taken. These have been put into three broad categories:

- Category 1 No reminder yet sent
- Category 2 First, second and final reminder
- Category 3 Summons (including liability orders, bailiff and bankruptcy)

A percentage has been applied to the total arrears in various groupings as below:

Category of Arrears	Year	Percentage provision applied
Category 1- No reminders yet sent	2015/16	20%
	2014/15	50%
	2013/14 and older	100%
Category 2- First, second or final reminder	2015/16	40%
	2014/15	65%
	2013/14 and older	100%
Category 3- Summons etc	2015/16	55%
	2014/15	90%
	2013/14 and older	100%

At 31 March 2016, the calculated provision of £5.057m covered 73% of arrears (£5.024m, 70% at 31 March 2015).

Provision for Appeals

Business Ratepayers are entitled to appeal to the Valuation Office against the rateable Value applied to their property at any time during the validity of the Rating List. Such appeals, if successful, may be back dated to 1 April 2010. Prior to 1 April 2013, the cost of all such appeals would have been borne by Central Government. However, under BRRS, the cost is also shared by Durham County Council and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority. In an attempt to stabilise the expected income from Business Rates, a provision against successful appeal has been introduced. Based on previous success of appeals, an estimate of the expected future repayment of reduction of bills already raised is made and charged to the Collection Fund - Business Rates.

At 31 March 2016, the provision for Appeals was estimated at £18.247m (£7.685m at 31 March 2015).

Collection Fund Balance - Business Rates

The Collection Fund – Business Rates balance at 31 March 2016 amounted to a deficit of £7.691m (surplus of £1.524m at 31 March 2015).

Durham County Council, Central Government and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority each account for a share of the Collection Fund - Business Rates in proportion to their allocated share of Business Rates income under BRRS. This also

applies to the balances for arrears and prepayments on the Business Ratepayers accounts, the provision for bad debts and the provision for appeals.

The following table shows how Business Rates balances have been allocated at 31 March 2016.

Authority	Year-end Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund - NNDR £000	Provision for Bad Debts - NNDR £000	Business Rates Arrears £000	Business Rates Overpayments and Prepayments £000	Provision for Appeals £000
Durham County Council	3,768	-2,478	3,395	-926	-8,941
Central Government	3,845	-2,529	3,465	-944	-9,124
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	77	-51	69	-19	-182
Total Allocated	7,690	-5,058	6,929	-1,889	-18,247

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Net Assets Statement

2014-15 Restated		2015-16			
£000	£000	Notes	£000	£000	
INVESTMENT ASSETS					
87,417		14	50,997		
234,213		14	211,866		
477,348		14	468,296		
<u>1,392,430</u>	2,191,408	14	<u>1,487,500</u>		2,218,659
375		14	349		
111,133		14	79,484		
54,269		14	17,217		
<u>12,111</u>	<u>177,888</u>	14	<u>12,880</u>		<u>109,930</u>
	2,369,296				2,328,589
Other Investment Assets					
1,815		14,17	1,925		
276		14,17	368		
<u>12,060</u>	<u>14,151</u>	14,17	<u>13,388</u>		<u>15,681</u>
2,383,447	Total Investment Assets				2,344,270
INVESTMENT LIABILITIES					
-12,886		14	-17,785		
<u>-37,354</u>		18	<u>-9,734</u>		
-50,240	Total Investment Liabilities				-27,519
2,333,207	NET INVESTMENT ASSETS				2,316,751
1,042	Long Term Assets	17			833
Current assets					
9,275		17	8,563		
<u>864</u>		17	<u>1,185</u>		
	10,139				9,748
Current liabilities					
-9,413		18	-6,115		
	-9,413				-6,115
2,334,975	NET ASSETS OF THE FUND AVAILABLE TO PAY BENEFITS AT 31 MARCH				2,321,217

The Pension Fund's accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the reported accounting period. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, which does take account of such obligations, is disclosed in Note 23.

These accounts should therefore be read in conjunction with the information contained within this note.

1. Fund Operation and Membership

Durham County Council Pension Fund (the Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by Durham County Council. The Council is the reporting entity for the Fund. The LGPS is a statutory scheme governed by the following legislation:

- Public Services Pensions Act 2013
- LGPS Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (as amended)
- LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendments) Regulations 2014 (as amended)

The Pension Fund Committee has responsibility delegated from Durham County Council to discharge the powers and duties arising from Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972 and Regulations made thereunder to ensure the effective stewardship of the Pension Fund's affairs. The delegation is wide ranging and covers the management of all of the Fund's activities, including the administration and investment of funds. The Committee meets at least quarterly to assess performance and annually to consider wider matters.

The Corporate Director Resources is responsible for the administration of the Pension Fund. He is assisted by the Pensions Administration and Pension Fund Accounting teams in his statutory duty to ensure the Pension Fund is administered effectively and remains solvent.

The Fund was established in 1974 to cover the future pension entitlement of all eligible employees of the County Council and former District Councils. The Fund excludes provision for teachers, police officers and firefighters for whom separate pension arrangements exist. A number of other scheduled and admitted bodies also participate in the Scheme.

The LGPS is a defined benefit occupational pension scheme to provide pensions benefits for pensionable employees of participating bodies. On retirement contributors receive annual pensions and where applicable lump sum payments. Entitlement to these benefits arises mainly on the grounds of reaching retirement age and retirement through early retirement schemes or being made redundant. Contributors who leave and who are not immediately entitled to these benefits may have their pension rights transferred or preserved until reaching retirement age.

The following table provides a summary of contributing members, pensioners in payment and deferred pensioners over the last five years.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Contributing Members	17,235	16,837	17,454	18,011	18,530
Pensioners in Payment	16,049	16,386	16,700	17,193	17,715
Pensioners Deferred	11,573	12,211	13,040	13,165	14,451

In comparison to the figures reported at 31 March 2015, the number of pensionable employees in the Fund at 31 March 2016 has increased by 519, the number of pensioners has increased by 522 and deferred pensioners have increased by 1,286.

Contributions represent the total amounts receivable from:

- employing authorities (of which there were 116 at 31 March 2016), at a rate determined by the Fund's Actuary, and
- pensionable employees, at a rate set by statute.

The Fund's total benefits and contributions are summarised in the following table

2014-15			2015-16	
Benefits	Contributions		Benefits	Contributions
£000	£000		£000	£000
80,645	-68,386	Administering Authority	83,286	-70,340
17,922	-26,704	Scheduled Bodies	20,567	-34,000
2,852	-3,758	Admission Bodies	6,569	-7,695
101,419	-98,848		110,422	-112,035

2. Basis of Preparation

The Pension Fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 (the Code) issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals and going concern basis.

The financial statements summarise the transactions and the net assets of the Pension Fund available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial valuations of the Fund, which do take account of such obligations, are carried out every

three years. The Actuary completed a valuation during 2013/14, the results of which determined the contribution rates effective from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017. Details of the latest valuation are included in Note 22.

3. Statement of Accounting Policies

Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these accounts. The accounts have been prepared on the normal accruals basis of accounting (except individual transfer values to and from the scheme, which are accounted for on a cash basis).

Fund Account

Contributions receivable

Contribution income is categorised and recognised as follows:

- Normal contributions, from both members and employers, are accounted for on an accruals basis;
- Employer's augmentation contributions are accounted for in the year in which they become due;
- Employer's deficit funding contributions are accounted for in the year in which they become due in accordance with the Rates and Adjustment Certificate set by the actuary or on receipt, if earlier than the due date.

Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent amounts paid to or received from other local and public authorities, private, occupational or personal pension schemes in respect of pension rights already accumulated by employees transferring from or to the participating authorities.

Individual transfer values paid and received are accounted for on a cash basis as the amount payable or receivable is not determined until payment is made and accepted by the recipient. Bulk (Group) transfers out and in are accounted for in full in the year in which the transfer value is agreed by Durham County Council Pension Fund.

Pension benefits payable

Pension benefits are recognised and recorded in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements as an expense in the period to which the benefit relates. Any amounts due, but yet to be paid, are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities.

Management expenses

All management expenses, which include administrative expenses, investment management expenses and oversight and governance costs, are accounted for on an accruals basis.

All staffing and overhead costs of the pensions administration team are allocated to the Pension Fund as administrative expenses.

Fees of the external Investment Managers and Custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Note 11 provides further information regarding the basis of Investment Managers' Fees. Where an Investment Manager's fee note has not been received by the balance sheet date, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate as at the end of the financial year is used for inclusion in the Fund Account.

Oversight and governance costs include costs relating to the pension fund accounting team, which are apportioned on the basis of staff time spent on the Fund and include all associated overheads, plus legal, actuarial and investments advisory services.

Investment income

Investment income is accounted for as follows:

- income from equities is recognised in the fund account on the date stocks are quoted ex-dividend;
- income from fixed interest and index-linked securities, cash and short-term deposits is accounted for on an accruals basis;
- interest income is recognised in the fund account as it accrues;
- income from other investments is accounted for on an accruals basis;
- income from overseas investments is recorded net of any withholding tax where this cannot be recovered;
- foreign income has been translated into sterling at the date of the transactions, when received during the year, or at the exchange rates applicable on the last working day in March, where amounts were still outstanding at the year end;
- changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/ losses during the year.

Taxation

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

when Investment Managers are not able to supply the necessary information, no taxation is separately disclosed in the Fund Account.

Net Assets Statement

Valuation of Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at their fair value as at the reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

All prices in foreign currency are translated into sterling at the prevailing rate on the last working day of March.

An investment asset is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes to the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund.

The values of investments as shown in the Net Assets Statement have been determined as follows:

- Quoted equity securities which are traded on an exchange are accounted for on a bid market price basis, where Investment Managers provide valuations in this manner;
- Fixed interest securities that are traded on an exchange are accounted for at bid market price where Investment Managers provide valuations in this manner;
- Index linked securities are valued at bid market value where Investment Managers provide valuations in this manner;
- Unitised managed funds are valued at the closing bid price if bid and offer prices are reported by the relevant exchange and in the Investment Manager's valuation report. Single priced unitised managed funds are valued at the reported price;
- Unquoted equity investments are included based on an estimated price of the investments held. Investment Managers use valuation techniques to establish a price at the year end date based on an arm's length exchange given normal business considerations;
- Derivative contracts outstanding at the year end are included in the Net Assets Statement at fair value (as provided by Investment Managers) and gains and losses arising are recognised in the Fund Account as at 31 March. The value of foreign currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the reporting date. The value of all other derivative contracts is determined using exchange prices at the reporting date.

Where Investment Managers are unable to supply investment valuations in line with the above policies, valuations will be included as supplied by the Investment Manager, usually at mid-market price.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives a possible asset which will only be confirmed by the occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Pension Fund. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Net Assets Statement however details are disclosed in Note 21.

Investment transactions

Investment transactions arising up to 31 March but not settled until later are accrued in the accounts. All purchases and sales of investments in foreign currency are accounted for in sterling at the prevailing rate on the transaction date.

Acquisition costs of investments

Acquisition costs of investments are added to book cost at the time of purchase.

Financial liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actual present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under IAS 26 the Pension Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the accounts (Note 23).

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

The Fund provides an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Fund. In accordance with LGPS Regulations, AVCs are not recognised as income or assets in the Pension Fund Accounts, however a summary of the scheme and transactions are disclosed in Note 19 to these accounts.

If, however, AVCs are used to purchase extra years' service from the Pension Fund, this is recognised as contribution income in the Fund's accounts on an accruals basis. Amounts received in this way can be found in Note 7 as additional contributions from members.

Events After the Reporting Period

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

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

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

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

The preparation of the statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions which affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. In applying the policies, the Pension Fund has to make certain judgements about complex transactions, or those involving uncertainty. Those with most significant effect are:

- the fair value of unquoted investments is highly subjective and based upon forward looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. Investment Managers provide the values to be recognised in the Net Assets Statement.
- the pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary; the estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

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

The Pension Fund Accounts contain estimated figures that are based upon assumptions made about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that actual results may differ from the estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

Items for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual differs from assumptions
Actuarial Valuation	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements including the discount rate used, the salary increase projections, expected changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and returns on pension fund assets. A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. Note 22 summarises the results of the actuarial valuation.	The Actuary calculated the funding ratio to be 84% as at 31 March 2013 (the last triennial valuation). If the following figures were to differ from the assumptions used in the calculation, there would be a reduction in the funding ratio to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 79% if life expectancy increases by 3 years - 70% if discount rate falls by 1% - 70% if inflation increases by 1% - 73% if equities fall by 25% - 80% if pensionable pay increases by 1%
Fair Value of Investments	The Accounts are as at 31 March 2016 and all the investments held by the fund are valued as at that date using the best estimate possible of 'fair value', as detailed in 'Significant Accounting Policies - Valuation of Investments'.	The use of estimates for investment values is greatest for those assets classified at Level 3 which means there is a risk that these investments may be over/ under-stated in the accounts. The total value of Level 3 investments (explained in Note 15) is £154.1m at 31/3/16 (£105.2m at 31/3/15). Every 1% increase/ decrease in fair value would result in an increase/ decrease in the value of the Fund by £1.541m (£1.052m at 31/3/15).

6. Post Net Assets Statement (Balance Sheet) Event

There have been no events after 31 March 2016 which require any adjustments to be made to these accounts.

7. Contributions Receivable

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
	Employer contributions:	
-47,702	Normal	-49,770
-3,354	Augmentation	-6,400
-25,313	Deficit funding	-32,827
	Member contributions:	
-22,363	Normal	-22,929
-116	Additional contributions	-109
-98,848		-112,035
-68,386	Administering Authority	-70,340
-26,704	Scheduled Bodies	-34,000
-3,758	Admission Bodies	-7,695
-98,848		-112,035

8. Transfers in From Other Pension Funds

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
-2,734	Individual Transfers	-3,680
-2,734		-3,680

9. Benefits Payable

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
87,994	Pensions	90,708
16,822	Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	22,514
1,531	Lump sum death benefits	2,035
-4,928	Recharged benefits	-4,835
101,419		110,422
80,645	Administering Authority	83,286
17,922	Scheduled Bodies	20,567
2,852	Admission Bodies	6,569
101,419		110,422

10. Payments To and On Account of Leavers

2014-15		2015-16
£000		£000
65	Refunds to members leaving service	153
16	Payments for members joining state scheme	61
4,479	Individual transfers to other schemes	5,059
4,008	Group transfers to other schemes	-
8,568		5,273

The Group Transfer figure in 2014/15 of £4.008m was a provision for the transfer value which was paid to Tyne and Wear Pension Fund during 2015/16. This relates to the group transfer of staff from the former Wear Valley District Council who are now employed by Gentoo and who transferred out of the DCC Pension Fund on 31 March 2008.

11. Management Expenses

Administration expenses include the cost of the administering authority in supporting the Fund.

Investment management expenses include any expenses in relation to the management of the pension fund assets. Investment manager fees are based on the value of assets under management. A performance related fee, derived from a base fee plus a percentage of

out-performance, is paid to three of the Fund's investment managers; an ad-valorem fee is payable to the other managers.

Oversight and governance costs include costs relating to the pension fund accounting team, plus legal, actuarial and investments advisory services.

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
939	Administration expenses	854
5,234	Investment Management expenses	9,962
696	Oversight and Governance costs	674
6,869		11,490

Included within oversight and governance costs is the external audit fee payable to Mazars in 2015/16 of £0.026m (£0.026m in 2014/15). Comparative figures for 2014-15 Administrative expenses and Investment Management expenses have been restated to show Oversight and Governance costs.

12. Investment Income

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
-1,887	Interest from fixed interest securities	-1,720
-3,732	Income from index-linked securities	-3,369
-12,330	Dividends from equities	-6,860
-283	Interest on cash deposits	-102
-10,897	Income from pooled investment vehicles	-10,611
-29,129		-22,662

13. Taxation

The Pensions Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requires that any withholding tax that is irrecoverable should be disclosed in the Fund Account as a tax charge, however as Investment Managers have not been able to supply information for the full year, no amount of irrecoverable withholding tax has been disclosed.

- United Kingdom IncomeTax**

The Fund is an exempt approved Fund under Section 1(1) Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004, and is therefore not liable to UK income tax on interest, dividends and property income, or to capital gains tax.

- **Value Added Tax**

As Durham County Council is the administering authority for the Fund, VAT input tax is recoverable on most fund activities.

- **Foreign Withholding Tax**

Income earned from investments in stocks and securities in the United States, Australia and Belgium is exempt from tax. In all other countries dividends are taxed at source and, where the tax paid at source is greater than the rate of tax under the 'Double Taxation Agreement', the excess tax is reclaimable except in the case of Malaysia.

14. Investments

Analysis by Investment Manager

The following Investment Managers were employed during 2015/16 to manage the Pension Fund's assets:

- Aberdeen Asset Management Limited (Aberdeen)
- AllianceBernstein Limited (AllianceBernstein)
- Bank of New York Mellon Investment Management EMEA Limited (BNYM)
- BlackRock Investment Management UK Limited (BlackRock)
- CB Richard Ellis Collective Investors Limited (CBRE)
- Mondrian Investment Partners Limited (Mondrian)
- Royal London Asset Management (RLAM)

The long-term strategic allocation as at 31 March was as follows:

31 March 2015	Investment Manager	Asset Class	31 March 2016
%			%
15	Aberdeen	Global equities	15
15	AllianceBernstein	Global Bonds	15
15	BNYM	Global equities	15
20	Blackrock	Dynamic Asset Allocation	20
8	CBRE	Global property	8
7	Mondrian	Emerging Market Equities	7
20	Royal London	Investment grade sterling bonds	20
100			100

The actual market values of investments held by each Investment Manager as at 31 March were as follows (the actual allocations vary slightly from the long-term strategic allocations due to market movements):

31-Mar-15			31-Mar-16		
£000	%	Investment Manager	£000	%	
343,880	14.95	Aberdeen	339,124	14.79	
330,169	14.34	AllianceBernstein	341,874	14.91	
355,519	15.45	BNYM	364,837	15.91	
15,251	0.66	Barings	198	0.01	
467,036	20.29	Blackrock	437,984	19.10	
150,641	6.54	CBRE	187,755	8.18	
157,684	6.85	Mondrian	152,726	6.66	
28	0.00	Other - NEL	28	0.00	
481,558	20.92	RLAM	468,712	20.44	
2,301,766	100.00		2,293,238	100.00	

The totals in the above table include all assets held by Investment Managers on behalf of the Fund, including cash and derivatives. The total as at 31 March 2016 excludes loans of £0.349m, cash invested by the administering authority of £17.217m, other investment assets of £15.681m and other investment liabilities of £9.734m (£0.375m, £54.269m, £14.151m and £37.354m respectively as at 31 March 2015).

Of the total value of net investment assets reported in the Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2016, £2.293m (98.99%) is invested through Investment Managers (£2.302m or 98.65% at 31 March 2015).

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2015/16

Investment category	Value at 31 March 2015	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Value at 31 March 2016
	Restated £000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed interest securities	87,417	180,741	-214,952	-2,209	50,997
Equities	234,213	103,326	-105,533	-20,140	211,866
Index linked securities	477,348	1,845,108	-1,862,768	8,608	468,296
Pooled investment vehicles	1,392,430	228,960	-142,369	8,479	1,487,500
	2,191,408	2,358,135	-2,325,622	-5,262	2,218,659
Derivative contracts:					
Futures, margins & options	3,102	41,841	-38,621	-7,013	-691
Forward foreign currency	-3,877			-337	-4,214
	2,190,633	2,399,976	-2,364,243	-12,612	2,213,754
Other investment balances:					
Loans	375				349
Other cash deposits	165,402			-12,343	96,701
Dividend accruals	1,815				1,925
Tax recovery	276				368
Other investment balances	-25,294				3,654
Net Investment Assets	2,333,207			-24,955	2,316,751

The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments during the year.

The categorisation of Investments values brought forward as at 31 March 2015 has been restated following a review of BlackRock Investments.

