



Audit Committee

Date **Tuesday 30 September 2014**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 1A, 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
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014 (Pages 1 - 8)
3. Declarations of interest, if any
4. Annual Governance Statement for the year April 2013 to March 2014 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 9 - 26)
5. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 27 - 276)
6. Audit Completion Report 2013/2014 - Durham County Council - Report of External Auditor (Pages 277 - 300)
7. Audit Completion Report 2013/2014 - Pension Fund - Report of External Auditor (Pages 301 - 318)
8. Internal Audit Progress Report for the quarter ended 30 June 2014 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 319 - 348)
9. Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
10. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Part B

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

11. Internal Audit Progress Report for the quarter ended 30 June 2014 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 349 - 358)
12. 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 2014

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

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

Councillors L Armstrong, C Carr, S Forster, J Hillary, O Temple,
T Smith and W Stelling

Co-opted Members:

K Larkin-Bramley and T Hoban

Contact: Jackie Graham

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Audit Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 24 July 2014 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor E Bell (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Rowlandson (Vice-Chairman), L Armstrong, C Carr, S Forster and O Temple

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Hoban

The Chairman congratulated the Audit Committee on the recent reports to County Council on the work undertaken, as they had been well received. He thanked the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager and his team for their hard work and commitment and the Corporate Director, Resources for his guidance.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hillary, T Smith and W Stelling, and Ms K Larkin-Bramley.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 July 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Consideration was given to all current items on the Committee's Action Plan (for copy of action plan see file of Minutes) with dates set when these would be reported back to Committee.

3 Declarations of interest, if any

Declarations of interest were provided by Members of the Committee. A generic declaration of interest would be recorded given that Members were school governors, members of various Committees of the Council, former District Councillor's and bodies such as the Probation Board and Fire Authority.

4 Assets

The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance relating to the County Council's Assets (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

The Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance informed Members that significant improvements had been made since LGR and that there was now a Single Asset Register. He further explained the aims and objectives and highlighted the long term assets:-

- Property, Plant and Equipment
- Heritage Assets
- Investment Property
- Intangible Assets
- Long Term Investments
- Long Term Debtors

Focusing on Property, Plant and Equipment he went on to break this area down and gave a description of the following sections:-

- Council Dwellings
- Land and Buildings
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment
- Infrastructure Assets
- Community Assets
- Surplus Assets
- Assets under Construction

Members were advised that they could request further details about any asset.

Councillor Carr asked if the Council lease of lot of plant vehicles and was informed by the Corporate Director, Resources that a review of fleet had been undertaken and found that it was better value to lease.

Catherine Banks, Mazars said that it was helpful from an external audit point of view to have a single register.

On answering a question from Councillor Carr regarding the depreciation of contaminated land, the Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance explained that this area was being explored with colleagues in Neighbourhood Services. It was recognised as a contingency liability and any significant findings would affect the value of a site. Work was ongoing with colleagues in the Assets team and any detailed findings could be reported back to the Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Finance Manager for his informative presentation.

5 2013/2014 Final Outturn for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

The Committee noted a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the final outturn for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account for 2013/14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Resources informed the Committee that both the balance sheet position and reserves were in a strong position. He added that the cash limit reserves had increased across all service groupings to £23m and that the general reserves had increased to £28m. It was explained that the two biggest increases had been equal pay and early retirement/voluntary redundancy and had had a beneficial outcome on the financial planning for the authority.

Councillor Temple asked where the money came from in the reserves. He was informed by the Corporate Director, Resources that £5m was from general reserves and £10m from cash limit reserves, taken from service groupings. Councillor Temple went on to ask why the earmarked reserves had increased if transferring money out of service budgets. He was advised that this was generated by revenue account performance. Councillor Temple asked to speak to the Corporate Director after the meeting to help understand how reserves could increase at a time of austerity.

The Corporate Director, Resources referred to equal pay claims being set up following job evaluation in 2012. A new structure was put in place and enough money had been built into the budget to cover the MTFP period. This had enabled the authority to push back the pressure on the base budget until 2017/18.

Mr Hoban asked if the differences could be explained in the variance of the use of earmarked reserves, on page 32 of the report. The Assistant Head of Finance, Corporate Finance explained that the first figure was the budget use of reserves and that the budget is reported to Cabinet every quarter. The figure of £24m was from the revised budget carried out during the year. At the end of the year the actual underspend is dealt with, which gives the difference of £32m. Work is ongoing with services for them to provide a more accurate forecast during the year. He pointed out that Neighbourhood Services would wait until funding and grants had been secured at the year end.

Resolved:

That the report is noted.

6 Treasury Management Outturn 2013/2014

The Committee noted a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the Treasury Management outturn position for 2013/14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Resources updated the Committee on the new bank proposals, following a question from Councillor Carr. The procurement process was due to start with a lot of interest shown. He added that as some Members may not be aware, a briefing would be sent to them shortly.

Resolved:

That the report is noted.

7 Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 and raised any significant issues arising from the accounts (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Resources reported that the statement of accounts had been provided to external audit and that they were available for public inspection until 1 August 2014. He said that the Pension Fund Accounts were in a strong position with net assets increasing by £45m and informed the Committee that the Local Government Chronicle rated Durham in the top 10 performing pension funds in the country.

Councillor Temple questioned the accuracy of paragraph 12 of the report stating that the net worth had fallen by £220m, due in the main to a decrease in the pension fund liabilities. The Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance said that this should state an increase, not a decrease and apologised for the error.

Councillor Temple queried the soft loan figure, as he would have expected to see a decrease as they had ceased. The Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance explained that these were former LGR loans remaining on the balance sheet and they would be chased with the legal team during the year to be recovered or written off.

Councillor Carr asked if the employee car loan figure would disappear from the accounts as was no longer offered. The Corporate Director, Resources confirmed that this would tail off in a few years as the scheme had stopped last year.

The Committee congratulated the team on preparing the accounts early.

Resolved:

- (i) That the attached Statement of Accounts for the County Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 be approved.
- (ii) That the Council's net worth had fallen due to an increase in the pension scheme liabilities, not a decrease, be noted.

8 Strategic Risk Management - Progress Report for the Quarter ended 30 June 2014

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which highlighted the strategic risks facing the Council and that gave an insight into the work carried out by the Corporate Risk Management Group during April to June 2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Risk, Assurance and Governance Manager informed the Committee that there were 30 strategic risks, a reduction of 1 since March 2014 and 5 key risks. He reported that the risks were being managed effectively.

On answering a question from Mr Hoban about whether key risk 5 had been removed the Corporate Director, Resources explained that the compliance test for the Central Government Public Services Network Code of Connection criteria had

been passed, and would save time and human resources by having tighter fire walls.

The Corporate Director, Resources explained how land charges were almost ready to be signed off at a settlement cost of £350-400k. As £1m had been earmarked this was a good example to show that £600k would be taken from earmarked reserves and put back into general reserves.

Resolved:

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

9 Fraud Awareness

The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager about Fraud Awareness (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

The Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager highlighted the following points:-

- What is Fraud?
- What is Fraud Worth?
- What is Durham County Council Doing?
- What our Strategy says
- Corporate Fraud Approach, including:-
 - Tenancy Fraud
 - Blue Badges
 - Direct Payments
 - Business Rates
 - Single Person Discount
 - Procurement
- Protecting the Public Purse
- National Fraud Initiative
- Single Fraud Investigation Service
- Fraud Funding
- Going Forward

Councillor Armstrong asked how academies would fit in to the training aspect for fraud awareness. He was advised that the same service would be offered to them as with all schools and governors.

The Assistant Finance Manager, Corporate Finance was informed that the Single Person Discount would be reviewed back to April 2013.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager for the interesting presentation. He added that the team were working together to strengthen the resolve in regards to fraud and he applauded the initiative.

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Action Plan - Work of Audit Committee - Part A – 30 September 2014

Ref No.	Date of Meeting	Item No.	Title of Report	Action Required	By Whom	Report to Committee (date)/ implemented
1	28.2.14 26.6.14	4 2	Financial Procedure Rules Presentation Minutes	Ethical question asked on all tender documentation regarding minimum wage Members informed that question was included asking if company complied with all relevant laws. The Committee suggested that this be changed to say 'Comply with all relevant laws including minimum wage' Feedback given from Procurement that legislation should be passed by March 2015 with a requirement that the minimum wage will fall within labour laws.	Head of Corporate Finance Chief Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud Manager	20 May 2014 24 July 2014 CLOSED
2	28.2.14	7	Changes to the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting in the UK for 2013/14	Presentation required on Council's Assets	Assistant Finance Manager/ Asset Manager	24 July 2014 CLOSED
3	26.6.14	5	Annual Audit Opinion and Internal Audit Report 2013/2014	IT Auditor to attend future meeting to explain the role of IT Audit and the assignments that they complete.	Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager	27 November 2014

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Audit Committee

30 September 2014

**Annual Governance Statement for the
year April 2013 – March 2014**



Report of Don McLure, 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 2013/14.

Background

2. The Audit Committee approved the draft AGS on 26 June 2014. A copy of the final proposed AGS is attached in Appendix 2 and this will be included in the audited Statements of Accounts.

Recommendations and reasons

3. 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 2013/14

1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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.

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 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.

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.

The Council has approved, adopted and published on its website, a 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”.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 4 (3) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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.

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.

The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

3. THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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.

The Council considers the governance implications of its actions, and revised its Local Code of Corporate Governance in January 2014 to ensure that it remains consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”. The Code also aims to ensure that the corporate governance arrangements help the Council to appropriately respond to sustained pressures from a variety of sources.

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 2013/14.

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

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 2014 - 2017](#);
- Altogether healthier – improving health and wellbeing, supported by the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014 – 17](#);
- 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 2011 – 2014](#).

The latest three-yearly update of the SCS was approved by the Council in April 2014. This refreshed version of the strategy reflects changes in local priorities and the need to deliver services with fewer resources.

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.

The [Council Plan 2014 – 2017](#) was approved in April 2014 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.

The [Medium Term Financial Plan 2014 – 2017 \(MTFP4\)](#) was approved by the Council in February 2014. 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 Cabinet and the target savings of £20.9m for 2013/14 have been delivered. These arrangements will equip the Council well for dealing with further austerity measures announced as part 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.

Through good governance, the Council continues to improve the quality of services, and this is confirmed by external independent sources of assurance, including Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Housing Inspections and accreditation to professional standards. Further assurance on the performance and direction of travel of the Council was gained by winning the Council of the Year category at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards, described as "the biggest celebration of innovation and talent across British councils". Judges were impressed by relations with local businesses, support for small and medium enterprises, real progress in community asset transfer and the contribution made to the wider area.

Assurance can also be taken from the positive conclusions of the [Peer Review](#) by the Local Government Association which was undertaken in 2012 and the actions taken since based on their findings and recommendations.

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.

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 the 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 Accountants, to facilitate meaningful comparisons with other organisations. Independent assurance of our VFM was also gained from the Audit Commission, who issued an unqualified VFM conclusion for our 2012/13 Accounts.

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 Directors during the year. Members have robustly scrutinised the performance of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key scrutiny reviews of Council services during 2013/14, which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#).

The Annual Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee in September 2013, 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 Audit Commission in both their Annual Governance 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.

To enable better use of resources, the Council has further strengthened its governance arrangements as follows:

- The framework for managing the Council's financial affairs, namely the Financial Procedure Rules, was reviewed and reported to Council in April 2014;
- Financial Awareness training was given to budget holders;
- Business Intelligence software was implemented, providing budget holders with immediate access to tailored financial management information and improving budgetary control;
- ICON, the income management software, was rolled out, enabling the Council to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards;
- A new role of Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager was created to strategically align fraud and internal audit, and a Corporate Fraud Team was formed in December 2013, to provide access to trained investigators and allow greater coverage of counter fraud work;
- A new governance and performance framework to improve financial control of the capital portfolio was implemented;
- A corporate protocol for the governance of insurance and insurable risk was implemented;

- We utilised specialist independent actuaries in September 2013 to provide assurance that we are achieving value-for-money between external insurance cover and self-funding arrangements, and for those risks which we self-insure, providing assurance that the funds we have set aside to meet estimated future claims are appropriate.

A programme management approach for key corporate projects has been established and embedded including project management training across the Council. Examples which demonstrate that rigorous programme management has enabled effective delivery of major projects include the Council Tax Support Scheme and the transfer of Community Buildings. Moreover, a programme management approach to the changes introduced by the Welfare Reform Act has been put in place. Assurance is gained by regular monitoring of the delivery of these projects by Corporate Management Team. The effectiveness of these arrangements is also demonstrated by the Council being highly commended in the Local Government Chronicle awards for its programme on waste management, recycling and rubbish collection. The judges said:

“In June 2013, the Council completed one of its biggest transformational programmes – the Durham County Council Waste Programme. This has successfully transformed services to become more responsive and high-quality, while massively reducing cost, increasing value for money and introducing improved ways of working. The new arrangements generated £4m of savings and significantly increased landfill diversion and recycling performance”.

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. A major programme was undertaken to transfer control of around 100 public buildings to the local community, which has ensured continued provision of community facilities, significant reductions in maintenance costs, and continued support to and engagement from members of the community. 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

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.

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.

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 2014. Key changes include the transfer of the overview of customer complaints from the Standards Committee to the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the Petition Scheme to reflect changes in legislation.

The Health and Wellbeing Board, a Committee of the Council, was established as a consequence of the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to the Council. Its functions include:

- Developing and agreeing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and
- 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.

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](#).

Following the Council election in May 2013, 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.

Members and Officers work together on the workload 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. For example, a number of informal sessions took place throughout the [MTFP](#) planning process to ensure CMT and Cabinet have a shared understanding of the complexities in the [MTFP](#) process, and all Opposition parties were briefed during the development of the [MTFP](#). Other examples of Members and Officers working together include monthly meetings of the Capital Member/Officer Working Group and six-monthly updates on disposals of surplus property.

Member remuneration is overseen by an independent panel, and their report was approved by Council in February 2014.

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 County Council, which Members considered when setting the budget.

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

The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#), the [Council Plan](#) and the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

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 implemented in May 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

The values of the Council are further promoted in the revised 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, in 2013/14, the [MTFP](#) was fully equality impact assessed. 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.

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 a new ethical framework was adopted in July 2012. The [Annual Report of the Standards Committee](#) was presented to the Full Council in September 2013.

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. The Monitoring Officer issued a formal reminder during the year to Corporate Directors about their responsibilities in relation to gifts and hospitality.

In response to amendments to the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, the corporate guidance on investigations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act has been updated.

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

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 \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#).

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. This includes the Officer Scheme of Delegation, which is reviewed annually in line with the review of the [Constitution](#). For example, an amendment was made to the [Constitution](#) to reflect the revised scheme of delegation to officers for the Corporate Director, Resources.

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.

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. Assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of the control framework for the Committee Management System was provided by Internal Audit.

To maintain the accountability and integrity of the Council's decision-making, a number of further improvements to governance in this area have been implemented in 2013/14. For example:

- Face to face data protection training was provided to 130 officers in November 2013 to address identified training needs, in addition to all staff being covered by online training.
- The Potential Data Breach policy was updated and circulated;
- A training and awareness session was held in November 2013 for Records Champions.

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 on 20 May 2014.

To further strengthen fraud awareness across the Council, 250 managers and staff have successfully completed fraud awareness training, and work has also progressed during the year to improve the effectiveness of the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy. This has been strengthened by the formation of the Corporate Fraud Team in December 2013.

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:

- Stock Transfer proposals;
- The [County Durham Plan](#);
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- The Combined Authority proposals for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership; and
- The Council's [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).

A number of key projects and reviews have also been carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:

- Neighbourhood Wardens;
- Impact of Government Policy and Funding changes to the County Durham economy;
- The impact of flooding on our local communities;
- Customer First Strategy and customer services; and
- Alcohol and substance misuse by young people.

Further assurance on the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function can also be gained from the [Peer Review](#) in 2012, which concluded that it is making a useful contribution through influencing policy development in areas related to the [Council Plan](#).

As part of the annual review of the [Constitution](#), the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Committees were updated in line with the refresh of the [Sustainable Community Strategy](#) and [Council Plan](#) priorities and actions. 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.

With regard to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, key points to note during 2013/14 include:

- Following the Council elections in May 2013, 55 new Councillors were elected. To ensure continued effectiveness of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, a series of bespoke induction sessions were held across all

Overview and Scrutiny Committees engaging all Councillors and co-opted members;

- 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;
- Through the Council's various publications and regular updating of web pages, the profile and awareness of the Overview and Scrutiny function was raised;
- Cross party representation on all Overview and Scrutiny Committees serves to promote an independent, non-partisan approach in their activities;
- Established a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils to formally engage and respond to proposals to reconfigure emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

The Police and Crime Panel has now reviewed the first annual report of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the [Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017](#), to fulfil its legal requirements. An update on activity from the Panel is now presented to each meeting of the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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.

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.

During the year, a new Audit Charter was approved in line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The Council's self-assessment against both the principles of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit and the new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, which were presented to Audit Committee in June 2013, illustrates a high degree of compliance.

A Corporate Complaints policy is in place for non-statutory complaints. From 2013/14 details of complaints, and of investigations by the Commissioner for Local Administration, have been reported to Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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.

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

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

The Council is committed to continually reviewing the development needs of Members and Officers. Our approach to Member development is outlined in the Member Learning and Development Strategy.

Other improvements to governance arrangements in this area during the year include:

- A review of the Corporate Induction programme was completed;
- Recruitment and Selection Policy was reviewed and implemented;
- A new system for maintaining staff records, which will be directly accessible by managers through the Intranet, was implemented, leading to improved efficiency and shortened processing timescales;
- The “The Durham Manager” development programme, which was rolled out to managers from September 2013, was enhanced after seeking feedback from managers through a course evaluation and focus groups programme;
- A revised Grievance Policy has been implemented, and the Disciplinary Policy is under review;
- Following extensive consultation, a revised Organisational Development Strategy will be finalised in October 2014. The Council continues to adopt the principles of the Investor in People Standard through the Organisational Development Strategy, without seeking accreditation under the scheme;
- Induction training was provided for new members following the election in May 2013;
- Individual training and development plans were produced for all members;
- The Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace Policy, which is based on the Health and Safety Executive Stress Standards, has replaced the Stress Management Policy and Toolkit;
- The Council’s Occupational Health Service has been 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.
- Health and Safety unitisation and consequential review of health and safety policies and procedures; and
- A pilot scheme to improve the quality and accuracy of sickness absence data commenced in January 2014.

The Council also continues to support employees through the change process with, for example, Jobcentre Plus information sessions.

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

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.

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.

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](#).

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. During 2013, through this network of [AAPs](#), the Council staged 23 'Your Money, Your Choice' consultation events across the county, working with parish councils and the community and voluntary sector. The events encouraged local people to vote for which community projects should be given a share of a community chest funded by the council and other public sector organisations. Residents were also asked to express a view on each area's local priorities. Nearly 10,700 people took part in the events, allocating £563,000 to 177 community projects.

As part of these events, the Council carried out a detailed consultation process during the development of [MTFP4](#), and 97% of the 3,300 respondents agreed with the plan. This process involved in depth exercises at 14 separate [AAPs](#) and the completion of online questionnaires. The key aim of the exercise was to assess public opinion on how to achieve its target savings, and the outputs from the exercise identified areas of the budget the public would wish to protect and those where higher levels of saving should be implemented. Partners and key agencies, including the Police and NHS County Durham and Darlington, were also consulted.

The Durham [Citizen's Panel](#) was consulted about various proposals, projects and issues of concern, including:

- Residential Care Homes;
- [Medium Term Financial Plan](#);

- Garden Waste;
- School Crossing;
- Customer First;
- Community Resilience;
- Fixed Play Provision; and
- Corporate Tree Management Policy.

Evidence of our community engagement includes:

- A [Voluntary and Community Sector \(VCS\) Strategy](#) was developed to help the council work in partnership with the [VCS](#) to realise the ambitions of individuals and to improve their quality of life;
- The [AAPs](#), voluntary sector organisations and a community buildings team funded by the council has worked with local community organisations to take on a number of community buildings, following targeted investment to improve the assets;
- Councillors and employees, particularly those in customer-facing roles, have received training to help them understand the welfare reform changes and how the council and partners can help;
- A comprehensive communications programme has been instigated to ensure that claimants understand proposed welfare reform changes;
- The corporate website is being re-designed, with views being sought from staff and members of the public, and it is planned to go live in 2014;
- Strengthening the remit, representation and focus of the Customer Focus Board that provides a multi service approach to developing and implementing a new Customer First Strategy for the Authority;
- All [AAPs](#) and the Terms of Reference were reviewed this year, during which the first four-year tenures of Public Representatives were completed.

In achieving Council of the Year at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards, judges were impressed by community engagement arrangements across the Council:

The Council has made considerable efforts to engage the community and prides itself on being ambitious, open to trying new things and exhibiting a clear set of priorities. Its 'Altogether Better Council' plan is one example of the organisation's priorities and sets out a precedent for collaborative community strategies. Finally, its pioneering approach to engaging local communities through [area action partnerships](#), neighbourhood budgets and participatory budgeting has won international acclaim. Partnership is a key part of this organisation's success and Durham believes it has a huge amount to offer to its peers". (LGC article)

Assurance can also be gained from the [Peer Review](#) by the Local Government Association, which was undertaken in 2012, which highlighted that the Council is 'effectively engaging with stakeholders' and has 'communication channels with local communities'.

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.

4. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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 Head of Internal Audit and Risk, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

We are in a group relationship with East Durham Homes and Dale and Valley Homes and undertake significant activities through this group. The main features of their governance arrangements are documented each year through written assurance statements.

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.

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.

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.

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 2013/14. 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.

5 SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

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 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement

Following the production of the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13, an action plan, containing the following recommendations was produced. Progress made in implementing each recommendation, as outlined below, was confirmed by the Corporate Director, Resources and formed the starting point of the work to produce the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement.

1. Business Continuity

A backup ICT site, developed in partnership with Sunderland City Council, is now in place. The equipment has been installed and data has been transferred. Testing has taken place at a functional / equipment level and a full test is planned for June 2014.

2. Arrangements for ensuring Value for Money

The Audit Commission VFM profiles, which will be adopted by the Local Government Association (LGA) on the demise of the Audit Commission in March 2015, are used to provide assurance that the mechanisms that we currently have in place are identifying and addressing those areas where less than optimal VFM is being achieved. These are supplemented by CIPFA VFM benchmarking information for central services, where available, and this has been done in 2013/14. In Children and Adults Services, analysis of s251 (children and young people's budget statement) and PSSEX1 (Personal Social Services Expenditure) benchmarking data is well embedded and is used to inform VFM considerations in this service.

In conclusion, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2013/14 were sound. As a result of the review of governance arrangements, and the work of both internal and external audit, we have not identified any further areas for significant governance improvement in 2014/15.

Signed:

Simon Henig
Leader of Durham County Council

George Garlick
Chief Executive

Don McLure
Corporate Director, Resources

Audit Committee

30 September 2014



**Statement of Accounts for the year ended
31 March 2014**

**Report of Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources
Councillor Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Member 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 2014.

Background

- 2 The 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011' introduced 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 2014, 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 27 June 2014.
- 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 Report 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 2013/14 has been prepared in accordance with the 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003', as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 and 2009, the 'Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the 'Code of

Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2013/14' (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 05 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 05 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 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 identified during the Audit of the Accounts, all of which have been amended in the Statement of Accounts. 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 audited body and its 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 2013/14.
- 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. The Auditor's opinion considers whether the Council has proper arrangements for:
- Securing financial resilience, and
 - Challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 18 For 2013/14 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 cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until the audit work on the Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack is completed. The Auditor is, however, satisfied that this work will not have a material effect on the financial statements or his value for money conclusion.

Recommendation

- 20 That the Audit Committee approves the Statement of Accounts for the Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2014.

Contact: Don McLure Tel: 03000 261945

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

This report details the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2014.

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	Explanation of Purpose and Content
Explanatory Foreword	Summary of the most significant matters reported in the accounts, and the overall financial position of the Council.
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	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	Once the Audit is completed the Auditor's report will be signed.
Durham County Council Core Financial 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 and other reserves
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account (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.
Balance Sheet	The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date (31 March 2014) 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	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	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	Explanation of Purpose and Content
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 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	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	Shows the operation and membership of the Pension Fund, the expenditure and income during the year and its financial position at 31 March 2014. Following the Accounts are notes providing further information.
Annual Governance Statement	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	To help the reader understand terminology used in the Statement of Accounts.



Statement of Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2014

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:

Corporate Director Resources
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County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UE

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Telephone: 03000 260000

Don McLure C.P.F.A.
Corporate Director Resources



Durham County Council	Page
Preface	1
Explanatory Foreword.....	3
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts.....	58
Independent Auditor's Report to Durham County Council	60
Durham County Council Core Financial Statements.....	64
Movement in Reserves Statement.....	64
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.....	66
Balance Sheet	67
Cash Flow Statement.....	68
Notes to the Accounts.....	69
The Housing Revenue Account	163
Collection Fund.....	168
Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts	176
Notes to Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts.....	178
Annual Governance Statement.....	211
Glossary of Terms used in the Accounts	228

1. Message from Don McLure CPFA – Corporate Director Resources

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

Our plan over the coming three years continues 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 generally.

It is the Council's view that the financial landscape for all local authorities will remain challenging until at least 2018/19 and at this time it is forecast that the Council will need to save an estimated further £110m of savings over the three year period 2014/15 to 2016/17.

That said, the Council continued to deliver a high standard of services during 2013/14 while successfully delivering all of our challenging savings targets in very difficult circumstances, in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

This document presents the published accounts for Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 – 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, that it has been accounted for properly, that the financial standing of the Council continues to be safe and secure and services are being delivered using value for money principles at all times.

The Statement of Accounts begins with this explanatory foreword and the presentation of the Accounts have been designed to help readers to understand and interpret the financial statements which follow accounting standards and regulation and are by their very nature complex in some areas. The style and format of the Statement of Accounts is very similar to that used in 2012/13.