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2014/15 - Restated

Investment category	Value at 31 March 2014	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Value at 31 March 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	Restated £000
Fixed interest securities	62,934	339,632	-348,653	33,504	87,417
Equities	500,898	2,406,741	-2,709,504	36,078	234,213
Index linked securities	384,175	1,727,246	-1,704,313	70,240	477,348
Pooled investment vehicles	1,128,807	2,292,745	-2,079,377	50,255	1,392,430
	2,076,814	6,766,364	-6,841,847	190,077	2,191,408
Derivative contracts:					
Futures, margins & options	4,716	9,040	-5,589	-5,065	3,102
Forward foreign currency	1,553			-5,430	-3,877
	2,083,083	6,775,404	-6,847,436	179,582	2,190,633
Other investment balances:					
Loans	390				375
Other cash deposits	76,091			10,678	165,402
Dividend accruals	4,813				1,815
Tax recovery	378				276
Other investment balances	-9,456				-25,294
Net Investment Assets	2,155,299			190,260	2,333,207

Analysis of Investments

2014-15 Restated £000 £000		2015-16 £000 £000	
ASSETS INVESTED THROUGH FUND MANAGERS			
Fixed interest securities			
16,907			-
39,841			31,708
30,669			19,289
	87,417		50,997
Equities			
35,502			41,520
28			28
198,683			170,318
	234,213		211,866
Index linked securities			
459,206			466,549
-			-
18,142			1,747
-			
	477,348		468,296
Pooled Investment Vehicles			
68,683			80,400
858,328			879,497
330,169			341,874
3,059			1,815
24,631			32,729
27,038			29,804
80,522			121,381
	1,392,430		1,487,500
Derivative Contracts			
12,111			12,880
-12,886			-17,785
	-775		-4,905
111,133	111,133		

Analysis of Derivatives**Objectives and policies for holding derivatives**

Derivatives are financial instruments that derive their value from the price or rate of some underlying item. Underlying items include equities, bonds, commodities, interest rates, exchange rates and stock market indices.

The Fund uses derivatives to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. Derivatives may be used to gain exposure to an asset more efficiently than holding the underlying asset or hedge against the risk of adverse currency movement on the Fund's investments. The use of derivatives is managed in line with the

investment management agreement agreed between the Pension Fund and its Investment Managers.

A summary of the derivative contracts held by the Pension Fund is provided in the following table:

2014-15		Derivative Contracts	2015-16	
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Forward foreign currency		
1,192		Assets	8,399	
<u>-5,069</u>		Liabilities	<u>-12,613</u>	
	-3,877	Net Forward foreign currency		-4,214
		Futures		
4,391		Assets	1,232	
<u>-4,281</u>		Liabilities	<u>-1,388</u>	
	110	Net Futures		-156
		Options		
6,528		Assets	3,249	
<u>-3,536</u>		Liabilities	<u>-3,784</u>	
	2,992	Net Options		-535
	<u><u>-775</u></u>	Net market value of derivative contracts		<u><u>-4,905</u></u>

The Pension Fund invests in the following types of derivatives:

i. Forward Foreign Currency Contracts

Currency is bought and sold by investment managers for future settlement at a predetermined exchange rate. Such contracts are used to hedge against the risk of adverse currency movements on the Fund's investments.

The following tables list all of the forward foreign currency contracts held by the investment managers (BlackRock, CBRE and Royal London) on 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2015.

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,570,000	BRL	-27,597,285		-842
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,625,000	BRL	-6,082,375		-62
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,625,000	BRL	-6,113,250		-68
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,565,000	BRL	-5,874,228		-63
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,435,000	BRL	-5,419,995		-65
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,410,000	BRL	-12,484,010		-76
0 to 1 mth	USD	800,000	BRL	-2,935,920		-19
0 to 1 mth	USD	800,000	BRL	-2,938,000		-20
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,190,000	BRL	-4,366,705		-29
0 to 1 mth	GBP	11,514,280	CAD	-23,200,000		-965
0 to 1 mth	CAD	19,007,137	USD	-13,480,000	845	
0 to 1 mth	GBP	2,208,084	CHF	-3,200,000		-117
0 to 1 mth	USD	12,960,000	CHF	-13,082,291		-489
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,400,000	CNH	-42,732,800		-151
1 to 3 mths	USD	3,690,000	CNH	-24,261,750		-37
1 to 3 mths	USD	2,460,000	CNH	-16,188,030		-26
1 to 3 mths	USD	2,460,000	CNH	-16,195,410		-27
1 to 3 mths	USD	1,230,000	CNH	-8,086,020		-12
1 to 3 mths	USD	2,460,000	CNH	-16,164,660		-24
1 to 3 mths	USD	6,200,000	CNH	-40,771,200		-63
0 to 1 mth	CZK	2,738,908	EUR	-101,354		0
0 to 1 mth	CZK	3,652,185	EUR	-135,139		0
0 to 1 mth	CZK	19,322,232	EUR	-715,000		-1
0 to 1 mth	CZK	19,454,429	EUR	-720,000		-1
0 to 1 mth	CZK	23,781,208	EUR	-880,000		-1
0 to 1 mth	CZK	34,317,940	EUR	-1,270,000		-1
0 to 1 mth	CZK	37,155,250	EUR	-1,375,000		-1
0 to 1 mth	CZK	14,956,854	EUR	-553,507		0
0 to 1 mth	GBP	35,896,878	EUR	-47,110,000		-1,457
0 to 1 mth	EUR	1,263,686	GBP	-983,375	19	
0 to 1 mth	EUR	718,330	GBP	-558,678	11	
0 to 1 mth	EUR	3,447,984	GBP	-2,678,287	56	
0 to 1 mth	PLN	1,283,346	EUR	-284,341	14	
0 to 1 mth	PLN	10,243,901	EUR	-2,271,318	114	
0 to 1 mth	PLN	1,283,203	EUR	-284,341	14	
0 to 1 mth	EUR	444,157	PLN	-1,995,053		-21
0 to 1 mth	EUR	465,803	PLN	-2,087,475		-21
0 to 1 mth	EUR	310,535	PLN	-1,392,207		-14
0 to 1 mth	EUR	660,000	PLN	-2,952,774		-29
0 to 1 mth	EUR	959,505	PLN	-4,295,190		-42
0 to 1 mth	EUR	405,368	PLN	-1,790,838		-13
0 to 1 mth	EUR	1,621,472	PLN	-7,165,448		-54
0 to 1 mth	EUR	1,690,349	PLN	-7,467,660		-56
0 to 1 mth	EUR	1,782,810	PLN	-7,874,719		-58
0 to 1 mth	USD	7,780,766	EUR	-7,118,116		-231
0 to 1 mth	USD	4,462,079	EUR	-4,081,884		-132
0 to 1 mth	EUR	12,680,000	USD	-13,866,975	406	
0 to 1 mth	EUR	11,539,165	USD	-12,610,000	376	
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,773,157	EUR	-1,614,764		-47
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,545,863	EUR	-3,229,527		-94
0 to 1 mth	USD	829,829	EUR	-755,709		-22
0 to 1 mth	JPY	7,232,000,000	GBP	-42,614,750	2,158	
0 to 1 mth	GBP	123,931,734	USD	-177,890,000	166	
0 to 1 mth	USD	10,500,000	GBP	-7,229,025	76	
0 to 1 mth	GBP	4,192,931	USD	-6,000,000	18	
0 to 1 mth	USD	5,227,126	GBP	-3,654,996		-18
0 to 1 mth	USD	7,019,027	GBP	-4,905,004		-22
0 to 1 mth	GBP	900,000	ZAR	-21,420,270		-113
0 to 1 mth	GBP	4,300,000	ZAR	-102,276,317		-535
0 to 1 mth	ZAR	39,954,031	GBP	-1,785,157	104	

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
0 to 1 mth	ZAR	39,353,824	GBP	-1,759,095	101	
0 to 1 mth	ZAR	20,855,035	GBP	-931,404	55	
0 to 1 mth	ZAR	16,097,274	GBP	-724,344	37	
0 to 1 mth	INR	207,552,500	USD	-3,050,000	58	
0 to 1 mth	INR	83,057,600	USD	-1,220,000	24	
0 to 1 mth	INR	83,057,600	USD	-1,220,000	24	
0 to 1 mth	INR	16,053,953	USD	-235,983	4	
0 to 1 mth	INR	21,364,431	USD	-314,017	6	
0 to 1 mth	INR	128,707,431	USD	-1,890,000	37	
0 to 1 mth	INR	41,482,440	USD	-610,000	11	
0 to 1 mth	INR	124,513,200	USD	-1,830,000	35	
0 to 1 mth	INR	41,443,400	USD	-610,000	11	
0 to 1 mth	INR	20,730,850	USD	-305,000	6	
0 to 1 mth	INR	62,172,420	USD	-915,000	17	
0 to 1 mth	USD	55,640,000	JPY	-6,596,711,784		-2,128
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,843,881	JPY	-769,362,681		-1
0 to 1 mth	USD	4,856,119	JPY	-546,064,119		-2
0 to 1 mth	USD	4,090,000	JPY	-462,979,820		-21
0 to 1 mth	USD	8,310,000	JPY	-940,440,190		-41
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,200,000	JPY	-703,700,000		-43
0 to 1 mth	USD	10,035,779	KRW	-12,036,411,784		-357
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,330,000	KRW	-3,981,847,500		-111
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,150,000	KRW	-1,375,630,000		-39
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,150,000	KRW	-1,378,562,500		-41
0 to 1 mth	USD	770,000	KRW	-926,002,000		-29
0 to 1 mth	KRW	5,182,160,000	USD	-4,220,000	224	
0 to 1 mth	KRW	5,173,604,234	USD	-4,215,779	222	
0 to 1 mth	USD	7,800,000	KRW	-9,406,800,000		-309
0 to 1 mth	MXN	122,315,661	USD	-6,570,000	393	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	29,237,608	USD	-1,550,000	108	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	17,550,681	USD	-930,000	65	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	12,820,205	USD	-676,640	50	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	6,401,019	USD	-338,320	24	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	6,412,860	USD	-338,320	25	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	6,024,034	USD	-320,000	22	
0 to 1 mth	MXN	38,566,328	USD	-2,046,719	141	
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,550,000	MXN	-27,764,375		-48
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,550,000	MXN	-27,786,385		-49
0 to 1 mth	USD	166,177	MXN	-2,985,357		-6
0 to 1 mth	USD	2,185,585	MXN	-39,203,448		-70
0 to 1 mth	USD	336,244	MXN	-6,023,506		-10
0 to 1 mth	USD	411,994	MXN	-7,373,570		-13
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,550,000	MYR	-6,491,400		-83
0 to 1 mth	USD	930,000	MYR	-3,908,790		-52
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,240,000	MYR	-5,246,440		-76
0 to 1 mth	USD	310,000	MYR	-1,311,610		-19
0 to 1 mth	USD	310,000	MYR	-1,308,200		-18
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,860,000	MYR	-7,863,150		-113
0 to 1 mth	MYR	10,423,440	USD	-2,480,000	139	
0 to 1 mth	MYR	9,109,660	USD	-2,170,000	120	
0 to 1 mth	MYR	6,513,875	USD	-1,550,000	87	
0 to 1 mth	PHP	627,393,600	USD	-12,960,000	484	
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,293,288	PHP	-153,697,751		-36
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,186,712	PHP	-149,201,856		-42
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,240,000	PHP	-151,729,200		-43
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,240,000	PHP	-151,777,800		-44
0 to 1 mth	USD	2,800,000	SGD	-4,005,120		-121
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,900,000	SGD	-9,879,627		-304
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,500,000	TRY	-4,612,346		-94
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,500,000	TRY	-4,607,025		-93
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,600,000	TRY	-20,239,560		-400
0 to 1 mth	USD	6,200,000	TRY	-17,919,308		-106

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,680,000	TWD	-56,280,000		-48
0 to 1 mth	USD	13,520,000	TWD	-454,069,200		-413
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,390,000	TWD	-112,209,000		-68
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,345,000	TWD	-44,707,800		-31
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,665,000	TWD	-55,394,550		-39
0 to 1 mth	TWD	179,722,800	USD	-5,400,000	130	
0 to 1 mth	TWD	179,604,000	USD	-5,400,000	127	
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,410,000	TWD	-111,728,650		-44
0 to 1 mth	USD	1,650,000	TWD	-54,095,250		-22
0 to 1 mth	USD	2,090,000	TWD	-68,572,900		-29
0 to 1 mth	USD	3,850,000	TWD	-126,434,000		-55
0 to 1 mth	TWD	350,217,000	USD	-10,900,000		-10
0 to 1 mth	TWD	351,198,000	USD	-10,900,000	11	
1 to 3 mths	USD	10,900,000	TWD	-349,879,100		0
1 to 3 mths	USD	10,900,000	TWD	-351,034,500		-25
1 to 3 mths	AUD	10,869,651	GBP	5,717,559		-75
1 to 3 mths	EUR	40,824,558	GBP	32,071,773		-373
1 to 3 mths	USD	91,045,309	GBP	64,420,370	1,095	
1 to 3 mths	JPY	1,325,912,724	GBP	8,281,778	55	
1 to 3 mths	MYR	18,690,782	GBP	3,179,245		-177
1 to 3 mths	AUD	4,408,489	GBP	2,318,915		-30
1 to 3 mths	USD	572,793	GBP	405,288	7	
1 to 3 mths	JPY	604,551,839	GBP	3,776,089	25	
1 to 3 mths	CNY	11,948,588	GBP	1,287,772	7	
1 to 3 mths	EUR	6,423,145	GBP	5,046,023		-59
1 to 3 mths	GBP	2,924,865	AUD	-5,478,896	4	
1 to 3 mths	GBP	3,169,203	SEK	-36,991,710		-14
1 to 3 mths	SEK	36,190,874	GBP	-3,084,980	29	
1 to 3 mths	AUD	2,194,000	GBP	-1,167,386	2	
					8,399	-12,613
Net forward foreign currency contracts at 31 March 2016						-4,214

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
0 to 1 mth	EUR	5,100,000.00	GBP	-3,732,129.00		-42
3 to 6 mths	NZD	17,200,000.00	AUD	-16,585,187.11	132	
1 to 3 mths	USD	2,557,275.54	BRL	-8,260,000.00	12	
3 to 6 mths	GBP	11,256,844.00	EUR	-15,500,000.00	29	
3 to 6 mths	GBP	11,259,448.00	EUR	-15,500,000.00	32	
1 to 3 mths	GBP	3,736,795.50	EUR	-5,100,000.00	42	
3 to 6 mths	GBP	4,162,669.31	JPY	-768,000,000.00		-157
1 to 3 mths	JPY	5,000,000,000.00	GBP	-28,061,902.99	59	
3 to 6 mths	GBP	56,446,618.88	USD	-87,050,000.00		-2,218
3 to 6 mths	GBP	56,436,847.78	USD	-87,050,000.00		-2,227
3 to 6 mths	USD	12,752,563.41	HUF	-3,460,000,000.00	252	
3 to 6 mths	USD	75,800,000.00	JPY	-9,066,134,800.00	94	
3 to 6 mths	EUR	27,078,254	GBP	19,927,681	302	
3 to 6 mths	USD	67,078,960	GBP	44,830,327		-383
3 to 6 mths	JPY	1,178,741,889	GBP	6,647,664	14	
3 to 6 mths	AUD	9,765,023	GBP	5,120,916	117	
3 to 6 mths	MYR	18,020,057	GBP	3,256,833	4	
3 to 6 mths	AUD	1,438,103	GBP	754,161	17	
3 to 6 mths	JPY	429,261,483	GBP	2,420,874	5	
3 to 6 mths	USD	582,557	GBP	389,336		-3
3 to 6 mths	CNY	3,252,057	GBP	350,607		-4
1 to 3 mths	GBP	7,756,376.19	USD	-11,529,000.00		-14
1 to 3 mths	GBP	1,290,150.73	CAD	-2,412,000.00	8	
1 to 3 mths	GBP	1,989,069.18	USD	-2,965,000.00		-9
1 to 3 mths	GBP	2,425,139.39	USD	-3,615,026.76		-12
1 to 3 mths	GBP	4,339,425.44	EUR	-5,887,000.00	73	
					1,192	-5,069
Net forward foreign currency contracts at 31 March 2015						-3,877

ii. Futures

When there is a requirement to hold cash assets, but the Investment Manager does not want this cash to be out of the market, index based futures contracts are bought which have an underlying economic value broadly equivalent to the cash held in anticipation of cash outflow required. Outstanding exchange traded futures contracts, held by BlackRock are as follows:

	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 16	
				£000	£000
Assets					
Overseas fixed interest	1 to 3 mths	AUST 10YR BOND JUN 16 15/6/2016	AUD	858	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	E-MINI CONSUMER STAPLES JUN 16	USD	170	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	S&P500 EMINI JUN 16	USD	204	
Total assets					1,232
Liabilities					
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	E-MINI UTILITIES SELECT SECTOR JUN 16	USD	-403	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	STOXX 600 INDUS JUN 16	EUR	-742	
Overseas fixed interest	1 to 3 mths	US ULTRA T-BOND JUN 16 21/6/2016	USD	-243	
Total liabilities					-1,388
Net Futures Contracts at 31 March 2016					<u><u>-156</u></u>

	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 15	
				£000	£000
Assets					
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	FTSE CHINA A50 APR 15	USD	4,391	
Total assets					4,391
Liabilities					
Overseas equity	3 to 6 mths	STOXX 600 BAS JUN 15	EUR	-4,281	
Total liabilities					-4,281
Net Futures Contracts at 31 March 2015					<u><u>110</u></u>

iii. Options

In order to benefit from potentially greater returns available from investing in equities whilst minimising the risk of loss of value through adverse equity price movements, the Fund, via Blackrock, has bought a number of equity option contracts. These option contracts are to protect it from falls in value in the main markets in which it is invested.

Type	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 16 £000
Assets				
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 17/6/2016 C @ 2925.000	EUR	930
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 17/6/2016 P @ 2925.000	EUR	518
Overseas equity	1 to 5 years	S&P 500 INDEX 15/12/2017 P @ 2000.000	USD	491
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	S&P 500 INDEX 17/6/2016 C @ 2075.000	USD	450
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	MSCI EMERGING MARKETS INDEX 23/5/2016 C @ 875.000	USD	351
UK equity	1 to 3 mths	FTSE 100 INDEX 20/5/2016 P @ 6000.000	GBP	204
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	SPX VOLATILITY INDEX UX 01-JAN-2050 18/5/2016 C @ 23.000	USD	183
Overseas equity	1 to 5 years	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 15/12/2017 C @ 4000.000	EUR	90
Overseas fixed interest	0 to 1 mth	APR16 EDM7 P @ 98.75	USD	13
Overseas fixed interest	1 to 3 mths	USD C SGD P @1.420000 EO	USD	9
Overseas fixed interest	3 to 6 months	EUR P CZK C @25.75000 EO	EUR	8
Overseas fixed interest	3 to 6 months	EUR P CZK C @25.75000 EO	EUR	2
Total assets				3,249
Liabilities				
Overseas fixed interest	1 to 3 mths	USD C SGD P @1.450000 EO	USD	-1
Overseas equity	0 to 1 mth	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 15/4/2016 C @ 3100.000	EUR	-35
UK equity	1 to 3 mths	FTSE 100 INDEX 20/5/2016 P @ 5750.000	GBP	-60
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	MSCI EMERGING MARKETS INDEX 23/5/2016 C @ 925.000	USD	-111
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX UTILITIES (PRICE) INDEX 17/6/2016 P @ 235.000	EUR	-143
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 17/6/2016 C @ 3200.000	EUR	-153
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	SPX VOLATILITY INDEX UX 01-JAN-2050 18/5/2016 C @ 30.000	USD	-155
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 17/6/2016 P @ 2975.000	EUR	-207
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50 INDEX 01-JAN-2050 17/6/2016 P @ 2800.000	EUR	-325
Overseas equity	1 to 5 years	S&P 500 INDEX 15/12/2017 P @ 1875.000	USD	-372
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	S&P 500 INDEX 17/6/2016 C @ 1875.000	USD	-222
Total liabilities				-3,784
Net Options at 31 March 2016				-535

Type	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 15 £000
Assets				
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	SPX VOLATILITY INDEX APR P @ 14.5	USD	98
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 JUN P @ 2000	USD	161
Overseas equity	3 to 6 mths	EURO STOXX 50 JUN P @ 3550	EUR	235
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	EURO STOXX UTILITIES	EUR	272
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 2075	USD	330
UK equity	less than 1 yr	FTSE 100 INDEX MAY P @ 6800	GBP	532
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 2050	USD	615
Overseas equity	1 to 5 yrs	S&P 500 DEC P @ 2000	USD	634
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 2000	USD	789
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	NIKKEI 225 JUN P @ 18500	JPY	821
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	SPX VOLATILITY INDEX JUN C @ 20	USD	854
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	EURO STOXX 50 DEC C @ 4000	EUR	1,187
Total assets				6,528
Liabilities				
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	NIKKEI 225 JUN P @ 19500	JPY	-831
Overseas equity	1 to 5 yrs	S&P 500 DEC P @ 1875	USD	-510
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 1950	USD	-438
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 1875	USD	-343
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	EURO STOXX UTILITIES	EUR	-319
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 1975	USD	-236
Overseas equity	3 to 6 mths	EURO STOXX 50 JUN P @ 3350	EUR	-233
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 DEC P @ 1900	USD	-187
Overseas equity	less than 1 yr	S&P 500 JUN P @ 1900	USD	-166
UK equity	less than 1 yr	FTSE 100 INDEX MAY P @ 6400	GBP	-155
UK equity	less than 1 yr	FTSE 100 INDEX MAY C @ 7000	GBP	-118
Total liabilities				-3,536
Net Options at 31 March 2015				2,992