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.

Don McLure CPFA

Corporate Director Resources

2. Introduction

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to give 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. It is a very important element in demonstrating the Council's stewardship of public money. It shows the resources available and how they have been used to deliver services in County Durham.

The purpose of the Explanatory Foreword is to provide an understandable guide of the most significant aspects of the Council's financial performance, year-end financial position

and cash flows. The Explanatory Foreword 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 forward look at the issues that have affected the Council's development, performance and position during 2013/14 and are likely to impact in the future. This foreword covers:

- 1 Message from the Corporate Director Resources
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Statement of Accounts
- 4 Related Parties – Members Interests and Directorships
- 5 Information and Financial Statements
- 6 County Durham
- 7 Key Achievements in 2013/14
- 8 A Review of 2013/14
- 9 Material Assets Acquired, Liabilities Incurred
- 10 Sources of Funds to meet Capital Expenditure and Other Plans
- 11 Borrowing
- 12 Pensions Liability
- 13 Material or Unusual Items
- 14 Significant Changes in Accounting Policies
- 15 Significant Provisions, Contingencies and Material Write-offs
- 16 Changes in Statutory Functions
- 17 Subsequent Events
- 18 Future Plans
- 19 Housing Revenue Account
- 20 Durham County Council Pension Fund
- 21 Going Concern

3. Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2013/14 is prepared in accordance with the 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003', as amended by the 'Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 and 2009, the 'Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011' and the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2013/14' (the Code) as published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Code specifies the principles and practices required to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority. It sets out the accounting concepts and accounting principles which underpin the Statement of Accounts. The Code is based on approved accounting standards and reflects specific statutory requirements.

The Code is based on European Union adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) (with the exception of IFRS 13 '*Fair Value Measurement*') which were primarily drafted for the commercial sector and are not designed to address all the issues

relevant to local government in the UK. Therefore, where appropriate, the Code adapts IFRS's and sets out the required accounting treatment based on the approach in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Relevant Authorities. In the unusual event that a local authority enters into a transaction for which the accounting treatment and disclosure required is not covered by the Code, it prescribes a hierarchy of alternative standards on which accounting treatment should be based. These include accounting standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and interpretations of the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC), except where these are inconsistent with specific statutory requirements. The Code also draws on approved accounting standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSAS) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) where these provide additional guidance.

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 to assist in the interpretation of the accounts, which are unfortunately, unavoidably technical and complex.

The key document for Local Authorities in England is the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. These regulations provide the overall legal requirements for the Statement of Accounts and have been incorporated into the Code.

The key changes in the Code necessitated by changes in accounting practices and accounting standards in 2013/14 which affect the Council's Statement of Accounts are in the accounting treatment and disclosure requirements of post-employment benefits and new requirements for accounting in the Collection Fund for the newly introduced Business Rates Retention Scheme.

The changes introduced in the Code that have necessitated amendment to the accounting policies for 2013/14 are in respect of Post-Employment Benefits, the newly created Business Improvement District Scheme in the City of Durham and to clarify the accounting treatment for the Voluntary Aided/Voluntary Controlled/Foundation Schools.

4. Related Parties – Members Interests and Directorships

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 the reader to assess the extent to which the Council may have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or may have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to transact freely with the Council. More detailed information is disclosed in Note 38.

Elected Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. In Local Government, elected members are often involved in the local community through various organisations and voluntary bodies, as well as holding positions as school governors and being members of Parish and Town Councils. Details of all of these organisations are recorded in the Register of Members' interests, which is open to public inspection at County Hall, Durham during office hours. Each County Councillors' 'register of interests' can be viewed on the [Your Councillors](#) page on the Council's website by clicking on the relevant County Councillor.

There are a number of organisations which are independent from the council, but have an impact on its service areas. In order that the council can maintain effective partnerships with a number of these organisations, representatives of the council, usually elected councillors, sit on the various committees and forums that are responsible for them. A [list](#) of these organisations can be found on the Council's website.

Chief Officers are also required to disclose any related party transactions, including directorships. These are also disclosed in Note 38 of the Accounts.

The Council also has financial relationships with a number of related companies, details of which are included in Note 38. Although some are considered to be significant, for example due to the level of investment, the Code defines the tests for determining which entities are included in a council's group accounts. The Council has confirmed, following a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the Council's interests in subsidiaries, that these are not material and do not warrant consolidation into Group Accounts. These entities include:

- Durham County Waste Management Company
- Service Direct NewCo Limited
- Dale and Valley Homes
- East Durham Homes
- Central Durham Crematorium
- Mountsett Crematorium
- Beamish Museum Joint Committee and related companies
- Newcastle International Airport Limited (NIAL) Holdings Limited
- Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited
- Durham County Council Pension Fund

5. Information and Financial Statements

The purpose of the explanatory foreword is to provide a concise and understandable guide for the reader of the accounts of the most significant aspects of the Council's financial performance, year-end position and cash flows.

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.

The information and financial statements are as follows:

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

Sets out the responsibilities of the Council and the Corporate Director Resources.

Independent Auditor's Report

The Report of the Independent Auditor on the Council's Accounts and the Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Durham County Council's Core Financial 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 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 (CI&E)

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 core 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 but is relevant to the understanding of the accounts, 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 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

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 business 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 2014. Following the Accounts are notes providing further information.

Annual Governance Statement

Gives assurance that 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.

6. County Durham

County Durham is a place of distinctive character with a strong sense of its own identity. It has a proud and unique history having been settled since ancient times by the Romans, Anglos, Saxons and Normans. Durham City developed as a centre of Christian worship in the 11th century with the completion of the cathedral which is now a World Heritage site. The Bishops of Durham were granted both spiritual and secular powers by William I effectively giving them the status of Kings of the North East. Later, 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.

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 county covers an area of 223,260 hectares with 223,800 households and 12 major centres of population.

Following local government reorganisation in 2009, Durham County Council, with 513,200 residents, is the largest council in the North East region and the sixth largest all-purpose council by population in England.

The economic history of the county has generated a spatially fragmented geography of around 300 settlements including rural villages, small and medium towns and a historic city with World Heritage status.

In common with the rest of the UK, the county's population is ageing with the average age of 41.3 years in 2011 rising to 42.1 years in 2021. Increases in life expectancy and the transition of the 'baby boom' generation from economic activity into retirement means that our older people cohort (aged 65 +) is predicted to rise by 25.1% by 2021. Even greater increases are expected in the population of people aged 85 and over which is predicted to rise by 41.9% (nearly 4,600 people). An increase in the birth rate both nationally and locally will stem the decline in the number of people aged under 25, which is expected to remain fairly constant over the next two decades at its current level of approximately 29% of the population.

Black and minority ethnic communities make up 1.8% of the population. County Durham is ranked as the 62nd most deprived out of 326 authorities nationally. There is a high proportion (45.4%) of the County Durham population living in the 30% most deprived areas. Within these communities, weekly wages and rates of car ownership are low; the health of the population is relatively poor; life expectancy is below the average for the country and there are high levels of disability and long term illness.

In September 2013, 13,110 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), which equates to 4.09% of the working age population. This is lower than the regional average of 4.7% but higher than the Great Britain average of 3.2%. In February 2013, 50,660 people were claiming 'out of work' benefits including Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and 'other' income related benefits, which equates to 15.3% of the working age population and is a fall from 16% of the working age population in February 2012. This is lower than the regional average of 15.5% but higher than the Great Britain average of 11.7%. The history of heavy industry has left the region with a legacy of greater sickness and disability and dependency on benefit payments. The estimated financial loss in the county per working age adult due to welfare reform is the equivalent of £565 a year compared to £320 in the South East and £470 across Great Britain as a whole.

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 authority providing the full range of local government services to the public.

Countywide elections took place on 2 May 2013 when all 126 seats on Durham County Council were contested. This was the first county council election to be held since Local Government Reorganisation in 2009. The council is made up of 126 Members

representing 63 electoral divisions, each represented by either one, two or three members. The Labour Party has a controlling majority.

The Council operates a leader and cabinet style model of political governance and the cabinet is made up of ten councillors.

The Council's overview and scrutiny function is made up of six scrutiny 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 ten other representatives.

The Council is 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, Durham County Council can probably have a hand in it somewhere. We have a budget of £1.326 billion, we employ over 17,826 people and our services are delivered to a customer base of over half a million people. 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.

The Council's Vision

The Council has a vision and priorities which are shared together with partners and which are based on consultation with local people and Area Action Partnerships. This vision developed by the Council reflects the views and aspirations of the community and opportunities for improvement. It focuses around an altogether better Durham and comprises two components; to have an altogether better place which is altogether better for people.

This vision provides a framework which guides all of our detailed plans and programmes which will turn our vision into a reality. This is achieved through organising our improvement actions into a structure comprised of five priority themes.

This vision is shared with our partners and set out in the County's Sustainable Community Strategy. It is reassuring to note that during the current economic climate with all public sector agencies facing large reductions in government funding, the Council and its partners have reaffirmed their commitment to the above vision and the objectives that have previously been developed for each of the priority themes.

The Council Plan, which is available on the Council's website, www.durham.gov.uk, sets out our corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions that the Council will take in support of the delivery of the long-term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also identifies the improvements that the Council wants to make in how it manages itself. These actions are captured in a sixth priority theme of an Altogether Better Council.

The Council Plan is sub-divided into a section on each of our priority themes. Each of the priority themes is underpinned by detailed objectives and outcomes and a high level action plan for delivery set out in the Council Plan and details the objectives and outcomes that we have developed following our policy analysis work. It also sets out the narrative of what we are trying to achieve. 'Did you know' and 'look out for' sections provide further information in relation to each objective for the reader. As a result of our performance management framework, we provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the

development and performance of the Council as we have been able to measure and highlight some recent successes in the 'going well' sections whilst the 'cause for concern' sections show the areas under each objective where we would like to perform better. These issues are addressed in the high level action plans designed to deliver our ambitions for each objective. Progress against these action plans, together with performance against the measures, is detailed in the Council Plan enable monitoring and reporting throughout the year.

Risk Management

An essential part of corporate and service planning is the consideration of risks and actions that the Council can take to minimise or eliminate their occurrence or their impact on service delivery. Risk management is integrated within the Council's annual planning cycle and risks are kept under regular scrutiny with a formal review of all service and corporate risks being carried out on a quarterly basis by the Council's Corporate Risk Management Group. The Council's Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the development and operation of risk management and the overall corporate governance of the authority. Risks are assessed at two levels: gross impact and likelihood based on an assessment of the risk without any controls in place; and net impact and likelihood based on the assessment of the current risk after taking into account the existing controls and mitigating actions in place.

Performance and Efficiency

Our analysis of national policy imperatives, local needs, current performance and consultation data has helped us to formulate the priorities contained within the Council Plan. The Council's requirement to make substantial savings following government grant reductions to balance our budget remains a priority. It is important that the Council continues to effectively programme manage the achievement of these savings so that they are realised in a planned way.

The Council has a corporate planning framework which sets out how the performance of its services is managed. Objectives setting out what the council wants to achieve over the next three years are developed together with key measures which are used to determine the extent to which our objectives are being met. Plans setting out the actions that we will take to achieve our objectives and maintain performance are also drawn up. Monitoring reports of the progress against these actions and performance against key measures detailed within the Council Plan are considered by senior managers and councillors on a quarterly basis. A range of actions are taken where services are found to be underperforming including taking remedial action such as carrying out further investigations, allocating additional resources or employing new processes or working with other agencies to bring performance within target.

Demand for many of the Council's advice, guidance and support services has increased as a result of the economic downturn and reforms to the welfare system. Managing the performance of our services against a background of reducing budgets and increasing demand in some areas is a major challenge for the Council.

So the Council's performance needs to be considered in the context of reducing budgets and employee numbers and also increasing demand for a number of our services including face-to-face contacts at our customer access points, presentations at our

Housing Solutions Service, applications for housing benefit and requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act. Despite the tough financial climate for the council, we have achieved improvements in many areas.

7. Key Achievements in 2013/14

Noteworthy achievements include:

- In March 2014, the Council won the Council of the Year category at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards, the biggest celebration of innovation and talent across British councils.
- Performance against the decent homes standard across all council owned stock of 18,500 homes continues to improve and is on course to achieve target.
- The Council has been instrumental in attracting top class businesses such as Hitachi Rail UK to the county and in securing major property investments such as Durham Gate, Freeman's Reach and NETPark.
- The Council has invested in its own apprenticeship support programme, creating 357 additional places for young people across the county since November 2011.
- GCSE results in our schools have improved for the eleventh consecutive year and both GCSE and A-level results are higher than regional and national averages.
- The County Durham Think Family Programme has been recognised nationally by Louise Casey, Director General of the Troubled Families Unit, and the Troubled Families National Programme as a model of best practice. Our pre-birth intervention work has won national acclaim and awards for early years family support and child protection.
- Our fostering service was rated as outstanding by Ofsted as were our safeguarding services. Durham's inspection judgement was the equal second highest of 151 local authorities inspected in the country.
- The percentage of social care users in receipt of community services who have a personal budget continues to improve and exceeds the national average.
- We have made excellent progress in recycling and composting rates and levels of municipal waste being landfilled, with Durham outperforming the regional and national averages.
- We have already exceeded our ambitious target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the county by 40 per cent by 2020.
- We have invested over £4 million in installing solar photovoltaic panels onto council buildings and through our building efficiency retrofit project making improvements to heating and lighting systems.
- Our street lighting efficiency programme will save £2 million whilst reducing our carbon footprint.
- The lighting scheme we designed for Durham Cathedral and Castle has won the international Auroralia Award for exemplary and original sustainable urban lighting. The scheme has also been shortlisted in the national Lighting Design Awards 2014.

- Housing rent arrears across all providers is achieving target, bucking the trend experienced in other parts of the country following welfare reform.
- 100 per cent of the stock owned and managed by the council (Durham City Homes) met the decent homes standard at the end of last year.
- Our income team won 'Most Improved team of the year' at the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) awards.
- Our auditors gave the authority an unqualified value for money conclusion for 2012/13.

8. A Review of 2013/14

A review of the Housing Revenue Account 2013/14 budget and outturn is shown at section 19 along with its future plans.

2013/14 Budget – General Fund

The Council has faced unprecedented reductions in Government grants since the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) when the expectation for local government was a 28% cut in Government grant for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15. Since then, the position has deteriorated for local government and in total the council forecasted that Government support over the six year period 2011 to 2017 would reduce by £139m. This equated to a 36% reduction in Government support over this period.

The Council's provisional funding baseline for 2013/14 was announced by the Government on 19 December 2012 with the final settlement being announced on 4 February 2013. The funding baseline for 2013/14 was £249.5m which was £9.1m less than the 2012/13 allocation.

The continuing unprecedented reductions in local government funding were set against the backdrop of fundamental change in the Government's methodology for financing local authorities from 2013/14.

The two key changes introduced from 2013/14 are:

- **Business Rate Retention (BRR) Scheme**

Under the new BRR scheme, the council retains 49% of all business rates collected across the county – an estimated £53m in 2013/14. The council is therefore also be able to retain 49% of any increase in business rate yield from any growth in businesses being set up in Durham, but there is also some risk under the new system because the council has to bear 49% of any reduction in business rate yield. The council is also required to pay for 49% of the cost of all successful, backdated business rate appeals that were outstanding on 31 March 2013 and would not be settled until 2013/14 or later.

- **Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)**

The Government has transferred the responsibility for council tax benefit to local authorities from 2013/14 with a funding reduction of 10%, which equates to a funding loss of £5.5m. From 1 April 2013, the council became responsible for setting a new local council tax reduction scheme which meant 100% of the costs of any additional council tax support, should the number of benefit claimants increase, is paid for by the council.

The government's intention in introducing these fundamental changes in the method of financing local authorities was to provide an incentive to grow local economies.

It should be recognised however that in a period of recession or intermittent growth in local economies, the government's new local government policy was transferring a significant risk to local authorities and especially those in deprived areas like County Durham.

The change in funding methodology was also a significant shift away from the former formula methodology which was based upon an assessment of 'need' for the people living in County Durham, including deprivation assumptions for all areas across the County.

The savings to achieve the 2013/14 balanced budget were aligned to the Council's original budget strategy that was agreed in June 2010, which was supported by the public following extensive consultation. The council's strategy continued to be to protect front line services wherever possible, including reducing management and support services costs; to invest in priority service areas whilst at the same time limiting council tax increases for council tax payers during the continuing period of recession.

Although the 2013/14 budget required the delivery of further savings of £20.9m, there were a number of key service areas that were protected and some services where the budget was increased for the benefit of council tax payers including:

- For the fourth consecutive year, council tax bills for council tax payers stayed the same as the council accepted the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant of £2m, which is the equivalent to the amount of income the council would have received from a 1% council tax increase.
- Increasing the Adult Social Care budget by £1m in recognition of the increasing demands on the council due to demographic changes and more people becoming dependent upon these services. This was in line with the priorities identified through consultation.
- Protecting all 65,000 households in receipt of council tax benefit under the local council tax reduction scheme despite a 10% cut in government funding.
- Protecting the highways winter maintenance programme in order to keep our main highways infrastructure open for the public. Again this was in line with public consultation findings.
- A key priority of the capital programme is to stimulate regeneration and job creation across the County. In line with this priority, an additional £3.25m of revenue was allocated to fund prudential borrowing to invest in new and current capital projects amounting to £159m in 2013/14 with a total programme for the period 2013/14 to 2016/17 of £315m.

After taking into account base budget pressures, additional investment and savings, the Council's Net Budget Requirement for 2013/14 was £457.814m.

Budget Monitoring

Throughout the year, the Cabinet has received quarterly reports which have forecast the likely revenue and capital outturn position for the Council against the budget described above and has approved revisions to the original revenue and capital budgets in the light of changing circumstances. These reports can be found on the Council's website www.durham.gov.uk.

General Fund Outturn

The following paragraphs detail the actual outturn position against this budget.

- 1 This section of the report shows the following:
 - (i) Cash Limit Outturn for Service Groupings;
 - (ii) Overall Revenue Outturn for the General Fund with summarised Service Grouping commentary;
 - (iii) Overall Capital Outturn of the General Fund with summarised Service Grouping commentary;

Cash Limit Outturn

- 2 The overall outturn for the Council is shown in the table below.

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Service Groupings Final Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Cash Limit Adjustments			Cash Limit Position £'000	Cash Limit Carry Forward £'000
					Sums Outside the Cash Limit £'000	Cash Limit Reserve £'000	Contribution to / Use of Reserves £'000		
Assistant Chief Executive	11,178	10,220	11,143	923	-1,733	-72	761	-121	121
Children and Adults Services	291,815	272,521	240,521	-32,000	8,169	-	16,843	-6,988	6,988
Neighbourhood Services	108,776	111,742	96,038	-15,704	9,143	-	5,595	-966	966
Regeneration and Economic Development Resources	41,801	41,354	55,743	14,389	-15,442	-	1,301	248	-248
	22,246	18,024	14,156	-3,868	2,787	-	714	-367	367
Cash Limit Position	475,816	453,861	417,601	-36,260	2,924	-72	25,214	-8,194	8,194
Contingencies	7,852	5,827	-	-5,827	-	-	4,500	-1,327	1,327
Centrally Held Budgets	-	-	-15,526	-15,526	15,883	-	-	357	-357
Corporate Costs	80	1,670	1,609	-61	-	-	-115	-176	176
NET COST OF SERVICES	483,748	461,358	403,684	-57,674	18,807	-72	29,599	-9,340	9,340
Capital charges	-51,723	-50,473	-75,898	-25,425	-14,874	-	-	-40,299	40,299
Gain/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	40,299	40,299	-	-	-	40,299	-40,299
Interest and Investment income	-1,441	-1,441	-3,302	-1,861	-	-	-	-1,861	1,861
Interest payable and similar charges	35,148	34,796	30,975	-3,821	-	-	3,750	-71	71
HR Accrual - reversal	-	-	1,781	1,781	-1,781	-	-	-	-
Net Expenditure	465,732	444,240	397,539	-46,701	2,152	-72	33,349	-11,272	11,272
Funded By:									
Council Tax	-164,469	-164,469	-164,469	-	-	-	-	-	-
Council tax freeze grant	-2,033	-2,033	-2,029	4	-	-	-	4	-4
Use of (-) / contribution to earmarked reserves	-4,399	24,250	57,596	33,346	-	-	-	33,346	-33,346
Start Up Funding Assessment	-278,370	-278,370	-278,342	28	-	-	-	28	-28
Capitalisation Provision Redistribution Grant	-	-	-881	-881	-	-	-	-881	881
New Homes Bonus	-4,799	-4,799	-4,799	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus - re-imburement	-943	-943	-943	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 31 Grant - Small business rate relief	-	-	-2,191	-2,191	-	-	-	-2,191	2,191
Education Services Grant	-7,200	-7,236	-7,685	-449	-	-	-	-449	449
Use of (-) contribution to Cash Limit Reserve	-3,519	-5,640	2,482	8,122	-	-	-	8,122	-8,122
Use of (-) contribution to the General Reserve	-	-5,000	3,722	8,722	-	-	-	8,722	-8,722
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	2,152	-72	33,349	35,429	-35,429

The table details how the cash limit outturn for each Service Grouping is calculated. Two key elements have been excluded from the Service Grouping outturn when calculating the cash limit outturn as detailed below:

(i) Sums Outside the Cash Limit

Some expenditure and Income can be excluded from the cash limit for a number of reasons. Some of these are detailed below:

- Items not controlled by the Service Groupings e.g. Capital Charges, Central Administration Recharges and items relating to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Exceptional items and expenditure pressures which were not accounted for in the service grouping base budget build and which are

covered by contingencies or earmarked reserves held corporately e.g. Flooding and additional Winter Maintenance due to exceptional long periods of ice or snow and redundancy costs linked to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings proposals.

(ii) Use of or Contribution to Earmarked Reserves

Sums that Service Groupings have utilised or contributed to Earmarked Reserves, have been excluded from their outturn position in order to calculate their cash limit position.

- 3 After taking into account the above exclusions, through tight budgetary control by managers and robust delivery of financial savings targets, all Service Groupings have generated a cash limit underspend in 2013/14 apart from the Regeneration and Economic Development Service Grouping who incurred a relatively small overspend of £0.248m but this was after taking into account a contribution of £0.875m to the Council's MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve.
- 4 The 2013/14 cash limit underspend for each Service Grouping is detailed in the table below:

Movement during 2013/14

Service Grouping	Opening	Use of Reserve	Contribution	Transfer to /	Closing
	Balance as at			from	
	01-Apr-13		to reserve	Earmarked	31-Mar-14
	£m	£m	£m	Reserves	£m
Assistant Chief Executive	-1.165	0.281	-0.121	-	-1.005
Children and Adults Services	-9.732	4.291	-6.988	0.400	-12.029
Neighbourhoods	-2.311	0.495	-0.966	-	-2.782
Regeneration and Economic Development	-3.416	0.409	-	-	-3.007
Resources	-3.280	0.084	-0.367	-	-3.563
Total	-19.904	5.560	-8.442	0.400	-22.386

Revenue Outturn

- 5 The table in paragraph 2 provides a more detailed Outturn position for the Council's General Fund by Service Grouping. In addition, the table below provides a detailed Outturn position for the Council by type of expenditure and income.

Explanatory Foreword

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Service Groupings Final Outturn £'000	Corporate Costs £'000	Variance £'000	Cash Limit Adjustments				
						Sums Outside the Cash Limit £'000	Cash Limit Reserve £'000	Contribution to / Use of Reserves £'000	Cash Limit Position £'000	Cash Limit Carry Forward (including Corporate Costs) £'000
Employees	474,690	516,784	508,478	-	-8,306	1,619	-	-311	-6,998	6,998
Premises	49,324	52,423	54,286	-	1,863	-3,557	-	395	-1,299	1,299
Transport	50,097	50,448	46,459	-	-3,989	454	-	398	-3,137	3,137
Supplies and Services	113,512	127,120	149,446	1,633	23,959	456	-	3,437	27,852	-27,852
Agency and Contracted	269,897	259,189	258,614	3,134	2,559	671	-	3,127	6,357	-6,357
Transfer Payments	210,685	213,183	208,047	-	-5,136	-	-	4,705	-431	431
Central Costs	101,309	98,155	75,647	-	-22,508	6,672	-72	9,188	-6,720	6,720
Other	1,265	2,018	12,160	-	10,142	27	-	4,245	14,414	-14,414
DRF	-	100	10,852	-	10,752	-	-	2,758	13,510	-13,510
Capital Charges	51,723	50,473	35,599	-	-14,874	14,874	-	-	-	-
GROSS EXPENDITURE	1,322,502	1,369,893	1,359,588	4,767	-5,538	21,216	-72	27,942	43,548	-43,548
Income										
- Specific Grants	528,182	571,825	562,710	3,037	-6,078	-	-	4,501	-1,577	1,577
- Other Grants and contribs	25,320	30,956	35,191	-	4,235	853	-	-565	4,523	-4,523
- Sales	6,720	5,147	10,198	-	5,051	-368	-	-	4,683	-4,683
- Fees and charges	108,122	106,686	112,832	-	6,146	-	-	-288	5,858	-5,858
- Recharges	169,661	187,788	211,397	-	23,609	1,924	-	-219	25,314	-25,314
- Rents	5,176	5,457	5,675	0	218	-	-	-	218	-218
- Other	3,426	6,505	13,561	121	7,177	-	-	-586	6,591	-6,591
Total Income	846,607	914,364	951,564	3,158	40,358	2,409	-	2,843	45,610	-45,610
NET EXPENDITURE	475,895	455,529	408,024	1,609	-45,896	18,807	-72	25,099	-2,062	2,062

The table below provides a summary of the Final Outturn position:

Gross Expenditure	£m	1,355.563	£m
Less: Gross Income		-958.024	
Net Expenditure			397.539
Financed by:			
Council Tax		164.469	
Council Tax Freeze Grant		2.029	
Start Up Funding Assessment		278.342	
Capitalisation Provision Redistribution Grant		0.881	
New Homes Bonus		4.799	
New Homes Bonus - re-imburement		0.943	
Section 31 Grant - Small Business Rate Relief		2.191	
Education Services Grant		7.685	
Net Contribution to Cash Limit Reserves		-2.482	
Net Contribution to Earmarked Reserves			
Schools and DSG		-7.010	
Non-Schools		-50.586	
Net Contribution to the General Reserve		-3.722	
TOTAL FINANCING			397.539

6 The final outturn position for the Council's General Reserve is detailed below:

Opening Balance as at 1 April 2013	£m	-24.410
Add		
Net Contribution to General Reserve		-3.722
Closing General Reserve Balance as at 31 March 2014		-28.132

- 7 The General Reserve balance carried forward of £28.132m is within the Council's General Reserves policy of retaining between 5% and 7.5% of the Net Budget Requirement, which in cash terms equates between £22m and £33m. The £28.132m balance at 31 March 2014 equates to 6.4% of 2014/15 Net Revenue Expenditure Budget and gives the Council options in the Medium Term Financial Plan to use some of the reserve to smooth the savings targets in future years.
- 8 The main reasons why the General Reserve has increased are detailed below:
- Section 31 Small Business Rate Relief Grant income - £2.191m;
 - Capitalisation Provision Redistribution Grant income - £0.881m;
 - Interest and Investment income - £1.861m more than budgeted;
 - Education Services Grant - £0.449m more than budgeted;
 - Contingencies - £1.327m less than budgeted offset by;
 - A transfer of £5.000m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve during the year
- 9 The final outturn for Earmarked Reserves in 2013/14 is shown below with fuller detail provided in the Notes to the Accounts. Schools Balances and Cash Limits are shown separately:

	Non-Schools £m	Schools £m	Cash Limits £m	TOTAL £m
Opening Earmarked Reserve Balance as at 1 April 2013	-61.925	-24.041	-19.904	-105.870
Add Net contribution to Earmarked Reserve	-50.586	-7.010	-2.482	-60.078
Closing Earmarked Reserve Balance as at 31 March 2014	-112.511	-31.051	-22.386	-165.948

Service Grouping Commentary

- 10 A summary of the outturn for each Service Grouping is provided below.

Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)

- 11 The 2013/14 outturn is a cash limit underspend of £0.121m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserve, year end capital entries and a contribution of £0.353m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the cost of future redundancy payments, which was actioned in quarter 3.
- 12 The cash limit position compares to the previously forecast position of a cash limit underspend of £84k.
- 13 The underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across ACE throughout the year to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons for the outturn position are as follows:
- Partnerships and Community Engagement - £71k underspend primarily due to an underspend on premises costs within Community Buildings.
 - Planning and Performance - £0.334m underspend primarily due to proactive management of vacancies in anticipation of future year MTFP savings which accounts for £0.140m of the saving. There is also a £78k saving in supplies and services including a managed underspend in relation to resident

surveys. The remaining £0.116m is an over recovery of income particularly around the County Records Office.

- Policy and Communications - £70k underspend predominantly resulting from a £50k managed underspend on employees in the Civil Contingencies Unit with the remainder from a managed underspend on supplies and services and additional income generated from advertising.
- Central Costs - £0.353m overspent as a result of making a contribution to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the costs of future redundancy payments.
- Each of the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) had an area budget to contribute to local projects of £0.120m in 2013/14. Combined with revenue budget carried forward from previous years (relating to committed expenditure on agreed projects) the total revenue budget across all AAPs was £2.636m. Actual spend of £1.713m was incurred during 2013/14 leaving a balance of £0.923m. In addition contributions from Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Welfare Assistance Fund factored in a further £1.312m of resource resulting in £2.235m committed to future projects.
- Each elected member manages a “Members Neighbourhoods Budget” of £20k for priorities in their local AAP areas made up of £10k revenue budget and £10k capital. Previous years unspent allocations totalling £0.892m are held in an earmarked reserve as all spending has been committed to specific projects. During 2013/14 £1.173m was spent, resulting in a balance of £87k being transferred to the reserve leaving a closing balance of £0.979m.
- The Members Initiative Fund outturn was £0.196m resulting in a transfer to the Members Initiative Fund Reserve of £56k.

14 Further to the quarter 3 forecast of outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit outturn position:

- £0.482m – relates to contributions to and from earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2013/14 and 2014/15, including carrying forward AAP (£0.349m); Members Neighbourhood Initiative Reserve (£87k) and Members Initiative Fund Reserve (£56k) underspending in 2013/14, offset by a range of other minor contributions to and from reserves.
- £0.206m net contribution to reserves in relation to Direct Revenue Financing of Capital, ER/VR costs and Insurance recharges.
- £1.732m – relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration.

15 Taking the final outturn position into account, including items outside the cash limit, transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the cash limit reserve to be carried forward for ACE is £1.005m. There is pre-committed planned use of £0.250m of this reserve across the MTFP 4 period.

Children and Adults Services (CAS)

- 16 The 2013/14 outturn for Children and Adults Services (CAS) is a cash limit underspend of £6.988m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserve, year end capital entries and a contribution to earmarked reserves including £6.199m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the cost of future redundancy payments, which was actioned in quarter 3 and a £4.350m contribution to the Demographics / Hyper Inflation reserve at year end that will be used across the MTFP 4 period.
- 17 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast position of a cash limit underspend of £9.358m.
- 18 The outturn is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across CAS to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:
- Early achievement of a number of future year MTFP management and support service proposals, 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 £6.0m.
 - Net spend on adult care packages was approximately £7.1m under budget, which represents circa 7% of the total adult social care budget. This area of spend is closely monitored to assess the impact of demographic and procedural/operational changes. Savings have arisen from tighter, consistent and effective application of the existing eligibility criteria, reducing the level of care packages subsequently commissioned, and the transformational change agenda, linked to the provision of social care, will further refine processes.
 - The service continually reviews its approach to MTFP savings in order to consider increasing the saving associated with consistent application of eligibility criteria. This is being carefully considered in light of transition cases, potential for ordinary residence claims and the potential for increased care package costs linked to older carers and general increases in demand. Inflation rate increases within the MTFP are 2.5% for 2013/14 and 1% for 2014/15. Contracts with residential and domiciliary care providers have increases of 2% in both these years. This has led to a forecast underspend in 2013/14 of £0.400m which will be needed to underwrite part of the inflationary uplift in 2014/15 which will be 1% higher than the 1% budget provision.
 - A review of one-off additional funding has identified an in-year contribution to the overall cash limit of approximately £0.400m. It is anticipated that this funding will be utilised in part to resource the work associated with the outcomes of the work linked to the ongoing transformation agenda in social care for children and adults.

- Home to School and college transport was £0.250m under budget. This represents a net saving of £0.420m linked to policy changes offset by a £0.170m in year reduction in Extended Rights to Free Travel grant.
- The Education Service was £1.303m underspent. A number of savings have been made across the School Places and Admissions Team, Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disability teams and Educational Support and Development Teams mainly relating to employee related spend through vacancies and the early achievement of MTFP savings, reduced supplies and services expenditure and additional income.
- The Early Intervention and Involvement Service was under budget by £1.200m. A number of savings have been made across the Community Safety and involvement Team, the One Point Service and Youth Offending Service mainly relating to employee related spend through vacancies and the early achievement of MTFP savings, reduced transport spend and reduced supplies and services expenditure.
- Central Costs/Other were £9.814m over budget due to a combination of the contribution to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve (£6.199m) to assist in meeting the costs of future redundancy payments; a contribution to the Demographics / Hyper Inflation Reserve of £4.350m at year end to offset and delay MTFP pressures in future years; and an increase in the provision for bad and doubtful debts of £0.120m at year end; offset in the main by a review of one-off additional funding and a procurement rebate.
- Children's care was £1.404m underspent. Early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP saving targets resulted in the employee costs being under budget by £1.180m. The continued effective implementation and operation of the Looked after Children (LAC) reduction strategy has been successful in containing fostering and residential care costs within budget – this was a substantial budgetary pressure in previous years and the outturn shows expenditure in this area was £2.300m less than the previous year, where an overspend occurred. The LAC reduction strategy also led to smaller associated efficiencies particularly in connection with transportation and supplies and services costs.
- Secure Services are operated on a trading basis and therefore report a breakeven position in terms of the CAS cash limit, but it should be noted that the service has been successful in attracting additional income and achieved a contribution to the trading reserve of £0.959m at year end. Similarly, the Continuous Professional Development and Education Development Services in the Education Service returned surpluses of £0.306m and £0.284m respectively, which have also been transferred to earmarked reserves at year end.
- Public Health underspending against the Public Health Grant was £4.992m and this has been transferred to an earmarked reserve to meet known future commitments required in transforming the service delivery model. The

underspend is in part a result of demand led activity in connection with prescribing charges being at a lower level than previously anticipated.

- 19 Further to the quarter 3 forecast outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit at year end:
- £4.950m relates to contributions to and from earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2013/14 and 2014/15, including £4.350m transferred to the Demographics / Hyper Inflation Reserve to offset and delay MTFP pressures in future years; an additional £0.550m in respect of Public Health underspend transferred to the Public Health Reserve; £0.306m transferred to the Continuous Professional Development reserve, relating to the trading account surplus at the year end; £0.114m transfer to the Tackling Troubled Families reserve which will fund planned commitments in 2014/15; £0.284m transfer to the Education reserve, relating to trading account surplus at the year end across a number of service areas within the Education service; and a £0.105m adjustment to previously forecast contribution to the Aycliffe Secure Reserve;
 - a number of reserves totaling £1.817m, mainly in respect of adult care projects, were planned to be used in 2013/14 but these have been carried forward at year end to reflect revised spending profiles;
 - £0.378m net contribution to reserves in relation to Direct Revenue Financing of Capital, ER/VR costs and Insurance recharges.
 - £5.970m – relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration.
- 20 Taking the outturn position into account, the cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Children and Adults Services is £12.029m. There is pre-committed planned use of this reserve of £2.066m across the MTFP 4 period.

Dedicated Schools Grant

- 21 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2013/14 was £349.409m, however due to schools converting to academies and reduction in high needs allocation for payments made direct by the Education Funding Agency the budget was reduced by £69.292m in year to £280.117m. This includes both the delegated schools budget and the centrally retained DSG budget.
- 22 The total revised delegated budget for maintained schools (including early years' providers) was £261.113m.
- 23 Where schools spent more than their delegated budgets, the overspend reduces their accumulated balance. Schools-related balances were £24.684m at 31 March 2014, an increase of £5.266m from the previous year.
- 24 This is due in part, to the balance on the equal pay provision being returned to schools amounting to £3.572m following the settlement of these claims in year. Schools will now be fully responsible for any further equal value claims going forward. The balance (£1.695m) results from general underspending across most schools and represents an improved position to that reported at quarter 3.

- 25 Members will be aware that over the last two years schools have been operating in an environment of uncertainty with regard to the impact of the National Fair Funding Formula changes the Government are implementing from 2015/16. Schools have been prudent and have tightly managed their expenditure in recent years to build up their balances to be able to better accommodate any adverse impacts from 2015/16. Additionally, reductions in Department for Education (DfE) grant to support capital investment has resulted in schools earmarking balances for investment in planned capital improvements in their schools, effectively “saving-up” to self-finance these schemes. The Council encourages schools to have retained balances of a minimum of 2.5% of their revenue budget but also challenges schools where balances exceed this level to ensure there is a strategic plan / reason for this.
- 26 2013/14 was the first year all schools have been requested to forecast their outturn position during each quarter throughout the year. Spending in schools has been impacted by the reluctance to commit to spending due to the freeze on inflation within school budgets and until the impact of the School Funding Reforms, particularly the National Funding Formula from April 2015, becomes clearer.
- 27 The level of school balances is being closely managed, particularly those schools with a deficit balance and robust arrangements have been put in to place to monitor these in parallel with budget plans given the additional risks from schools that could potentially become a sponsored academy.
- 28 There has been greater scrutiny and challenge being put into schools budget plans to identify and address areas of concern and risk to the Council in 2013/14 and this is an ongoing process. Whilst the vast majority of schools continue to be well managed and are financially sound, termly updates have been required from all maintained schools on their projections for the year, with reports also provided to School Governors. The Council have worked constructively with schools to address any concerns and where appropriate take action to ensure the risk to the School and the Council is mitigated.
- 29 At 31 March 2014 there were 6 schools with a deficit balance carried forward totalling £0.960m, 12 schools holding a balance less than 2.5% of their overall funding and 240 schools with balances of more than 2.5% of their overall funding. This is an improved position from the 2012/13 outturn, where there were 15 schools with a deficit balance carried forward; 25 schools holding a balance less than 2.5% of their overall funding and 220 schools with balances of more than 2.5% of their overall funding.
- 30 The pressure areas for the centrally controlled element of the DSG in 2013/14 have been within the additional cost of High Needs Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children’s placements in maintained, academy and independent special schools and school redundancy costs. This has been offset by underspends within the Education Service Team dealing with SEND children, post 16 high needs provision, capitalised repair and maintenance, school improvement and early years provision.

- 31 The overall outturn position for the centrally retained element of the DSG shows an underspend of £1.744m. The earmarked reserve relating to centrally retained DSG carried forward at 31 March is £6.367m, of which £2.873 is earmarked for specific requirements (carry over commitments on SEND, post 16 high needs provision and 2 year old provision etc.), leaving a residual sum of £3.493m, of which £0.800m is required to fund long standing capital programme commitments in respect of schemes approved in 2012/13, the balance is earmarked to support spend and budget pressures in school improvement services.

Neighbourhood Services

- 32 The 2013/14 outturn for Neighbourhood Services is a cash limit underspend of £0.966m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from an earmarked reserve, year-end capital accounting entries and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 33 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast Quarter 3 position of a cash limit underspend of £0.844m.
- 34 The underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across Neighbourhoods to bring spend within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:
- There was an underspend of £0.600m within Technical Services, which was mainly due to a higher than anticipated surplus being generated within the Highways Services trading account. This was a result of increased levels of workload across the year partly due to the extremely mild winter, along with an improvement in efficiency as a result of the review of workforce levels at the end of 2012/13.
 - Within Direct Services, there was an underspend of £0.400m, due to savings in the running costs of council accommodation, and an increased surplus within the Building Services trading account.
 - An overspend of £0.500m within Strategic Waste was due to higher than anticipated one off costs associated with maintaining landfill gas power generation equipment, and also a continuing fall in income from the sale of dry recyclates. The fall in income is due to prevailing market conditions and higher than anticipated levels of contamination within the recyclable material that is collected.
 - The Library Service was £0.200m underspent due to savings associated with changes in opening hours and shift patterns brought about by the early implementation of a 2014/15 MTFP saving.
 - There was also an underspend of approximately £0.300m within the Environment, Health and Consumer Protection service due to savings in employees and supplies and services. A significant proportion of this is due to the early achievement of MTFP savings planned for 2014/15.
- 35 Further to the quarter 3 forecast outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit:

- £3.840m – relates to contributions to and from earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2013/14 and 2014/15, including a £0.505m contribution to earmarked reserves to support one off expenditure in Culture and Sport; a £1.260m contribution to earmarked reserves in respect of Highways, Waste Disposal, and Environmental Health; a £1.725m contribution to earmarked reserves in respect of Buildings and Grounds Maintenance, and Street Cleaning; and a £0.350m contribution to earmarked reserves for Customer Services.
- An additional underspend (against the quarter 3 forecast) on Winter Maintenance activities of £0.312m. In previous years, any overspends on Winter Maintenance have been treated as outside the cash limit. The 2014/15 budget has been increased by £1.300m and an earmarked reserve is being created corporately at year end to help manage these costs within the Neighbourhood's cash limit in future years. The Winter Maintenance Reserve established at year end is £1.000m and this will be utilised in future years in severe winter events should the increased budget be insufficient to meet the unavoidable costs in this area.
- £1.755m net contribution to reserves in relation to Direct Revenue Financing of Capital, ER/VR costs and Insurance recharges.
- £9.143m relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration.

36 Taking the outturn position into account, the Cash Limit Reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £2.782m. There is pre-committed planned use of this reserve of £0.360m across the MTFP 4 period.

Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)

37 The 2013/14 outturn for Regeneration and Economic Development is a cash limit overspend of £0.249m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserve, year end capital entries and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves including a contribution of £0.875m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the cost of future redundancy payments, which was actioned in quarter 3.

38 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast position of a cash limit overspend of £0.273m.

39 The outturn is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across RED to bring spend within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position is as follows:

- £0.144m underspending in Strategy Programmes and Performance relates to savings on employee costs, including vacancies and the secondment of an employee to the Association of North East Councils, maternity savings and other general efficiency savings on supplies and services;
- Economic Development and Housing was £39k overspent, primarily due to additional spend on tourism activities;

- Planning and Assets returned a £0.646m underspend at year end due to a £0.863m underspend in the Planning Service and a £0.217m overspend on Asset Management. The underspend in the Planning service primarily relates to overachievement of planning fee income, employee savings from vacant posts and other efficiency savings on transport and supplies and services. The Assets Management Service experienced income pressures, mainly from Newgate Street in Bishop Auckland, the Brackenhill Centre in Peterlee and Millenium Square in Durham City where anticipated rental income is not being achieved;
- Transport Services were £0.139m overspent, which is primarily due to the increase in contract costs to NSL Limited for enforcement of parking policies throughout County Durham, offset by savings on bus contract payments due to new contracts being negotiated in 2013/14 and the effects of a mild winter;
- Central Costs were £0.861m overspent due to a £0.875m contribution to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve, offset by a £14k underspend on central financing costs.

40 Further to the quarter 3 forecast outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit:

- £0.346m – relates to net contributions from earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2014/15;
- £1.646m net contribution to reserves in relation to Direct Revenue Financing of Capital, ER/VR costs and Insurance recharges.
- £15.442m – relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance, central administration and concessionary fares

41 Taking the outturn position into account, the Cash Limit reserve to be carried forward for Regeneration and Economic Development is £3.007m. There is pre-committed planned use of this reserve of £2.019m across the MTFP 4 period.

Resources

42 The 2013/14 outturn for Resources is a cash limit underspend of £0.367m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserve, year end capital entries and use of/contributions to earmarked reserves including a contribution of £2.573m to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve to assist in meeting the cost of future redundancy payments, which was actioned in quarter 3.

43 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast position of a cash limit overspend position of £0.379m.

44 The underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across Resources to bring spend within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the final outturn position are as follows:

- Corporate Finance was £0.170m under budget due to £48k savings on employee costs and the balance coming from additional income arising from Service Level Agreements and VAT recovered;

- Financial Services was £1.360m under budget as a result of the early achievement of 2014/15 MTFP savings (£0.360m), underspending on employee related budgets (vacancies) in year of £0.438m and additional income of £0.522m from court cost fee income, which is also a 2014/15 MTFP saving, plus £30k from supplies and services savings and other areas;
- Human Resources was £0.216m underspent at year end arising from £0.272m savings in employee budgets as a result of the active management of vacant posts in advance of MTFP related restructuring in 2014/15 alongside a small overspend on running expenses of £56k;
- ICT was £0.256m underspent largely explained by a £0.250m underspend in employee budgets as a result of the active management of vacant posts in advance of MTFP related restructuring in 2014/15;
- Legal and Democratic Services was £0.734m under budget, explained by £0.123m savings on employee related budgets, additional income of £89k and general underspends on supplies and services of £0.522m;
- Internal Audit and Risk returned an underspend of £0.178m as a result of £0.198m savings against employee budgets as a result of the active management of vacant posts in advance of MTFP related restructuring in 2014/15 offset by a £20k overspend on supplies and services related expenditure;
- Service Management and Central Costs were £2.546m overspent due to a combination of the £2.573m contribution to the MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve, offset by a £27k underspend due to additional income arising from rebate from Comensura contract.

45 Further to the quarter 3 forecast of outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit outturn position:

- £0.817m – relates to contributions to and from earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2014/15, including a contribution to the Corporate Procurement Reserve (£0.376m), a contribution to the Elections Reserve (£0.186m) and a contribution to the ICT Trading Account Reserve (£0.321m), offset by a range of other minor contributions to and from reserves.
- £0.104m net contribution from reserves in relation to Direct Revenue Financing of Capital, ER/VR costs and Insurance recharges.
- £2.787m – relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration.

46 Taking the final outturn position into account, including items outside the cash limit, transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Resources is £3.563m. There is pre-committed planned use of this reserve of £0.358m across the MTFP period.

Resources - Centrally Allocated Costs (Corporate Costs)

- 47 Centrally Allocated Costs were £0.176m underspent in 2013/14. The outturn has been adjusted to take into account adjustments for the use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 48 The outturn position compares to the previously forecast position of an underspend of £0.136m.
- 49 The main reasons accounting for the final outturn position are as follows:
- Supplies and Services were underspent by £0.206m, primarily due to savings on audit fees, bank charges and subscriptions; offset by.
 - Under-recovery of income by £30k from the VAT sharing arrangement with North Star Housing Group.
- 50 Further to the quarter 3 forecast of outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit outturn position:
- £0.115m – relates to a contribution from the Welfare Assistance Earmarked Reserve to support specific projects in 2013/14

Central Budgets

Interest Payable and Similar Charges

- 51 The Revenue Summary at paragraph 2 shows a net £3.821m underspend at year end against this heading. This saving has been achieved due to lower than forecast interest rates on loans and delayed borrowing decisions due to higher levels of cash balances than forecast.

Interest and Investment Income

- 52 There has been an overachievement of investment income of £1.861m which is due to the higher than anticipated levels of cash balances held during 2013/14. 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 2013/14. In addition, a dividend of £0.279m has been received in respect of Newcastle International Airport from the Airport Company and a premium of £0.405m was received following a premature redemption of a loan.

Education Services Grant

- 53 The outturn reflects net additional grant income of £0.449m which was due to the actual grant notification being higher than the amount budgeted for in 2013/14.

Section 31 Grant – Small Business Rate Relief

- 54 Business properties with rateable values under £12,000 benefit from relief on their rates payable. It had been intended that the enhanced relief granted in recent years would be returned to standard rates for 2013/14. However the Government decided to extend the enhanced rates relief scheme for the whole of 2013/14. This meant that the income receivable under the new Business Rates Retention Scheme reduced and a special grant, 'Section 31 grant' has been awarded to recompense authorities for the shortfall produced as a result.

- 55 The Section 31 grant awarded against 2013/14 Business Rates bills was £8.942m. Of this, the Council will receive £2.191m and this has been accrued in the accounts for 2013/14.

Capitalisation Provision Redistribution Grant

- 56 The Government proposed in the illustrative 2014/15 settlement that £100m would be held back from Revenue Support Grant for capitalisation in 2014/15. Any provision not allocated would be distributed in accordance with the authorities' share of the 2013/14 Start-Up Funding Assessment. As there was limited take up in 2013/14, the Council's share of the redistribution was £0.881m. The Council was notified of this redistribution in March 2014.

2013/14 Capital Outturn

General Fund Capital Programme

- 57 The original General Fund (GF) capital budget for 2013/14, taking into account the budgets approved by Council on 26 February 2013 and adjustments for re-profiling of underspends at 2012/13 year end was £163.141m. This was agreed by Cabinet on 17 July 2013.
- 58 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 and approved by Cabinet as part of the quarterly budgetary control reports in year. Requests for re-profiling capital programme underspends at 31 March 2014 have also been agreed by MOWG.
- 59 The following table summarises the revised capital budgets, taking into account revisions agreed by MOWG and Cabinet throughout the year, together with the outturn position for each service area. The table also details the action that has been taken with regard to re-profiling and other budget adjustments at year end, which were approved by MOWG on 22 May 2014.

General Fund Capital Programme 2013/14

	Revised 2013/14 Budget	2013/14 Outturn	Variance	Additions / Deletions from Budget	Reprofiling
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executives	2.244	1.158	-1.086	-0.154	-0.932
Children and Adults Services	52.382	41.241	-11.141	0.556	-11.697
Neighbourhoods	30.722	26.090	-4.632	0.720	-5.352
Regeneration and Economic Development	37.172	34.725	-2.447	0.388	-2.835
Resources	5.267	3.892	-1.375	0.150	-1.525
TOTAL	127.787	107.106	-20.681	1.660	-22.341

- 60 In addition to underspends requested to be carried forward into 2014/15 to fund the completion of capital scheme / programmes, the variances in the table above also include some overspends on projects that span multiple financial years, which resulted from acceleration of project delivery timescales. In such instances the 2014/15 budgets have been reduced to offset the increased activity in 2013/14. All

re-profiling agreed by MOWG has now been reflected in the 2014/15 revised capital budget.

- 61 The Capital Programme is financed via various funding sources including grants, capital receipts, revenue contributions, contributions from reserves and borrowing. The financing of the 2013/14 Outturn is detailed in the table below.

Financing – General Fund Capital Programme 2013/14

	2013/14 Outturn £m
Financed by:	
Grants	72.243
Direct Revenue Financing	
DSG	4.336
Other	6.516
Capital Receipts	6.857
Borrowing	17.154
Total	<u><u>107.106</u></u>

Service Grouping Commentary

- 62 The primary reasons for the net capital underspending of £20.681m (circa 16% under budget at year end) are set out below:

Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)

- 63 The underspend of £1.086m within ACE is mainly due to:

- **Members Budgets** - Underspend £1.260m.
Elected members are encouraged to invest their annual allocation within each financial year. Current guidance states that uncommitted funds may be carried forward but not beyond an elected member's term of office.
- **Community Buildings** - Underspend £39k.
Progress on the community assets transfer has been delayed due to the on-going negotiations between the Council and the relevant community groups regarding the lease agreements for the buildings.
- **Community Facilities in Crook** - Underspend £12k.
Progress has been delayed pending the submission of business plans from the relevant community groups.
- **AAP – AAP Area Budgets** - Overspend £0.225m.
This reflects the capitalisation of some schemes approved and fully financed from AAP Area programmes revenue funding.