Investments Exceeding 5% of the Market Value of the Fund

The investments in the following table individually represented more than 5% of the Pension Fund's total net assets available for benefits at 31 March:

Name of Fund	Investment Manager	At 31 March 2016		At 31 March 2015	
		£m	%	£m	%
BNYM Long Term Global Equity	BNY Mellon	364.8	15.91	355.5	15.23
AAM L and P World Equity	Aberdeen	339.1	14.79	343.9	14.73
Diversified Yield Plus	AllianceBernstein	341.9	14.91	330.2	14.14

Single investments with a market value exceeding 5% of their type of asset are listed as follows:

At 31 March 2016

Holding	Investment Manager	£000	%
Fixed Interest Securities			
TREASURY (CPI) NOTE 0.375 15/7/2025	BlackRock	19,969	39.16
TREASURY (CPI) NOTE 0.625 15/1/2026	BlackRock	6,376	12.50
Equities			
ISHARES GOLD TRUST	BlackRock	17,363	8.20
Index Linked Securities			
UK Treasury 0.625% IL 22/11/2042	Royal London	37,989	8.11
UK Treasury 1.25% IL 22/11/2032	Royal London	35,829	7.65
UK Treasury 0.5% IL Gilt 22/03/2050	Royal London	35,727	7.63
UK Treasury 2.5% IL 17/07/24	Royal London	32,874	7.02
UK Treasury 0.625% IL 22/03/2040	Royal London	30,223	6.45
UK Treasury 0.25% IL 22/03/2052	Royal London	25,532	5.45
UK Treasury 0.375% IL 22/03/2062	Royal London	24,807	5.30
UK Treasury 1.25% IL Gilt 22/11/2055	Royal London	24,665	5.27
UK Treasury 0.125% IL 22/03/2068	Royal London	24,051	5.14
UK Treasury 1.25% IL Gilt 22/11/2027	Royal London	23,971	5.12
Pooled Investment Vehicles			
BNYM Long Term Global Equity	BNYM	364,837	24.53
Diversified Yield Plus	AllianceBernstein	341,874	22.98
AAM L and P World Equity	Aberdeen	339,124	22.80
BGF GLOBAL CORP BND X4RF GBP HDG	BlackRock	108,805	7.31
ICS INS GBP LIQ AGENCY DIS	BlackRock	77,739	5.23

At 31 March 2015

Holding	Investment Manager	£000	%
Fixed Interest Securities			
UK Treasury Stock 2% 26/01/35	Royal London	18,578	21.25
Italy 4.5% 01/03/2024	BlackRock	12,451	14.24
Brazil 6% 15/08/22	BlackRock	9,515	10.88
Treasury Bd 15/11/44	BlackRock	7,390	8.45
Spain 5.150%	BlackRock	4,620	5.29
Equities			
		-	-
Index Linked Securities			
UK Treasury 1.875% IL 2022	Royal London	52,396	10.98
UK Treasury 0.75% IL 22/03/2034	Royal London	46,725	9.79
UK Treasury 0.50% IL 22/03/2050	Royal London	38,997	8.17
UK Treasury 2.5% I.L. 17/07/24	Royal London	35,027	7.34
UK Treasury 0.75% I.L. 22/11/47	Royal London	29,489	6.18
UK Treasury 0.125% I.L. 22/03/44	Royal London	28,668	6.01
UK Treasury 0.375% I.L. 22/03/62	Royal London	26,412	5.53
UK Treasury 0.25% I.L. 22/03/52	Royal London	25,174	5.27
UK Treasury 1.125% IL 22/11/2037	Royal London	25,141	5.27
Pooled Investment Vehicles			
BNYM Long Term Global Equity	BNY Mellon	355,519	25.53
AAM L and P World Equity	Aberdeen	343,880	24.70
Diversified Yield Plus	AllianceBernstein	330,169	23.71
BGF Global Corp	BlackRock	89,911	6.46

15. Financial Instruments

Classification of Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and Net Assets Statement heading:

2014-15			2015-16		
Fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Financial liabilities at amortised cost
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Restated					
Financial assets					
87,417			50,997		
234,213			211,866		
477,348			468,296		
1,392,430			1,487,500		
12,111			12,880		
	375			349	
	111,133			79,484	
	54,269			17,217	
14,151			15,681		
	11,181			10,581	
2,217,670	176,958	-	2,247,220	107,631	-
Financial liabilities					
-12,886			-17,785		
-37,354		-9,413	-9,734		-6,115
-50,240	-	-9,413	-27,519	-	-6,115
2,167,430	176,958	-9,413	2,219,701	107,631	-6,115
	2,334,975			2,321,217	
Net Assets at 31 March					

Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

31 March 2015		31 March 2016	
£000		£000	
Financial Assets			
179,582	Fair Value through profit and loss	-9,447	
10,678	Loans and receivables	-15,508	
Financial Liabilities			
-	Fair Value through profit and loss	-	
-	Loans and receivables	-	
-	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	
190,260	Total	-24,955	

Valuation of Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels according to quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

LEVEL 1

Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts. Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

LEVEL 2

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

LEVEL 3

Financial instruments at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions. The values of the investment in private equity are based upon valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity in which the Fund has invested. These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Valuations are usually undertaken annually.

The following tables provide analyses of the financial assets and liabilities of the Fund as at 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2015, grouped into Levels 1, 2 and 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	
Values at 31 March 2016	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,738,328	354,782	154,110	2,247,220
Loans and receivables	107,631	-	-	107,631
Total Financial Assets	1,845,959	354,782	154,110	2,354,851
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-9,734	-17,785	-	-27,519
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-6,115	-	-	-6,115
Total Financial Liabilities	-15,849	-17,785	-	-33,634
Net Financial Assets	1,830,110	336,997	154,110	2,321,217

	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	
Values at 31 March 2015	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,770,208	342,309	105,153	2,217,670
Loans and receivables	176,958	-	-	176,958
Total Financial Assets	1,947,166	342,309	105,153	2,394,628
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-37,354	-12,886	-	-50,240
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-9,413	-	-	-9,413
Total Financial Liabilities	-46,767	-12,886	-	-59,653
Net Financial Assets	1,900,399	329,423	105,153	2,334,975

16. Nature and Extent of Risk Arising From Financial Instruments

Risk and Risk Management

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

- i. **MARKET RISK** - the possibility that financial loss may arise for the Fund as a result of changes in, for example, interest rates movements;
- ii. **CREDIT RISK** - the possibility that other parties may fail to pay amounts due to the Fund;
- iii. **LIQUIDITY RISK** - the possibility that the Fund might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that its assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). The aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole fund portfolio. This is achieved through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The administering body manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management programme.

The Fund's assets are managed by a number of Investment Managers, as disclosed in Note 14. By dividing the management of the assets between a number of managers risk is further controlled. Asset allocation benchmarks have been set and performance is monitored relative to the benchmarks. This is to ensure the Investment Manager does not deviate from the Pension Fund Committee's investment strategy.

The Fund has appointed a Global Custodian that performs a range of services including collection of dividends and interest from the Investment Managers, administering corporate actions that the Pension Fund may join, dealing with taxation issues and proxy voting when requested. It also ensures that the settlement of purchases and sales of the Fund assets are completed. The Custodian has stringent risk management processes and controls. Client accounts are strictly segregated to ensure that the Fund assets are separately identifiable. Conservative investment practices are ensured by the Custodian where they invest cash collateral.

The Fund also employs a specialised service as an independent check to ensure that all dividends receivable are compared against those collected by the Custodian and that they were received on the due date; any discrepancies are investigated. In line with its Treasury Management Policy, Durham County Council as administering authority, invests the short term cash balances on behalf of the Pension Fund. Interest is paid over to the Fund on a quarterly basis.

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

i. MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in market prices, interest and foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities,

particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix. The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Fund and its investment advisers undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions. Risk exposure is limited by applying maximum exposure restrictions on individual investments to each Investment Manager's portfolio.

Other Price Risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments.

The Fund's Investment Managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Fund to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund Investment Strategy.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

In consultation with the Fund's investment advisers, an analysis of historical volatility and implied market volatility has been completed. From this, it has been determined that the potential market movements in market price risk, as shown in the following table, are reasonably possible for the 2015/16 reporting period. The analysis assumed that all other variables remain the same.

If the market price of the Fund investments were to increase/ decrease in line with these potential market movements, the value of assets available to pay benefits would vary as illustrated in the following table (the prior year comparator is also provided):

Manager	Asset type	Asset value at 31 March 2016 £000	Potential market movements %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Aberdeen	Global equity	339,124	18.8%	402,879	275,369
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	341,874	8.0%	369,224	314,524
BNYM	Global equity	364,837	18.8%	433,426	296,248
BlackRock	DAA	371,476	8.6%	403,423	339,529
CBRE	Unlisted property	154,110	14.1%	175,840	132,380
CBRE	Listed property	31,619	20.0%	37,943	25,295
Mondrian	Emerging market equity	147,296	29.9%	191,338	103,254
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	468,295	8.8%	509,505	427,085
Other	UK Equity	28	17.1%	33	23
	Loans	349	0.0%	349	349
	Cash	96,701	0.0%	96,701	96,701
	Net derivative assets	-4,905	0.0%	-4,905	-4,905
	Net investment balances	5,947	0.0%	5,947	5,947
Total change in net investment assets available		2,316,751		2,621,703	2,011,799

Manager	Asset type	Asset value at 31 March 2015 £000	Potential market movements %	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Aberdeen	Global equity	343,880	15%	395,462	292,298
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	330,169	6%	349,979	310,359
Barings	DAA	371	8%	401	341
BNYM	Global equity	355,519	15%	408,847	302,191
BlackRock	DAA	395,918	8%	427,591	364,245
CBRE	Unlisted property	105,153	12%	117,771	92,535
CBRE	Listed property	30,097	21%	36,417	23,777
Mondrian	Emerging market equity	152,799	23%	187,943	117,655
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	477,474	10%	525,221	429,727
Other	UK Equity	28	23%	34	22
	Loans	375	0%	375	375
	Cash	165,402	0%	165,402	165,402
	Net derivative liabilities	-775	0%	-775	-775
	Net investment balances	-23,203	0%	-23,203	-23,203
Total change in net investment assets available		2,333,207		2,591,465	2,074,949

Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the administering authority (as part of its Treasury Management Service for investment of surplus cash), its managers, custodian and investment advisers in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy. This includes monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks. During periods of falling interest rates and

where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns.

Interest Rate Risk - Sensitivity Analysis

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect income to the fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. The following table shows the fund's asset values having direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2016 and the effect of a +/- 50 BPS change in interest rates on the net assets available to pay benefits (assuming that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant). The prior year comparator is also provided:

Asset type	Asset Values at 31 March 2016 £000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+50 BPS £000	-50 BPS £000
Cash and cash equivalents	96,701	484	-484
Fixed interest securities	50,997	255	-255
Total change in net investment assets available	147,698	739	-739

Asset type	Asset Values at 31 March 2015 £000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+50 BPS £000	-50 BPS £000
Cash and cash equivalents	165,402	827	-827
Fixed interest securities	87,417	437	-437
Total change in net investment assets available	252,819	1,264	-1,264

Currency Risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than GBP (the functional currency of the Fund). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than GBP. The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Fund and its investment advisers in accordance with the fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

Currency Risk - Sensitivity Analysis

Having consulted with the Fund's independent investment advisers, the likely fluctuation associated with foreign exchange rate movements is expected to be 10% for developed market currencies and 15% in emerging market currencies. This is based upon the

adviser's analysis of long-term historical movements in the month end exchange rates of a broad basket of currencies against the pound. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

The following table exemplifies, by Investment Manager, to what extent a 10% (or 15% for emerging markets) strengthening/ weakening of the pound, against the various currencies in which the fund holds investments, would increase/ decrease the net assets available to pay benefits (the prior year comparator is also provided):

Manager	Currency exposure by asset type	Level of unhedged exposure	Total Volatility	Asset value at 31 March 16	Value on increase	Value on decrease
				£000	£000	£000
Aberdeen	Global Equity	100%	15%	339,124	389,993	288,255
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	0%	0%	341,874	341,874	341,874
BlackRock	DAA	100%	10%	364,837	401,321	328,353
BNYM	Global Equity	100%	15%	371,476	427,197	315,755
CBRE	Global Property	100%	10%	185,729	204,302	167,156
Mondrian	Emerging market equity	100%	15%	147,296	169,390	125,202
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	0%	0%	468,295	468,295	468,295
Other	UK Equity	0%	0%	28	28	28
	Loans	0%	0%	349	349	349
	Cash	0%	0%	96,701	96,701	96,701
	Net derivative assets	0%	0%	-4,905	-4,905	-4,905
	Net investment balances	0%	0%	5,947	5,947	5,947
Total change in net investment assets available				2,316,751	2,500,492	2,133,010

Manager	Currency exposure by asset type	Level of unhedged exposure	Total Volatility	Asset value at 31 March 15	Value on increase	Value on decrease
				£000	£000	£000
Aberdeen	Global Equity	94%	13%	343,880	388,584	299,176
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	0%	0%	330,169	330,169	330,169
Barings	DAA	2%	1%	371	375	367
BlackRock	DAA	5%	1%	355,519	359,074	351,964
BNYM	Global Equity	94%	13%	395,918	447,387	344,449
CBRE	Global Property	15%	2%	135,250	137,955	132,545
Mondrian	Emerging market equity	100%	19%	152,799	181,831	123,767
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	0%	0%	477,474	477,474	477,474
Other	UK Equity	0%	0%	28	28	28
	Loans	0%	0%	375	375	375
	Cash	0%	0%	165,402	165,402	165,402
	Net derivative assets	0%	0%	-775	-775	-775
	Net investment balances	0%	0%	-23,203	-23,203	-23,203
Total change in net investment assets available				2,333,207	2,464,676	2,201,738

ii. CREDIT RISK

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities. The Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk with the exception of the derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. The Fund minimises credit risk by undertaking transactions with a large number of high quality counterparties, brokers and institutions.

Investment Managers adopt procedures to reduce credit risk related to its dealings with counterparties on behalf of its clients. Before transacting with any counterparty, the Investment Manager evaluates both credit worthiness and reputation by conducting a credit analysis of the party, their business and reputation. The credit risk of approved counterparties is then monitored on an ongoing basis, including periodic reviews of financial statements and interim financial reports as required.

The Fund has sole responsibility for the initial and ongoing appointment of custodians. Uninvested cash held with the Custodian is a direct exposure to the balance sheet of the Custodian. Arrangements for investments held by the Custodian vary from market to market but the assets of the Fund are held in a segregated client account. As at 31 March 2016, this level of exposure to the Custodian is only 3.5% of the total value of the portfolio (4.8% as at 31 March 2015).

Surplus cash is invested by Durham County Council only with financial institutions which meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors' Credit Ratings Services. The Council's Investment Strategy sets out the maximum amounts and time limits in respect of deposits placed with each financial institution; deposits are not made unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria.

The Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk. No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Fund does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

The cash holding under its treasury management arrangements was £17.217m as at 31 March 2016 (£54.269m at 31 March 2015). This was held with the following institutions:

	Rating as at 31 March 2016	Balances £000	Rating as at 31 March 2015	Balances £000
Bank Deposit Accounts				
Handelsbanken	F1+	62	F1+	1,079
Barclays	F1	1,209	F1	7,991
Santander UK Plc	F1	94	F1	7,991
Fixed Term Deposits				
Royal Bank of Scotland	F1	1,612	F1	4,566
Barclays	F1	1,612	F1	-
Bank of Scotland	F1	4,836	F1	13,698
Nationwide Building Society	F1	2,014	F1	5,708
Goldman Sachs	F1	2,820	F1	6,849
UK Local Authorities	N/A	898		-
Income Bond				
National Savings & Investments	N/A	81	N/A	228
Other				
Money Market Funds	N/A	1,979	N/A	6,159
Total		17,217		54,269

iii. LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Steps are taken to ensure that the Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. Management prepares quarterly cash flow forecasts to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the Fund Investment Strategy and rebalancing policy.

The vast majority of the Fund's investments are readily marketable and may be easily realised if required. Some investments may be less easy to realise in a timely manner but the total value of these types of investments is not considered to have any adverse consequences for the Fund.

Durham County Council invests the cash balances of the Fund in line with its Treasury Management Policy and as agreed by the Pension Fund Committee. The Council manages its liquidity position to ensure that cash is available when needed, through the risk management procedures set out in the prudential indicators and treasury and investment strategy reports, and through a comprehensive cash flow management system.

Regulation 5 of The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009, gives Durham County Council a limited power to borrow on behalf of the Pension Fund for up to 90 days. The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need. This facility is only used to meet timing differences on pension payments and as they are of a short-term nature, exposure to credit risk is considered negligible.

17. Analysis of Debtors

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
1,467	Central government bodies	1,292
8,173	Other local authorities	6,930
15,692	Other entities and individuals	18,040
<u>25,332</u>	Total debtors	<u>26,262</u>
Included in the Net Assets Statement as:		
1,042	Long Term Assets	833
14,151	Other Investment Assets	15,681
10,139	Current Assets	9,748
<u>25,332</u>		<u>26,262</u>

The long term assets relate to the portion of the transfer value in from the Ministry of Justice for Magistrates' Courts staff which are repayable more than 12 months after the year end.

18. Analysis of Creditors

2014-15 £000		2015-16 £000
-799	Central government bodies	-815
-5,378	Other local authorities	-1,388
-40,590	Other entities and individuals	-13,646
<u>-46,767</u>	Total creditors	<u>-15,849</u>
Included in the Net Assets Statement as:		
-37,354	Investment Liabilities - Other balances	-9,734
-9,413	Current Liabilities	-6,115
<u>-46,767</u>		<u>-15,849</u>

Included in the amount due to other local authorities in 2014/15 was a provision of £4.008m for the transfer value paid to Tyne and Wear Pension Fund during 2015/16. This related to the group transfer of staff from the former Wear Valley District Council who are now employed by Gentoo.

All of the £15.849m is expected to be paid by the Pension Fund within 12 months after the year end.

19. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

AVCs are paid to the AVC provider by employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for individual contributors. The Pension Fund offers two types of AVC arrangement:

- Purchase of additional pension, which is invested as an integral part of the Fund's assets;
- Money purchase scheme, managed separately by Equitable Life, Standard Life and Prudential. AVCs may be invested in a range of different funds.

The following table refers only to the money purchase AVCs:

	Value at 31 March 2015 £000	* Purchases £000	Sales £000	Change in Market Value £000	Value at 31 March 2016 £000
Equitable Life	2,174	49	152	32	2,103
Prudential	3,849	1,131	406	35	4,609
Standard Life	1,819	389	424	-18	1,766
Total	7,842	1,569	982	49	8,478

* Purchases represent the amounts paid to AVC providers in 2015/16

The financial information relating to money purchase AVCs, as set out above, is not included in the Fund's Net Asset Statement or Fund Account in accordance with Regulation 5(2) c of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009.

20. Related Party Transactions

Related parties are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Pension Fund or to be controlled or influenced by the Pension Fund. Influence in this context is expressed in terms of a party:

- being potentially inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interests by virtue of the influence over its financial and operating policies; or
- actually subordinating its separate interests in relation to a particular transaction.

Related parties of the Pension Fund fall into three categories:

- Employer related
- Member related
- Key management personnel

a) EMPLOYER RELATED

There is a close relationship between an employer and the Pension Fund set up for its employees and therefore each participating employer is considered a related party. The following table details the nature of related party relationships.