Children and Adults Services (CAS)

- 64 The underspend of £11.141m for CAS is mainly due to:

- **BSF Schemes** - Underspend £2.600m.
Milestone payments for work at Consett Academy and North Durham Academy were delayed and some outstanding final accounts and asbestos claims have yet to be resolved.

- **Devolved Formula Capital - Underspend £2.600m.**
Work has been delayed whilst individual schools finalise capital investment plans.
- **Other School Related - Underspend £3.500m.**
Capital expenditure on Special Education Needs (SEN) has been deferred pending the outcome of the current SEN review which along with delays in starting several schemes have contributed to the underspend in this area.
- **Adult Care - Underspend £1.300m.**
Projected expenditure associated with in-house residential care was not committed whilst the outcome of the review of the in-house residential provision was determined. The recommendations from the review were not agreed by Cabinet until 16 April 2014.
- **Early Years - Underspend £0.700m.**
The two year programme to provide places for 2 year olds is still due for completion in 2014/15. However, the delivery of the scheme has been rescheduled with a greater element of the work committed in 2014/15 than originally anticipated.
- **Other areas - Underspend £0.441m.**
Delays to programmes associated with Children's Residential Homes, performance and planning systems development.

Neighbourhood Services

65 The underspend of £4.632m for Neighbourhood Services is mainly due to:

- **Direct Services – Underspend £2.115m.**
The underspend primarily relates to a planned delay in the implementation of the Garden Waste scheme. This delayed the procurement of additional wheeled bins. There were also procurement issues which led to delays in the delivery of vehicles and plant. These issues resulted in underspend of £0.886m. Outstanding work on Bereavement and Environmental Improvement schemes which were expected to be completed in 2013/14 are now due for completion in 2014/15.
- **Culture and Sport – Underspend £0.440m.**
The delay in notification of Heritage Lottery Fund grant connected with the restoration of Wharton Park delayed progress and contributed to the majority of the Culture and Sport underspend.
- **Projects and Business Support – Underspend £0.481m.**
Improvements to the Waste Transfer Stations previously expected to be completed in 2013/14 are now scheduled for completion in 2014/15.
- **Technical Services – Underspend £1.582m.**
Primarily due to several projects where works have been committed in 2013/14 but which span multiple financial years and will not be completed until 2014/15.

- **Environmental Health and Consumer Protection** – Underspend £14k.
Development of a single integrated environmental health system was completed under budget – the residual budget is not required and has been released to capital contingencies in 2014/15.

Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)

66 The underspend of £2.447m for RED is mainly due to:

- **Economic Development and Housing** - Net overspend £0.366m.
The outturn position results from an overspend of £1.077m due to work progressing more quickly than anticipated at the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites in 2013/14. This is offset by an underspend of £0.215m due to delays in contract finalisation for Durhamgate, together with an underspend on Stella Gill Industrial Estate and slower than expected progress with the Housing Renewal programme (£0.253m). In addition, there have been delays in the acquisition of properties and demolition costs associated with the Office Accommodation project (£0.109m). The residual budget for the Urban and Rural Renaissance Initiative (URRI) programme underspent by £0.134m and is to be reviewed in future years.
- **Planning and Assets** - Underspend £1.044m.
Underspends primarily related to capitalised maintenance (£0.552m), and projects associated with Drainage works (£0.151m) and renewable technologies (£0.318m).
- **Strategy and Performance** - Underspend £78k.
This was a contingency figure, which was not required in year.
- **Transport** - Underspend £1.691m.
Delays in completion of schemes at Pelton / Ouston Junction and Belmont Business Park Junction following a traffic flow assessment.

Resources

67 The underspend of £1.375m for Resources relates to ICT, details as follows:

- **ICT** - Underspend £1.375m
Procurement issues connected to the business continuity scheme has led to delays in completing this project which is now expected to be finalised in 2014/15. Installation work for the 'Dark Fibre' network has been rescheduled to 2014/15 leading to an underspend of £0.390m. The Infrastructure Environment Monitoring scheme has underspent in 2013/14 due to delays in completion and is now anticipated to be completed by September 2014.

Annual Treasury Management Review

Executive Summary

68 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. It is concerned with how the Council manages its cash resources and its scope covers borrowing, investment and

hedging instruments and techniques. Risk is inherent in all treasury management activities and it is necessary to balance risk against return on investment.

69 The financial year 2013/14 continued to be the challenging investment environment of previous years of low investment returns, although levels of counterparty risk had subsided. The original expectation for 2013/14 was that Bank Rate would not rise during the year and for it only to begin to gradually rise from quarter 1 of 2015. Bank rates did stay the same and this forecast rise has now been revised to a delayed start of quarter 3 of 2015.

70 Economic growth (GDP) in the UK had been virtually flat during 2012/13 but grew strongly during 2013/14. Consequently, there was no additional quantitative easing during 2013/14 and Bank Rate ended the year unchanged at 0.5% for the fifth successive year. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained high and substantially above the 2% target during 2012, but by January 2014 it had fallen below the target rate to 1.9% and then fell further to 1.7% in February. It is also expected to remain slightly below the target rate for most of the two years ahead.

71 Gilt yields had been on a sharply rising trend during 2013 but volatility had returned in the first quarter of 2014.

72 The Government's Funding for Lending Scheme, announced in July 2012, resulted in cheap credit being made available to banks which resulted in money market investment rates falling significantly in the second half of that year and continuing into 2013/14. That part of the Scheme which supported the provision of credit for mortgages was terminated in the first quarter of 2014 due to concerns over the impact on rising house prices.

73 The UK Government maintained its tight fiscal policy stance but recent strong economic growth has led to a cumulative, (in the Autumn Statement and the March Budget), reduction in the forecasts for total borrowing of £97bn over the next five years, culminating in a forecasted £5bn surplus in 2018/19.

74 The EU sovereign debt crisis subsided during the year and confidence in the ability of the Eurozone to remain intact increased substantially. Perceptions of counterparty risk improved after the European Central Bank statement in July 2012 that it would do "whatever it takes" to support struggling Eurozone countries; this led to a return of confidence in its banking system which has continued into 2013/14 and led to a move away from only very short term investing. However, the problems of the Eurozone, or its banks may not have ended as the zone faces the likelihood of weak growth over the next few years at a time when the total size of government debt for some nations is likely to continue rising. Future stress tests of Eurozone banks could also reveal some areas of concern.

Treasury Position

75 The Treasury position at the beginning and end of 2013/14 is shown in the table below:

	31-Mar-13 (Restated)	Rate / Return	Average Life	31-Mar-14	Rate / Return	Average Life
	£m	%	yrs	£m	%	yrs
Total Debt	440	4.61		437	4.49	
Capital financing requirement (CFR)	603			607		
Over / (-) Under borrowing	-163			-170		
Total Investments	112	1.72	0.3	152	0.71	0.3
Net Debt	328			285		

76 Investments increased by £40m across the period as a result of re-profiling of the capital programme and a lower than anticipated use of reserves. Due to the reduction of interest rates offered by high quality counterparties by 1.00%, the average rate earned on those balances fell during 2013/14.

77 As a result of the favourable cash balances position no new borrowing was raised during the year.

Investment Strategy

78 The prime objective of the Council's Investment Strategy is to ensure prudent investment of surplus funds. The Council's investment priorities are therefore the security of capital, liquidity of investments and, within those objectives, to secure optimum performance. The Council has regard to the CLG Guidance and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code when making decisions.

79 Therefore the primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration.

Selection Criteria

80 The criteria for providing a pool of high quality investment counterparties are:

- i. Banks 1 - the Council's strategy requires the use of UK banks only which have, as a minimum, the following Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors credit ratings (where rated):

	Fitch	Moody's	Standard & Poors
Short Term	F1	P1	A-1
Long Term	A	A2	A
Viability/Financial Strength	BB	C-	-
Support	3	-	-

- ii. Banks 2 - Part nationalised UK banks - Lloyds Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland. These banks are included so long as they continue to be part nationalised or they meet the ratings in Banks 1 above.
- iii. Banks 3 - Co-operative Bank - The Council's own banker for transactional purposes. If the bank falls below the above criteria balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.

- iv. Bank subsidiary and treasury operation. The Council will use these where the parent bank has provided an appropriate guarantee or has the necessary ratings outlined above.
- v. Building societies. The Council only use building societies which meet the ratings for banks outlined above.
- vi. Money Market Funds.
- vii. UK Government (including gilts, Treasury Bills and the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility).
- viii. Local authorities and parish councils.

Time and Monetary Limits applying to Investments

81 The time and monetary limits for institutions on the Council's Counterparty List for 2013/14 were as follows:

	Long Term Rating	Money Limit	Time Limit
Banks 1 category high quality	AA	£50m	1 year
Banks 1 category medium quality	A	£25m	3 months
Banks 2 category – part-nationalised	n/a	£60m	1 year
Banks 3 category – Council's banker	BBB+	£25m	3 months
DMADF/Treasury Bills	AAA	unlimited	6 months
Local Authorities	n/a	£10m each	1 year
Money Market Funds	AAA	£10m each (overall £50m)	liquid

Icelandic Deposits Update

82 In October 2008, the Icelandic banks Landsbanki, Kaupthing and Glitnir collapsed and the UK subsidiaries of the banks, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander went into administration. The authority had £7m deposited across three of these institutions, with varying maturity dates and interest rates as follows:

Bank	Date Invested	Maturity Date	Amount Invested	Interest Rate
			£	%
KSF	30/10/07	28/10/08	1,000,000	6.120
Landsbanki (1)	12/04/07	13/10/08	1,000,000	6.010
Landsbanki (2)	12/04/07	14/04/09	1,000,000	6.040
Glitnir Bank (1)	25/10/06	24/10/08	3,000,000	5.620
Glitnir Bank (2)	18/12/07	16/12/08	1,000,000	6.290
Total			7,000,000	

83 All monies within these institutions are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The amounts and timing of payments to depositors such as the Council will be determined by the administrators / receivers.

84 The current situation concerning the recovery of sums deposited varies between each institution.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd

- 85 The current position on actual amounts received and estimated future receipts are as shown in the table. The Council has recognised an impairment based on it recovering 85.75p in the £ compared to 85.25p in the £ at 31 March 2013.

Date	Repayment
	%
Received to 31 March 2014	81.50
Received in June 2014	2.00
June 2015	2.25

- 86 Recoveries are expressed as a percentage of the authority's claim in the administration, which includes interest accrued up to 7 October 2008.

Landsbanki

- 87 Landsbanki Islands hf is an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Landsbanki) with the management of the affairs of old Landsbanki being placed in the hands of a resolution committee.
- 88 The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board making a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in December 2011. Further distributions were made in May 2012, October 2012 and September 2013 respectively.
- 89 An element of the distribution was in Icelandic Krona which was placed in an escrow account in Iceland and was earning interest of 4.17% as at 31 March 2013. This element of the distribution was retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result was subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.
- 90 During 2013/14, the Council sold its claims against the insolvent estate of Landsbanki through a competitive auction process. The price at which the claims were sold was based on a reserve price set by the Council, on the basis of legal advice received through the Local Government Association and its lawyers Bevan Brittan.
- 91 The administration of the insolvent estate of Landsbanki is likely to continue for several years given the complexity of the on-going issues in Iceland, which created uncertainty around the timings of future recoveries. The sale of the Council's claims has removed this uncertainty.
- 92 The sale included the Icelandic Kronur which had been held in an escrow account in Iceland since it was paid with the first distribution to priority creditors in December 2011.
- 93 The proceeds of the sale were paid in Pounds Sterling and were received in February 2014 so the Council is no longer a creditor of Landsbanki.

Glitnir Bank hf

- 94 Glitnir Bank hf is an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Glitnir) with the management of the affairs of Old Glitnir being placed in the hands of a resolution committee.
- 95 The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board made a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in March 2012.
- 96 An element of the distribution is in Icelandic Krona which has been placed in an escrow account in Iceland and earned interest of 3.4% up to 22 June 2012 and thereafter is earning 4.2%. This element of the distribution has been retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result is subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.
- 97 The distribution has been made in full settlement, representing 100% of the claim.

9. Material Assets Acquired, Liabilities Incurred

The Council is involved in a number of major projects, known as capital works. The Council incurred £155.29m of capital expenditure in 2013/14. Included in this expenditure were the following major items:

	Expenditure in 2013/14 £000
Consett Academy	8,183
Greenland Community Primary School	1,551
Wellfield School	4,226
Structural maintenance of buildings - schools	3,114
Schools - schemes funded from capital budgets delegated to schools	2,578
Housing Capital Programme	42,946
Infrastructure - Street Lighting	2,914
Infrastructure - Other	25,836
Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Schemes	418
Structural maintenance of buildings (non schools)	5,085
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	8,395
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFCUS) (excluding school's delegated)	
Disabled Facilities Grants	4,041
Group Repair	1,083
Members' Neighbourhood Fund	796
Other REFCUS	13,916

10. Sources of Funds to meet Capital Expenditure and Other Plans

The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants or revenue contributions), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need, or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

Actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

	2012/13 Actual £m	2013/14 Estimate £m	2013/14 Actual £m
Non-HRA capital expenditure	117.09	135.74	107.11
Non-HRA PFI and Finance Lease	5.09	-	2.48
HRA capital expenditure	43.92	50.31	45.70
Total capital expenditure	166.10	186.05	155.29
Resourced by:			
Capital receipts	9.12	16.59	8.15
Capital grants	76.44	81.72	91.64
Capital reserves and Revenue	39.25	31.82	35.38
Unfinanced capital expenditure	41.29	55.92	20.12

Local authorities have the power to decide for themselves how much to borrow to finance capital expenditure. This power was given to local authorities on 1 April 2004, prior to which authorities could only borrow with the approval of central government, which then provided revenue support to fund the cost of repaying this borrowing and associated interest payments. Central government still provides revenue support in this way and borrowing, for which such funding has been provided, is known as supported borrowing. Local authorities can also choose to undertake additional borrowing, known as unsupported borrowing, for which there is no government support. In deciding whether it is affordable to undertake such borrowing, local authorities must follow the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The position for the Council is described in section 11 below.

At 31 March 2014, usable capital receipts of £0.219m, unapplied capital grants and contributions of £0.723m and capital grants receipts in advance of £9.312m, were held. These sums, together with other capital resources such as future supported borrowing, will be used to finance the Council's approved capital programme, which is subject to rolling review.

General and earmarked reserves of a revenue nature, totalling £194.086m were also held as at 31 March 2014 for General Fund purposes and another £8.199m in respect of Housing. These are detailed in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

11. Borrowing

The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and what resources have been used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2013/14 unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

The Council's CFR for the year is shown in the following table, and represents one of the key prudential indicators. The 2012/13 CFR has been restated as follows:

- To correct the opening CFR, which was overstated.
- To recognise the impairment in 2012/13 of the Durham County Waste Management Company loan; this has reduced the CFR.

- To recognise HRA non-dwelling impairment, which can no longer be reversed to the Capital Adjustment account, and which has the effect of reducing the CFR.

	31-Mar-13 Actual (Restated) £m	31-Mar-14 Estimate £m	31-Mar-14 Actual £m
CFR			
Opening balance	579.135	604.828	603.431
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	41.293	55.921	20.117
Less MRP/VRP	-15.600	-16.005	-16.018
Adjustment:			
Restatement of Opening Balance	-0.573	-	-
Impairment of Loan	-0.801	-	-
HRA - non-dwelling revaluation/impairment losses	-0.023	-	-0.270
Closing balance	603.431	644.744	607.260

Part of the Council's Treasury Management activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need by organising the Council's cash position to ensure sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements.

Borrowing may be sourced from external bodies (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB] or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council. The CFR figure includes PFI and leasing schemes, which notionally increase the Council's borrowing need, however no borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

The Council's (non HRA) underlying borrowing need, its capital finance requirement (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. MRP is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). The Council's 2013/14 MRP Policy, as required by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) guidance was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2013/14 on 20 February 2013. This differs from the Treasury Management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

The CFR can be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

The borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit. In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing, net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

The authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level.

The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

The following table demonstrates that during 2013/14 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

	2013/14
	£m
Authorised limit	746.000
Operational boundary	693.000
Maximum gross borrowing position	440.389
Average gross borrowing position	438.625

During the year, no new loans were taken from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). Loan repayments of £3.56m were made in the year and the overall debt position of the Council decreased by £3.56m from £440.39m at 31 March 2013 to £436.83m at 31 March 2014 which is detailed in the following table.

The total borrowing at 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 is detailed in the following table:

31-Mar-13		31-Mar-14
£m		£m
	Fixed Rate Funding	
413.28	- PWLB	410.03
27.11	- Market	26.80
	- Variable Rate Funding	-
<u>440.39</u>		<u>436.83</u>

12. Pensions Liability

Durham County Council is a member of the Durham County Council Pension Fund. The Council's Balance Sheet shows a Pension's Liability of £802.722m (£978.899m in 2012/13). This amount is calculated by the Pension Fund's Actuary using IAS 19 assumptions. It represents the defined benefit obligation and is the estimated present value (using the IAS 19 assumptions) of the benefit payments due from the Pension Fund in respect of Durham County Council after the accounting date, 31 March 2014, valued using the projected unit method. Allowance is made for expected future increases in pay and pension.

The IASB issued an amended IAS19 accounting standard that came into force for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013. In applying this revised standard, the Council has identified that if it had been adopted for the period ending 31 March 2013 then this would increase the expenses recognised for funded benefits in the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement from £62.04m to £75.65m. Therefore the comparative figures have been restated in the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts. This adjustment has no effect on the Balance Sheet.

The liability value represents the amount of money that needs to be set aside now to meet the benefits that the Council is committed to provide for service up to the accounting date on the basis of the assumptions used. Although this has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as reported in the Balance Sheet, statutory arrangements mean that the deficit on the Pension Fund will be made good by, amongst other things, increased contributions over the working life of employees, as assessed by the Pension Fund

Actuary. The Pension Fund has an investment strategy in place to address the funding deficit for the Pension Fund as a whole. The period over which this deficit will be addressed (the recovery period) is 18 years and the contributions payable to the Fund are calculated every three years by the Actuary to make good this deficit.

13. Material or Unusual Items

Investments in Iceland Banks

In September and October 2008 the Icelandic economy was hit by an economic catastrophe. This led to the insolvency of virtually all the larger Icelandic banks and savings banks, including Glitnir, Landsbanki Islands hf. and Kaupthing banki hf, and the UK subsidiaries of the banks, Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander went into administration. The Council had £7m deposited across the three Icelandic Banks which were outstanding at the time of their collapse in October 2008.

During 2013/14 the Council sold its claims against the insolvent estate of Landsbanki. The proceeds of the sale were received by the Council in February 2014 and the Council is no longer a creditor of Landsbanki.

All monies within Glitnir and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The amounts and timing of payments to depositors such as the Council will be determined by the administrators / receivers and are detailed in section 8 above and Note 51.

Since 2008/09 impairment of £1.870m (2012/13 £1.910m) to the asset values have been calculated in accordance with CIPFA's LAAP 82 Bulletin. During 2013/14, there has been a reduction of £0.040m in the impairment of these assets. This amount has been credited through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E). This reduced impairment is as a result of the investments in Landsbanki (£0.028m) being written out of the accounts and a reduction in the impairment of the Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (£0.007m) investment due to the increased recovery anticipated. There has also been recognition of the exchange rate gain (£0.005m) on the Icelandic Kronur held in an escrow account in respect of deposits in Glitnir bank.

14. Significant Changes in Accounting Policies

The Code has introduced changes to the accounting treatment and disclosure requirements of post-employment benefits that have necessitated amendments to the accounting policies for 2013/14:

- **Post Employment Benefits** - The wording of accounting policy has been revised to more accurately reflect compliance with Code following changes to the classification, recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of IAS19.

Two new accounting policies have been added to reflect the Council's approach, improve compliance with Code disclosure requirements and clarify principles being applied. The new accounting policies are:

- **Business Improvement District Scheme**
- **Voluntary Aided / Voluntary Controlled / Foundation Schools**

For all other areas, the accounting policies used in the preparation of the 2013/14 accounts are in line with those used in the preparation of the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts.

15. Significant Provisions, Contingencies and Material Write-offs

The value of the Council's assets have been reduced by £132.404m in 2013/14, charged partly to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E) and partly to the Revaluation Reserve. This 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. The Council's housing stock has been reduced by £44.024m due to a decrease in the house price index.

Two schools have been established as Academies in County Durham during 2013/14, which are independent of the Council. The effect of these changes in status has led to the removal of these schools from the Council's asset register as disposals. The loss on disposal of these schools amounts to £1.602m and has been charged to the CI&E below the Net Cost of Services.

16. Changes in Statutory Functions

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 gave responsibility for health protection to the Secretary of State and health improvement to upper tier and unitary local authorities.

In April 2013, the Council took over responsibility for some of the public health functions previously provided by NHS County Durham. The Council took on the role of improving and protecting the health of the county's residents, helping them to stay well and avoid illness.

As part of this role:

- We have a duty to ensure robust plans are in place to promote health and wellbeing across the county
- We work in partnership with Public Health England to protect the health of the public and will work with a range of partner organisations both locally and regionally to improve health and wellbeing.

We are responsible for commissioning a range of public health services, based on the health needs of our population.

The Public Health team, work with colleagues across all service areas to maximise and enhance opportunities to improve health and wellbeing locally.

On 1 April 2013 the role of Director of Public Health transferred from the NHS to Durham County Council, together with the specialist public health team.

The Council received a new specific grant in 2013/14 in relation to the transfer of Public Health functions to the council. The grant is ring fenced and must be spent on Public Health related functions.

The public health functions are a part of the Council's Children and Adults Services service grouping.

17. Subsequent Events

The Statement of Accounts was signed by the Corporate Director Resources on 30 September 2014.

One local authority school is due to convert to Academy status during 2014/15. This event will not have an impact in 2013/14. This change in status will lead to the removal of this school from the balance sheet in 2014/15 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 £0.955m.

In April 2014, the Council's Cabinet agreed to the closure of the Councils' five remaining residential care homes for the elderly. There was no impact of this decision in the 2013/14 accounts.

In March 2014, the Council was notified that its application for a transfer of housing stock from the Council to a new registered social housing provider had been approved. A ballot of council house tenants agreed this change and it is anticipated that the transfer of housing stock will be completed in March 2015.

The Council, along with the Councils of Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Northumberland (LA7) formed a Combined Authority that was approved by the government on 14 April 2014. The Combined Authority is a separate legal entity that will have responsibility for a number of key strategic areas across the whole of the LA7 region. These will include Transport (all of the former Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority services, along with those operated by Northumberland and this Council), Economy and Inward Investment, Skills, Communications and will provide the formal accountability arrangements for the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Combined Authority will be funded in accordance with the Combined Authority Agreement, which was agreed by each constituent member and was approved by the government.

As at this date, there have been no other circumstances or events subsequent to the period end which require adjustment to the financial statements or in the notes thereto.

18. Future Plans

The [Council Plan](#) sets out what Durham County Council aims to achieve for the people of County Durham over the next three years. Our vision is to build an Altogether Better Durham, which is better for local people and provides better places to live and work. We share this vision with other public, private and voluntary sector partners in the county. The plan sets out the Council's approach to delivering on its part in this vision. The Council has a clear focus on economic growth and this is recognised as a priority within our plans.

The Council has developed its corporate, service and financial plans in a very challenging economic climate and at a time of significant change for local authorities. Unprecedented reductions in grant funding to local government will result in the Council's funding from the Government reducing by about 40% between 2011 and 2017. Reforms to the welfare system and the National Health Service impact both on the council and our communities. All of these changes are challenging. It is through effective planning that we manage these changes and strive to minimise the impact of austerity measures on our residents and service users.

The Council Plan sets out our corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions that the council will take in support of the delivery of the long-term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also identifies the improvements that the council wants to make in how it manages itself. This is achieved through organising our improvement actions into a structure comprised of five priority themes:

- Altogether Wealthier
- Altogether Healthier
- Altogether Better for Children and Young People
- Altogether Safer
- Altogether Greener

The actions for improvements that the council wants to make in how it manages itself are captured in a sixth priority theme of an Altogether Better Council.

The Government's main policy response to the recession has been to embark on a deficit reduction programme to be achieved mainly through cuts to public sector spending. Councils in the North East collectively have the largest percentage reduction in spending. To achieve the savings required to balance our budget the council has adopted an approach that seeks to minimise the effects on frontline services wherever possible. Significant savings are being achieved through reductions to management costs, and support services. 64% of savings to date have been made from non-frontline services, exceeding our initial aspiration that at least half would be from non-frontline services. However, this will become increasingly difficult to achieve in future years. The council also needs to absorb inflationary pressures at a time of increasing demand for services. These savings requirements have required us to fundamentally challenge each line of the budget for every service and explore more innovative approaches to service delivery. This work will continue to dominate our thinking over the course of the Council Plan.

The County Council approved its budget for 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2016/17 in February 2014.

It is apparent that the financial landscape for local authorities will remain extremely challenging until at least 2017/18. The challenges faced are exacerbated in Durham for a range of reasons:

- Government grant reductions are not evenly distributed across the country as evidenced by the Government's Spending Power figures. For 2014/15 and 2015/16 the cumulative Spending Power reduction for the council is 6.3% and for the twelve North East councils 7.5%. This compares with a national average reduction of 4.7%, whilst many affluent areas are seeing an actual increase in Spending Power e.g. Surrey +3% and Buckinghamshire +2.5%;
- Government funding is now inextricably linked to the performance of the local economy via Business Rate Retention and Local Council Tax Support Schemes. The link to a 'Needs Assessment' is no longer the key determinant of local authority funding. The current economic recovery is centred very much around the South and South East which is benefitting local authorities in those areas;
- Demand for services from local authorities is increasing with the impact of Welfare Reforms continuing to have an impact. Deprived areas are particularly impacted

and this issue will continue to be a high priority as the Government plans to remove an additional £12bn from welfare budgets during 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The council's final finance settlement for 2014/15 was announced by the Government on 5 February 2014. The council's Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2014/15 is £252.085m which is £26.285m less than the 2013/14 SFA. Funding is forecast to reduce by a further £36.916m in 2015/16.