Transaction	Description of the Financial Effect	Amount	
		2014/15	2015/16
Contributions receivable	Amounts receivable from employers in respect of contributions to the Pension Fund	£98.848m	£112.035m
Debtors	Amounts due in respect of employers and employee contributions	£8.859m	£8.146m
Creditors	Amounts due to the Administering Authority in respect of administration and investment management expenses	£1.370m	£1.388m
Administration & Investment Management Expenses	The administration, and a small proportion of the investment management, of the Pension Fund is undertaken by officers of the County Council. The Council incurred the following costs, including staff time, which have been subsequently reimbursed by the Fund	£1.370m	£1.388m
Long term loans	The Pension Fund made loans to Durham County Council prior to January 1974 which earn interest of between 5.75% and 9.875% pa of the outstanding balance, in addition to capital repayments	Loans outstanding £0.258m	Loans outstanding £0.239m
Investment Income	Part of the Pension Fund's cash holding is invested in money markets by Durham County Council. The average surplus cash balance and interest earned were:	Balance = £35.929m Interest = £0.155m	Balance = £51.289m Interest = £0.233m

b) MEMBER RELATED

Member related parties include:

- Members and their close families or households;
- companies and businesses controlled by the Members and their close families which have a financial contractual relationship with any of the organisations that contract with the Pension Fund.

Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council have a number of Members who are on the Pension Fund Committee. These Members are subjected to a declaration of interest circulation on an annual basis. Each Member of the Pension Fund Committee is also required to declare their interests at the start of each meeting. There were no material related party transactions between any Members or their families and the Pension Fund.

There are three Members of the Pension Fund Committee who are in receipt of pension benefits from Durham County Council Pension Fund; a further two Members are active members of the Pension Fund.

c) KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Related parties in this category include:

- key management i.e. senior officers and their close families;

- companies and businesses controlled by the key management of the Pension Fund or their close families.

Disclosure requirements for officer remuneration and members allowances can be found in the main accounts of Durham County Council.

There were no material related party transactions between any officers or their families and the Pension Fund.

21. Contingent Assets

a) PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS ON EQUAL PAY PAYMENTS

Originally equal pay settlements were not deemed to be pensionable however, an element of choice has since been introduced. Individuals can choose to have their settlements considered to be pensionable. This provision has now been added to the agreements that individuals with pending equal pay settlements sign.

There is no certainty that an individual will pay pension contributions on their Equal Pay settlement. The agreements signed by individuals are 'open-ended' in that an individual's ability to determine their settlement as 'pensionable' is not time limited, so the timing of any liability to pay contributions are not certain. The level of contributions likely to be received by the Pension Fund, are unlikely to have a material effect on the Pension Fund Accounts.

b) FOREIGN INCOME DIVIDENDS (FIDs)

The Pension Fund is involved in claims for tax reclaims due to EC Legislation. The outcome of the Court cases will determine the reclaim of taxes, neither the amount of income nor the timing of the income is certain.

Up until 1 July 1997 UK Pension Funds were entitled, under UK tax law, to reclaim tax credits attaching to dividends received from UK resident companies. However, Pension Funds which received dividends designated by UK companies as FIDs, or dividends received from overseas companies, were not entitled to a refundable tax credit. Since UK sourced dividends came with a 20 percent tax credit, the net investment income return from UK companies paying such dividends was significantly higher than UK companies paying FIDs or dividends from overseas companies, for which no credit was available. As a result there was a disincentive for Pension Funds to invest in such companies.

The UK tax law which gave rise to these consequences was arguably contrary to EU law, notably Article 56EC, in that it treated UK Pension Funds investing directly into overseas companies, or UK companies paying FIDs, less favourably than UK companies paying ordinary dividends.

The legal arguments to support the strongest element of the FID and Manninen type claims (for EU sourced dividends and FIDs) are considered to be very good. The points in

issue are currently being considered at the High Court via a Group Litigation Order containing over 65 UK Pension Funds, including Durham County Council Pension Fund.

c) WITHHOLDING TAX (WHT) CLAIMS

Pension funds, investment funds and other tax exempt bodies across Europe have in recent years been pursuing claims against a number of EU Member States for the recovery of withholding taxes suffered on EU sourced dividend income. These claims were made in the light of the Fokus Bank (Case E-1/04) ruling in December 2004 on the grounds that the WHT rules of those Member States are in breach of the free movement of capital principle of the EC Treaty. The legal arguments used to support Fokus claims are strong and rely on existing case law. The EU Commission announced that it is taking action against a number of member states which operate discriminatory rules regarding the taxation of outbound dividends.

A test case in the Netherlands on behalf of a number of UK pension funds was successful and in January 2009 notification from the Dutch Tax Authorities was received that the claims brought by the test claimant for the recovery of withholding taxes going back to 2003 had been accepted and would be repaid in the near future. Following the ruling in the Netherlands which essentially states that the Dutch tax authorities should not have levied a “withholding tax” (WHT) on dividend payments to tax exempt bodies (such as UK pension funds) located within the European Union but outside the Netherlands, a similar process for reclaiming WHT in other EU Member States is now on-going.

As a result of a precedent for the change in WHT has been set by the Netherlands, other Member States have now reduced the level of WHT of non-residents; recovery is therefore probable, but the timing and amount of income is uncertain.

22. Funding Arrangements

In line with the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008, the Fund’s independent qualified actuary undertakes a funding valuation every 3 years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last full valuation took place as at 31 March 2013. The next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2016.

The key elements of the funding policy are to:

- ensure the long term solvency of the fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment;
- ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible;
- minimise the long term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return;
- reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where the administering authority considers it reasonable to do so;

- use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately the taxpayer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

At the 31 March 2013 actuarial valuation, the Fund was assessed as being 84% funded (80% at 31 March 2010). This corresponded to a deficit of £379.2m (£418.1m at 31 March 2010).

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 18 years and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. The required level of contributions to be paid into the Fund by participating bodies (in aggregate) with effect from 1 April 2014 is 13.7% of pensionable pay plus additional monetary amounts of £24.3m in 2014/15 and increasing by 3.9% p.a. thereafter. (In 2013/14 the aggregate employer contribution rate was 13.1% of pensionable pay plus an additional sum of £29.9m).

The key assumptions used by the actuary to calculate the past service liabilities and the cost of future benefit accrual are set out in the following table:

	Valuation as at 31 March 2013	Valuation as at 31 March 2010
Financial Assumptions		
Discount rate for periods in service	5.4% pa	6.8% pa
Discount rate for periods after leaving service	5.4% pa	6.8% pa
Rate of revaluation of pension accounts	2.4% pa	n/a
Rate of pension increases on:		
- non Guaranteed Minimum Pensions	2.4% pa	3.3% pa
- post 1988 Guaranteed Minimum Pensions	2.0% pa	2.7% pa
Pensionable pay increase	3.9% pa	5.3% pa
Demographic Assumptions		
Post-retirement mortality assumption (normal health) - base table	SAPS normal tables with scaling factors of 105% for men and women	SAPS normal tables with scaling factors of 105% for men and women
Post-retirement mortality assumption - future improvements	CMI 2012 core projections with long annual improvement rate of 1.5%	CMI 2012 core projections with long annual improvement rate of 1.25%
Retirement cash sum	Each member is assumed to surrender pension on retirement, so total cash received is 80% of the maximum amount permitted	Each member assumed to exchange 80% of their future service pension rights and 60% of their past service pension rights for additional lump sum of the maximum amount permitted

23. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The CIPFA Code of Practice indicates that Pension Fund accounts should disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits as set out in the accounting

standard IAS 26 and that the actuarial present value should be calculated on assumptions set in accordance with IAS 19 rather than on funding assumptions (set out in Note 22 to these accounts).

The Pension Fund Accounts do not take account of the liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future. Instead, as permitted under IAS 26, the Pension Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of this note to the accounts. This requires the actuarial valuation of the liabilities on an IAS 19 basis to be prepared at triennial valuations only, the most recent being as at 31 March 2013.

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits has been calculated based on projected salaries and is included in the table below. The corresponding fair value of Fund Assets is also shown to indicate the level of deficit within the Fund when the liabilities are valued using IAS 19 assumptions. The figures for 2010 are provided for comparison purposes.

	Value as at 31 March 2013 £m	Value as at 31 March 2010 £m
Fair value of net assets	2,085	1,682
Actuarial present value of the promised retirement benefits	2,905	2,833
Surplus / -deficit in the Fund as measured for IAS26 purposes	-820	-1,151

As the liabilities above are calculated on an IAS 19 basis, they differ from those calculated for the triennial valuation because different assumptions are applied. The main IAS19 assumptions used are as follows:

	31 March 2013 (% p.a.)	31 March 2010 (% p.a.)
Discount rate	4.4	5.5
RPI Inflation	3.4	3.9
CPI Inflation	2.4	3.0
Rate of increase to pensions in payment *	2.4	3.9
Rate of increase to deferred pensions *	2.4	3.9
Rate of general increase in salaries **	3.9	5.4

* In excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension increases in payment where appropriate

** In addition, we have allowed for the same age related promotional salary scales as used in the actuarial valuation of the Fund at the appropriate date

24. Funding Strategy Statement

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require administering authorities to prepare a Funding Strategy Statement. The Funding Strategy Statement has been adopted by the Pension Fund Committee and is published in the Durham County Council Pension Fund Annual Report, a copy of which is available on the County Council's website at durham.gov.uk. The Funding Strategy Statement has been reviewed and updated by the Pension Fund Committee during 2015/16.

The purpose of the Funding Strategy Statement is to:

- establish a clear and transparent fund specific strategy which will identify how employers' pension liabilities are best met going forward;
- support the regulatory requirement to maintain as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible;
- take a prudent longer term view of funding the Fund's liabilities.

25. Statement of Investment Principles

In accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Amendment) Regulations 2009, the Pension Fund has prepared and reviewed a written statement of its investment policy. This statement has been adopted by the Pension Fund Committee and is published in the Durham County Council Pension Fund Annual Report, a copy of which is available on the Council's website at durham.gov.uk. The Statement of Investment Principles sets out the principles for investing Fund monies. It was reviewed by the Pension Fund Committee during 2015/16.

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Durham County 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.
2. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to prepare an Annual Governance Statement, which must accompany the Statement of Accounts. 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.
3. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
4. In January 2015, the Council approved, adopted and published on its website, a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”.
5. This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6 (1) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

6. The governance framework comprises of 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 for the people of County Durham.
7. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve

policies, aims and objectives and 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.

8. The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2016 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

9. The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance arrangements are detailed in the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is documented in the Council's [Constitution](#). This sets out the key documents and processes that determine the way the Council is directed and controlled to meet the six core principles of the CIPFA/ SOLACE Framework.
10. The following sections demonstrate assurance that the Council has complied with each of these principles in practice, and also highlights where we have further improved our corporate governance arrangements during 2015/16.

The Six Principles of Good Governance

Principle 1: Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

11. The [Sustainable Community Strategy \(SCS\) 2014 – 2030](#) which has been produced by the Council in conjunction with its partners on the County Durham Partnership, demonstrates its shared long-term vision for the future of County Durham. This vision for County Durham, namely 'Altogether Better Durham' outlines two areas of focus – **Altogether Better Place** and **Altogether Better for People** and five priority themes, which represent the major issues identified by residents:
 - Altogether wealthier – focusing on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of all our plans. This theme is supported by the [Regeneration Statement 2012 – 2022](#) and the [County Durham Plan](#);
 - Altogether better for children and young people – ensuring children and young people are kept safe from harm and that they can 'believe, achieve and

succeed'. This theme is supported by the [Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015 - 2018](#);

- Altogether healthier – improving health and wellbeing, supported by the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 - 2019](#);
- Altogether greener – ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges. This theme is supported by the [County Durham Plan](#);
- Altogether safer – creating a safer and cohesive county, supported by the [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015 - 2018](#) and the [Police and Crime Plan 2015 - 2017](#).

12. The SCS was renewed and launched in November 2014 and identified six new areas of cross-thematic focus that will benefit from additional joined up working: Job Creation, Volunteering, Inequalities, Alcohol, Mental Wellbeing and Think Family. The 2014 version of the strategy reflects changes in local priorities and the need to deliver services with fewer resources. The strategy will undergo a substantial review during 2016/17.
13. The County Durham Partnership, which is the strategic partnership for the County, is made up of key public, private and voluntary sector partners, and is underpinned by thematic partnerships set around the five priority themes. Operationally, it is supported by the Delivery and Improvement Group, whose role is to monitor performance towards implementing the SCS, and consider strategically how plans align and where efficiencies and value can be maximised through integration, shared services and joint commissioning.
14. The [Council Plan 2016 - 2019](#) was approved in April 2016 and contains the Council's corporate priorities and the key actions to take in support of delivering the longer term goals in the SCS and the Council's own improvement agenda. The [Council Plan](#) is supported by a series of Service Plans at a Service Grouping level which detail the planned actions to deliver the Council's vision.
15. The [Medium Term Financial Plan 2016 - 2019 \(MTFP\)](#) was approved by the Council in February 2016. This provides a financial framework associated with the [Council Plan](#) that enables members and officers to ensure policy initiatives can be planned for delivery within available resources and can be aligned to priority outcomes. It also enables the continued provision of value for money (VFM). The key risk facing the Council continues to be the challenge of managing unprecedented budget reductions in the current period of economic austerity. To meet this challenge, a comprehensive schedule of savings targets has been programmed to achieve the necessary savings to enable us to deliver a balanced budget and [MTFP](#). Assurance over the delivery of this programme is gained by detailed and frequent monitoring undertaken by Corporate Management Team

(CMT) and, during the five years up to the end of March 2016, a sum of £153m of savings has been delivered. These arrangements will equip the Council well for dealing with further austerity measures announced as part of the latest central government spending review. The Council has maintained prudent levels of reserves enabling us to meet unanticipated expenditure as necessary whilst still achieving planned savings targets and meeting service level expectations.

16. Despite sustained, large-scale Government spending cuts and rising demand for services, the MTFP seeks to deliver some very positive outcomes for the people of County Durham. Significant capital investment in town centres and industrial estates will support regeneration, the Council's highest priority, in order to protect existing jobs and create new ones. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme provides continued support for low-income, working age households; and ongoing work with partners aims to maximise health and social care funds for the benefit of vulnerable people.
17. In April 2014, the Council submitted the County Durham Plan to the Government and this was followed by an examination in public. After the Planning Inspector's Report rejected the plan, the council challenged the report, which was subsequently quashed by the High Court. Following discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Planning Inspectorate, legal advice was sought and the Council decided to undertake a three stage process in preparation of a new local plan, which will also ensure meaningful engagement with the community and other stakeholders. In the meantime, members have endorsed a revised Policy Position Statement to clarify how development proposals will be handled to ensure that appropriate sustainable development is not delayed.
18. To manage and measure service improvement, the Council has a locally led performance management framework that links to the SCS and the [Council Plan](#) and ensures that attention is focused on Council priorities. Key target indicators are used in areas where improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the Council and its partners. Where possible, performance is compared with that of other Councils using a recognised, online tool. A new indicator set and targets were developed for 2015/16 to ensure that our efforts continue to be focused on the right areas, and these were agreed by Cabinet in June 2015.
19. There are numerous examples of internally-driven improvements during 2015/16 that evidence the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements:-
 - Successful transfer of ownership of the Council's housing stock to the new County Durham Housing Group Ltd in April 2015, representing a significant opportunity to increase investment in homes, local neighbourhoods and housing services to further improve the lives of tenants;
 - Established localised, multi-disciplinary 'Families First' teams to help children, young people and their families achieve and maintain good progress;

- Increased self-serve facilities, allowing people to access more services through our website on a 24/7 basis;
- A new mobile-friendly website, Locate, provides an improved directory of vital care and support services, replacing the Durham Information Guide;
- Effectively managed the reductions in library opening hours, rather than closing them, in response to consultation with service users;
- Refurbishment of three waste transfer stations giving improved recycling facilities and more scope to recycle.

20. Assurance can also be taken from the following external independent sources that, through good governance, the Council continues to maintain and improve the quality of services:-

- An assessment of leisure centres against the QUEST quality standard.
- The Strategic Waste Team's management of seven former landfill sites and 11 closed landfill sites is regulated by the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water;
- A programme of independent audits evaluates, for accreditation or certification, activities such as asset management, safety management and collaborative business relationships.

21. During the year, an inspection of children's services and a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board were undertaken by Ofsted under their single inspection framework. A Quality Improvement Board, which had already been established to oversee quality assurance developments in Children's Services, will also provide strategic oversight of the Ofsted implementation plan.

22. The Council continues to seek value for money (VFM) through its high level objective 'effective use of resources' under the Altogether Better Council theme. In this way, pursuit of VFM is built into all of the Council's plans and activities, and numerous reviews have been undertaken across the Council to provide assurance that VFM services are being provided. Senior Management Teams have used benchmarking data from statutory returns, such as budget statements collected by the Department for Education and the Personal Social Services Expenditure Return, to inform programmes of VFM reviews and savings options in various service areas. Where necessary, this has been supplemented by data from commercial benchmarking clubs, such as Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), to facilitate meaningful comparisons with other organisations. The results of these benchmarking exercises demonstrate that the Council compares favourably against other Councils in the majority of cases. Nevertheless, in the context of continuous improvement, the Council assesses any weaknesses identified from these exercises where improvements in performance can be achieved. Independent assurance of our VFM was also gained from our External Auditor, who issued an unqualified VFM conclusion for our 2015/16 Accounts.

23. The Council's Cabinet is responsible for monitoring performance and ensures that effective arrangements are put in place to deal with any failures in service delivery. Assurance is gained through quarterly performance reporting to Cabinet and through performance clinics between the Chief Executive and individual Corporate Directors and the Assistant Chief Executive during the year. Members have robustly scrutinised the performance of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key scrutiny reviews of Council services during 2015/16, which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#).
24. The Annual Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee in September 2015, taking account of the views of the External Auditor, in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. Further independent assurance of the Council's financial management was provided by the External Auditor in both their Audit Completion Report and Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report. Governance reviews are also led by Services, such as the quality assurance team in Children and Adults Services, who carried out a number of audits during the year.
25. To enable better use of resources, the Council has made the following changes:
- A new banking service was implemented in December 2015, following the previous supplier's withdrawal from the local authority market in 2014;
 - Chapter Homes established as an arms-length private company to develop council-owned land for housing to be sold and rented at market values. This is in line with the overall aim to capitalise on our assets in order to improve our economic performance and the prospects of our people;
 - Ensuring all contracts contain clauses requiring providers to have appropriate procedures in place to prevent unlawful discrimination in employment.
26. A programme management approach for key corporate projects is embedded, supported by project management training across the Council. Examples which demonstrate that rigorous programme management has enabled effective delivery of major projects include the transfer of Community Buildings, the Housing Stock Transfer, the new banking contract and a two year, £3.4 million programme of repairs to Seaham North Pier. Assurance is gained by regular monitoring of the delivery of these projects by Corporate Management Team.
27. The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) and Property Strategy were approved by Cabinet in July 2013. The CAMP sets out the Council's approach to ensuring that it makes best use of its assets in terms of service benefit, financial benefit and value for money. The Property Strategy sets out the main principles to ensure that opportunities to share the use of property are identified, and to make sure that assets are fit for purpose, cost effective and used to support regeneration and economic development. The Council is now a forerunner in asset transfer,

having successfully assigned a number of leisure centres, a golf course and children's centres to community organisations. The recently completed community buildings programme was one of six national winners in the Carnegie Trust's Enabling State Awards and was described as ground-breaking and innovative. A key element of the programme is to work with local communities and our partners to consider alternative ways of continuing to provide front line services.

28. Service Asset Management Plans are also in place and these include any heritage assets of the holding service

Principle 2: Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

28. The key governance documents supporting this principle are contained in the [Constitution](#). These arrangements are further strengthened by a number of formal member and officer working groups.
29. The [Constitution](#) sets out how the Executive is made up and how appointments to this committee are made. The roles and responsibilities allocated by the Leader under the terms of the [Constitution](#), to individual members and the committee as a whole, are set out in detail in the [Constitution](#) as well as the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers. The [Constitution](#) allows joint arrangements to be established for specific purposes such as the provision and maintenance of crematoria, and sets out details of existing joint arrangements, including purpose, parties and effective dates.
30. The Constitution Working Group, which consists of the lead members of each political party, and is chaired by the Leader of the Council, proposed amendments to the [Constitution](#) during the year which were approved by the Council. Changes following the annual review of the [Constitution](#) were approved by the Council in May 2016.
31. The arrangements and rules of procedure for the Overview and Scrutiny function, including the membership, functions and scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and each Committee is set out in detail in the [Constitution](#). Terms of Reference for the Board and Committees are set within the context of the [Council Plan](#) and the [Sustainable Community Strategy](#).
32. Under the terms of the [Constitution](#), the Council elected a Leader and made appointments to a number of committees with various regulatory and scrutiny responsibilities. The Leader has nominated nine other councillors, including a Deputy Leader, with specific responsibilities to form the Cabinet.