The main issues to note are as follows:

- RSG will reduce by 41% between 2013/14 and 2015/16;
- these reductions in RSG are partially offset by the inflationary increases (RPI) in Business Rates and Business Rates Top Up Grant;
- overall, the SFA will reduce by 22.7% between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Overall as at February 2014, it was forecast that the council will need to save £224m over the 2011/12 to 2016/17 period. A sum of £113.9m was saved by 31 March 2014 resulting in a £110.1m savings requirement for the three year period 2014/15 to 2016/17. The 2014/15 budget required savings of £23m to be delivered to achieve a net budget requirement of £438.765m.

When the budget was set in February 2014, detailed savings plans needed to be developed to achieve the savings targets for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The balanced MTFP Model is summarised in the following table:

MTFP Summary Position

	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	Total £m
Reduction in Resource Base	14.871	28.164	26.578	69.613
Budget Pressures	8.154	11.157	21.134	40.445
Savings required	23.025	39.321	47.712	110.058
Savings to be identified	-	16.315	47.712	64.027

Despite the difficulties posed by the unprecedented funding reductions on top of unavoidable budget pressures such as inflation, the budget proposals for 2014/15 include a number of investments, aligned to the core priorities of the council and the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation:

- the council has decided to extend the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme for a further year into 2014/15. This will continue to protect 33,557 Working Age Council Tax Claimants who would otherwise have to start paying a proportion of their council tax due to the Government's abolition of the national Council Tax Benefit scheme in April 2013;
- the council continues to prioritise capital investments which is seen as very important in maintaining employment levels within the county and improving infrastructure to assist in regenerating the local economy. The total capital programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17 is £261.090m with a key focus upon regeneration and economic development. Major investments include additional highways maintenance investment from the council of £4.756m to supplement Government grant funding, the redevelopment and relocation of Durham Bus

Station and regeneration/site assembly projects in Bishop Auckland, Peterlee, Seaham and Crook;

- a £1.3m increase in the Winter Maintenance Budget is included in 2014/15. This will provide increased financial resilience in order to keep our highways and other roads open during inclement weather conditions;
- protection is afforded to the Benefits Service which has faced a further Government grant cut of £0.5m. This will enable the council to continue paying the 65,000 housing and Council Tax Support Scheme claimants their entitlements to benefit promptly.

The council's strategy of the past three years has been to protect frontline services as far as possible and the proposals for 2014/15 are in line with that strategy, though this is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain over time.

2014/15 Net Budget Requirement

After taking into account base budget pressures, additional investment and savings targets, the council's recommended Council Net Budget Requirement for 2014/15 is £438.765m. The financing of the Net Budget Requirement is detailed below:

Financing of the 2014/15 Budget

Financing Method	Amount £m
Revenue Support Grant	138.710
Business Rates	52.342
Business Rates - Top Up Grant	59.357
Council Tax	168.844
New Homes Bonus	6.784
New Homes Bonus - Re-imbusement	0.390
Education Services Grant	7.237
Section 31 - Small Business Rate Relief	2.194
Section 31 - Settlement Funding Adjustment	1.204
Section 31 - Empty Property and Retail Relief	1.703
Total	<u><u>438.765</u></u>

Capital Funding

The need to invest in Capital Infrastructure during the economic downturn is seen as an essential means of regenerating the local economy and for job creation. Additional investment will maintain and improve infrastructure across the County, help retain existing jobs, create new jobs and ensure the performance of key council services are maintained and improved.

The following value of schemes were approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme. The additional 2014/15 schemes are afforded by utilising unapplied capital grants and utilising the 2014/15 prudential borrowing allowance not already committed in MTFP for 2013/14. The new 2015/16 schemes are afforded by utilising capital grants, capital receipts and prudential borrowing.

The new schemes will ensure the council continues to invest in priority projects and essential maintenance programmes.

The 2014/15 to 2016/17 capital budget is as follows:

Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executives	3.471	3.255	-	6.726
Children and Adults Services	56.839	20.890	0.087	77.816
Neighbourhoods	38.840	23.008	11.429	73.277
Regeneration and Economic Development	56.269	22.806	0.263	79.338
Resources	10.873	10.456	2.604	23.933
TOTAL	166.292	80.415	14.383	261.090
Financed By				
Grants and Contributions	69.055	28.342	1.515	98.912
Revenue and Reserves	4.993	-	-	4.993
Capital Receipts	10.000	-	-	10.000
Capital Receipts - BSF and Schools	10.474	11.600	-	22.074
Borrowing	71.770	40.473	12.868	125.111
TOTAL	166.292	80.415	14.383	261.090

Financial Reserves

The Council holds reserves:

- as a working balance to help cushion the impact of any uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of the General Reserve;
- as a contingency to cushion the impact of any unexpected events or emergencies e.g. flooding and other exceptional winter weather – this also forms part of General Reserves;
- as a means of building up funds, earmarked reserves to meet known or predicted future liabilities.

The council's current reserves policy is to:

- set aside sufficient sums in Earmarked Reserves as is considered prudent. The Corporate Director Resources should continue to be authorised to establish such reserves as required, to review them for both adequacy and purpose on a regular basis reporting appropriately to the Cabinet Portfolio Member for Finance and to Cabinet;
- Aim to maintain General Reserves in the medium term of between 5% and 7.5% of the Net Budget Requirement which in cash terms equates between £22m and £33m.

Risk

The council had previously recognised that a wide range of financial risks needed to be managed and mitigated across the medium term. The risks faced are exacerbated by the localism of business rates and the localisation of council tax support. All risks will be assessed continually throughout the MTFP period. Some of the keys risks identified include:

- ensure the achievement of a balanced budget and financial position across the MTFP period;
- ensure savings plans are risk assessed across a range of factors e.g. impact upon customers, stakeholders, partners and staff;

- Government funding reductions are based upon the 2015/16 indicative figures included in the Local Government Finance Settlement with the 2016/17 assumptions based upon Government funding cuts continuing in the future in line with recent years. This level of reduction will be required to achieve the £25bn of public expenditure reductions in 2016/17 and 2017/18 recently detailed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer;
- the localisation of council tax support passes the risk for any increase in council tax benefit claimants onto the council. Activity in this area will need to be monitored carefully with medium term projections developed in relation to estimated volume of claimant numbers;
- the council retains 49% of all business rates collected locally but is also responsible for 49% of the cost of rating appeals including any liability prior to 31 March 2013. Increasing business rate reliefs and appeals settlements continue to make this income stream highly volatile and will require close monitoring to fully understand the implications upon the MTFP;
- the MTFP model builds in estimates of pay and price inflation. Although price inflation levels are reducing, there could be a significant impact if the Low Pay Commission agrees to large increases in the Minimum Wage. Many council contractors would be likely to request above inflation contract price increases if the Minimum Wage increased at a level above inflation;
- the Government has indicated that consideration is being given to introducing revised methodologies for apportioning health funding across the country. Whilst this could impact significantly upon Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), there could also be a detrimental impact upon the council due to the significant health income streams but particularly the Public Health Grant.

Further details can be found in the [full report](#) presented to Council on 26 February 2014.

19. Housing Revenue Account

A Review of 2013/14

The HRA provides the income and expenditure associated with maintenance of the Council's housing stock of just under 19,000 dwellings. The Council is required to set an annual HRA budget and set the level of tenants' rents and other charges.

The Council is the largest social landlord in County Durham owning around 40% of all social housing. Under the Government's new system of housing finance from April 2012, the Council is required to plan over the longer term and has developed a 30 year HRA Business Plan to manage and maintain its housing assets.

The headline implications for 2013/14 were as follows:

- Dwelling rents for 2013/14 were to increase in accordance with Government guidelines resulting in an overall average increase of 4.04%;
- Average rent per week was to increase from £63.13 per week to £65.68 per week – an increase of £2.55 per week on average (on a 52 week basis);
- Increases in garage rents were to be linked to the overall average increase in dwelling rents and the proposed charges per week for 2013/14 (on a 52 week

basis) were £8.25 (for private tenants where we need to charge VAT) and £6.88 (for council tenants who are exempt from VAT);

- Efficiency savings in housing management costs of £1.65m had been identified for 2013/14, in addition to the £1.35m already delivered in 2012/13 to give a total saving of £3m required by the HRA MTFP;
- A substantial investment programme of £99m over the next two years - £49m in 2013/14 and £50m in 2014/15.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 12 December 2012, considered a detailed report on the outcome of the housing stock option appraisal project, which included a review of the options for the future ownership, financing and management of the council's housing stock.

Financial analysis of the business plan at that time highlighted a shortfall of available capital resources against spending needs over the first nine years of the business plan. The deficit was exacerbated by the Council's inability to borrow above the debt cap of £245m to supplement the business plan.

Extensive consultation and partnership working with all key stakeholder groups during the option appraisal process identified that the preferred option was a transfer of the housing stock out of the Council and into a new registered social housing provider with a group structure based on the council's existing housing management organisational boundaries.

A further report to Cabinet on 30 October 2013 provided an update on progress with the stock transfer proposal including developments on Government policy on stock transfer and the provision of funding for housing revenue account debt write off. Also included in the report were the benefits and the financial implications on the General Fund should stock transfer be successful. An application was submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) during the year and the Council was notified that the application had been approved in March 2014.

Throughout the appraisal process, the Council had also worked with key stakeholder groups to identify an alternative option for the housing stock, should the transfer proposal be rejected by council house tenants through a ballot process. Stakeholders selected the establishment of a single ALMO as the alternative option with area based arrangements to allow housing services to continue to operate as a business at arms-length from the authority, achieving further efficiency savings through reductions in overheads and the joining up of services, and simplifying housing management arrangements.

The HRA Business Plan was based on a stock retention scenario.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Outturn

Revenue Outturn

1 The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the outturn position for the HRA, showing the actual position compared with the original budget. The following table summarises the HRA outturn position:

	2013-14 Budget £m	2013-14 Outturn £m	Variance £m	
Income				
Dwelling Rents	-63.633	-63.295	0.338	a)
Non-dwelling rents	-1.075	-1.103	-0.028	
Charges for Services and Facilities	-0.391	-0.569	-0.178	b)
Total Income	-65.099	-64.967	0.132	
Expenditure				
ALMO Management and Outsourced Contract	16.469	16.469	-	
Repairs and Maintenance	4.433	5.195	0.762	c)
Supervision and Management - General	4.417	4.706	0.289	d)
Supervision and Management - Special	0.411	0.408	-0.003	
Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges	0.310	0.530	0.220	e)
Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets	7.850	7.821	-0.029	
Increase / Decrease in bad debt provision	0.968	0.407	-0.561	f)
Debt Management Costs	0.194	0.194	-	
Total Expenditure	35.052	35.730	0.678	
Net Cost of HRA Services per Authority I & E Account	-30.047	-29.237	0.810	
HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core	1.085	1.085	-	
Net Cost of services but not allocated to specific services	0.402	0.385	-0.017	
Net Cost of HRA Services	-28.560	-27.767	0.793	
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	12.447	10.862	-1.585	i)
Direct Revenue Financing (Balancing item on HRA)	16.217	16.976	0.759	j)
Interest and Investment Income	-0.104	-0.071	0.033	k)
Surplus (-) / Deficit for the year on HRA services	0.000	0.000	0.000	

2 In summary, it identifies a balanced outturn position on the revenue account after using a projected surplus of £0.759m towards financing the capital programme. The main variances are explained below:

- a) **Dwelling Rents £0.338m reduced income** – this results from an increase in “Right to Buy” sales where there were 80 sales in the year and an increase in the number of void properties across all three housing management areas, which providers are reporting is linked, at least in part, to the Government’s Welfare Reforms;
- b) **Charges for Services and Facilities £0.178m additional income** – this results from the additional “Right to Buy” administrative income plus additional income resulting from backdating Intensive Housing Management charges;
- c) **Repairs and Maintenance £0.762m over budget** – at the year end a review of the capital programme expenditure identified costs which needed to be

aligned to revenue spend as opposed to capital, the higher spend has been offset by a corresponding reduction in the revenue contribution to the capital programme;

- d) **General Supervision and Management £0.289m over budget** – this results from the Customer Service charge for Durham City Homes being higher than the original budget and additional asset management work relating to Housing Stock Transfer;
- e) **Rents, Rates and Taxes £0.220m over budget** – this is an increase in Council Tax charges resulting from the increased numbers of void properties;
- f) **Changes in Bad Debt Provision £0.561m under budget** – this results from lower than anticipated arrears compared to forecast, due to the delay by the Government in introducing Universal Credit and the work carried out by the three providers in maintaining rent arrears at a consistent level;
- g) **Interest Payments £1.585m under budget** – this results from a lower interest rate and lower outstanding loan debt than originally anticipated, due in part to re-profiling of the capital programme in year;
- h) **Revenue Support to Capital £0.759m over budget** – the balancing item on the HRA, which identifies the potential resources available to support the capital programme and reduce our reliance on borrowing.

3 The final position on HRA general and earmarked balances as at 31 March 2014 is as follows:

- Durham City Homes Improvement Plan - £0.650m
- Welfare Reform - £0.393m
- HRA Reserve - £7.156m

HRA Capital Outturn

4 The original HRA capital budget for 2013/14, taking into account the budgets approved by Council on 26 February 2013 and adjustments for re-profiling of underspends at 2012/13 year end was £55.583m. This was agreed by Cabinet on 17 July 2013.

5 As with the General Fund Capital Programme, throughout the year, the Capital Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) has continually reviewed progress in delivering the HRA 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 and approved by Cabinet as part of the quarterly budgetary control reports in year. The budget was reviewed throughout 2013/14 with the revised budget being £49.819m.

6 The following table summarises the revised capital budgets, taking into account revisions agreed by MOWG and Cabinet throughout the year, together with the outturn position for each service area. The table also details the action that has been taken with regards to re-profiling and other budget adjustments at year end, which were approved by MOWG on 22 May 2014.

Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2013/14

	Revised 2013/14 Budget £m	2013/14 Outturn £m	Variance £m	Additions / Deletions from Budget £m	Reprofiling £m
Housing	49.819	45.698	-4.121	-4.121	-

7 The following table summarises the recommended financing of the HRA capital programme spend in 2013/14:

Financing – Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2013/14

	2013/14 Outturn £m
Financed by:	
Grants	19.400
Direct Revenue Financing	16.976
Capital Receipts	1.293
Major Repairs Allowance	7.550
Borrowing	0.479
Total	45.698

- 8 The 2013/14 outturn capital expenditure was £45.698m against a revised budget of £49.819m, resulting in a £4.121m underspend for the year.
- 9 Expenditure on assets such as communal halls and garages were found to be revenue rather than capital in nature, resulting in an underspend of £1.218m.
- 10 The majority of the underspend (£1.848m) relates to the East Durham Homes programme and is due to significant savings being achieved through the introduction of a new contract in July 2013 to deliver planned Decent Homes schemes, where work is being delivered at a cheaper rate.
- 11 There was also an underspend of £0.738m on Durham City Homes schemes, which is also due to more competitive rates being obtained, resulting in planned activity being completed below budget.
- 12 The remaining £0.317m is largely attributable to underspends in mortgage rescue and new build projects.

Future Plans - 2014/15 to 2016/17

In March 2014, the Council was notified that its application for a transfer of housing stock out of the Council and into a new registered social housing provider with a group structure based on the council's existing housing management organisational boundaries had been approved. This change was subject to a ballot of council house tenants, which has been completed and a 'yes' vote received. It is anticipated that the transfer of housing stock will be complete by 31 March 2015.

The HRA MTFP has been prepared on the basis of a stock retention scenario, with the proposed HRA budget for 2014/15 and three-year MTFP for revenue and capital being reported to the County Council in February 2014.

The headline implications for 2014/15 are summarised below:

- Dwelling rents for 2014/15 to increase in accordance with Government guidelines which results in an overall average increase of 4.62%;
- Average rent per week to increase from £65.67 per week to £68.70 per week – an increase of £3.03 per week on average (on a 52 week basis);
- Increases in garage rents to be linked to September 2013 RPI of 3.2% and the proposed charges per week for 2014/15 (on a 52 week basis) are £8.52 (for private tenants where we need to charge VAT) and £7.10 (for council tenants who are exempt from VAT);
- A substantial capital investment programme of £50m in 2014/15.

The following broad assumptions have been used in the HRA MTFP:

- Rent increases to follow national rent policy, with increases linked to the retail price index (RPI) as at September 2013 (3.2%) plus 0.5% and rent convergence by 2015/16;
- Opening Debt of £239m;
- Interest rate on debt assumed as 5.25%;
- Inflationary increase of 2.5% year on year for Housing Management expenditure and 3.5% year on year for Repairs expenditure;
- Void property levels at 2% on average which is an increase of 0.5% in the current HRA MTFP and reflects increasing void rates across the housing stock;
- Assumed bad debts provision for non payment of rent at 1.5% of gross rent due to the unknown and potential impact of Government Welfare Reforms;
- A further £0.5m saving (2015/16) in management costs based on retention of housing stock under a single ALMO model should the large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT) not proceed;
- Known adjustments to stock such as planned demolitions, new build properties and estimates of annual right to buy sales of 100 properties per year;
- Minimum level of HRA reserves of £7m.

Building in the above assumptions the HRA MTFP shows:

- A balanced revenue budget over the full HRA MTFP period;
- Housing debt of £245m at the end of HRA MTFP period;
- HRA reserves of at least £7m being maintained;
- A balanced Capital programme over the HRA MTFP period.

The following table provides forecasts for the three year Medium Term Financial Plan period 2014/15 to 2016/17 which have been taken directly from the 30 year HRA Business Plan. During this period, a rental stream of some £202m will be available to the Council to meet its management, repairs, investment and debt costs.

	2014/15 Year 1 £'000	2015/16 Year 2 £'000	2016/17 Year 3 £'000	Total All 3 years £'000
Total Income	65,582	67,133	68,727	201,442
Total Revenue Expenditure	-28,296	-28,633	-29,493	-86,422
Interest Paid	-12,646	-12,813	-12,862	-38,321
Debt Management	-156	-161	-176	-493
Interest Received	105	140	178	423
Depreciation	-7,872	-8,028	-8,188	-24,088
Net Operating Income	16,717	17,638	18,186	52,541
Appropriations				
Borrowing Repayment	-	-	-	-
Revenue Contribution to Capital	-16,717	-17,638	-18,186	-52,541
Total Appropriations	-16,717	-17,638	-18,186	-52,541
Annual Cash Flow	-	-	-	-
Opening Balance	7,000	7,000	7,000	n/a
Closing Balance	7,000	7,000	7,000	n/a

HRA Capital Programme

The HRA Capital Programme contributes significantly to the Housing Strategy Objective of *'Altogether Better Housing Standards'* by improving the condition of the housing stock and providing better homes with modern facilities which are warmer and more energy efficient.

The condition of the Council's housing stock is maintained through its annual repairs and maintenance budget and improved and refurbished through its capital programme. The size of the capital programme depends on the balance between the need of the Council to improve its stock and the availability of funds to finance the improvements.

Stock investment requirements form a central part of the HRA capital spending requirement and these have been derived from information from a stock condition survey finalised in 2012 to identify the spending needs of the housing stock over a 30 year period.

The key focus for the Council is the medium term horizon and the next three years. The Council's projections show a balanced revenue budget with revenue support to the capital programme of £77m (comprising of major repairs reserve and revenue contributions).

After taking into account other sources of funding, the total estimated resources are £107m.

A detailed two year capital programme covering the three geographical areas was approved as part of the 2013/14 budget setting process and a target of £50m was set for 2014/15. It was proposed to maintain a programme of £50m which is a significant level of investment in our housing stock.

HRA Reserves

HRA reserves were anticipated to be around £7m by 31 March 2014 equivalent to approximately £379 per dwelling. Interest is receivable on HRA cash balances and £0.105m had been assumed for 2014/15.

The significant changes arising from the reform of Council housing finance including the transfer of some risks to the Council (such as interest payments on debt and fluctuations in

interest rates) mean that an adequate level of reserves needs to be maintained. It is therefore prudent to ensure balances are maintained at broadly the same level to ensure the Council's financial position is not adversely affected.

20. Durham County Council Pension Fund

Durham County Council Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by Durham County Council.

The LGPS is a statutory scheme governed by regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972 and was established in 1974 to cover the future pension entitlement of all eligible employees of the County Council and the former District Councils.

A number of other bodies also participate in the Fund, these include the Parish and Town Councils, Further Education Colleges, Academy Schools, Police and Fire Authorities and Admitted Bodies.

The Accounts for the Pension Fund form part of the Statement of Accounts for Durham County Council, but are not included in the Core Statements of the Council's accounts.

At 31 March 2014 the number of pensionable employees in the Pension Fund was 17,454, which is an increase of 617, from 16,837 at 31 March 2013. The number of pensioners during 2013/14 has increased by 314 from 16,386 to 16,700.

The Net Assets of the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2014 are £2,131m, an increase of £46m from £2,085m as at 31 March 2013.

The full detail of the Pension Fund's activities for 2013/14 can be found in the Pension Fund Accounts contained in this Statement of Accounts.

21. Going Concern

Each year, Durham County Council assesses whether it should be considered a 'going concern', and whether the accounts should be prepared on that basis.

The Code requires that a local authority's Statement of Accounts is prepared on a going concern basis; that is, the accounts should be prepared on the assumption that the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This means that the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of the operation.

An organisation must consider its financial performance to assess its ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment should cover historical, current and future performance.

Section 18 details the future plans in place for the Council and for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in Section 19.

Those sections show that:

- The council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2014/15 and has a plan in place to continue to deliver local services up to 2017. Based on this, it is clear that the Council is a going concern.
- Based on the level of reserves held, the Council has demonstrated robust financial management that underpins its status as a going concern.

- Based on the risks identified in the Medium Term Financial Planning process, there are no risks which would indicate that the Council is not a going concern.

Based on the assessment undertaken and reported to those charged with governance:

- The Council has a history of stable finance and ready access to financial resources in the future,
- There are no significant financial, operating or other risks that would jeopardise the Council's continuing operation.

Therefore the Council is a going concern and it is appropriate for the Statement of Accounts to be prepared on that basis.

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 Corporate Director Resources

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2014 and its expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Don McLure

Corporate Director Resources

30 September 2014

Certificate of Chairman

In accordance with Regulation 8 (3) (c) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, I certify that these Accounts were approved by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 30 September 2014.

Edward Bell
Chairman of the Audit Committee
Chair of the meeting approving the Accounts
30 September 2014

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 2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, 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 2013/14.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director Resources 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, 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 Corporate Director Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword 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 2014 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and

- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword 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 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998;
- we designate under section 11 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 any recommendation as one that requires the Authority to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. 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 2013/14.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority'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 Corporate Director Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword and the annual 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 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 2014 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2014 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.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword and the content of the Annual 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 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

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

have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, 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 resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

Cameron Waddell
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS
30 September 2014

Movement in Reserves Statement

2013/14:

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2013 brought forward	24,410	105,874	7,155	1,150	137	-	1,060	139,786	292,462	432,248
Movement in Reserves during 2013-14										
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-23,333	-	1,475	-	-	-	-	-21,858	-	-21,858
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	247,627	247,627
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-23,333	-	1,475	-	-	-	-	-21,858	247,627	225,769
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	87,136	-	-1,582	-	82	-	-338	85,298	-85,298	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	63,803	-	-107	-	82	-	-338	63,440	162,329	225,769
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	-60,078	60,078	107	-107	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in Year	3,725	60,078	-	-107	82	-	-338	63,440	162,329	225,769
Balance at 31 March 2014 carried forward	28,135	165,952	7,155	1,043	219	-	722	203,226	454,791	658,017

2012/13 balances have been restated as a result of prior period adjustments for revisions to IAS 19 disclosure and changes to the valuations of HRA day centres. Full details are disclosed at Note 53.

2012/13:

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2012 brought forward (restated)	21,874	100,425	7,821	2,460	173	-	-	132,753	430,912	563,665
Movement in Reserves during 2012-13										
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-52,861	-	-28,514	-	-	-	-	-81,375	-	-81,375
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-50,042	-50,042
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-52,861	-	-28,514	-	-	-	-	-81,375	-50,042	-131,417
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 7)	60,846	-	26,538	-	-36	-	1,060	88,408	-88,408	-
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	7,985	-	-1,976	-	-36	-	1,060	7,033	-138,450	-131,417
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 8)	-5,449	5,449	1,310	-1,310	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/Decrease in Year	2,536	5,449	-666	-1,310	-36	-	1,060	7,033	-138,450	-131,417
Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward (restated)	24,410	105,874	7,155	1,150	137	-	1,060	139,786	292,462	432,248

2012/13 balances have been restated as a result of prior period adjustments for revisions to IAS 19 disclosure and changes to the valuations of HRA day centres. Full details are disclosed at Note 53.