33. The Health and Wellbeing Board, a Committee of the Council, was established as a consequence of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Public Health responsibilities also transferred to the Council from the NHS with effect from April 2013. Its functions include:
- Developing and agreeing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Promoting integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of people in its area; and
 - Developing a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
34. An example of members and officers working together is the Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) assessing capital bids in the development of the MTFP. Bid submissions were considered taking key factors account, such as the Service Grouping's assessment of priority, availability of capital financing and whether schemes could be self-financing. MOWG also recognised the need for caution in committing to high levels of prudential borrowing at this stage for future years.
35. A new Chief Executive was appointed following the retirement of the previous post-holder. The process was overseen by the Chief Officer Appointments Committee, which is made up of 11 Members of the Council including the Leader and Deputy Leader who are Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The decision was approved in October 2015 by full council, in line with the Council's Constitution.
36. The Council has appointed the Corporate Director Resources as Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer to fulfil the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010). The Chief Financial Officer, who is a member of the CMT and reports directly to the Chief Executive, has been involved in all CMT discussions, and has reviewed all reports to Cabinet which have financial implications. The Chief Financial Officer has also provided an opinion under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the reserves for the Council, which Members considered when setting the budget.
37. The Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services with professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services. The Council completed a Local Test of Assurance (LTA) in accordance with statutory guidance, and this was reported to Audit Committee in September 2015. The purpose of the LTA is to ensure that the focus on outcomes for children and young people is not weakened or diluted as a result of combining this statutory role with other functions.

38. The new Chief Executive progressed plans to implement, during 2016, a revised chief officer structure to reflect the challenges faced by the Council whilst building on existing organisational strengths.
39. Members and Officers work together on the work programme of the Cabinet which is managed through a system of Cabinet pre-agenda meetings. To support this, Corporate Directors have held regular briefing sessions with Cabinet Portfolio Members and their support Members.
40. Members' remuneration is overseen by an independent panel, and their report was approved by Council in October 2015.

Principle 3: Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

41. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#), the [Council Plan](#) and the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.
42. The Standards Committee has the key governance role of promoting and monitoring high standards of conduct by elected Members, independent Members and co-opted Members. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and an ethical framework was adopted accordingly.
43. In terms of disclosure of gifts, hospitality and interests, assurance is gained over Member declarations and registrations by the Monitoring Officer maintaining and monitoring the Register of Gifts, Interests and Hospitality for Members, which is available online. Staff declarations are maintained and monitored by their Head of Service. An Internal Audit report recommending improved arrangements for maintaining registers was approved by Corporate Management Team in March 2015.
44. A climate of openness has been encouraged by the Council Leader who holds regular Cabinet meetings at various locations throughout County Durham. The key elements of the Council's approach to communicating and embedding the expected standards of behaviour for Members and staff are also detailed in the Council [Constitution](#). The Council's Codes of Conduct included in the [Constitution](#) also apply to its partnership working, and the revised Code of Conduct for Employees was approved by Corporate Management Team in September 2014. The [Constitution](#) also sets out a protocol for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council that includes an expectation of political neutrality and acting as the conscience of the Council.

45. The values of the Council are further promoted in the [Equality Policy](#), which was approved in January 2014 and includes 'protected characteristics' covered by the Equality Act. Supporting this scheme is an impact assessment process, which ensures that the impact on equality is considered in the Council's decision making. For example, the proposals in the 2016/17 MTFP strategy have been shaped by residents' and stakeholders' views with high level analysis of the equalities impact. A schedule of impact assessments is monitored through the Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Working Group. The implementation of the Access Strategy is monitored by the Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Working Group and a programme is in place for making access improvements to identified priority buildings.
46. During 2014/15, a new CCTV Policy and Code of Practice were implemented to improve the way the Council uses its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Principle 4: Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

47. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#); the [Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure](#); the Risk Management Strategy and Policy; the [Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy](#); and the [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#).
48. The Council's [Constitution](#) sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures followed to ensure that these are effective, transparent and accountable to local people. Amendments made to the Constitution during the year include updated officer scheme of delegations, the inclusion of a civic handbook and an update to the Members' Allowance Scheme.
49. All major decisions as identified in the officer delegations scheme are documented, with the reports and decisions made for those that are in the public domain being available on the website. All Cabinet reports must state that legal advice on proposals has been sought, as well as the source of the advice, and Chief Officers and Heads of Service were briefed on this by way of a refresher in February 2014 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
50. The following improvements to governance arrangements in this area were implemented during the year:-
- The complaints process was modified to resolve issues more quickly and informally with service groupings taking the lead in resolving matters, allowing the corporate complaints unit to focus on investigating cases where people are not satisfied with the handling of their complaint;

- An internal audit of the Officer Scheme of Delegations concluded that there is a sound system of control with only minor risk to achieving system objectives; and
 - As a positive response to the Local Government Transparency Code, a transparency and accountability web page was set up.
51. A notice of key decisions covering a rolling period of four months is published on the Council's website. Decisions made by the Executive are published on the Council's website within two days of the respective meeting.
52. The key mechanism provided for employees, and contractors and suppliers providing services for the Council, to raise concerns about potential breaches of conduct in decision-making is the [Confidential Reporting Code \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#), which is part of the Council's [Constitution](#), and is monitored by the Audit Committee. The policy is referenced in the Scheme of Financing of Schools, and the School Financial Value Standard requires schools to have appropriate whistleblowing procedures. A revised [Confidential Reporting Code](#) was approved by Audit Committee in May 2014. An updated [Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy and Fraud Response Plan](#) were approved by Audit Committee in February 2016. In June 2015, the Council established the Corporate Fraud Team to further strengthen its robust counter fraud arrangements, demonstrated by examples such as the development of proactive processes to identify and tackle suspicious insurance claims have been implemented during the year.
53. Overview and Scrutiny, which consists of an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and six committees, has the key role to make decision-making processes transparent, accountable and inclusive and to improve services for people by being responsive to their needs. Where appropriate, Members have scrutinised the decisions of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key reviews which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#). They also contributed to a number of consultations and policy development areas, such as:
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
 - Housing Strategy; and
 - Flood Risk Management Authorities flood mitigation plans for County Durham.
54. A number of key in-depth evidence based reviews have also been carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:
- Attendance Management;
 - CRM system development and implementation; and
 - Alcohol and the demand upon Emergency services.

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55. The Council has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation on governance and council planning.
56. As part of the annual review of the [Constitution](#), the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Committees were updated to reflect the refresh of the co-optee appointments. This demonstrates that the work of Overview and Scrutiny contributes to the strategic priorities of the Council and its partners, and reflects the legislative requirements placed on the Council in respect of scrutiny arrangements.
57. With regard to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, key points to note include:
- The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been conferred with the Council's powers of review and scrutiny in respect of NHS Service changes in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012;
 - Cross party representation on all Overview and Scrutiny Committees serves to promote an independent, non-partisan approach in their activities;
 - A Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils formally engages and responds to proposals to reconfigure emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
58. The Police and Crime Panel, which includes councillors from Durham County Council and from Darlington Borough Council, scrutinises the annual report, decisions and actions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). In March 2015, the Panel approved the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2015 – 2017. An update on activity from the Panel is presented to each meeting of the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
59. The Council's Monitoring Officer oversees the arrangements for conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality. Members are required to review their declarations of gifts and hospitality annually. Officers and members are required to declare annually any conflicts of interest.
60. The Council's decision-making processes are also supported by:
- A risk management strategy and policy;
 - An Audit Committee with responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the risk, control and governance processes and associated assurance processes; and
 - The Council ensuring that it complies with legal requirements in its decision making by ensuring that all reports requiring a decision include the legal

implications, report authors confirming that they have obtained legal advice on proposals contained in reports, and the source of that legal advice.

61. An Audit Charter, which was approved in line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PIAS), is in place. The Council's self-assessment against both the principles of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit and the PIAS, which were presented to Audit Committee in June 2014, illustrates a high degree of compliance.
62. A Corporate Complaints policy is in place for non-statutory complaints, and details of complaints, and of investigations by the Commissioner for Local Administration, have been reported to Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
63. A Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy and Publication Scheme are in place, and details of how to make a FOI request for information can be found on the Council's website.
64. To strengthen the Council's arrangements for maintaining good-quality information, a number of further improvements to governance in this area have been implemented in 2015/16. For example:
 - The Assistant Chief Executive was designated Senior Information Risk Officer and holds regular meetings with the Head of Planning and Performance, Head of ICT Services and the Council's designated Caldicott Guardian;
 - An online Data Protection Act training module was developed, which the majority of officers had completed by April 2015;
 - Data protection arrangements regarding data sharing were improved through standardised subject access requests, improved use of privacy impact assessments and a rolling programme of audits. A privacy impact assessment process was agreed and successfully piloted in September 2015.

Principle 5: Developing the capacity and capability of Members and Officers to be effective

65. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the Constitution; the Member Learning and Development Strategy; Organisational Development Strategy; Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy; and the Recruitment and Selection Policy.
66. The Council is committed to continually reviewing the development needs of Members and Officers.

67. Our approach to Member development is outlined in the Member Learning and Development Strategy, and the Member Learning and Development Policy, both of which were revised in October 2014. Induction training was provided for new Members elected during 2015/16 and individual training and development plans exist for all Members.
68. The Council continues to be a member of the North East Public Service Academy, which promotes excellence in learning across the public sector. Improvements to further develop the capacity and capability of officers during the year include:
- Numerous developments aimed at helping employees to meet the challenges of sustained reductions in finance and the consequent widespread changes in policy and service delivery;
 - The “The Durham Manager” programme continues to be evaluated, developed and promoted to support managers in meeting the changing needs of the organisation. Recent training courses include project; management, ‘succeeding through change’ and ‘difficult conversations’;
 - Resources Management Team agreed a three-year e-learning strategy in December 2015 following evaluation of the current process. This enables more training to be delivered on-line, ranging from corporate induction to recognising and managing stress in the workplace;
 - The processes for undertaking appraisals after a restructure were reinforced, including the rollout of the Business Intelligence module;
 - Training and development is promoted regularly in the Buzz magazine, through employee updates and via the intranet.
69. A revised corporate Health and Safety policy was launched in May 2014, and a revised Health and Safety and Wellbeing strategy was issued in June 2014. Independent assurance over the effectiveness of the Council’s Occupational Health Service was demonstrated when it was awarded Safe, Effective, Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS) accreditation, which is the formal recognition that it has demonstrated the competence to deliver against the measures in the SEQOHS Standards developed by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. The Council also continues to support employees through the change process with, for example, Jobcentre Plus information sessions and confidential counselling services through the Employee Assistance Programme.
70. The Council continued to drive improvements in employee attendance with support for both employees and management through targeted health and wellbeing initiatives, training and changes to processes. The Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of attendance management, which was reported to Cabinet in December 2015. The new Attendance Management Policy focuses on rehabilitation to support attendance at work and the main changes include early

intervention with assistance from Occupational Health and a revised procedure for managing short-term absences.

71. The Council has taken steps, in consultation with various organisations, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to improve arrangements around managing water safety. A new Open Water Safety Policy was implemented following consultation with the Council's Water Safety Group and the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategic Group.

Principle 6: Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

72. The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#); the [Consultation and Engagement Strategy](#); and the County Durham Partnership Community Engagement and Empowerment Framework.
73. As the strategic partnership for the County, the County Durham Partnership (CDP) is the lead umbrella partnership for most other partnerships in County Durham, and the Leader of the Council is the chair of the CDP. The Council's relationships with partners are managed through the Partnership Governance Framework. There are several examples of effective partnership working by the Council, including County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP). The EU Investment Plan was created through the CDEP and used to inform the strategic approach developed through the Strategic Economic Plan and North East European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy for the effective use of funds to address Durham priorities. Clarity on relationships between the Council and these partners is provided through the County Durham Economic Partnership governance prospectus.
74. There were two significant developments around strategic partnership working in 2015/16. Firstly, the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership was established to ensure that Durham's support for refugees placed in the county is joined up and will promote cross-service and agency working, as well as engagement with communities. The partnership is led by the Council and will also look to work with churches, the voluntary sector and other partners. Secondly, a newly-established Chief Officer Group provides support and oversight to chief officers across all statutory agencies of the safeguarding arrangements for children and adults services. The Group has an independent Chair and includes officers from the Council, NHS and the Police.
75. The Council's approach to engaging stakeholders is outlined in the [Consultation and Engagement Strategy](#). This is complemented by the County Durham Partnership Community Engagement and Empowerment framework, which has shaped and supported a common vision and approach for community engagement

by partners in County Durham. The County Durham Compact provides a framework for partnership and engagement with the voluntary and community sector, and most partners within the County Durham Partnership are signatories. E-learning on the Compact has been delivered to partners and [VCS](#) organisations. Attendance by the public at Council meetings and the protocols for asking questions are contained in the [Constitution](#).

76. Three examples of active consultation and engagement with the public follow. Firstly, the consultation process for refreshing the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy involved a range of stakeholders and included a 'Big Tent' engagement event, which was attended by over 260 people. Secondly, the Council continued to work with community groups to explore opportunities for the transfer of council assets so that they can be sustainable into the future through the 'Durham Ask' initiative. Thirdly, the Council took account of a poll of County Durham voters, to inform its approach to the proposed Devolution Agreement for the North East Combined Authority. Advertisements informing residents of the poll were placed in the local press and ran on local radio, generating a significant amount of interest with a turnout of 21.7%. The agreement, if signed, would devolve significant powers, funding and responsibilities around transport, investment, jobs, skills, housing and business support.
77. The Council has a strong commitment to working with partners to meet the needs of its communities. There are 14 [Area Action Partnerships \(AAPs\)](#) in place across the County, who are each governed by a board comprising members of the public, partner organisations and elected Councillors. These are multi-agency partnerships that are fully engaged with the community in identifying and addressing local priorities, and utilise locality budgets to drive improvements to the local area.
78. Through its partnership governance framework, the Council has gained assurance that:
 - Members are clear about their roles and responsibilities both individually and collectively in relation to the partnership and to the authority;
 - there is clarity about the legal status of the partnership; and
 - representatives or organisations both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions.
79. Customer service arrangements have improved significantly. The Council's Customer First Strategy, which aims to put people at the heart of everything the Council does, continues to transform the way in which our residents, visitors, businesses and partners access our services. A new Customer Relationship Management System was procured to support the delivery of the strategy and its implementation and benefits will be monitored by Cabinet. The new system will

build on progress made with the launch of the new website in October 2014 to provide further automated transactions and enhanced service information, reducing unnecessary direct customer contact. Since October 2014, the average number of visits to the site is over 290,000 per month with the most popular pages including traffic cameras, job vacancies and planning applications.

80. The Council continues to engage with employees with positive and productive outcomes. February's employee roadshows were attended by around 850 people, many of whom took the opportunity to raise issues directly with the new chief executive. Also, more than 2,000 employees took part in an internal communications survey at the end of 2015. Almost 75 per cent said they would 'always' or 'mostly' speak highly of the council, which is above the national average across all business sectors. The information collected is now being used to improve internal communications, with further work being done to give employees more opportunities to have a say on council issues. Finally, in response to a staff suggestion through the Open Doors scheme, opening hours at the council's main headquarters were temporarily extended to help employees avoid peak traffic times and, in this way, reduce the impact on commuters during repairs to Durham City's Milburngate Bridge.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

81. The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the senior managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.
82. Maintaining the effectiveness of the corporate governance framework involves the key Member and Officer roles outlined below, namely:
- The Executive;
 - Chief Financial Officer;
 - Monitoring Officer;
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - Standards Committee;
 - Audit Committee.

83. The Council's Constitution sets out the governance roles and responsibilities of these functions. In addition:
- The Corporate Director Resources co-ordinates and oversees the Council's corporate assurance arrangements by:
 - Preparing and maintaining the Council's Code of Corporate Governance as a formal framework for the Council's governance arrangements;
 - Reviewing the systems, processes and documentation to determine whether they meet the requirements of this Code, reporting any breaches and recommending improvements;
 - Preparing an Annual Governance Statement to demonstrate how far the Council complies with the principles of good governance and recommending improvements.
 - Internal and External Audit provide independent assurance on the effectiveness of the corporate governance framework.
84. The review was also informed by a statement provided by each Corporate Director and the Assistant Chief Executive commenting on the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements generally and how they impacted on their service areas. These included consideration of the effectiveness of internal controls.
85. Based on the delivery of the internal audit plan, Internal Audit is able to provide a moderate overall assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control operating across the Council in 2015/16. This opinion ranking provides assurance that, whilst there is basically a sound system of control, there are some weaknesses, which may put some of the system objectives at major risk. Given the extent of change across the Council and the overall reduction in resources during the year, the sustainment of this assurance opinion should be regarded as a positive outcome.

SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

86. We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Audit Committee. The Council is fully committed to the principles of corporate governance, and has made further progress during the past twelve months in developing its arrangements.

Update on improvements identified in the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement

87. Following the production of the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15, one improvement action was identified for 2015/16.

No.	Actions to be taken	Lead Officer
1	Production of County Durham Plan Strategy in response to interim report from Planning Inspector	Head Of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development

In April 2014, the Council submitted the County Durham Plan to the Government and this was followed by an examination in public. After the Planning Inspector's Report rejected the plan, the council challenged the report, which was subsequently quashed by the High Court. Following discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Planning Inspectorate, legal advice was sought and the Council decided to undertake a three stage process in preparation of a new local plan, which will also ensure meaningful engagement with the community and stakeholders. In the meantime, members have endorsed a revised Policy Position Statement to clarify how development proposals will be handled to ensure that appropriate sustainable development is not delayed. An Issues and Options paper was presented to Cabinet on 15 June 2016 to start the consultation process on developing a new Local Plan.

Conclusion

88. In conclusion, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2015/16 were fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework. As a result of the review of governance arrangements, and the work of both internal and external audit, we have identified two actions as being necessary to improve governance arrangements in 2016/17. This is shown in the table below.

Proposed Governance Improvements required during 2016/17

No.	Actions to be taken	Lead Officer
1	Implement an action plan to enable approval of the County Durham Plan within statutory requirements	Head Of Planning and Assets, Regeneration and Economic Development
2	Implement a new chief officer structure to reflect the challenges faced by the Council whilst building on existing organisational strengths	Chief Executive Officer

Signed:

Simon Henig
Leader of Durham County Council

Terry Collins
Chief Executive

Paul Darby
Interim Corporate Director, Resources

Academy School

Academy Schools are directly funded by Government and are independent of the Council's control.

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the Statement of Accounts, normally a period of 12 months starting on 1 April. The end of the period is the balance sheet date.

Accounting Policies

The principles, conventions, rules and practices applied that specify how transactions and other events should be reflected in the financial statements.

Accounting standards

Accounting standards are authoritative statements of how particular types of transactions and other events should be reflected in financial statements and accordingly compliance with accounting standards will normally be necessary for financial statements to give a true and fair view.

Accruals

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

ACE

Assistant Chief Executives Service

Actuary

An actuary is an expert on pension scheme assets and liabilities. Every three years, the Actuary for the Local Government Pension Scheme determines the rate of employer contributions due to be paid to the Pension Fund.

Actuarial Basis

The technique applied when estimating the liabilities to be recognised for defined benefit pension schemes in the financial statements.

Actuarial Gains

These may arise on a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities and assets. A gain represents a positive difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were lower than estimated).

Actuarial Losses

These may arise on a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities and assets. A loss represents a negative difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were higher than estimated).

Added Years

Additional years of service awarded discretionally to increase the benefits to employees taking early retirement.

Admitted Bodies

Organisations that take part in the Local Government Pension Scheme with the agreement of the Pension Fund. Examples of such bodies are housing associations and companies providing services that were once provided by local authorities in the Pension Fund.

Agency Services

These are services that are performed by or for another Authority or public body, where the principal (the Authority responsible for the service) reimburses the agent (the Authority carrying out the work) for the costs of the work.

Annual Governance Statement

The statement gives assurance that appropriate mechanisms are in place to direct and control the activities of the Council.

Amortisation

Amortisation is the equivalent of depreciation for intangible assets.

Apportionment

A way of sharing costs using an appropriate method, e.g. floor area for an accommodation-related service.

Appropriation

The transfer of sums to and from reserves, provisions, and balances.

Assets

An item having a monetary value to the Council, e.g. property, investments or cash.

Assets Held for Sale

Long term assets that are surplus to the Council's operational needs that are being actively marketed for sale with the expectation that disposal will occur within a 12 month period.

Assets Under Construction

Capital expenditure on assets, where the work is incomplete.

Associate

An associate is an organisation over which the Council has significant influence, but not control. An associate cannot be a subsidiary or an interest in a joint venture.

Audit of Accounts

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs.

Authorised Limit

This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long term liabilities.

Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The reserve carries the valuation surplus on those investments with a quoted market price or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments, which under the Code, are classified as available for sale. The surplus is the amount by which fair value exceeds historical cost.

Balance Sheet

This is a financial statement that shows the financial position of the Council at a point in time, the balance sheet date, which for the Council is 31 March. It shows the value of the fixed and net current assets and long term liabilities, as well as the reserves and balances.

Bid Price

In the context of stock trading on a stock exchange, the bid price is the highest price a buyer of a stock is willing to pay for a share of that given stock.

Billing Authority

Durham County Council is the billing authority responsible for the collection of Council tax and non-domestic rates. The Council tax includes amounts for precepting authorities.

Bonds

A type of investment in certificates of debt issued by the government of a company. These certificates represent loans which are repayable at a future specified date with interest.

Borrowing

Loans from the Public Works Loans Board, and the money markets, that finance the capital programme of the Council.

Budget

The Council's plans and policies for the period concerned, expressed in financial terms.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Government investment programme with the aim of rebuilding or renewing every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period.

Business Improvement District (BID)

BIDs are provided for under Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2003 whereby a levy is collected from Business ratepayers to provide agreed additional services.

Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)

This account accumulates the write down of the historical cost of non-current assets as they are consumed by depreciation and impairments or written off on disposal. It also accumulates the resources that have been set aside to finance capital expenditure. The balance on the account represents timing differences between the amount of the historical cost of non-current assets that has been consumed and the amount that has been financed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Capital Charge

Charges made to local authority services to reflect the 'cost' of using non-current assets in the provision of services. The charge comprises the annual provision for depreciation. To ensure that these notional charges do not impact on local taxation they are reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition or construction of non-current assets that have a value to the Council for more than one year, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of existing non-current assets.

Capital Financing Costs

These are the revenue costs of financing the capital programme and include the repayment of loan principal, loan interest charges, loan fees and revenue funding for capital.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

This sum represents the authority's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. It is calculated by summing all items on the Balance Sheet that relate to capital expenditure, e.g. non-current assets, financing leases, government grants deferred etc. The CFR will be different to the actual borrowing of the authority. This figure is then used in the calculation of the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision.

Capital Grants Unapplied Account

Grants that have been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (CIES) but where expenditure has not yet been incurred

Capital Receipts

The proceeds from the sale of capital assets such as land, and buildings. These sums can be used to finance capital expenditure.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)

The Council has to account for its obligations in relation to the purchase and surrender of CRC allowances and for the eventual settlement of the liability.

Carrying Amount

The Balance Sheet value recorded of either an asset or a liability.

CAS

Children and Adults Services

Cash Flow Statement

This Statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

The principal accountancy body dealing with local government finance.

CLG

Department for Communities and Local Government

Code

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. A publication produced by CIPFA constituting proper accounting practice for Local Authorities.

Collection Fund

An account kept by the Council into which Council tax is paid and through which national non-domestic rates pass, and which pays out money to fund expenditure from the General Fund and the precept made by the Police and Fire Authority.

Community Assets

Assets held that are planned to be held forever, that have no set useful life and may have restrictions on how they can be sold or otherwise disposed of. e.g. parks, historic buildings.

Componentisation

The process by which assets are analysed into various components that have significantly different estimated lives. The Council's accounting policy is detailed in paragraph 20 of the Accounting Policies.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (CIES)

This statement reports the net cost of services for which the Council is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed.

Constitution

The document that sets out how the County Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed.

Contingency

This is money set aside in the budget to meet the cost of unforeseen items of expenditure, or shortfalls in income.

Contingent Asset

Potential benefits that the Council may reap in the future due to an event that has happened in the past.

Contingent Liabilities

Potential costs that the Council may incur in the future due to something that has happened in the past.

Corporate Democratic Core

The corporate and democratic management costs are the costs of activities that local authorities undertake specifically because they are elected multi-purpose authorities. They cover corporate policy making, representing local interests, services to elected members as local representatives and duties arising from public accountability.

Corporate Governance

The promotion of corporate fairness, transparency, and accountability. The structure specifies the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved and the rules and procedures for making decisions.

Council Tax

This is a tax which is levied on the broad capital value of domestic properties, and charged to the resident or owner of the property.

Council Tax Requirement

This is the estimated revenue expenditure on General Fund services that needed to be financed from the Council Tax after deducting income from fees and charges, certain specific grants and any funding from reserves.

Creditors

Persons or bodies to whom sums are owed by the Council.

CSR

Comprehensive Spending Review.

Current Service Cost

Current Service Cost is the increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period, i.e. the ultimate pension benefits "earned" by employees in the current year's employment.

Current Value

The current value of an asset reflects the economic environment prevailing for the service or function the asset is supporting at the reporting date.

Curtailment

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

Debtors

Persons or bodies who owe sums to the Council.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

A specific grant paid to Local Authorities to fund the cost of running their schools.

Deferred Capital Receipts

These represent capital income still to be received after disposals have taken place.

Deficit

A deficit arises when expenditure exceeds income or when expenditure exceeds available budget.

Defined Benefit Scheme

Also known as a final salary scheme. Defined benefit pension schemes prescribe the amounts members will receive as a pension regardless of contributions and investment performance. Employers are obliged to fund any shortfalls.

Defined Contribution Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employees benefits relating to employee service in the current year and prior periods.

Delegated Budgets

Budgets for which schools or other services have complete autonomy in spending decisions.

DfE

Department for Education

Depreciation

The fall in the value of an asset, as recorded in the financial records, due to wear and tear, age, and obsolescence.

Derecognition

Financial assets and liabilities will need to be removed from the Balance Sheet once performance under the contract is complete or the contract is terminated.

Derivatives

Derivatives are financial instruments that derive their value from the price or rate of some underlying item.

Direct Revenue Financing (DRF)

The cost of capital projects that is financed directly from the annual revenue budget.

Direct Service Organisations (DSOs)

Workforces employed directly by local authorities to carry out works of repair, maintenance, construction etc. of buildings, grounds and roads and to provide catering and cleaning services and repairs and maintenance of vehicles.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked to be used to meet specific, known or predicted future expenditure.

Equities

Ordinary shares in UK and overseas companies traded on a stock exchange. Shareholders have an interest in the profits of the company and are entitled to vote at shareholder's meetings.

Exceptional Items

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

External Audit

The independent examination of the activities and accounts of Local Authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

Fair Value

The value for which an asset can be exchanged or a liability can be settled in a market related transaction.

FIDs and Manninen

A claim has been lodged for Durham County Council Pension Fund and other Pension Funds for repayment of tax credits overpaid on Foreign Income Dividends (FIDs) and other dividends, referred to by name of the person whose case set the precedent, Manninen.

Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks, and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset, together with a return for the cost of finance.

Financial Instrument

A contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity, and a financial liability, or equity instrument of another.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA)

This account is an unusable reserve which absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

Transfers are made to ensure that the General Fund records the amount required by the

applicable regulations or statutory guidance, the FIAA carries the excluded surplus or deficit.

Financial Regulations

These are the written code of procedures approved by the Council, intended to provide a framework for proper financial management. Financial regulations usually set out rules on accounting, audit, administrative and budgeting procedures.

Fitch

Fitch Ratings is a rating agency providing credit ratings research and risk analysis of financial institutions across the world. Credit ratings are used by investors as indications of the likelihood of receiving the money owed to them in accordance with the terms on which they invested.

Fixed Interest Securities

Investments in mainly government, but also company stocks, which guarantee a fixed rate of interest. The securities represent loans that are repayable at a future date but which can be traded on a recognised stock exchange before the repayment date.

Formula Grant

The general government grant paid to support the revenue expenditure of local authorities. It comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed National Non-Domestic Rates. It is distributed by formula through the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Foundation Schools

Foundation Schools are run by their governing body and they employ the staff. Land and buildings are usually owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation.

Funding Strategy Statement

The Funding Strategy Statement is a clear and transparent fund-specific strategy which identifies how employers' pension liabilities are best met going forward; supports the regulatory requirement to maintain as nearly constant employer contribution rates as possible; and takes a prudent longer-term view of funding the Fund's liabilities. The single strategy for all employers in the Fund is implemented and maintained by Administering Authority.

Futures

A contract made to purchase, or sell an asset at an agreed price on a specified future date.

GAAP

Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

General Fund

This is the main revenue fund of the Authority and includes the net cost of all services financed by local taxpayers and Government grants.

Going Concern

The assumption that an organisation is financially viable, and will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Government Grants

Assistance by Government and inter-government agencies etc., whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfer of assets towards the activities of the Council.

Group Accounts

Many local authorities now provide services through partner organisations. Where an authority has material financial interests or a significant level of control over one or more entities it should prepare Group Accounts.

Heritage Assets

This is a separate class of asset (land, building, or artefact/exhibit) that is held principally for its contribution to knowledge or culture and meets the definition of a heritage asset.

Highways Network Asset

A grouping of interconnected components, expenditure on which is only recoverable by continued use of the asset created, i.e. there is no prospect of sale or alternative use. Components include carriageways, footways and cycletracks, structures, street lighting, street furniture, traffic management systems and land.

Historical Cost

The original purchase cost of an asset.

Housing Benefit

A system of financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs administered by Local Authorities and subsidised by central Government.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

This is a separate account to the General Fund, which includes the expenditure and income arising from the provision of housing accommodation by the Authority. The HRA is ring-fenced: no cross subsidy is allowed between the HRA and General Fund.

IAS

International Accounting Standard – regulations outlining the method of accounting for activities, currently being replaced by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

ICT

Information and Communications Technology

IFRIC

Interpretations originated from the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee.

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards – issued and set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). These are standards that companies and organisations follow when compiling their financial statements. They have been adapted to apply to local authorities and are consolidated in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code). The Code applied to the Council's Statement of Accounts for the first time in 2010/11.

Impairment

Impairment of an asset is caused either by a consumption of economic benefits e.g. physical damage (e.g. fire at a building) or deterioration in the quality of the service provided by the asset (e.g. a school closing and becoming a storage facility). A general fall in prices of a particular asset or type of asset is treated as a revaluation.

Index Linked Securities

Investments in government stock that guarantee a rate of interest linked to the rate of inflation. These securities represent loans to government which can be traded on recognised stock exchanges.

Infrastructure Assets

A non-current asset that cannot be taken away or transferred, and which can only continue to benefit from it being used. Infrastructure includes roads and bridges.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the authority through custody or legal rights, for example software licences.

Intangible Heritage Asset

An intangible asset with cultural, environmental, or historical significance. Examples of intangible heritage assets include recordings of significant historical events.

Inventory

Items of raw materials, work in progress or finished goods held at the financial year end, valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Investment

An asset which is purchased with a view to making money by providing income, capital appreciation, or both.

Investment Properties

Interest in land and/or buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed and which are held for their investment potential rather than for operational purposes, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

IPSAS

International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

Joint Venture

An entity in which the reporting authority has an interest on a long term basis and is jointly controlled by the reporting authority and one or more entities under a contractual or other binding arrangement.

LAAP Bulletin

CIPFA's Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) periodically issues bulletins to local authority practitioners, providing guidance on topical issues and accounting developments and, when appropriate, clarification on the detailed accounting requirements.

Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT)

A Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) involves the council transferring ownership of its homes with the agreement of its tenants to a new or existing Registered Provider.

Leasing

A method of funding expenditure by payment over a defined period of time. An operating lease is similar to renting; the ownership of the asset remains with the lessor and the transaction does not fall within the capital system. A finance lease transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee and falls within the capital system.

Levy

A levy is a charge made by one statutory body to another in order to meet the net cost of its services, e.g. payments to the Environment Agency for flood defence and land drainage purposes.

Liabilities

An obligation to transfer economic benefits. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year.

LGR

Local Government Re-organisation.

Long-Term Investments

Investments intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the Council where that intention can be clearly demonstrated or where there are restrictions on the ability to dispose of the investment.

Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)

The MRA was an element of housing subsidy, and represented the capital cost of keeping HRA dwellings stock in its current condition. It largely replaced credit approvals as a means of financing HRA capital expenditure.

Managed Funds

A type of investment where a number of investors pool their money into a fund, which is then invested by a fund manager.

Materiality

An expression of the relative significance of a particular issue in the context of the organisation as a whole.

Market Value

The monetary value of an asset as determined by current market conditions.

Mid-Market Price

The mid-point between the bid price and the offer price for a security based on quotations for transactions of normal market size by recognised market-makers or recognised trading exchanges.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount, which must be charged to revenue in the year, for the repayment of debt (credit liabilities and credit arrangements). The formula for calculating this amount is specified in legislation and requires authorities to make an annual provision of 4% of its underlying need to borrow. In addition, authorities can choose to make additional provision, known as a voluntary set-aside.

Minority Interest

The interest in a subsidiary entity that is attributable to the share held by, or on behalf of persons other than the reporting authority.

Moody's

Moody's Investor Service is a rating agency, providing credit ratings, research, and risk analysis of financial institutions across the world. Credit ratings are used by investors as indications of the likelihood of receiving the money owed to them in accordance with the terms on which they invested.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the balance sheet over the financial year. It shows the movement in reserves held by the Council analysed into 'usable' reserves and 'unusable' reserves.

MTFP

Medium Term Financial Plan.

Myners' Principles

A set of ten principles issued by Government which Pension Schemes are required to consider and to which they must publish their degree of compliance.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The means by which local businesses contribute, to the cost of providing local authority services. The rates are paid into a central pool which is divided between all authorities as part of Formula Grant.

Net Book Value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the Balance Sheet. It represents historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation or impairment.

Net Cost of Service

The actual cost of a service to the Council after taking account of all income charged for services provided. The net cost of service reflects capital charges and credits for government grants deferred made to services to reflect the cost of employing non-current assets.

Net Debt

Net debt is the Council's borrowings less cash and liquid resources.

Net Expenditure

The actual cost of a service to the Council after taking account of all income charged for services provided.

Net Realisable Value

The expected sale price of stock, in the condition in which it is expected to be sold. This may be less than cost due to deterioration, obsolescence or changes in demand.

Non Current Assets

Tangible or intangible assets that yield benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Tangible assets have physical substance, for example

land, buildings and vehicles. Intangible assets do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the authority through custody or legal rights, for example software licences.

Non Distributed Costs

These are overheads from which no service user benefits. They include the costs associated with unused assets and certain pension costs.

Non-Operational Assets

Non-operational assets are those held by an authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services, or for the service or strategic objectives of the authority. Examples include; assets under construction, land awaiting development, commercial property, investment property, and surplus assets held for disposal.

Operating Lease

A lease where the asset concerned is returned to the lessor at the end of the period of the lease.

Operational Assets

Property, plant and equipment held and occupied, used or consumed by the authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

Operational Boundary

This is the expected level of debt and other long term liabilities during the year.

Outturn

Actual expenditure within a particular year.

Past Service Cost

The increase in the present value of Pension Fund liabilities related to employees' service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits or other long-term employee benefits. Past service costs may be either positive, where benefits are introduced or improved) or negative (where existing benefits are reduced).

Portfolio

A number of different assets considered and managed as a whole by an investment manager, to an agreed performance specification.

Precept

An amount charged by another Authority to the Councils Collection Fund. There are two major preceptors in Durham County Councils collection fund: the Police and Fire Authorities.

Precept Income

County Councils obtain part of their income from precepts levied on the district councils in their area. Precepts, based on the council tax base of each district council, are levied on a collection fund, administered separately by each district council.

Prior Period Adjustment (PPA)

Those material adjustments relating to prior years accounts, that are reported in subsequent years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. They do not include minor corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

A government initiative that enables authorities to carry out capital projects, in partnership with the private sector, through the provision of financial support.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Property, Plant and Equipment covers all assets with physical substance (tangible assets) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and expected to be used during more than one period.

Provisions

Provisions represent sums set aside to meet any specific future liabilities or losses arising from contractual obligations or as a result of past events. These events are likely or certain to be incurred and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Prudential Code

The Government removed capital controls on borrowing and credit arrangements with effect from 1st April 2004 and replaced them with a Prudential Code under which each local authority determines its own affordable level of borrowing. The Prudential Code requires authorities to set specific prudential indicators on an annual basis.

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

A government agency providing long and short-term loans to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which Government itself can borrow.

RED

Regeneration and Economic Development Service.

Related Party

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made.

Remuneration

Includes taxable salary payments to employees less employees' pension contributions, together with non-taxable payments when employment ends (including redundancy, pension enhancement payments, and pay in lieu of notice), taxable expense allowances and any other taxable benefits.

Reporting Standards

The Code of Practice prescribes the accounting treatment and disclosures for all normal transactions of a Local Authority. It is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) plus UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) and Financial Reporting Standards (FRS).

Reserves

Sums set aside to fund specific future purposes rather than to fund past events. There are two types of reserve, 'usable' reserves and 'unusable' reserves.

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve records the accumulated gains on the non-current assets held by the Council arising from increases in value, as a result of inflation or other factors (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value). The overall balance on the Reserve represents the amount by which the current value of non-current assets carried in the Balance Sheet is greater because they are carried at revalued amounts rather than depreciated historical cost.

Revenue Contributions

See 'Direct Revenue Financing'

Revenue Expenditure and Income

Expenditure and income arising from the day-to-day operation of the Council's services, such as salaries, wages, utility costs, repairs, and maintenance.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Expenditure that legislation allows to be classified as capital for funding purposes. However, it does not result in the expenditure being shown in the Balance Sheet as a non-current asset. This expenditure is charged to the relevant Service revenue account in the year.

Examples of this are grants and financial assistance to others, expenditure on assets not owned by the Council and amounts directed by the Government.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

A Government grant that can be used to finance expenditure on any service.

RICS

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Section 151 Officer

The officer designated under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to have overall responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council and the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Service Reporting Code of Practice (SeRCOP)

The Code of Practice provides guidance to Local Authorities on financial reporting. It details standard definitions of services and total cost, which allows direct comparisons of financial information to be made with other local authorities.

Specific Grant

A revenue government grant distributed outside of the main Local Government Finance Settlement. Some specific grants are ring-fenced to control local authority spending. Others are unfenced and there are no restrictions as to how they are spent.

Statement of Investment Principles (SIP)

The Statement of Investment Principles details the policy which controls how a pension fund invests.

Subsidiary

An entity is a subsidiary of a reporting entity if the authority is able to exercise control over the operating and financial policies of the entity and is able to gain benefits or be exposed to risk of potential losses from this control.

Supported Capital Expenditure (SCE)

SCEs represent the amount of capital expenditure that the Government will support through the provision of revenue grant to cover the cost of borrowing, i.e. repayments of principal and interest.

Surplus

Arises when income exceeds expenditure or when expenditure is less than available budget.

Surplus Properties

Those properties that are not used in service delivery, but do not meet the classification of investment properties or assets held for sale.

Tangible Heritage Asset

A tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Tenanted Market Value

The transfer price a Registered Provider will pay for the housing stock it acquires through a Large Scale Voluntary Transfer.

Transfer Agreement – Housing Stock Transfer

The Transfer Agreement is the contract which sets out the rights, responsibilities, covenants and requirements of Durham County Council, and County Durham Housing Group (CDHG). It also contains all the necessary arrangements to enable CDHG to receive and manage the properties and the Council to enforce all the promises made to tenants during the consultation period. The Transfer Agreement takes the form of a contract for sale with numerous schedules and annexes containing supporting information.

Transfer Values

Amounts paid to or received from other local and public authorities, private occupational or personal pension schemes in respect of pension rights already accumulated by employees transferring from or to the participating authorities.

Treasury Management Policy and Strategy

A plan outlining the Council's approach to treasury management activities. This includes setting borrowing and investment limits to be followed for the following year and is published annually in the Medium Term Financial Plan document.

Trust Funds

Funds established from donations or bequests usually for the purpose of providing educational prizes and scholarships.

Unit Trusts

A pooled fund in which small investors can buy, and sell units. The pooled Fund then purchases investments, the returns on which are passed on to the unit holders. It enables a broader spread of investments than investors could achieve individually.

Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing

This is borrowing for which no financial support is provided by Central Government. The borrowing costs are to be met from current revenue budgets.

Unusable Reserves

Unusable reserves are reserves that the Council are not able to use to provide services, such as the revaluation reserve that arise from accounting requirements.

Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

Represents the resources held by the Council from the sale of non-current assets that are yet to be spent on other capital projects.