01 April 2012 £000 (restated)	31 March 2013 £000 (restated)		Notes	31 March 2014 £000
1,897,885	1,856,656	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	1,847,084
15,858	15,561	Heritage Assets	13, 48, 49	15,636
4,221	3,870	Investment Property	14	3,481
2,561	2,620	Intangible Assets	15	2,255
2,567	11,363	Long Term Investments	16	10,583
6,545	15,643	Long Term Debtors	16	17,935
1,929,637	1,905,713	Long Term Assets		1,896,974
69,010	56,900	Short Term Investments	16	69,832
1,263	350	Assets Held for Sale	20	940
5,337	2,708	Inventories	17	3,127
82,171	77,272	Short Term Debtors	18	68,209
42,874	31,261	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	53,638
200,655	168,491	Current Assets		195,746
-12,189	-5,591	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	-2,829
-13,597	-7,439	Short Term Borrowing	16	-8,308
-126,267	-104,501	Short Term Creditors	21	-113,826
-13,301	-15,661	Provisions	22	-4,621
-32,175	-25,595	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	37	-7,354
-197,529	-158,787	Current Liabilities		-136,938
-7,470	-11,850	Provisions	22	-12,936
-410,999	-437,438	Long Term Borrowing	16	-432,986
-945,577	-1,027,436	Other Long Term Liabilities	40, 41, 45	-849,885
-5,052	-6,445	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	37	-1,958
-1,369,098	-1,483,169	Long Term Liabilities		-1,297,765
563,665	432,248	Net Assets		658,017
132,753	139,786	Usable Reserves	23	203,227
430,912	292,462	Unusable Reserves	24	454,790
563,665	432,248	Total Reserves		658,017

2012/13 balances have been restated as a result of changes to the valuation of HRA day centres. Full details are disclosed at Note 53.

Cash Flow Statement

2012-13 £000 (restated)	2013-14 £000
81,375 Net surplus (-) or deficit on the provision of services	21,858
-136,804 Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provisions of services for non-cash movements (Note 25)	-131,545
9,562 Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 26)	7,973
-45,867 Net Cash flows from Operating Activities (Note 27)	-101,714
60,991 Investing Activities (Note 28)	80,804
-10,109 Financing Activities (Note 29)	-4,229
5,015 Net increase (-) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	-25,139
30,685 Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	25,670
25,670 Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	50,809

2012/13 comparative figures have been restated as a result of prior period adjustments for revisions to IAS 19 disclosure. Full details are disclosed at Note 53.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

	Page
Note 1	70
Note 2	90
Note 3	91
Note 4	93
Note 5	95
Note 6	95
Note 7	96
Note 8	99
Note 9	101
Note 10	101
Note 11	101
Note 12	102
Note 13	104
Note 14	105
Note 15	105
Note 16	107
Note 17	111
Note 18	111
Note 19	111
Note 20	111
Note 21	112
Note 22	112
Note 23	113
Note 24	113
Note 25	118
Note 26	118
Note 27	118
Note 28	119
Note 29	119
Note 30	120
Note 31	122
Note 32	123
Note 33	123
Note 34	124
Note 35	126
Note 36	126
Note 37	128
Note 38	130
Note 39	135
Note 40	136
Note 41	138
Note 42	140
Note 43	141
Note 44	141
Note 45	142
Note 46	147
Note 47	150
Note 48	150
Note 49	150
Note 50	152
Note 51	152
Note 52	159
Note 53	159

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.

1. Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2013/14 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2014. The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 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 2013/14 (the Code) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2013/14 (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 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.

There are no exceptional items to disclose in 2013/14.

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 fixed 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 fixed 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 with 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 and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the 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 and are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year end.

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of 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 4.30% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond, 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. Unlisted securities – current bid price.
 4. Property – market value

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

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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
6. 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 and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

Loans and Receivables

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

However, the Council has made a number of loans to 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 Assets

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured

and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on 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 – independent appraisal of company valuations.

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 have 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. They are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance value.

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 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.

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.

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. Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of the assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its' Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

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

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 2013/14 (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.

There were no donated assets to disclose in 2013/14.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Dwellings – fair value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH); and
- All other assets – fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

Where non-property assets 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 2013/14 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.

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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. Landfill Allowance Schemes

Landfill allowances, whether allocated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or purchased from another Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) are recognised as current assets and are initially measured at fair value. Landfill allowances allocated by DEFRA are accounted for as a government grant.

After initial recognition, allowances are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

As landfill is used, a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability is discharged either by surrendering allowances or by payment of a cash penalty to DEFRA (or by a combination). The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally the market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. However, where some of the obligation will be met by paying a cash penalty to DEFRA, that part of its liability is measured at the cost of the penalty.

26. 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.

27. 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.

There were no contingent assets to disclose in 2013/14.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. Carbon Reduction Commitment Allowances

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. This scheme is currently in its introductory phase which lasts until 31 March 2014. The County Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, 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.

32. Other (Schools)

The Council does not include Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled or Foundation schools within its financial statements as the Council does not own the school assets. Based on the Code as it currently stands, in the professional opinion of the Council's Valuer and Accountants, these schools are not a resource controlled by the Council as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits or service potential are not expected to flow to the Council, and as such should not be included on the Balance Sheet.

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

The Code has introduced several changes in accounting policies which will be required from 1 April 2014, the following changes are not considered to have a significant impact on the Statement of Accounts:

- IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements. The change clarifies the disclosure requirements in respect of comparative information for the preceding period. The Statement of Accounts fully discloses comparative information for the preceding period; therefore this change will not have a material impact on the Statement of Accounts.
- IAS 27 Separate Financial Statements and IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures – The Statement of Accounts has been amended to conform with the changes in IFRS 10, IFRS 11 and IFRS 12. There have only been disclosure changes due to the amendment for IFRS 10, IFRS 11 and IFRS 12, and as a result of this, there will be no impact as a result of changes to IAS 27 and IAS 28.
- IAS 32 Financial Instruments Presentation – The Code refers to amended guidance when offsetting a financial asset and a financial liability. This is a presentational change and will not have a material effect.

- IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements - This standard introduces a new definition of control which is used to determine which entities are consolidated for the purposes of group accounts. The Council does have subsidiaries but has not produced group accounts for this financial year on the basis of materiality.
- IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements – This standard requires a range of disclosures about an entity’s interests in joint arrangements which are in the future to be either a Joint Operation or a Joint Venture, each of which would be consolidated differently. The Council has no material joint arrangements.
- IFRS 12 Disclosures of Involvement in Other Entities – This standard requires further disclosure information that enables users of the Council’s financial statements to evaluate:
 - The nature of, and risks associated with, its interest in other entities; and
 - The effects of those interests on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

The Council will need to consider its arrangements and further disclosures may be required.

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.
- Housing – impairment of capital expenditure. The Council judges that the value of the preceding year’s capital expenditure, which does not enhance the value of the Council’s housing stock is a reliable estimate for the current year’s level of non-enhancing spend. This is subject to the capital programme remaining at a constant level. The Valuer’s assessment, based on previous years’ experience, is that it is a reasonable assumption to write off such non–enhancing capital expenditure one year in arrears.
- Academy and Foundation Trust Schools - two schools transferred to academy and foundation trust status in 2013/14. At the completion of a statutory process, the governing bodies of the relevant schools have agreed to change from Local Authority maintained schools. These 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 £16.151m. Further details can be found in Note 41.

- Accounting for Schools – Balance Sheet Recognition – a new accounting policy has been introduced which states the Council’s current position. The Council does not include Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled or Foundation Schools within its financial statements. However, the issue of which types of school should be included in financial statements has been reviewed by a Public Sector Working Group. The initial view of this group is that Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools should be included as control lies with the Council. This has not been applied to the accounts for 2013/14, but will be a change required in future years’ accounts.
- 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 2013/14.
- Grant recognition – the adoption of the Code has required reconsideration of the extent to which grants are encumbered by conditions and the extent to which any such conditions have been met. In respect of Capital Grants and Contributions, the assumption that has been applied in the accounts is that the grant would have to be used for capital expenditure before all the conditions of the grant were fulfilled. This is because it is a standard clause that if expenditure is not used to purchase specified assets, it can be clawed back.
- Municipal Mutual Insurance – The Council considers that the orderly run down of all existing and prospective claims may result in a liability to be met from the insurance reserve. The Scheme Administrator suggests that there are possible future levies that may be imposed on Scheme Creditors such as the Council. The Council’s Insurance Adviser recommends that adequate provision should be held against future calls in the range of 25% to 30%. The Council has provided for 28% (£0.740m) of the value of the total potential liability in the Scheme of Arrangement, after the initial levy payment of £0.838m was made in 2013/14. As 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.
- 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 recommends proposals for the management of the retained sites, and over the next twelve months work will be undertaken to determine the financial liabilities associated with these proposals. As the 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 2014 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.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pensions Liability	<p>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 provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>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 £38.4m.</p> <p>In order to understand the magnitude of the possible volatility in the balance sheet position and to understand 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.</p>
Equal Pay	<p>Provision has been made for the likely payments in respect of Equal Pay settlements. These are provided for in long term provisions and have been included at current prices.</p>	<p>As payments are unlikely to be made within 12 months, the provision will be reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly.</p>
Insurance Provision	<p>The value of provisions that will be used in 2014/15 is uncertain. Based on previous experience, an amount of £3.557m has been classified as short term to reflect the likely use of this provision in 2014/15.</p>	<p>If the short term provision is not used during 2014/15, the annual review of the insurance provision will ensure that an appropriate amount is included in the 2014/15 accounts.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Arrears	At 31 March 2014, the Authority had a balance of debtors of £90.28m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of 28.21% (£25.47m) 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 £25.47m to be set aside as an allowance.

5. Material Items of Income and Expense

There are no material items of Income and Expenditure to be disclosed separately in the Statement of Accounts.

6. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Corporate Director Resources on 30 September 2014. 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 2014, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Academy Schools

One local authority school is due to convert to Academy status during 2014/15 which was a non adjusting event in 2013/14. This change in status will lead to the removal of this school from the Balance Sheet in 2014/15 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 £0.955m.

Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT)

In March 2014, the Council was notified that its application for a transfer of housing stock from the Council to a new registered social housing provider had been approved. A ballot of council house tenants agreed this change and it is anticipated that the transfer of housing stock will be completed in March 2015.

North East Combined Authority

The Council, along with the Council's of Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Northerberland (LA7) formed a Combined Authority that was approved by the government on 14 April 2014. The Combined Authority is a separate legal entity that will have responsibility for a number of key strategic areas across the whole of the LA7 region. These will include Transport (all of the former Tyne and Wear

Integrated Transport Authority services, along with those operated by Northumberland and this Council), Economy and Inward Investment, Skills, Communications and will provide the formal accountability arrangements for the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Combined Authority will be funded in accordance with the Combined Authority Agreement, which was agreed by each constituent member and was approved by the government.

Residential Care Homes

In April 2014, the Council's Cabinet agreed to the closure of the Councils' five remaining residential care homes for the elderly. There was no impact of this decision in the 2013/14 accounts.

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.

2013/14:

	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 primarily involving the:						
Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CI&E Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-55,363	-10,954	-	-	-	66,317
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	-30,029	-32,149	-	-	-	62,178
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	-243	-	-	-	-	243
Amortisation of intangible assets	-1,204	-26	-	-	-	1,230
Capital grants and contributions applied	60,774	19,400	-	-	-	-80,174
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-9,535	-45	-	-	-	9,580
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	-45,947	-2,856	-	-	-	48,803
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CI&E Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	16,018	-	-	-	-	-16,018
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	10,852	16,976	-	-	-	-27,828
Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CI&E Statement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	338	-338
Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	4,706	3,296	-8,002	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-29	-	29	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	8,150	-	-	-8,150
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	-1,443	-	1,443	-	-	-
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-	-	-1,702	-	-	1,702
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	971	-	-	-	-	-971
Major Repairs Reserve:						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance Credited to the HRA	-	7,550	-	-7,550	-	-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	7,550	-	-7,550
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&E Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	191	-	-	-	-	-191
Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to the retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E Statement	-94,326	-344	-	-	-	94,670
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	57,294	734	-	-	-	-58,028
Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rating income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rating income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-1,604	-	-	-	-	1,604
Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	1,780	-	-	-	-	-1,780
Total Adjustments	-87,137	1,582	-82	-	338	85,299

2012/13:

	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 primarily involving the:						
Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CI&E Statement:						
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-52,168	-10,090	-	-	-	62,258
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	-15,476	-52,681	-	-	-	68,157
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties	-299	-	-	-	-	299
Amortisation of intangible assets	-1,366	-185	-	-	-	1,551
Capital grants and contributions applied	47,559	13,087	-	-	-	-60,646
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-13,779	-63	-	-	-	13,842
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	-43,972	-2,744	-	-	-	46,716
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CI&E Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	15,600	-	-	-	-	-15,600
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	15,900	15,671	-	-	-	-31,571
Capital Grants Unapplied Account:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the CI&E Statement	1,060	-	-	-	-1,060	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	7,175	2,373	-9,548	-	-	-
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-12	-	12	-	-	-
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	9,114	-	-	-9,114
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	-1,024	-	1,024	-	-	-
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-	-	-566	-	-	566
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&E Statement	1,662	-	-	-	-	-1,662
Major Repairs Reserve:						
Reversal of Major Repairs Allowance Credited to the HRA	-	7,692	-	-7,692	-	-
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	7,692	-	-7,692
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&E Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	190	-	-	-	-	-190
Pensions Reserve:						
Reversal of items relating to the retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&E Statement	-78,856	-274	-	-	-	79,130
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	56,175	676	-	-	-	-56,851
Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CI&E Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	10	-	-	-	-	-10
Accumulated Absences Account:						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&E Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	775	-	-	-	-	-775
Total Adjustments	-60,846	-26,538	36	-	-1,060	88,408

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 2012 £000	Transfers out 2012-13 £000	Transfers in 2012-13 £000	Balance at 31 March 2013 £000	Transfers out 2013-14 £000	Transfers in 2013-14 £000	Balance at 31 March 2014 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	20,890	-5,663	4,191	19,418	-	5,266	24,684
AAP / Members Reserve	2,364	-1,571	1,062	1,855	-	1,422	3,277
AAP Reserve - Neighbourhoods	504	-477	39	66	-28	-	38
Assistant Chief Executive - Grant Reserve	233	-	-	233	-8	5	230
Assistant Chief Executive - Operational Reserve	140	-	-	140	-8	-	132
Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre Reserve	475	-47	-	428	-	959	1,387
Cabinet Reserve	498	-278	-	220	-	-	220
Capital Expenditure Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	2,797	2,797
Cash Limit Reserve	15,886	-3,189	7,205	19,902	-5,960	8,442	22,384
Community Safety Reserve	75	-53	-	22	-16	-	6
Continuing Professional Development Reserve	373	-	96	469	-	524	993
Corporate Reserve	1,164	-60	739	1,843	-	376	2,219
Customer Services Reserve	360	-300	50	110	-73	350	387
Dedicated Schools Grant and Education Reserve	4,003	-167	1,170	5,006	-	2,348	7,354
Direct Services Reserve	1,406	-96	1,284	2,594	-736	1,817	3,675
DWP Grant Reserve	159	-159	107	107	-1	593	699
Economic Development Reserve	843	-470	644	1,017	-163	46	900
Elections Reserve	800	-	-	800	-464	700	1,036
Employability and Training Reserve	855	-130	121	846	-281	79	644
Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Reserve	141	-	289	430	-93	179	516
Equal Pay Reserve	3,408	-131	3,834	7,111	-1,232	11,526	17,405
Funding and Programmes Management Reserve	239	-63	-	176	-44	-	132
Health and Wellbeing Reserve	1,347	-847	-	500	-500	-	-
Heritage and Culture Reserve	248	-248	-	-	-	-	-
Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve	1,200	-	1,379	2,579	-381	-	2,198
Housing Solutions Reserve	1,321	-444	110	987	-72	164	1,079
Insurance Reserve	11,842	-4,154	145	7,833	-172	5,397	13,058
Land Search Fees Reserve	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Legal Expenses	-	-	200	200	-	-	200
Leisure Reserves	52	-52	-	-	-	-	-
LSVT Reserve	122	-11	-	111	-11	-	100
MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve	9,551	-4,713	-	4,838	-3,583	15,000	16,255
New Homes Bonus Reserve	206	-206	-	-	-	-	-
North Pennines Partnership Reserve	-	-	920	920	-282	-	638
Office Accommodation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Performance Reward Grant Reserve	1,319	-162	578	1,735	-427	-	1,308
Planning Reserve	1,774	-86	-	1,688	-540	-	1,173
Public Health Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	4,992	4,992
Regeneration Reserve	1,940	-923	111	1,128	-103	664	1,689
Restructure Reserve	1,000	-271	-	729	-	-	729
Social Care Reserve	9,329	-4,403	7,779	12,705	-3,352	10,012	19,365
Special Projects Reserve	60	-	-	60	-	-	60
Sport and Leisure Reserve	1,765	-695	1,222	2,292	-1,024	695	1,963
Strategic Waste Reserve	104	-	272	376	-150	199	425
System Development Reserve	700	-300	930	1,330	-309	1,000	2,021
Tackling Troubled Families Reserve	-	-	943	943	-	615	1,558
Technical Services Reserve	-	-	445	445	-445	1,619	1,619
Transport Reserve	364	-	-	364	-35	-	329
Transport Asset Management Programme Reserve	365	-47	-	318	-	-	318
Welfare Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	500	500
Welfare Reform Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	1,132	1,132
Welfare Rights Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	128	128
Total	100,425	-30,416	35,865	105,874	-20,493	80,571	165,952
HRA:							
Capital Reserve	2,000	-2,000	-	-	-	-	-
Stock Options Reserve	60	-	440	500	-500	-	-
DCH Improvements Reserve	400	-	250	650	-	-	650
Welfare Reform Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	393	393
Total	2,460	-2,000	690	1,150	-500	393	1,043

The significant earmarked reserves at 31 March 2014, 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 2014 comprised individual school balances totalling £24.684m, net of loans outstanding of £0.576m.

AAP / Members Reserve

To ensure the projects can be funded in 2014/15 where an agreed spending plan exists.

Capital Expenditure Reserve

To provide resources to fund capital expenditure items in 2014/15 and beyond.

Cash Limit Reserve

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

Corporate Reserve

The main balance is in relation to the Procurement Reserve and is available to provide financial support where the council experiences significant levels of contract inflation over and above the price inflation allowance held in the Medium Term Financial Plan. Categories of spend such as energy are often subject to high levels of inflation.

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.

Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve

To finance the cost of housing benefit backdated claims which are not fully funded by Government subsidy due to their age.

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.

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.

System Development Reserve

To provide resources to meet the costs associated with future ICT developments.

9. Other Operating Expenditure

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
12,409	Parish council precepts	9,982
400	Levies	395
1,024	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1,443
35,518	Gains/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	39,859
49,351	Total	51,679

10. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2012-13 £000 (restated)		2013-14 £000
24,437	Interest payable and similar charges	24,112
40,480	Pensions net interest on the net defined benefit liability	41,560
-3,381	Interest receivable and similar income	-3,364
756	Impairment of Financial Investments	-40
163	Movement in market value of investment properties	243
-1,979	Other investment income	-8,637
60,476	Total	53,874

11. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-214,207	Council tax income *	-174,448
-219,007	Non domestic rates	-51,356
-13,779	Non-ringfenced government grants	-243,914
-60,647	Capital grants and contributions	-80,204
-507,640	Total	-549,922

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

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movement on Balance 2013/14:

	Operational					Non-Operational		Total £000
	Council Dwellings £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or valuation								
At 1 April 2013	461,161	967,404	119,702	425,849	2,254	81,284	32,564	2,090,218
Additions	45,698	28,765	12,593	29,120	133	636	17,247	134,192
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-41,951	-11,829	-	-	-	-19,562	-	-73,342
Derecognition - disposals	-2,935	-42,806	-5,245	-	-	-9,036	-	-60,022
Derecognition - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-782	-	-	-	-242	-	-1,024
Other reclassifications	-6,642	32,326	99	173	272	11,305	-37,393	140
Other movements in cost or valuation	-45	-451	-	-	-	-	-	-496
At 31 March 2014	455,286	972,627	127,149	455,142	2,659	64,385	12,418	2,089,666
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2013	-7,579	-54,758	-77,026	-86,772	-87	-7,342	-	-233,564
Depreciation charge	-6,877	-26,300	-12,917	-10,710	-	-253	-	-57,057
Depreciation written out on revaluation	6,867	35,357	-	-	-	5,124	-	47,348
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-651	-10,052	-	-	-	-259	-	-10,962
Derecognition - disposals	676	4,964	5,106	-	-	904	-	11,650
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other reclassifications	909	-308	-	-	-	-601	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2014	-6,655	-51,095	-84,837	-97,482	-87	-2,427	-	-242,583
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2014	448,631	921,532	42,312	357,660	2,572	61,958	12,418	1,847,083
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	453,582	912,646	42,676	339,077	2,167	73,942	32,564	1,856,654
The Revaluations / Impairments above:								
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-41,951	-11,829	-	-	-	-19,562	-	-73,342
Depreciation written out	6,867	35,357	-	-	-	5,124	-	47,348
Impairment losses/(reversals)	-651	-10,052	-	-	-	-259	-	-10,962
	-35,735	13,476	-	-	-	-14,697	-	-36,956
Are recognised as follows:								
In the Revaluation Reserve	-183	45,194	-	-	-	-10,272	-	34,739
In the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-35,552	-31,718	-	-	-	-4,425	-	-71,695

Comparative Movements in 2012/13:

	Operational					Non-Operational		Total £000
	Council Dwellings £000	Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or valuation								
At 1 April 2012 (restated)	492,457	1,012,465	113,274	399,811	2,444	77,361	25,218	2,123,030
Additions	42,691	30,045	13,967	26,037	11	47	22,665	135,463
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-73,205	-31,600	-	-	-	-2,832	-	-107,637
Derecognition - disposals	-2,615	-44,612	-7,540	-	-	-2,008	-	-56,775
Derecognition - other	-	-928	-	-	-15	-	-	-943
Assets reclassified (to)/from Heritage Assets	-	-78	-	-	-	-	-	-78
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	-	-1,871	-	-	-	-731	-	-2,602
Other reclassifications	1,833	3,983	1	1	-186	9,447	-15,079	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-240	-240
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	461,161	967,404	119,702	425,849	2,254	81,284	32,564	2,090,218
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2012 (restated)	-13,911	-59,347	-68,683	-76,428	-87	-6,690	-	-225,146
Depreciation charge	-7,196	-24,923	-14,164	-10,344	-	-311	-	-56,938
Depreciation written out on revaluation	11,687	25,896	-	-	-	435	-	38,018
Impairment losses/(reversals)	977	-3,635	-	-	-	-686	-240	-3,584
Derecognition - disposals	870	6,994	5,821	-	-	75	-	13,760
Derecognition - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Heritage Assets	-	86	-	-	-	-	-	86
Other reclassifications	-6	171	-	-	-	-165	-	-
Other movements in cost or valuation	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	240
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	-7,579	-54,758	-77,026	-86,772	-87	-7,342	-	-233,564
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	453,582	912,646	42,676	339,077	2,167	73,942	32,564	1,856,654
At 31 March 2012 (restated)	478,546	953,118	44,591	323,383	2,357	70,671	25,218	1,897,884
The Revaluations / Impairments above:								
Revaluation increases/(decreases)	-73,205	-31,600	-	-	-	-2,832	-	-107,637
Depreciation written out on revaluation	11,687	25,896	-	-	-	435	-	38,018
Impairment losses/(reversals)	977	-3,635	-	-	-	-686	-240	-3,584
	-60,541	-9,339	-	-	-	-3,083	-240	-73,203
Are recognised as follows:								
In the Revaluation Reserve	-5,462	7,423	-	-	-	-1,583	-	378
In the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-55,079	-16,762	-	-	-	-1,500	-240	-73,581

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 & 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

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2014, the Council had entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2014/15 and future years budgeted to cost £55.177m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2013 were £34.014m. The major commitments are:

• Building Schools for the Future	£29.671m
• School Projects	£3.347m
• Highways Capitalised Maintenance	£2.915m
• Digital Durham	£18.160m

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 2012	9,482	1,287	4,435	654	15,858
Additions	-	21	11	-	32
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-300	-	-	-300
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-20	-	-	-20
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Assets reclassified (to)/from Property Plant and Equipment	-	-	-9	-	-9
At 31 March 2013	9,482	988	4,437	654	15,561
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2013	9,482	988	4,437	654	15,561
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	12	-1	58	-	69
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	-	-	6	-	6
At 31 March 2014	9,494	987	4,501	654	15,636

Museum Collections and Artefacts

Where museum exhibits and artefacts are recognised on the balance sheet they are reported at insurance value.

Artwork, including Public Art and Sculptures

Where items of artwork are recognised on the balance sheet they are reported at insurance value, where available, otherwise at cost.

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.

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

14. Investment Properties

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

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
-104 Rental Income from Investment Property	-64
82 Direct Operating Expenses arising from Investment Property	67
-22 Net (-) Gain / Loss	3

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

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
4,221 Balance at start of the year	3,870
Additions:	
1 Enhancements	4
-189 Disposals	-
-163 Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	-247
Transfers:	
- To/from Property, Plant and Equipment	-146
3,870 Balance at end of the year	3,481

15. Intangible Assets

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system which is accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment. The intangible assets include both purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council.

The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Council are:

Type of asset	Nature of asset	Date Operational	Cost £000	Life (Years)	Method of amortisation
Accounting Software	Licence	November 2008	1,935	5	Straight Line
Server Software	Licence	January 2009	44	5	Straight Line
VM Software	Licence	January 2009	26	5	Straight Line
Income Software	Licence	November 2010	1,461	5	Straight Line
Government Connects	Licence	October 2010	132	5	Straight Line
Accounting Software	Licence	March 2011	160	5	Straight Line
BSF School Software	Licence	March 2011	85	5	Straight Line
HRA Software	Licence	March 2011	87	5	Straight Line
Web Filtering Software	Licence	June 2011	135	5	Straight Line
ICT Sharepoint Software	Licence	January 2012	79	3	Straight Line
Learning Platform	Licence	March 2012	46	5	Straight Line
Income Software	Licence	March 2012	161	5	Straight Line
ICT Sharepoint Software	Licence	August 2012	35	3	Straight Line
Accounting Software	Licence	December 2012	412	5	Straight Line
HRA Software	Licence	March 2013	10	5	Straight Line
BSF School Software	Licence	March 2013	1,020	5	Straight Line
Learning Gateway Software	Licence	January 2013	36	5	Straight Line
AccsMap Specific Software	Licence	September 2012	29	8	Straight Line
Planning Software	Licence	March 2013	63	5	Straight Line
BSF School Software	Licence	October 2013	150	5	Straight Line
Accounting Software	Licence	July 2013	241	5	Straight Line
Government Connects	Licence	November 2013	18	5	Straight Line
Learning Gateway	Licence	May 2013	3	5	Straight Line
Telephony System Software	Licence	March 2014	56	5	Straight Line
Planning Software	Licence	March 2014	381	5	Straight Line
ICT Business Continuity	Licence	March 2014	6	5	Straight Line
Assets transferred due to LGR					
Various software	Licence	2006	36	various	Straight line
Various software	Licence	2007	245	various	Straight line
Various software	Licence	2008	857	various	Straight line

The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. Of the amortisation of £1.230m charged to revenue in 2013/14 (£1.551m in 2012/13), £0.394m was charged to central administration and central services and then absorbed as an overhead across all the service headings in the Cost of Services (£0.845m in 2012/13). It is not possible to quantify exactly how much of the amortisation is attributable to each service heading.