Usable Reserves

Usable reserves are reserves that the Council may use to provide services subject to the need to retain prudent levels of reserves and any statutory limitations to their use. Usable reserves include Earmarked Reserves and the General Reserve.

Useful Life

The period in which an asset is expected to be useful to the Council.

Variance

The difference between budgeted expenditure and actual outturn also referred to as an over or under spend.

Work-in-Progress

The value of rechargeable work that had not been recharged at the end of the financial year.

Audit Committee

30 September 2016

**Internal Audit Progress Report
Period Ended 30 June 2016**



Report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the work that has been carried out by Internal Audit during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 as part of the 2016/2017 Internal Audit Plan.
2. The report aims to:
 - Provide a high level of assurance, or otherwise, on internal controls operating across the Council that have been subject to an Internal Audit of systems and processes.
 - Advise of issues where controls need to be improved in order to effectively manage risks.
 - Advise of other types of audit work carried out such as grant certification or consultancy reviews where an assurance opinion on the control environment may not be applicable.
 - Advise of amendments to the Internal Audit Plan.
 - Track the progress of responses to Internal Audit reports and the implementation of agreed audit recommendations.
 - Advise of any changes to the audit process.
 - Provide an update on the performance indicators comparing actual performance against planned.
 - Update on the outcome of the lessons learned following an internal audit review of an Employment Tribunal case.
3. The appendices attached to this report are summarised below. Those marked with an asterisk are not for publication (Exempt information under Part 3 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 3).

Appendix 2	Progress against the Internal Audit Plan
Appendix 3	Final Reports issued in the quarter ending 30 June 2016
Appendix 4	The number of high and medium priority actions raised and implemented

Appendix 5	Internal Audit Performance Indicators
Appendix 6*	Overdue Actions
Appendix 7*	Limited Assurance Audit Opinions

Background

- As an independent consultancy service, the Council's Internal Audit Team strives to continue to add value and improve the organisation's operations as well as providing objective assurance to service managers and the Council.
- The Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Internal Audit Plan, covering the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, was approved by the Audit Committee on 17 May 2016.

Progress against the Internal Audit Plan

- A summary of the approved Internal Audit Plan for each Service Grouping, updated to include work in progress and any audits brought forward from last year's plan, is attached at Appendix 2. The appendix illustrates the current status of each audit as at 30 June 2016 and, where applicable, also gives the resultant assurance opinion.
- A summary of the status of audits in 2016/17 is illustrated in the table below:

Service Grouping	Not Started	Planning and Preparation	In Progress	Draft Report	Final Report / Complete
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	4	2	1	4	2
Children and Adult Services (CAS) excluding Schools	11	15	15	4	11
Children and Adult Services (CAS) - Schools	22	14	9	8	6
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	13	22	3	7	6
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	13	6	4	1	5
Resources (RES)	24	16	23	6	11
TOTAL	87	75	55	30	41

- A summary of the final audit reports issued in this quarter is presented in Appendix 3.
- The total number of productive Internal Audit days required to deliver the plan is 4,748. As at 30 June, the service delivered 1,267 productive days, representing 27% of the total plan. The target at the end of the quarter was for 23% to be delivered, therefore performance is exceeding the target.

Audit Activity in the Quarter

Amendments to the Approved 2016/2017 Internal Audit Plan

10. The following four reviews were removed from the approved Internal Audit Plan in the quarter, following agreement between Corporate Directors and the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager:

Service Grouping	Audit	Audit Type	Reason
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Careers Service	Assurance	Cancelled with agreement of the Head of Service
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education & Business Learning Organisation	Assurance	Cancelled with agreement of the Head of Service
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Weights & Measures (Third Party assurance)	Assurance	Cancelled: Notification from the Consumer Protection Manager that Weights & Measures will, in future, be externally assessed by the Environment Agency on a Regional basis. Third party assurance will be considered when the external review has been undertaken.
Resources (RES)	Flexible Working – Variations to Contracts	Assurance	Deferred to 2017/18

11. 19 unplanned reviews were added to the Internal Audit Plan in the quarter. Of these, 12 are potential fraud or irregularity investigations.
12. The seven other reviews, which were sourced from the service contingency provision within the Internal Audit Plan, are detailed below:

Service Grouping	Audit	Audit Type	Reason
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Villa Real School	Assurance	Service request to add to plan.
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Taxi Licensing - Driver Licence Verification arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.
Resources (RES)	Teachers' Pension Fund	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.
Resources (RES)	Teaching Assistants – Review of Data Accuracy	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.
Resources (RES)	Prepaid cards	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.
Resources (RES)	Equal Pay Claims – Review of Calculations	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.
Resources (RES)	Insurance – Employer Liability Process	Advice & Consultancy	Service request to add to plan.

Outstanding Management Responses to Draft Internal Audit Reports

13. There are no draft audit reports overdue at the time of writing.

Survey Response Rate

14. The table below sets out the response rate and average score, by Service Grouping, for the customer satisfaction surveys issued during the period up to the end of June 2016.

Service Grouping	Surveys issued	Surveys returned	% returned	Av. score
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	2	2	100	4.1
Children and Adult Services (CAS) excluding Schools	10	8	80	4.7
Children and Adult Services (CAS) - Schools	4	2	50	4.8
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	6	4	67	4.3
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	5	4	80	4.5
Resources (RES)	12	12	100	4.4
TOTAL	39	32	82	4.5

Responses to Audit Findings and Recommendations

15. Details of the numbers of High and Medium priority ranked recommendations that have been raised and those that are overdue, by Service Grouping, are presented in Appendix 4.
16. A summary of progress on the actions due, implemented and overdue, as at 30 June 2016, is given in the table below:

Service Grouping	Number of Actions Due to be Implemented	Number of Actions Actually Implemented	Actions Overdue by Agreed Original Target Date	Actions with an Agreed Revised Target Date	Actions Overdue by Revised Target Date
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	19	16	3	3	0
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	159	152	7	7	0
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	296	283*	13	13	0
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	133	127**	6	6	0
Resources (RES)	385	369	16	16	0
TOTAL	992	947	45	45	0

* Note: Includes 5 high priority actions, which are to be followed up to confirm implementation.

** Note: Includes 1 high priority action, which is to be followed up to confirm implementation.

17. It is encouraging to note that, of the 992 actions due to be implemented, 947 (95%) have been implemented. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), benchmarking exercise indicates that average performance in this area to be between 70% to 80%. At present the Council is delivering in excess of this target.

18. Details of the actions that are overdue, following their agreed original target dates, are included at Appendix 6.

Limited Assurance Audit Opinions

19. There have been five audits finalised in this quarter that have been issued with a 'limited assurance' opinion. These are:

Service Grouping	Service Area	Audit
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children Services	Supervised Spend (Leaving Care)
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Two Primary Schools
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Culture and Sport	Leisure Centre Investigation
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Transport – Contractual Arrangements

20. Further details of the findings from these audits are included within Appendix 7.

Employment Tribunal Outcome Review

21. County Council, at its meeting on Wednesday 28 October 2015, supported the following motion:

That this Council requests that the respective Cabinet Portfolio Holder instigate an inquiry with a report to Full Council setting out answers to how the recent Employment Tribunal compensation award payable to a former teacher, which escalated from originally £59,321 in 2008 to an estimated £1.5m, was allowed to happen, how this occurred and the lessons learnt from it'.

22. In February 2016 Internal Audit were requested by the Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services and the Corporate Director, Resources to complete an independent review in recognition of the Council motion of 28 October 2015 to look back on the process to determine what lessons should be learned in order to minimise the risk of any similar case ever happening again across the Council in the future.

23. A brief summary of this complex case is as follows;

- A claim was lodged with an Employment Tribunal in March 2007 for bullying and victimisation as a result of a Teacher making protected disclosures / complaints starting in 2004 against the Head Teacher at her school.
- In 2008 the Council received an Employment Tribunal's Judgment on liability. The Tribunal awarded compensation of £59,321 to the Teacher and made four recommendations for both the Council and School to implement.
- Due to financial pressures at the school, a redundancy exercise was formally initiated in 2009 where ultimately the Teacher's post was one of two to be declared redundant and was accordingly placed on notice.
- A Review of Remedies hearing was held in 2009 which allowed a further review of compensation payable to the Teacher based upon the non-compliance with its original recommendations.
- This led to the Teacher having additional claims for compensation in the Review of Remedies hearing and issuing a second case. The Teacher moved from being a current employee with ongoing but limited issues post the victimisation judgment to a dismissed employee giving rise to claims for unfair dismissal and vastly increasing the scope of the remedies from the first case.
- The subsequent judgement for career loss was based upon the Tribunal crediting the Teacher with future promotion to Deputy Head Teacher and then Head Teacher level by the age of 50 years with the consequent impact upon the totals for loss of future earnings and pension, this ultimately led to the payment of a sum of around £1.5m.

24. At the Audit Committee on 17 May 2016 as part of the internal audit progress report, members were informed that this piece of work had been requested and had been added to the Internal Audit Plan.
25. It is important to note that the review included examination of documents and tribunal judgements, some of which pre-dated Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Therefore it was important to identify what controls are currently in place (post LGR) that could have led to a different outcome and further enhancement to these controls in order to give more assurance.
26. The Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager delivered the outcomes of this review in the form of a detailed independent confidential report and presentation to County Council on Wednesday 20 July 2016. The full report was presented as a Part B item (excluding the Press and Public), this was due to the numerous personal references made to individuals within the written report. The Teacher who had been the recipient of the award was present when the report was presented to County Council in July and has subsequently been afforded a meeting with officers to discuss the findings and lessons learned from the investigation.
27. It was further agreed that the lessons learned would be presented to this Committee.
28. From the review completed by Internal Audit we identified those controls that in our opinion are currently in place, which could have assisted in preventing the eventual outcome had they been in place at the time. In addition we can give members the assurance that the following controls can help mitigate the risk of a similar case from happening again in future:

- i. *The initial tribunal was critical of the witnesses that had attended and the reliability of the evidence they had supplied.*

Control

- o The competency of potential witnesses in giving evidence and being able to support what they say in their witness statements is now assessed by Legal Services more thoroughly prior to any hearing after the Council has increased its dedicated support for employment law following LGR.
- ii. *Officers in the Education Service had allowed the case to continue for too long which had led to a breakdown of employee relations. The issues had not been escalated to a senior level and the relevant professional support services had not been engaged in a timely manner.*

Control

- o Senior client service officers are now better prepared on cases that will involve a hearing process. This is accomplished through both observation and discussion about the nature of issues faced.

- Cases are more closely monitored by Legal Services and HR. Officers recognise the need to escalate any growing problems earlier in the process and implement possible actions to de-escalate staffing disputes at an earlier stage than was the position in this case, including the use of mediation services available through the North East Regional Employers Organisation (NEREO) where appropriate.
- Regular strategy meetings are convened between key officers to work closely together to highlight and discuss complicated issues as they arise to support the Council in making more informed and timely decisions. As a result, there is a greater sharing of lessons learned and experience gained from individual cases with those providing advice of a similar nature to services and schools.
- Senior officers are engaged and work collectively in making strategic decisions for higher value cases. Issues are more readily escalated through the Corporate Director, Resources with CMT also being sighted on issues when required through improved performance management arrangements.
- iii. *The skills and ability of both the School Management and Governing Body had not been assessed in order to be confident they were well placed to suitably deal with the case.*

Control

- A more robust approach is in place within the Education Services in terms of reviewing teacher and governor training records and the monitoring of a school's ability to handle grievances/ Public Interest disclosures from staff, particularly where they relate to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. This is completed with Education Link Officers and through Governing Body Health Checks completed by Education Services. There is also an evident closer working relationship between Schools, SGSS and HR/Legal on such issues.
- There is a more cautious approach taken generally to school based disputes and the ability of Governors to act and be seen to be acting independently of senior managers in the school. This is challenged and reviewed as part of strategy meetings on individual cases.
- Improved governance arrangements exist as a result of officers checking and monitoring training of Governors to act independently of school management and be seen to act authoritatively and without bias. This is checked as part of any Internal Audit in a school and is further challenged annually as part of the School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) process.
- There is greater oversight of schools' policies and practices that might hamper the Council's ability to manage or settle a case.

- iv. *There had not been the anticipation that the Teacher in question would request that the initial complaints that were made should be linked to having been selected for redundancy at the school. Advice had been provided to the School to re-perform the redundancy exercise which the school did not think was necessary so did not complete this.*

Control

- There is a tighter and more joined up approach when advising schools on selection for redundancy procedures where school staff are already in dispute with managers. This ensures all risks are considered and objective criteria are applied in scoring mechanisms to protect the School and Council against victimisation / unfair dismissal claims.
 - There is an increased awareness now that in complex cases of victimisation / discrimination there is a risk of medical evidence supporting a career loss approach and this is taken into account now in terms of preparing for Tribunal hearings and in dealing with outcomes.
 - The HR and Finance functions have now been unitised with Resources and dedicated first points of contact established for handling school related matters. This aids both the schools and enhances communication between support services.
 - Officers would reinstate and re-perform staffing reduction exercises where it is applicable or there is a financial risk of not doing so.
 - Officers now ensure that actions or remedies are enforced and would be prepared to impose intervention measures including suspension of budget delegations should a school fail to adhere to Council advice. This has been evidenced by the use of Notices of Financial Concern and implementing Interim Executive Bodies in schools in recent years where the situation merits it, something the Council was not inclined to do at the time of these events.
- v. *The Council initially agreed for the Tribunal to make recommendations as part of its judgment but then when the detailed recommendations were issued the Council subsequently attempted to challenge one of them. The review of remedies hearing was also critical of the Council and School's attempted implementation of the other detailed recommendations.*

Control

- There is a more cautious approach taken in terms of accepting Employment Tribunal recommendations as part of a Judgment on Remedies and officers now ask for an outline of the areas to be recommended.
- Financial Risk Assessments are completed with support from Legal Services to place the Council in a better position to determine most effective course of action to follow.

29. As mentioned in paragraph 28 the Internal Audit review also identified additional controls in order to further strengthen arrangements that are now in place, these are as follows:

- i. *The 2008 Employment Tribunal was critical of the initial investigations undertaken by SGSS Officers and the Chair of Governors, a view substantiated by Internal Audit.*

Control

- Investigating Officers must have the required skills and independence to ensure that investigations are undertaken in a robust and comprehensive manner. In this regard Internal Audit have offered its services even if only used in an advisory capacity when services complete grievance or disciplinary investigations.

- ii. *It is accepted and evidenced that relevant meetings are held between support services across the Council to discuss cases and the implementation of Employment Tribunal Judgements however these meetings are not formally documented.*

Control

- The relevant outcomes of Employment Tribunal judgements should be discussed and formally documented as part of the regular meetings between HR, SGSS and Legal to ensure that lessons are learned from individual cases.

Performance Indicators

30. A summary of our actual performance, at the end of June 2016, compared with our agreed targets is illustrated in Appendix 5.

Recommendations

31. Members are asked to note:

- The amendments made to the 2016/2017 Annual Audit Plan.
- Work undertaken by Internal Audit during the period ending 30 June 2016 and the assurance on the control environment provided.
- The performance of the Internal Audit Service during the period.
- Progress made by service managers in responding to the work of Internal Audit.
- The outcome of the review of the arrangements surrounding an Employment Tribunal that was reported to County Council on 20 July 2016.

Contact: Paul Bradley

Tel: 03000 269645

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None

Consultation

All Corporate Directors and Heads of Service.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

None

Legal Implications

None

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INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

SERVICE GROUPING	SERVICE	AUDIT ACTIVITY	AUDIT TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
2015 / 2016 Internal Audit Plan - Audits Brought Forward					
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Data Quality Framework	Assurance	Draft	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	DP - Data Breach arrangements	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Freedom of Information	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Partnerships and Community Engagement	AAPs: Performance Management Framework	Assurance	Draft	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Partnerships and Community Engagement	Partnership Governance Framework	Key System	Final	Moderate
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Section 117 Process	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Extra Care Housing - Prepaid Card Roll Out	Advice & Consultancy	Final	N/A
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Reablement Car Mileages	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	CAS/Resources	Effectiveness of Council Employment Tribunal Arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Foster Carer Payments	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Children's Homes - High Etherley	Assurance	Draft	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Children's Homes - Framwellgate Moor	Assurance	Draft	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Children Safeguarding Governance Arrangements	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Supervised Spend - Leaving Care	Assurance	Final	Limited
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	E Market Place	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	SSID System Review	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	POPPIE Systems Review	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	County Durham Well Being for Life Service - DCRS	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services - Contract Management Arrangements	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Review of Lifeline Contract	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Delivery of 0-19 Services - Due Diligence	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Contract Audit - Direct Services	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Effectiveness of MAIS and CSE Arrangements	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fly Tipping	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fleet Management - Development of Fleet Management System	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Inspection of Licensing - Body Art Licences	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Licensing Enforcement - Safeguarding Complaints	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Accumulations	Assurance	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Works in Default	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Consumer Services - Weights and Measures Approved Body Status	Assurance	Cancelled	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Compensation Payments	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Environmental Compliance	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Compliance with Construction, Design and Maintenance Procedures	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Stores Management - Disposal of Waste Materials	Assurance	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Capital Project Review	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Telecare Services & Care Connect	Assurance	In Progress	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Supported Housing - CCTV	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Transport - Contractual arrangements	Assurance	Final	Limited
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Gypsy Roma Traveller Sites	Assurance	In Progress	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Business Durham	Assurance	In Progress	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Financial Assistance Programme	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Durham Employment and Skills	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	International Relations	Assurance	Draft	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Durham Villages Regeneration Company	Advice & Consultancy	Final	N/A
Resources	Legal and Demographic Services	Land Charges	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Procurement - Off Contract Spend	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Procurement - CPRs	Assurance	Draft	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Procurement cards	Assurance	Draft	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Journals	Key System	Final	Substantial
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Recruitment and Selection	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Appraisals	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Violent Persons Register	Assurance	TOR	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR / CAS	Employee tribunal arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Council Tax	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Business Rates	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Housing Benefits	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Creditors	Key System	Draft	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Creditors - Invoices with no PO	Key System	Final	Moderate
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Creditors - Masterfile	Key System	Final	Moderate
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Cash Collection	Key System	In Progress	

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

SERVICE GROUPING	SERVICE	AUDIT ACTIVITY	AUDIT TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Debtors	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Payroll	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Budgetary Control	Key System	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Better Care Fund	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Income & Expenditure arrangements	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	ISP - Security Incident Management	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	ISP - PSN Readiness	Assurance	TOR	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	ISP - Systems Development & Maintenance	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Active Directory	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Design and Print Service	Assurance	Final	Moderate
Resources	Internal Audit, Risk and Fraud	Counter Fraud arrangements	Key System	In Progress	
2016 / 2017 Internal Audit Plan					
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Policy and Communications	Business Continuity	Key System	Not Started	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Data Quality	Assurance	Not Started	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Equality Impact Assessment process for MTFP	Assurance	Draft	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Data Protection - Accessing External Databases	Assurance	Not Started	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Data Protection - Neighbourhood Services Healthchecks	Assurance	Not Started	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	County Records Office	Assurance	Draft	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning and Performance	Information Governance Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Partnerships and Community Engagement	Community Grants	Assurance	TOR	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Direct Payment Cards	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Continuing Health Care	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Shared Lives - Review of effectiveness of service	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Adaptations Service	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Implementation of the Care Act	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Pathways - Establishment Audit	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Pathways - Establishment Closure Audit - Consett	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Pathways - Establishment Closure Audit - Chester Le Street	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Pathways - Establishment Closure Audit - Bishop Auckland	Assurance	Final	Substantial
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Services	Reablement Services - Review of effectiveness of service	Assurance	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Troubled Families Programme - Milestone 1 of 4	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Troubled Families Programme - Milestone 2 of 4	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Troubled Families Programme - Milestone 3 of 4	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Troubled Families Programme - Milestone 4 of 4	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Children's Homes - Establishment Audit	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Supervised Spend - Leaving Care Service: Follow Up	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	One Point Hubs - Establishment Audit	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Aycliffe Locality Office, Residential and Secure Services - Follow Up	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Commissioning	Transport Group - Outcomes of People 2 review	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Commissioning	Procurement - Arrangements for contract management and monitoring	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Commissioning/Resources	Creditors supplier Masterfile	Assurance	Draft	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	School Programme provided through SLA	Assurance	Various	2S, 2M, 2L
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Direct Salaried Grants	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Collaborative Fund Grant	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Youth Employment Initiative	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Schools - Safe Recruitment and Selection	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	The Woodlands Pupil Referral Unit - (Finance and Governance)	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Careers Service	Assurance	Cancelled	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Education & Business Learning Organisation	Assurance	Cancelled	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Governor Training	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	School Business Manager Training	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Head Teacher Group Attendance	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Schools User Provider Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	Information Security - Caldicott compliance - Data Sharing Procedures - Foster Carers	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	Information Security - Caldicott compliance (attendance at Caldicott Group meetings)	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	Petty Cash Arrangements - Locality Offices	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	DCRS - Data Quality	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Stop Smoking Service (Nicotine Replacement Vouchers) Revisit	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Stop Smoking Service (Nicotine Replacement Vouchers) Revisit following Advice	Assurance	Not Started	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Alcohol Brief Interventions Service (PharmOutcomes)	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

SERVICE GROUPING	SERVICE	AUDIT ACTIVITY	AUDIT TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Supervised Consumption (Pharmoutcomes)	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Services	Children's Homes - High Etherley	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Bulky Goods Collections Service	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Bereavement Services - Public Health Funeral Arrangements	Assurance	Draft	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Allotment Management - Follow Up	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Durham Crematorium	Assurance (Joint Ctte)	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Mounsett Crematorium	Assurance (Joint Ctte)	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Woodland Burial Trust – Follow Up	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fuel Stocks & Stores	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Building Services, Repairs & Maintenance works billing processes	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	QMS (Quarterly Visit)	Advice & Consultancy	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Facilities Management	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Electrical Components - Procurement Card Expenditure	Assurance	In Progress	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Play Areas - Inspection Mechanisms and Charges to Parish & Town Councils	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Control of Infectious Diseases (Third Party Assurance)	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Pollution Control - Planning Consultation Arrangements	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Contaminated Land	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Trading Standards Grant	Grant Claim	Complete	N/A
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Garden Waste Collection	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Environmental Compliance	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Data Protection Health Checks (Data Protection arrangements under ACE)	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	CRM System Implementation	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Customer Services Complaints	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Leisure Centre - Core Financial Systems (Shildon & Teesdale)	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Leisure Works Governance Arrangements (Consett Leisure Centre)	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	1Life Governance arrangements (Peterlee and Seaham Leisure Centres)	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Review of Leisure Centre Timesheet authorisation procedures (10 DCC centres)	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Shildon Leisure Centre - Follow Up	Assurance	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	CLUK Income Share Agreement	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	County Durham Sport - Trust Arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Stanley Bowls	Audit of Accounts	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Integrated Leisure Management System	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	DLI Museum	Assurance	In Progress	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Gala Stage School	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Picture House & Gala ticketing system arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure Services	Locomotion - Follow Up	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Civil Engineering Framework Sub £50K - Follow Up	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Stores (Buildings & Highways)	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Local Highways Maintenance Fund - Incentive Element	Grant Claim	Not Started	
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP	Taxi Licensing - Driver Licence Verification	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Utility Bills	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Section 106 arrangements	Assurance	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Building Control - Systems Review	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Asset Management	Assurance	In Progress	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Land Sales - Quality and Price	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Low Carbo	Grant	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Planning and Assets	Rebus	Grant	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Strategy, Programmes and Performance	EU Structural Funds Programme	Assurance	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Strategy, Programmes and Performance	Project Management arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Public Right of Way	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	On Street and Off Street Parking	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Concessionary Fares	Assurance	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Transport Contractual Arrangements (follow up)	Assurance	Not Started	

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

SERVICE GROUPING	SERVICE	AUDIT ACTIVITY	AUDIT TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Local Transport Capital Block Funding	Grant	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Local Pinch Point Fund	Grant	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Transport and Contract Services	Bus Subsidy Ring Fenced Grant	Grant	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Seaham Marina Grant (Capital)	Grant	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Accommodation Project	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Disabled Facilities Grant	Grant	Not Started	
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Economic Development and Housing	Netpark Phase 3	Grant	Not Started	
Resources	Legal and Democratic Services	RIPA Officers Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Legal and Democratic Services	Newco Trading Arrangements - Follow Up	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Medium Term Financial Plan	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Capital Accounting	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	General Ledger	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Bank Reconciliation	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Short Term Investments	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Banking Arrangements	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Tendering/Quotation arrangements	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Contract Management	Assurance	Draft	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Off Contract Spend	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Procurement - Schools Commercial Focus	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Oracle Programme Board	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Oracle Project - Transactional Purchasing Improvement Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Oracle Project - Petty Cash and Payment Cards	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Service Reviews	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Attendance Management Framework	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Flexible Working Pilot arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Learning & Development	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Health & Safety training requirements	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Employee Car Leasing Scheme	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	SLAs with schools working group	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Flexible Working - Variations to Contracts	Assurance	Deferred to 2017/18	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Agency	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Learning Disability Shared Lives Service - Financial Inspections	Assurance	TOR	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Creditors	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	P2P Performance Improvement Project	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Payroll	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Business Rates	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	HB, CTR, DHP and Welfare Assistance	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	HB Sundry Debtor Overpayments	Key System	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Enforcement, including bailiff arrangements	Assurance	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Council Tax	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Cash Collection	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Debtors	Key System	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Debtors Working Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Chapter Homes arrangements	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Caspar system	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	ResourceLink Migration Group	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Section 256 agreements	Grant certification	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Better Care Fund (Section 75)	Grant certification	Not Started	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Information Security - Backup Procedures	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Information Security - Information Sharing	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Mobile Computing	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	SQL Server	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	ICT Purchasing	Assurance	Planning and Preparation	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	ICT Strategy	Assurance	In Progress	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Windows	Assurance	TOR	
Resources	Information and Communication Technology	Asset Register	Assurance	TOR	
Resources	Corporate Finance and HR	Teachers Pension Fund	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Teaching Assistants - Review of Data Accuracy	Advice & Consultancy	Final	N/A
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Prepaid cards	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	
Resources	Financial and HR Services	Equal Pay Claims - Review of Calculations	Advice & Consultancy	Draft	
Resources	Internal Audit, Risk & Fraud	Insurance - Employers Liability Process	Advice & Consultancy	Not Started	

FINAL REPORTS ISSUED IN PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2016

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
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ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ACE)		
Freedom of Information	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of non-compliance with statutory or other regulatory requirements Review of Performance Indicator ACE006	Moderate
Partnership Governance Framework	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of the Partnership Governance Framework being ineffective.	Moderate

CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES (CAS)		
Children Services Supervised Expenditure (Leaving Care)	An assurance review that considered the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are unaware of their roles and responsibilities. • There is an inadequate assessment process in place. • There is an inadequate approval process in place. • Monies are awarded which are not in accordance with the approved allowances. • Purchases are made which are not in accordance with the approved guidance. • There are ineffective monitoring arrangements in place 	Limited
Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services - Contract Management Arrangements	An assurance review that considered the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract management arrangements are not in place for the end of a contract and the transition to a new provider • The contractor does not fulfil the contract to the required standard or level of performance. • Risk management arrangements are not in place. • The Council pays for goods, services or works that are not provided or not completed. • The contract manager is not sufficiently objective in their relationship with the supplier. • No arrangements to provide for continuing services needs after the termination or expiry of the contract are put in place. • The written contract does not cover all pertinent areas and issues leaving the council unduly exposed to risks associated with the activity. 	Moderate

CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES (CAS) contd.		
Review of Lifeline Contract	<p>Assurance review that considered the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people the scheme is aimed at helping are not aware of how to access the service. • Partnership working breaks down. • The service is not delivered in the manner set out in the contract in regard to locations, numbers and levels of employees and volunteers and the patient programme. • Skills and knowledge of the delivery employees and volunteers is not of the standard required by the contract 	Moderate
County Durham Well Being for Life Service - DCRS	<p>Assurance review that considered the following risk linked to the Information Sharing Agreement that is in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information / data is lost, stolen or accessed by unauthorised / inappropriate individuals 	Moderate
SSID System Review	<p>Assurance review that considered the following risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to system/data is not secure and is not managed appropriately 	Substantial
POPPIE Systems Review	<p>Assurance review that considered the following risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is lost or stolen. • Data is retained for longer than necessary. • Data is not disposed of securely 	Substantial
Pathways Closure Audits: Chester Le Street Bishop Auckland Consett	<p>Assurance review that considered the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income is not accounted for/is misappropriated • Unauthorised payments are made • Loss/misuse of service user monies • Loss of assets 	Substantial Substantial Substantial
Extra Care Housing - Prepaid Card Roll Out	Advice and consultancy review to support the introduction of Pre Paid cards within the Extra Care Service following a change in the Council's banking provider and closure of cheque encashment bank accounts which had historically been used as a means of providing encashment facilities for tenants.	N/A
Reablement Car Mileages	Advice and consultancy review that considered arrangements within the Reablement Service for submission and authorisation of car mileage. The outcomes of the review have been fed into the testing schedule of an assurance based review of the service that is to be undertaken.	N/A

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES (NS)		
Trading Standards Grant	Grant review that verified compliance with terms and conditions of the grant for the submission covering the period 01-04-2015 to 31-03-2016.	N/A
Works in Default	<p>Assurance review that considered the management of the following risks associated with Works in Default:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge is not properly or correctly calculated, • Works are not completed within appropriate timescales, • Unable to identify the property owner/responsible person, • Invoices are not sent promptly, • Invoices are not enforceable, • All appropriate avenues of recovery are not explored, • Non adherence to Contract Procedure Rules, • Costs are not justified and / or reasonable, • Insufficient evidence to support claims, • Lack of consistency, • Failure to achieve value for money, • Budget set aside for WID is used for other means. 	Substantial
Leisure Centre	Counter Fraud review undertaken in support of a service led investigation into concerns raised about cash collection and timesheet completion / authorisation arrangements.	Limited
Accumulations	Assurance review that sought to evaluate whether the Accumulations Joint Working Protocol between the Public Health and Neighbourhood Protection Services was working as planned by ensuring processes were being followed, there was no duplication of effort, responsibilities were clear, and services were not overburdened with handling requests. The review produced an interim report in recognising that the Wardens Service and Environmental Health databases which currently operate on different systems, were to be interfaced. The activity will be reviewed afresh once the new system and procedures have had time to embed.	N/A
Contract Audit - Direct Services	<p>Assurance review that considered the management of the following risks associated with Contract Audit in Direct Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build does not meet specification and cost increases through unauthorised or poorly managed variations to contract • Delays and cost increases through unauthorised or poorly managed extensions of time • Over payments are made due to interim and final accounts not being verified before payment. • Appropriate insurance cover is not in place to mitigate losses that the Council may face. 	Moderate

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES (NS) contd.		
Licensing Enforcement - Safeguarding Complaints	<p>An Assurance review that considered the management of the following risks associated with Licensing Enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints are not effectively communicated between Licensing and Sustainable Transport Group (STG) Complaints are not properly investigated. Insufficient records of Taxi Licence incidents, complaints and investigations. 	Substantial
Inspection of Licensing - Body Art Licences	<p>An Assurance review that considered the management of the following risks associated with Body Art Licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unregistered business premises and/or operators operating within the county. Registered businesses/operators fail to maintain compliance with hygiene standards. Enforcement is not carried out in line with legislation. Standard Operating Procedure not embedded into registration process, resulting in poor quality operational and management information. Registration fees have not been collected, documented, and paid into the appropriate cost centre. Registration fees are not realistic in terms of cost recovery 	Substantial
Capital Projects	<p>An Assurance review that considered the management of the following risks associated with construction contracts with external suppliers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build does not meet specification and cost increases through unauthorised or poorly managed variations to contract Delays and cost increases through unauthorised or poorly managed extensions of time Over payments are made due to interim and final accounts not being verified before payment. Appropriate insurance cover is not in place to mitigate losses that the Council may face. 	Moderate

REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED)		
Supported Housing - CCTV	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCTV images being accessed or used inappropriately Non-compliance with legislation and regulations Poor quality or unusable footage Incidents caught on camera are not reported or not shared appropriately 	Substantial
Durham Employment and Skills	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of data required by each funder being inaccurate and of poor quality leading to incorrect decisions being made, inaccurate information being reported and funding being missed or refused.</p>	Substantial

REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED) contd.		
Financial Assistance Programme (FAP)	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAP loan requirements are not known or not applied correctly • Loans and grants are approved which are not in line with the objectives of the FAP • Non-compliance with loan conditions • Unauthorised payments are made • Amounts of loans outstanding are not known • The customer is unaware of the debt due to DCC • Loans are not recovered • Non-compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 	Moderate
Transport – Contractual arrangements	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts are awarded to unsuitable operators • Breach to safety of children and adult passengers • The operator does not fulfil the contract to the required standard or level of performance • Variations to contract are not communicated to relevant parties • The written contract does not cover all pertinent areas, leaving the Council unduly exposed to risks associated with the activity • The Council pays for services that are not provided or not completed 	Limited
Durham Villages Regeneration Company	Advice & consultancy review of the governance structure in place, determining whether the current information flow and communication is effective, and measuring actual benefits received across the whole of County Durham.	N/A
Telecare Incident	Investigation into compliance with policies and procedures following an incident.	N/A

RESOURCES		
Better Care Fund	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of poor decisions as a result of insufficient, incomplete or inaccurate pooled budget accounting information.	Substantial
Recruitment and Selection	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breach of employment legislation / corporate policies • Inconsistencies in the recruitment process • Skills for those appointed do not match the skills required for the post • Unauthorised / illegal appointments 	Substantial

RESOURCES contd.		
Journals	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals being entered incorrectly • Journals containing insufficient information or evidence for users to identify their purpose • Journals are duplicated • Journals are created by unauthorised users 	Substantial
Land Charges	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent, inefficient and ineffective processes and procedures • Non-compliance with The Local Authorities (England) (Charges for Property Searches) Regulation 2008 – Regulation 9 – Transparency in relation to setting of charges • Inaccurate / incorrect search results are produced and issued to the customer • Search results are not completed within statutory timescales • Failure to implement effective financial management • Land charge information transferred to HM Land Registry under the Infrastructure Act 2015 is inaccurate causing the provision of poor LLC1 search results to customers 	Moderate
Procurement – Off Contract Spend	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of not achieving or being seen to achieve value for money, transparency, fairness, or compliance with legislation.</p>	Moderate
Creditors – invoices with no PO	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised payments being made • Non-compliance with procedures 	Moderate
Creditors - Masterfile	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised payments being made • Inefficiencies in the process 	Moderate
Appraisals	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual performance management framework not being embedded across the Council due to inconsistent application of the performance appraisal process • Non Compliance with Data Protection requirements 	Moderate

RESOURCES contd.		
Design and Print	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council services are not fully utilised • Council services provided are not of adequate quality or value for money 	Moderate
Teaching Assistants – Data Accuracy	Advice & consultancy review of the formulae used in the Teaching Assistants spreadsheet.	N/A

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Progress on the Implementation of Audit Recommendations

Appendix 4

	Number of Actions Raised	Actions Due	Actions Implemented			Overdue Actions by original target date	Number of Actions where the original target has been revised	Overdue Actions following a revised target date	Total Revised Actions Due	Revised Total Recommendations Overdue
			Due	Not Yet Due	Total					
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ACE)										
2014/15										
High	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Medium	8	8	6	0	6	2	2	0	6	0
Total	9	9	7	0	7	2	2	0	7	0
2015/16										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	8	8	8	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
Total	8	8	8	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
2016/17										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Total	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Overall Total	20	19	16	0	16	3	3	0	16	0
CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES (CAS)										
2015 / 2016										
High	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Medium	144	143	137	0	137	6	6	0	137	0
Total	145	144	138	0	138	6	6	0	138	0
2016/17										
High	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	26	14	14	0	14	0	0	0	14	0
Total	30	15	14	0	14	1	1	0	14	0
Overall Total	175	159	152	0	152	7	7	0	152	0
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES (NS)										
2012 / 2013										
High	10	10	9	0	9	1	1	0	9	0
Medium	74	74	74	0	74	0	0	0	74	0
Total	84	84	83	0	83	1	1	0	83	0
2013 / 2014										
High	8	8	8	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
Medium	40	40	40	0	40	0	0	0	40	0
Total	48	48	48	0	48	0	0	0	48	0
2014 / 2015										
High	3	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Medium	59	59	57	0	57	2	2	0	57	0
Total	62	62	60	0	60	2	2	0	60	0
2015 / 2016										
High	7	7	6	0	6	1	1	0	6	0
Medium	79	74	65	0	65	9	9	0	65	0
Total	86	81	71	0	71	10	10	0	71	0
2016/17										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	38	21	21	0	21	0	0	0	21	0
Total	38	21	21	0	21	0	0	0	21	0
Overall Total	318	296	283	0	283	13	13	0	283	0
REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED)										
2013/2014										
High	6	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Medium	43	43	40	0	40	3	3	0	40	0
Total	49	49	46	0	46	3	3	0	46	0
2014 / 2015										
High	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	25	25	25	0	25	0	0	0	25	0
Total	26	26	25	0	25	1	1	0	25	0
2015/2016										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	43	38	37	0	37	1	1	0	37	0
Total	43	38	37	0	37	1	1	0	37	0
2016/17										
High	8	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Medium	37	18	17	0	17	1	1	0	17	0
Total	45	20	19	0	19	1	1	0	19	0
Overall Total	163	133	127	0	127	6	6	0	127	0
RESOURCES										
2013 / 2014										
High	19	19	19	0	19	0	0	0	19	0
Medium	108	108	107	0	107	1	1	0	107	0
Total	127	127	126	0	126	1	1	0	126	0
2014 / 2015										
High	7	7	7	0	7	0	0	0	7	0
Medium	133	133	126	0	126	7	7	0	126	0
Total	140	140	133	0	133	7	7	0	133	0
2015 / 2016										
High	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Medium	124	98	95	0	95	3	3	0	95	0
Total	127	100	97	0	97	3	3	0	97	0
2016 / 2017										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	34	18	13	0	13	5	5	0	13	0
Total	34	18	13	0	13	5	5	0	13	0
Overall Total	428	385	369	0	369	16	16	0	369	0
TOTAL COUNCIL										
2012 / 2013										
High	10	10	9	0	9	1	1	0	9	0
Medium	74	74	74	0	74	0	0	0	74	0
Total	84	84	83	0	83	1	1	0	83	0
2013 / 2014										
High	33	33	33	0	33	0	0	0	33	0
Medium	191	191	187	0	187	4	4	0	187	0
Total	224	224	220	0	220	4	4	0	220	0
2014 / 2015										
High	12	12	11	0	11	1	1	0	11	0
Medium	225	225	214	0	214	11	11	0	214	0
Total	237	237	225	0	225	12	12	0	225	0
2015 / 2016										
High	11	10	9	0	9	1	1	0	9	0
Medium	398	361	342	0	342	19	19	0	342	0
Total	409	371	351	0	351	20	20	0	351	0
2016 / 2017										
High	12	3	2	0	2	1	1	0	2	0
Medium	138	73	66	0	66	7	7	0	66	0
Total	150	76	68	0	68	8	8	0	68	0
OVERALL TOTAL	1104	992	947	0	947	45	45	0	947	0

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Performance Indicators as at 30 June 2016

Efficiency			
Objective: To provide maximum assurance to inform the annual audit opinion			
KPI	Measure of Assessment	Target & (Frequency of Measurement)	Actual
Planned audits completed	% of planned assurance work from original approved plan complete to draft report stage	90% Annually	27% at 30 June 2016 (on target)
Timeliness of Draft Reports	% of draft reports issued within 30 Calendar days of end of fieldwork/closure interview	90% (Quarterly)	97% (38 out of 39)
Timeliness of Final Reports	% of final reports issued within 14 calendar days of receipt of management response	95% (Quarterly)	100% (40 out of 40)
Quarterly Progress Reports	Quarterly progress reports issued to Corporate Directors within one month of end of period	100% (Quarterly)	100%
Quality			
Objective: To ensure that the service is effective and adding value			
KPI	Measure of Assessment	Target & (Frequency of Measurement)	
Recommendations agreed	% of Recommendations made compared with recommendations accepted	95% (Annually)	100%
Post Audit Customer Satisfaction Survey Feedback	% of customers scoring audit service satisfactory or above (3 out of 5) where 1 is poor and 5 is very good	100% (Quarterly)	100% - Av score 4.5
Customers providing feedback Response	% of Customer returning satisfaction returns	70% (Quarterly)	82%
Cost			
Objective: To ensure that the service is cost effective			
KPI	Measure of Assessment	Target & (Frequency of Measurement)	
Cost per chargeable audit day	CIPFA Benchmarking Club – Comparator Group (Unitary)	Lower than average (Annually)	Yes (2015/16 exercise) £226 cost per chargeable audit day

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