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

2012-13		2013-14	
Software £000		Software £000	
Balance at start of year:			
5,785	Gross carrying amounts	7,395	
-3,224	Accumulated amortisation	-4,775	
2,561	Net carrying amount at start of year	2,620	
Additions:			
1,610	Purchases	875	
-	- Reclassification from Property, Plant and Equipment	-	
-	- Disposals	-297	
-	- Impairment losses recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-10	
-1,551	Amortisation for the period	-1,230	
-	- Amortisation written out on disposal	297	
2,620	Net carrying amount at end of year	2,255	
Comprising			
7,395	Gross carrying amounts	7,963	
-4,775	Accumulated amortisation	-5,708	
2,620		2,255	

16. 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:

2012-13			2013-14	
Long-term £000	Current £000		Long-term £000	Current £000
		Investments		
803	56,900	Loans and receivables	25	69,831
10,558	-	Available-for-sale financial assets	10,558	-
-	-	Unquoted equity investment at cost	-	-
-	-	Financial assets at fair value through profit and Loss	-	-
11,361	56,900	Total Investments	10,583	69,831
		Debtors:		
15,643	55,369	Loans and receivables	17,935	52,741
-	-	Financial assets carried at contract amounts	-	-
15,643	55,369	Total Debtors	17,935	52,741
		Borrowings:		
-437,443	-7,439	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-432,986	-8,308
-	-	Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-	-
-437,443	-7,439	Total Borrowings	-432,986	-8,308
		Other Long term Liabilities:		
-48,300	-2,787	PFI and finance lease liabilities	-46,419	-3,266
-48,300	-2,787	Total other long term liabilities:	-46,419	-3,266
		Creditors:		
-	-97,993	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	-	-108,803
-	-	Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	-	-
-	-97,993	Total Creditors	-	-108,803

In addition to the above categories of financial instruments, cash and cash equivalents are also financial instruments as defined by 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 2014 was £0.065m (31 March 2013 £0.085m). 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 147 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 2014 was £0.278m (31 March 2013 £0.506m).

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.

The value of soft loans received by the Council at 31 March 2014 was £0.145m (31 March 2013 £0.434m)

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 2013/14.

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:

2012-13					2013-14					
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables £000	Financial Assets: Available for sale £000	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss £000	Total £000		Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables £000	Financial Assets: Available for sale £000	Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit and Loss £000	Total £000
24,437				24,437	Interest expense	24,113				24,113
				-	Losses on derecognition					-
		1,158		1,158	Reductions in fair value			-		-
	-40			-40	Impairment losses		-40			-40
				-	Fee expense					-
24,437	-40	1,158	-	25,554	Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	24,113	-40	-	-	24,073
					Interest income		3,279			3,279
	3,282			3,282	Interest income accrued on impaired financial assets		85			85
	99			99	Increase in fair value			-		-
		9,771		9,771	Gains on derecognition					-
				-	Fee income					-
-	3,381	9,771	-	13,152	Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	3,364	-	-	3,364
					Gains on revaluation					-
					Losses on revaluation					-
					Amounts recycled to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services after impairment					-
					Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure					-
24,437	-3,421	-8,613	-	12,403	Net gain/(loss) for the year	24,113	-3,404	-	-	20,709

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, using the following assumptions:

- For loans from the PWLB and other loans payable, premature repayment 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 2013 (restated)			31 March 2014		
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	
-542,870	-645,212	Financial liabilities	-550,096	-614,361	
-	-	Long-term creditors	-	-	

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 2014) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

31 March 2013 (restated)			31 March 2014		
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	
112,269	112,269	Loans and receivables	122,572	122,572	
15,643	15,643	Long-term debtors	17,935	17,935	

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 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.

17. Inventories

	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
Year to 31 March 2014						
Consumable Stores	1,676	9,869	-9,216	-	-	2,329
Maintenance Materials	514	4,139	-4,174	-	-	479
Client Services Work in Progress	350	212	-350	-	-	212
Rechargeable Works	169	941	-1,003	-	-	107
Total	2,709	15,161	-14,743	-	-	3,127
Year to 31 March 2013						
Consumable Stores	2,929	6,869	-8,122	-	-	1,676
Maintenance Materials	484	4,287	-4,257	-	-	514
Client Services Work in Progress	762	2,216	-2,628	-	-	350
Rechargeable Works	1,162	1,344	-2,337	-	-	169
Total	5,337	14,716	-17,344	-	-	2,709

18. Short Term Debtors

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
26,615	Central government bodies	18,710
3,125	Other local authorities	2,141
2,851	NHS bodies	1,153
42	Public corporations and trading funds	-
59,567	Other entities and individuals	68,272
-18,878	Less: Impairment Allowance	-25,466
<u>73,322</u>		<u>64,810</u>
3,950	Payments in advance	3,399
<u>77,272</u>	Total	<u>68,209</u>

19. Cash and Cash Equivalents

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
6	Cash at bank	566
-5,591	Overdraft	-2,829
23,362	Cash held on demand (call accounts)	40,194
7,893	Deposits held for liquidity purposes	12,878
<u>25,670</u>	Cash and Cash Equivalents balance	<u>50,809</u>

20. Assets Held For Sale (Current)

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
1,263	Balance outstanding at start of year	350
3,864	Assets newly classified as held for sale: Property, Plant and Equipment	1,171
-1,262	Assets declassified as Held for Sale: Property, Plant and Equipment	-150
-3,515	Assets sold	-431
<u>350</u>	Balance outstanding at year-end	<u>940</u>

21. Short Term Creditors

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-20,300	Central government bodies	-22,529
-668	Other local authorities	-379
-2,041	NHS bodies	-2,429
-31	Public corporations and trading funds	-
-74,953	Other entities and individuals	-83,466
-97,993		-108,803
-6,508	Receipts in Advance	-5,023
-104,501	Total creditors	-113,826

22. Provisions

The provisions at 31 March 2014 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.

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 2013	13,850	13,468	-	193	27,511
Additional provisions made in 2013-14	5,128	-	2,543	1,000	8,671
Amounts used in 2013-14	-4,611	-5,874	-	-129	-10,614
Unused amounts reversed in 2013-14	-4,341	-3,670	-	-	-8,011
Unwinding of discounting in 2013-14	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2014	10,026	3,924	2,543	1,064	17,557
As shown in Balance Sheet					
Long Term Provisions	6,469	3,924	2,543	-	12,936
Short Term Provisions	3,557	-	-	1,064	4,621
Balance at 31 March 2014	10,026	3,924	2,543	1,064	17,557

23. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	137 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	219
	1,061 Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied	723
	7,155 Housing Revenue Account	7,156
	24,410 General Fund Balance	28,134
	105,874 Earmarked Reserves	165,952
	1,150 Earmarked Reserves - HRA	1,043
139,787	Total	203,227

Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

Proceeds of fixed 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.

Earmarked Reserves - HRA

Earmarked Reserves are shown in more detail in Note 8 and are resources set aside for future spending plans for council housing.

24. Unusable Reserves

01 April 2012 £000 (restated)	31 March 2013 £000 (restated)		31 March 2014 £000
	383,107 Revaluation Reserve		393,396
	892,798 Capital Adjustment Account		869,023
	-2,310 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account		-2,119
	2,075 Deferred Capital Receipt		1,345
	-14,594 Short Term Accumulating Absences Account		-12,814
	-978,899 Pensions Reserve		-802,722
	10,280 Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve		10,280
	5 Collection Fund		-1,599
430,912	292,462	Total	454,790

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.

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
408,596 Balance at 1 April (restated)	383,107
22,689 Upward revaluation of assets	70,098
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision	
-22,611 of Services	-35,290
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision	
78 of Services	34,808
-11,211 Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	-12,377
-14,356 Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	-12,142
Historical cost impairment adjustment	
-25,567 Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	-24,519
383,107 Balance at 31 March (restated)	393,396

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties

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.

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
936,588 Balance at 1 April (restated)	892,798
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
-62,259 - Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	-66,317
-68,157 - Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	-62,178
-1,551 - Amortisation of intangible assets	-1,230
-13,842 - Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	-9,580
-46,717 - 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	-48,803
-192,526	-188,108
25,568 Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	24,519
-166,958 Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	-163,589
Capital financing applied in the year:	
9,114 - Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	8,150
7,692 - Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	7,550
60,647 - Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	80,174
- Application of grants and contributions to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied account	337
15,600 - Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	16,018
31,571 - Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	27,828
124,624	140,057
-299 Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-243
-1,157 Transfer Historic Available for Sale balance	-
892,798 Balance at 31 March (restated)	869,023

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

The Council uses the Account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Premiums are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on Council Tax. In the Council's case, this period is the unexpired term that was outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed.

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
-2,500 Balance at 1 April	-2,310
217 Premiums amortised to General Fund in year	216
-27 Discounts amortised to General Fund in year	-25
190 Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	191
-2,310 Balance at 31 March	-2,119

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.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
979	Balance at 1 April	2,075
1,662	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	971
-566	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	-1,701
2,075	Balance at 31 March	1,345

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.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-15,369	Balance at 1 April	-14,594
15,369	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	14,594
-14,594	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	-12,814
775	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	1,780
-14,594	Balance at 31 March	-12,814

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.

2012-13 £000 (restated)		2013-14 £000
-897,886	Balance at 1 April	-978,899
-58,660	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	212,380
-74	Difference between Actuary's estimate and Actual Employers' Pension Contributions	439
-79,130	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	-94,670
56,851	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	58,028
-978,899	Balance at 31 March	-802,722

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.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
509	Balance at 1 April	10,280
1,157	Transfer of historic Available for Sale balance to Available for Sale Reserve	-
9,771	Upward revaluation of investments	-
-1,157	Downward revaluation of investments not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-
10,280	-	10,280
	- Accumulated gains on assets sold and maturing assets written out to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Other Investment Income	-
10,280	Balance at 31 March	10,280

Collection Fund - Council Tax Adjustment Account

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

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-5	Balance at 1 April	5
10	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-3
5	Balance at 31 March	2

Collection Fund - Business Rates Adjustment Account

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

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
- Balance at 1 April	-
- Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-1,601
- Balance at 31 March	-1,601

25. Cash Flow Statement – Non-Cash Movements

2012-13 £'000 (restated)	2013-14 £'000
-56,937 Depreciation	-57,057
-73,637 Impairment and downward revaluation	-71,708
-1,551 Amortisations	-1,230
40 Impairment of Icelandic assets	40
-775 Transfer to/from Accumulated Absences account	-1,780
-952 Increase/decrease in the provision for bad debts	185
22,541 Increase/decrease in creditors	-7,545
-3,947 Increase/decrease in debtors	-9,248
-2,629 Increase/decrease in stock	419
-22,279 Pension liability	-36,642
-46,717 Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	-48,803
50,039 Other non-cash items	101,824
-136,804	-131,545

26. Cash Flow Statement – Items Included in Investing Activities

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
9,562 Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	7,973
9,562 Net cash flows from investing activities	7,973

27. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
22,130 Interest paid	22,237
-2,708 Interest received	-1,144
- Dividends received	-279

28. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
130,215	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	131,201
195,874	Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments	265,857
-	Other payments for investing activities	-
-9,562	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, non-current assets held for sale, investment property and intangible assets	-7,973
-245,262	Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments	-311,148
-10,274	Other receipts from investing activities	2,867
60,991	Net cash flows from investing activities	80,804

29. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-30,000	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	-
8,626	Other receipts from financing activities	-11,671
3,748	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	3,886
7,517	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	3,556
-10,109	Net cash flows from financing activities	-4,229

30. Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions (SEGMENTAL)

The tables below are a reconciliation of the 2013/14 internal management reports (monitoring and outturn) used by the Council's Cabinet to make decisions and the 2013/14 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E).

The income and expenditure of the Council's principal Services recorded in the internal management reports for the year is as follows:

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	-144,739	-145,536	-29,695	-65,261	-3,623	-388,854	
Government grants	-368,234	-762	-6,515	-187,107	-92	-562,710	
Total Income	-512,973	-146,298	-36,210	-252,368	-3,715	-951,564	
Employee Expenses	346,398	85,180	29,497	40,450	6,953	508,478	
Other operating expenses	372,547	137,187	57,287	215,467	6,575	789,063	
Support recharges	34,549	19,969	5,169	10,607	1,330	71,624	
Total Operating Expenses	753,494	242,336	91,953	266,524	14,858	1,369,165	
Net Cost of Services	240,521	96,038	55,743	14,156	11,143	417,601	
Reconciliation to cost of services in the CIES						£000	
Net cost of services in service analysis						417,601	
Services not included in the main analysis						-4,544	
Amounts not reported to management						9,524	
Amounts not included in the CIES						43,646	
Cost of Services in CIES						466,227	
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	-388,854	-	-	-	-388,854	-	-388,854
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-3,364	-3,364
Income from Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-174,448	-174,448
Government Grants and Contributions	-562,710	-	-	44,919	-517,791	-375,474	-893,265
Total Income	-951,564	-	-	44,919	-906,645	-553,286	-1,459,931
Employee Expenses	508,478	-	-	-	508,478	-	508,478
Other service expenses	789,063	-	-	-4,397	784,666	-	784,666
Support Service recharges	71,624	-	-	-	71,624	-	71,624
Contribution to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	-	1,442	1,442
Interest Payable	-	-	-	-	-	24,112	24,112
Impairment of Financial Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-40	-40
Net Trading	-	-	-	8,592	8,592	-8,637	-45
Precepts and Levies	-	-	-	-395	-395	10,377	9,982
HRA	-	-	7,557	-	7,557	-	7,557
Gain or Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	39,860	39,860
Centrally Administered Costs	-	-	1,609	-	1,609	-	1,609
Centrally Held Budgets - Supplies and Services	-	-	358	-	358	-	358
Direct Revenue Financing	-	-	-	-4,903	-4,903	-	-4,903
Change in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	-	-	-243	-243	243	-
Other Adjustments	-	-	-	73	73	-	73
IAS19	-	-4,544	-	-	-4,544	41,560	37,016
Total Operating Expenses	1,369,165	-4,544	9,524	-1,273	1,372,872	108,917	1,481,789
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	417,601	-4,544	9,524	43,646	466,227	-444,369	21,858

The tables below are a reconciliation of the 2012/13 internal management reports (monitoring and outturn) used by the Council's Cabinet to make decisions and the 2012/13 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E).

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	-126,407	-124,802	-27,257	-63,126	-3,417	-345,009
Government grants	-356,255	-1,038	-4,749	-243,334	-60	-605,436
Total Income	-482,662	-125,840	-32,006	-306,460	-3,477	-950,445
Employee Expenses	355,700	86,023	28,320	40,750	6,868	517,661
Other operating expenses	348,326	119,321	53,198	266,328	6,774	793,947
Support recharges	27,212	21,743	4,936	19,383	1,905	75,179
Total Operating Expenses	731,238	227,087	86,454	326,461	15,547	1,386,787
Net Cost of Services	248,576	101,247	54,448	20,001	12,070	436,342

Reconciliation to cost of services in the CIES	£000
Net cost of services in service analysis	436,342
Services not included in the main analysis	-20,427
Amounts not reported to management	33,710
Amounts not included in the CIES	29,563
Cost of Services in CIES	479,188

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis restated	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	-345,009	-	-	-1,059	-346,068	-	-346,068
Interest and investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-3,381	-3,381
Income from Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-214,207	-214,207
Government Grants and Contributions	-605,436	-	-	60,647	-544,789	-293,433	-838,222
Total Income	-950,445	-	-	59,588	-890,857	-511,021	-1,401,878
Employee Expenses	517,661	-	-	-	517,661	-	517,661
Other service expenses	793,947	-	-	-4,468	789,479	-	789,479
Support Service recharges	75,179	-	-	-	75,179	-	75,179
Contribution to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	-	-	-	-	-	1,024	1,024
Interest Payable	-	-	-	-	-	24,437	24,437
Impairment of Financial Investments	-	-	797	-	797	919	1,716
Net Trading	-	-	-	1,820	1,820	-1,979	-159
Precepts and Levies	-	-	-	-400	-400	12,809	12,409
HRA	-	-	30,170	-	30,170	-	30,170
Gain or Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	35,518	35,518
Direct Revenue Financing	-	-	2,743	-26,828	-24,085	-	-24,085
Change in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	-	-	-163	-163	-	-163
Other Adjustments	-	-	-	14	14	-	14
IAS19	-	-20,427	-	-	-20,427	40,480	20,053
Total Operating Expenses	1,386,787	-20,427	33,710	-30,025	1,370,045	113,208	1,483,253
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	436,342	-20,427	33,710	29,563	479,188	-397,813	81,375

31. Trading Operations

The deficit 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.

	2011-12 £000	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Highways Operations			
The Authority runs a highways operations team which maintains the network of roads, footpaths and street lighting throughout the County. They also complete and carry out works for external bodies. 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: £6,919,000			
Turnover	-31,373	-27,677	-38,581
Expenditure	30,980	27,187	32,545
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-393	-490	-6,036
Fleet			
The Authority operates an in house Fleet Management Service which has the direct responsibility for the management and safeguarding of Authority's Operators Licence along with the responsibility of the safe and cost effective maintenance and procurement of the Authority's 1124 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 surplus over the last three financial years: £249,000			
Turnover	-17,912	-17,519	-17,914
Expenditure	18,105	17,690	17,301
Surplus(-)/Deficit	193	171	-613
Depots			
The Authority 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 : £1,040,000			
Turnover	-2,529	-2,079	-2,088
Expenditure	2,651	2,647	2,438
Surplus(-)/Deficit	122	568	350
Buildings R&M and Construction			
The Authority 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: £3,754,000			
Turnover	-21,614	-17,520	-17,811
Expenditure	20,704	15,805	16,682
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-910	-1,715	-1,129
Housing Maintenance			
The Authority provides a housing repairs and maintenance service on behalf of Durham City Homes. The Durham Housing Maintenance Team procures services, maintains tenant's homes and undertakes 'decent homes' improvements to approximately 6,100 homes. The in-house team demonstrates Value for Money by delivering against a wide range of performance indicators. The costs of services are benchmarked against other service providers from across the UK. The trading objective of the team is to meet with the net cash limit target as set. The cumulative surplus over the last three financial years: £1,874,000			
Turnover	-6,109	-7,159	-10,754
Expenditure	5,851	6,645	9,652
Surplus(-)/Deficit	-258	-514	-1,102
Cleaning Services			
The Authority runs a Building Cleaning Service which procures services, 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 £66,000			
Turnover	-3,163	-3,003	-2,934
Expenditure	3,693	2,886	2,587
Surplus(-)/Deficit	530	-117	-347

	2011-12 £000	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000	
Catering Services				
The Authority 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 £979,000	Turnover	-853	-741	-655
	Expenditure	1,270	1,018	940
	Surplus(-)/Deficit	417	277	285

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 Council provides a range of services to other bodies such as Durham Police Authority, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, Academies, Surestart, Colleges, Arms Length Management Organisations, Registered Social Landlords, Primary Care Trusts and Ofsted. Charges for these services are made through a number of Service Level Agreements.

In 2013/14 £7.707m (£7.318m in 2012/13) was received for the following services, Finance, Information and Communications Technology, Human Resources, Legal Advice and Support, Inspections and Subject Reviews, Cleaning, Ground Maintenance and Crematorium Services.

The increase, from 2012/13 to 2013/14, in charges received, is mainly due to the larger number of Academies and the services provided to them.

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.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
1,669	Basic Allowance	1,672
287	Special Responsibility Allowance	281
5	Broadband Allowance	7
97	Expenses	108
2,058	Total	2,068

34. Officers' Remuneration

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

Name	Period	Salary, Fees and		Bonuses £	Expenses Allowances £	Compensation for Loss of Office £	Pensions Contribution £	Total £
		Allowances £						
Chief Executive - George Garlick	2013-14	200,000			125		15,283	215,408
	2012-13	200,000			529		26,200	226,729
Corporate Director - Resources	2013-14	140,000			371		12,522	152,893
	2012-13	140,000			211		18,340	158,551
Corporate Director - Children's and Adults' services	2013-14	140,000			338		18,340	158,678
	2012-13	93,333			152		12,227	105,712
Corporate Director - Adults, Wellbeing and Health Note 1.	2012-13	46,667			76		6,113	52,856
Corporate Director - Neighbourhood Services	2013-14	140,000			-		18,340	158,340
	2012-13	140,000			61		18,340	158,401
Corporate Director - Regeneration and Economic Development	2013-14	140,000			-		18,340	158,340
	2012-13	140,000			108		18,340	158,448
Assistant Chief Executive	2013-14	120,000			-		15,720	135,720
	2012-13	120,000			93		15,720	135,813
Monitoring Officer	2013-14	110,000			55		14,410	124,465
	2012-13	110,000			90		14,410	124,500

Note 1 The Corporate Directorates of Adults, Wellbeing and Health and Children and Young People's Services merged during 2012/13. The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services took early retirement and voluntary redundancy, and the Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health was appointed as Corporate Director of Children's and Adults' Services on 1 August 2012 on the same annual salary

The Council's employees, receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid the following amounts:

Remuneration	2012-13			2013-14		
	School Staff	Restated Other Staff	Total	School Staff	Other Staff	Total
£50,000 - £54,999	136	66	202	128	68	196
£55,000 - £59,999	84	36	120	94	38	132
£60,000 - £64,999	37	11	48	33	21	54
£65,000 - £69,999	18	8	26	24	10	34
£70,000 - £74,999	6	1	7	8	4	12
£75,000 - £79,999	6	9	15	8	10	18
£80,000 - £84,999	3	1	4	4	5	9
£85,000 - £89,999	6	1	7	2	3	5
£90,000 - £94,999	3	-	3	5	-	5
£95,000 - £99,999	-	8	8	-	7	7
£100,000 - £104,999	-	2	2	-	3	3
£105,000 - £109,999	-	-	-	-	-	-
£110,000 - £114,999	1	6	7	1	5	6
£115,000 - £119,999	-	1	1	-	1	1
£120,000 - £124,999	-	-	-	-	1	1
£125,000 - £129,999	-	1	1	-	-	-
£130,000 - £134,999	-	1	1	-	1	1
	300	152	452	307	177	484

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	
	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
£0 - £20,000	138	76	136	102	274	178	1,815	1,526
£20,001 - £40,000	16	13	74	71	90	84	2,575	2,404
£40,001 - £60,000	3	1	18	23	21	24	960	1,059
£60,001 - £80,000	-	-	1	4	1	4	62	279
£80,001 - £100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-	2	-	2	-	222	-
Total	157	90	231	200	388	290	5634	5268

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 2011/12 was the Audit Commission. Following outsourcing, the appointed auditor for 2012/13 and 2013/14 is Mazars LLP.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
333	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	333
53	Fees payable in the year for the certification of grant claims and returns by the appointed auditor	33
386	Total	366

In addition to the fees paid to Mazars LLP as per the above table, a rebate from the Audit Commission of £0.046m has also been received in respect of 2012/13 and earlier years.

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 (England) Regulations 2011. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2013/14 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £000	ISB £000	Total £000
A			349,003
B			68,886
C			280,117
D			
			4,623
E			
			2,565
F	42,528	239,646	282,175
G	-21,467	21,467	-
H	21,061	261,113	282,175
I			
	17,260		17,260
J			
		261,113	261,113
K			
	-	-	-
L	3,801	-	6,366 *

* Total carry-forward (L) on central expenditure less carry forward on ISB (L) plus carry forward 2014/15 already agreed (E).

A: DSG figure as issued by the Department in July 2013 (This does not include the Early Years 2014 adjustment).

- B: Figure recouped from the authority in 2013/14 by the DfE for the conversion of maintained schools into Academies (including reductions to the Early Years and High Needs allocation recouped by the DfE).
- C: Total figure after DfE Academy recoupment for 2013/14.
- D: Figure brought forward from 2012/13 as agreed with the Department.
- E: Any amount which the authority decided after consultation with the schools forum to carry forward to 2014/15 rather than distribute in 2013/14 – this will be the difference between estimated and final DSG for 2013/14, or a figure (positive or negative) brought forward from 2012/13 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.
- H: Budgeted distribution of DSG as at the end of the financial year.
- I: Actual amount of central expenditure items in 2013/14.
- J: Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools (ISB is regarded for DSG purposes as spent by the authority once it is deployed to schools' budget shares).
- K: Any contribution from the local authority in 2013/14 which will have the effect of substituting for DSG in funding the Schools Budget.
- L: Carry forward to 2014/15:
- 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 2014/15 already agreed (E).

£3.114m 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 Income and Expenditure Account, The expenditure forms part of the statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance.

37. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2013/14:

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income:		
Non Ring-fenced Government Grants:		
-4,245	- Revenue Support Grant	-167,162
-	- Top Up Grant	-58,223
-	- Small Business Rate Relief Section 31 Grant	-2,191
-2,144	- LACSEG (Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant)	-
-	- Education Funding Agency Grant	-7,685
-5,045	- Council Tax Freeze Grant	-2,029
-2,345	- New Homes Bonus Scheme Grant	-4,800
-	- New Homes Bonus Scheme Topslice Reimbursement	-943
-	- Capitalisation Provision Redistribution Grant	-881
-60,647	Capital Grants and Contributions	-80,204
-74,426		-324,118

Grant and Contribution Income Credited to Services

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
	Credited to Services:	
-262	Arts Council Eng - NE	-357
-92	Arts Projects	-140
-108	Asylum Seekers Grant	-75
-126	CDENT Grant	-303
-378	Darlington Borough Council	-367
-358	DCSF Grant	-50
-277,943	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	-280,117
-352	DEFRA Grant	-329
-1,501	Department for Transport Grant	-2,692
-24,810	Early Intervention Grant	-
-276	Education Authorities-other	-181
-12,344	Education Funding Agency	-9,638
-216	Educational Visits	-399
-63	English heritage Grants	-23
-161	ERDF Grant	-79
-393	Health Commercial Placements	-5
-825	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant	-1,761
-134	Home Office - Positive Futures Grant	-
-4,842	Housing Benefit - Admin Grant	-4,597
-54,980	Housing Benefit Grant - Council Tax	-
-140,922	Housing Benefit Grant - Rent Allowance	-139,802
-42,584	Housing Benefit Grant - Rent Rebate	-41,463
-	LCTSS New Burdens Grant	-430
-	LCTSS - Transition Grant	-1,094
-10,047	Learning Disability and Health Reform Grant	-
-134	Natural England	-186
-13,606	NHS - Care Costs	-15,839
-1,034	NHS - Integrated Services	-402
-1,780	NHS - Joint Arrangements	-6,534
-605	NNDR Cost of Collection Allowance	-604
-807	Other Local Authorities	-782
-240	PCT's	-
-5,519	PFI Grants	-5,519
-307	Police Authority	-807
-3	Probation Service	-56
-	Public Health Grant	-44,533
-10,749	Pupil Premium Grant	-16,196
-3,981	Skills Funding Agency	-2,956
-2,794	Social Care Reform Grant	-
-10	Sports Council Grant	-83
-379	Supporting People 18 to 21	-382
-214	Teacher Development Agency Grant	-25
-44	TSI	-71
-	Welfare Assistance Programme Funding	-1,928
-3	YJB - ISSP Grant	-
-3	Youth Justice Grant	-
-17	Youth Music Grant	-112
-966	Youth Offending Teams Grant	-817
-21,037	Other Grants and Contributions	-19,201
-637,949		-600,935

Capital Grants and Contributions Receipt 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:

2012-13			2013-14	
Long Term Liabilities £000	Short Term Liabilities £000		Long Term Liabilities £000	Short Term Liabilities £000
Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance				
-1,273	-1,250	Transit 15	-1,607	-400
-1,435	-2,299	Home and Community Agency	-	-2,227
-	-45	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant - Biomass Boilers	-	-
-	-	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant - Horden Dene	-14	-5
-	-	Heritage Lottery Fund Grant - Wharton Park	-	-3
-	-312	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	-	-8
-	-1,820	Department for Transport - Highways	-	-1,242
-	-	Department for Transport - LTP3	-326	-
-	-	Public Health	-	-200
-	-2,231	Basic Need	-	-
-3,700	-7,404	Capital Maintenance	-	-
-	-3,735	Devolved Capital	-	-2,890
-	-3,528	Building Schools for the Future (BSF)	-	-
-	-279	AHDC Capital	-	-
-	-903	2 Year Old Provision	-	-
-	-43	Studio Schools	-	-
-	-180	Peterlee St. Bede's - School Contribution to BSF Project	-	-
-	-	Shotton Hall - School Contribution to BSF Project	-	-8
-	-	Living Streets	-	-45
-	-	Broadband Delivery UK	-	-11
-	-47	Environment Agency	-	-
-	-81	PCT	-	-
-37	-1,438	Other	-11	-315
<u>-6,445</u>	<u>-25,595</u>	Total Capital Grants and Contributions Receipts in Advance	<u>-1,958</u>	<u>-7,354</u>

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 2013/14 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 £0.467m in 2013/14 (£0.487m in 2012/13). 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 £0.471m in 2013/14 (£0.497m in 2012/13)
- VISIT County Durham, the tourism management board for County Durham for which there were transactions to the value of £0.132m in 2013/14 (£0.189m in 2012/13) with the Council.
- County Durham Community Foundation provides grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people, received £0.084m in 2013/14 (£0.022m in 2012/13).
- County Durham Villages Regeneration Company which operates as a public-private partnership to regenerate communities within County Durham. There were no transactions with the Council in 2013/14.
- Groundwork North East, carrying out environmental works for which there were transactions of £0.597m in 2013/14 (£0.600m in 2012/13).
- Durham Community Action, formerly Durham Rural Community Council, providing support to communities throughout County Durham £0.303m (£0.534m in 2012/13)
- Consett YMCA for work done with various schools including the Pupil Referral Unit £0.180m (£0.228m in 2012/13)
- The Bowes Museum for services to schools £0.401m (£0.677m in 2012/13)
- Leisureworks £2.543m (£2.410m in 2012/13)

During 2013/14, works and services to the value of £0.104m (£0.020m in 2012/13) were commissioned from companies in which five 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:

Corporate Director	Related party declaration
Chief Executive	Director of County Durham Foundation
Neighbourhood Services	Non-Executive Member on the Board of the Durham County Waste Management Company (incorporating Premier Waste Management Limited) (now in liquidation)
Regeneration and Economic Development	Non-Executive Member on the Board of the Durham County Waste Management Company (incorporating Premier Waste Management Limited) (now in liquidation) Director of North East Enterprise Company Limited Director of VISIT County Durham Director of Durham Villages Regeneration Company Limited (DVRC)

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.

Durham County Waste Management Company Limited (DCWMC)

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 required local authorities to establish waste management companies to provide their waste disposal functions. This led to the creation of DCWMC in 1993. The Council held 84% of the share capital with Darlington Borough Council holding the remaining 16%. In 2012/13 the principal activities of the company included the collection, disposal and recycling of trade and municipal waste. The Board of the DCWMC had a total of 8 members of which 5 are officers from the Council.

The Durham County Waste Management Company (and its subsidiary Premier Waste Management) entered into a Company Voluntary Arrangement on 12 February 2013 as part of a managed liquidation of the company from 1 June 2013.

Dale and Valley Homes Limited

Dale and Valley Homes Limited was established as an Arms Length Management Organisation by Wear Valley District Council on 1 April 2006 to carry out the management and maintenance of council houses. The Board of Dale and Valley Homes has a total of 15 members of which 5 are members from the Council. Dale and Valley Homes is paid a management fee to fund the staff costs and related administration expenses. The main source of income of the company is the management fee receivable from the Council, which in 2013/14 was £5.406m (£5.511m in 2012/13). The Company accounts for 2013/14 are not yet available. The deficit for the year ended 31 March 2013 was £0.445m. The defined benefit pension liability at 31 March 2013 was £3.550m.

When completed, copies of the Company's accounts can be obtained from the Registered Office at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UT.

East Durham Homes Limited

East Durham Homes Limited was created as an Arms Length Management Organisation in April 2004 to carry out the housing management and maintenance functions on behalf of the Council. The Board of East Durham Homes Limited has a total of 15 members of which 5 are also members of the Council. East Durham Homes Limited is paid a management fee to fund the staff costs and related administration expenses. The main source of income of the company is the management fee receivable from the Council, which in 2013/14 totalled £11.063m (£11.755m in 2012/13). The housing assets remain in the ownership of the Council and are included in the balance sheet of the authority. The net liability of the company at 31 March 2014 is £11.479m (31 March 2013: £14.758m) and the deficit for the year to 31 March 2014 was £0.151m (31 March 2013: £0.288m surplus). The debtors of East Durham Homes as at 31 March 2014 are valued at £0.618m (£1.516m in 2012/13) of which £0.429m is owed by the Council (£1.154m in 2012/13). Creditors at 31 March 2014 are valued at £1.945m (£3.041m in 2012/13). Of the creditor balance £0.200m is due to the Council (£0.231m in 2012/13). The defined benefit pension liability at 31 March 2014 was £14.010m. (£17.520m at 31 March 2013).

It should be noted that the Company's accounts have yet to be finalised and therefore the figures shown above are still subject to audit. Copies of the Company's accounts can be obtained from the Registered Office at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UT.

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 4 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 16 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. Durham County 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. As no such events have occurred during 2013/14, 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. A dividend of £0.279m was received for the year ended 31 December 2013 (nil for the year ended 31 December 2012).

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 six monthly basis. Otherwise there are no outstanding balances owed to or from NIAL at the end of the year

NIAL Group Limited made a loss before tax of £11.134m and a loss after tax of £3.615m for the year ended 31 December 2013. In the previous year, the Group made a loss before tax of £3.296m (as restated) and a profit after tax of £0.782m (as restated).

Further information regarding the consolidated accounts of Newcastle International Airport Limited and NIAL Holdings Limited can be obtained from the Company Secretary at its Registered Office at Newcastle International Airport Limited, Woosington, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ.

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 1 April 2003, 75% of the total shareholding in the now renamed Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited was acquired by Peel Airports Limited. The Council now holds 1.45% of the total shareholding in Peel Airports Limited. The Company accounts for 2013/14 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.

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 2014 are £2.748m (31 March 2013: £2.877m). Durham County Council is the administrative body and employing authority for the crematorium.

It should be noted that the Central Durham Crematorium Statutory Small Bodies Annual Return is still subject to external audit. Copies of the Durham Crematorium Annual Return and Supporting Statement of Accounts 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 2014 are £0.638m (31 March 2013: £0.587m). Durham County Council is the administrative body and employing authority for the crematorium.

It should be noted that the Mountsett Crematorium Small Bodies Annual Return is still subject to external audit. Copies of the Mountsett Crematorium Annual Return and Supporting Statement of Accounts can be obtained from the Registered Office at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UT, or alternatively accessed via the DCC website

Beamish Museum Joint Committee and related companies

Beamish Museum was established in 1970 and the Council has been a constituent member authority of Beamish North of England Open Air Museum Joint Committee since its inception. The Council makes an annual contribution towards the running costs of the Joint Committee, totalling £0.033m in 2013/14 (£0.045m in 2012/13).

Until 31 March 2014 the Joint Committee was responsible for the assets of the Museum and made all decisions on capital schemes and procuring grants for capital development. Beamish Museum (a charitable company limited by guarantee) is responsible for managing and operating the Museum on behalf of the Joint Committee. A subsidiary of Beamish Museum (BM), Beamish Museum Trading Limited (BMTL) manages all of the retailing and catering operations of the Museum.

In 2013/14, the Joint Committee made an operating loss of £0.365m (2012/13 £0.326m loss) and had net assets of £23.156m (2012/13 £22.719m). However the Museum has agreed and had approved a full restructure of both its corporate and governance arrangements. The impact of this sees a revised Company Board structure being put in place, and although both companies remain, the Joint Committee was agreed to be dissolved from 1 April 2014, with all of its assets and liabilities transferring to Beamish Museum in accordance with the agreed recommendations made by the Joint Committee at its final meeting held on 28 March 2014.

In 2013/14 the BM and BMTL group made an operating profit of £0.549m (2012/13 £0.460m loss) and had net liabilities of £0.721m (2012/13 £1.282m). The Council receives no income or contributions from the above reported arrangements. Copies of the Joint Committee's and BM Group Accounts can be obtained from the Museum Director, Regional Resource Centre, Beamish, County Durham, DH9 0RG.

Durham County Council Pension Fund

Durham County Council administers the Durham County Council Pension Fund on behalf of 110 bodies, including borough, parish and town councils, colleges, academy schools, statutory bodies and admitted bodies. During 2013/14, the Pension Fund had an average balance of £17.448m (£20.395m in 2012/13) of surplus cash deposited with the Council. In 2013/14 the Council paid the fund a total of £0.068m (£0.303m in 2012/13) 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.

The 2012/13 has been restated as follows:

- To correct the opening CFR, which was overstated
- To recognise the impairment in 2012/13 of the Durham County Waste Management Company loan, which reduced the CFR

- To recognise HRA non-dwelling impairment, which can no longer be reversed to the Capital Adjustment Account, and which has the effect of reducing the CFR

2012-13 £000 (restated)		2013-14 £000
579,136	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	603,431
-573	Capital Financing Requirement restatement	-
	Capital investment:	
130,371	Property, Plant and Equipment	131,708
5,092	Property, Plant and Equipment - Finance Leases	2,484
32	Heritage Assets	-
1,645	Intangible Assets	875
-	Investment Properties	4
278	Acquisition of share capital	-
28,678	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	20,218
	Sources of finance:	
-9,114	Capital receipts	-8,151
-76,442	Government grants and other contributions	-91,643
-7,692	Major Repairs Allowance	-7,550
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
-31,556	- Direct revenue financing	-27,828
-15,600	- Minimum Revenue Provision	-16,018
	Adjustment to Capital Financing Requirement:	
-801	Impairment of Waste Management Company Loan	-
-23	Housing Revenue Account non-dwelling revaluation/impairment losses	-270
603,431	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	607,260
	Explanation of movements in year	
-12,525	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (supported by government financial assistance)	-10,704
31,728	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by government financial assistance)	12,049
5,092	Assets acquired under finance leases	2,484
24,295	Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	3,829

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	- Other Land and Buildings	-
9,441	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	8,941
9,441		8,941

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
2,550	Current	2,521
5,200	Non-Current	4,561
1,292	Finance costs payable in future years	1,411
9,042	Minimum lease payments	8,493

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

31 March 2013			31 March 2014	
Minimum Lease Payments £000	Finance Lease Liabilities £000		Minimum Lease Payments £000	Finance Lease Liabilities £000
2,926	2,550	Not later than one year	3,427	2,521
5,958	5,073	Later than one year and not later than five years	4,917	4,437
158	127	Later than five years	149	124
9,042	7,750		8,493	7,082

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 administration 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 2013 £000 (restated)		31 March 2014 £000
835	Not later than one year	1,496
1,862	Later than one year and not later than five years	2,716
5,816	Later than five years	5,983
8,513		10,195

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
259	Minimum lease payments	348
-264	Sublease payments receivable	-375
-5		-27

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
2,296	Not later than one year	3,127
3,098	Later than one year and not later than five years	4,311
6,757	Later than five years	6,558
12,151		13,996

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

In 2013/14 no rents were received by the authority in respect of contingent rents (2012/13 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 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.

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 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
13,310	Net book value at 1 April	13,154
-	Additions	-
-299	Depreciation	-365
143	Revaluations	1,579
<u>13,154</u>	Net book value at 31 March	<u>14,368</u>

In addition to the net book value of £14.368m 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 £1.783m and the total net value of land and buildings for these schools carried forward is £16.151m.

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 2013/14 are summarised below:

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
44,042	Balance outstanding at start of year	43,338
-704	Payments during the year	-734
<u>43,338</u>	Balance outstanding at year-end	<u>42,604</u>

Estimates of Future Payments Due

	Payments for Services £000	Reimbursement of Capital Expenditure £000	Interest £000	Total £000
Payable in 2014-15	2,166	744	4,322	7,232
Payable within two to five years	9,420	3,677	16,458	29,555
Payable within six to ten years	13,933	6,290	18,248	38,471
Payable within eleven to fifteen years	16,073	9,989	14,312	40,374
Payable within sixteen to twenty years	19,628	14,435	8,465	42,528
Payable within twenty-one to twenty-two years	6,958	7,469	1,113	15,540
Total	68,178	42,604	62,918	173,700

Contract payments are partially linked to inflation as measured by the RPIX index (all items excluding Mortgage Interest Payments). These estimates assume that after 2014/15 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 £132.404m in 2013/14, charged partly to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E) 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. The Council's housing stock has been reduced by £44.024m due to a decrease in the house price index.

In 2012/13 the Council impaired a long-term loan and its shareholding in Durham County Waste Management Company, as a result of the company entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) during the year. The CIPFA code requires financial assets to be impaired when there is objective evidence of impairment, including it becoming probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation. The outstanding balance of the loan at the time of the impairment was £0.797m. This was written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure). The Council's shareholding in the company had a value of £1.158m and was accounted for as an Available for Sale Financial Asset. This was also written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, matched by a write of a £1.158m gain accumulated in the Available for Sale Reserve. This resulted in a neutral impact on the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

43. Termination Benefits

The authority terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2013/14. The value of the redundancy payments charged to services in 2013/14 was £4.605m and in 2012/13 was £5.888m. The table below analyses the payments made in the relevant financial years. The majority of the payments made in 2013/14 were due to the rationalisation of services within the Authority.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
2,250	Children's and Education Services	1,946
490	Adult Social Care	595
796	Highways and Transportation	208
100	Planning and Development	196
227	Cultural and Related Services	166
481	Environmental Services	342
1,081	Central Services	711
	- Local Authority Housing - HRA	34
124	Housing General	179
339	Trading	168
	- Corporate and Democratic Core	60
5,888	Total	4,605

In addition to the above redundancy payments, the pension enhancement value in 2013/14 was £0.730m and in 2012/13 was £0.714m.

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 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 2013/14, the Council paid £16.971m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 14.1% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2012/13 were £17.521m and 14.1%. 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

During 2013/14, NHS Staff transferred to the Council. These staff 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 2013/14, the Council paid £0.217m to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of former NHS staff retirement benefits, representing 14.0% of pensionable pay. 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 final salary 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 five 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:

2012-13			2013-14	
Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000		Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000
Restated	Restated			
		Cost of services:		
		Service cost comprising:		
43,849	-	- Current service cost	47,884	-
1,000	-	- Past service cost (including curtailments)	1,800	-
-8,120	-	- Settlement cost	-	-
		Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
1,921	-	- Current service cost	3,426	-
37,000	3,480	- Net interest on net defined benefit liability	38,370	3,190
75,650	3,480	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	91,480	3,190
		Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
		Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
-78,750	-	- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	11,690	-
135,520	4,750	- Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	-135,720	-3,410
-	-	- Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	-30,200	1,190
-2,710	-150	- Actuarial gains and losses due to liability experience	-56,010	80
129,710	8,080	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-118,760	1,050
		Movement in Reserves Statement		
-75,650	-3,480	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	-91,480	-3,190
		Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
50,900	-	- Employer's contributions payable to the scheme	52,138	-
-	5,951	- Direct retirement benefits payable to pensioners	-	5,890

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:

2012-13			2013-14		
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000 (restated)	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000 (restated)		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
-2,312,270	-80,760	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	-2,179,340	-75,850	
1,414,570	-	Fair value of plan assets	1,452,460	-	
-897,700	-80,760	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	-726,880	-75,850	
-898,090	-80,809	Adjusted Total *	-726,802	-75,920	

* To produce a more accurate assessment of the authority'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

2012-13			2013-14		
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000 (restated)	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000 (restated)		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000	
1,301,660	-	Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,414,570	-	
60,680	-	Interest Income	61,990	-	
78,750	-	Remeasurement gain/loss (-)	-11,690	-	
51,290	6,000	Contributions from employer	52,060	5,960	
13,650	-	Contributions from employees into the scheme	13,770	-	
-86,430	-6,000	Benefits paid	-78,240	-5,960	
-5,030	-	Settlements	-	-	
1,414,570	-	Closing fair value of scheme assets	1,452,460	-	

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

2012-13			2013-14	
Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000 (restated)	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000 (restated)		Funded Liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Unfunded Liabilities: Discretionary Benefits Arrangements £000
2,120,940	78,680	Opening balance at 1 April	2,312,270	80,760
45,770	-	Current service cost	51,310	-
97,680	3,480	Interest cost	100,360	3,190
13,650	-	Contributions by scheme participants	13,770	-
		Remeasurement gains (-) and losses:		
135,520	4,750	Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in financial assumptions	-135,720	-3,410
-	-	Actuarial gains and losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	-30,200	1,190
-2,710	-150	Actuarial gains and losses due to liability experience	-56,010	80
1,000	-	Past service cost (including curtailments)	1,800	-
-86,430	-6,000	Benefits paid	-78,240	-5,960
-13,150	-	Settlements	-	-
2,312,270	80,760	Closing balance at 31 March	2,179,340	75,850

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 2013		31 March 2014		
Fair Value of scheme assets £000		Fair Value of scheme assets £000		
Total		Quoted	Unquoted	Total
745,478	Equity investments	334,066	445,905	779,971
103,264	Property	15,977	82,790	98,767
384,763	Government bonds	297,754	82,790	380,544
142,872	Corporate bonds	2,905	124,912	127,817
38,193	Cash	62,456	-	62,456
-	Other	2,905	-	2,905
1,414,570	Total	716,063	736,397	1,452,460

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:

2012-13			2013-14		
Local Government Pension Scheme	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements		Local Government Pension Scheme	Discretionary Benefits Arrangements	
Mortality assumptions:					
Standard SAPS Normal Health All	Year of Birth base table		Standard SAPS Normal Health All		
Amounts			Amounts		
105%	105%	Scaling to above base table rates	105%	105%	
		Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:			
22.1	22.1	- Men	22.5	22.5	
24.3	24.3	- Women	25.0	25.0	
		Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:			
23.9	n/a	- Men	24.7	n/a	
26.2	n/a	- Women	27.3	n/a	
Principal financial assumptions (% per annum)					
3.6	3.5	- Rate of inflation (RPI)	3.4	3.2	
2.7	2.6	- Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.4	2.2	
4.6	n/a	- Rate of increase in salaries	3.9	n/a	
2.7	2.6	- Rate of increase in pensions	2.4	2.2	
4.4	4.1	- Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.3	4.2	
Commutation:					
60.0	n/a	- Percentage each member is assumed to exchange of the maximum amount permitted of their pre 1 April 2010 pension entitlements, for additional lump sum	n/a	n/a	
80.0	n/a	- Percentage each member is assumed to exchange of the maximum amount permitted of their post 31 March 2010 pension entitlements, for additional lump sum	n/a	n/a	
n/a	n/a	- Each member is assumed to surrender pension on retirement, such that the total cash received (including any accrued lump sum from pre 2008 service) is x% of the permitted maximum	80.0	n/a	

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all 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 2012/13.

The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2014 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31 March 2015 is set out below:

Discount rate assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	+ 0.1% per annum	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,140,940	2,218,450
Change in present value of total obligation	-1.8%	1.8%
Projected service cost (£000)	43,160	45,900
Approximate change in projected service cost	-3.0%	3.1%
Rate of general increase in salaries		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	+ 0.1% per annum	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,189,960	2,168,930
Change in present value of total obligation	0.5%	-0.5%
Projected service cost (£000)	44,520	44,520
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	- 0.1% per annum
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,207,420	2,151,950
Change in present value of total obligation	1.3%	-1.3%
Projected service cost (£000)	45,950	43,120
Approximate change in projected service cost	3.2%	-3.1%
Post retirement mortality assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption *	- 1 year	+ 1 year
Present value of total obligation (£000)	2,230,740	2,127,760
Change in present value of total obligation	2.4%	-2.4%
Projected service cost (£000)	45,750	43,280
Approximate change in projected service cost	2.8%	-2.8%

* 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 is due to be completed on 31 March 2016.

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 £52.410m contributions to the scheme in 2014/15.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 18.1 years at 31 March 2014 (17.3 years at 31 March 2013).

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. It is not currently clear whether the Council will have to make settlement payments in respect of these claims or what the amount of the claims will be if payments are required.

d) Durhamgate Scheme

A risk was previously identified within the Durhamgate scheme where the contractor was submitting claims for additional costs for delays, design faults and unforeseen works. These claims have been challenged and work undertaken to reduce the scope of the works and to secure additional external funding for the scheme.

e) 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 £5.6m.

The Council's Insurance Adviser recommended that adequate provision should be held against future calls in the range of 25% to 30%. The Council has provided for 28% (£0.740m) of the value of the total potential liability in the Scheme of Arrangement, after the initial levy payment of £0.838m was made in 2013/14. As the provision is not for the total amount of the potential liability, and there is the possibility of future claims, the Council considers it prudent for there to be a contingent liability in the accounts 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.

f) 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 over the next twelve months work will be undertaken to determine the financial liabilities associated with these proposals. As the value and timing of this liability remains uncertain, it has been included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

g) Joint Stocks 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 has become responsible for the monitoring and control of gas and leachates at this site from 1 June 2013 and has resources allocated within its Medium Term Financial Plan to cap, restore and maintain the facility, which is no longer required for landfill operations. 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, diminishing over 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.

h) Local search and enquiries fees

The Council had identified a potential liability as a result of claims for refunds of local search and enquiries fees and damages brought by personal search companies. A reserve has been established to mitigate the potential impact of claims. As the extent and timing of this liability remains uncertain, it has been included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

i) Tribunal and Court Claims

The Council are 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.

j) Insurance Claims

Following an incident resulting in closure of a number of buildings, there are potential claims that may arise from local businesses as a result of the disruption and is therefore included in the accounts as a contingent liability.

47. Contingent Assets

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed by only the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events, not wholly within the Council's control.

There are no contingent assets to be disclosed.

48. Heritage Assets: Five-year Summary of Transactions

The Code of Practice requires that the financial statements contain a summary of transactions relating to Heritage Assets for the accounting period and each of the previous four accounting periods; however this information need not be given for any accounting period beginning before 1 April 2010 where it is not practicable to do so.

	2010-11 £000	2011-12 £000	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Capital Expenditure on Heritage Assets				
Artwork, Public Art and Sculptures	-	-	21	-
Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings	-	-	11	-
Total Cost of Purchases	-	-	32	-
Revaluation of Heritage Assets				
Museum Collections and Artefacts	-	-	-	12
Artwork, Public Art and Sculptures	-	-	-	-1
Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings	-	-	-	58
Total Revaluation				69
Impairment Recognised in the Period				
Artwork, Public Art and Sculptures	-	-	-320	-
Total Impairment	-	-	-320	0
Assets Reclassified from Property, Plant and Equipment				
Monuments, Statues and Historic Buildings	-	-	-	6
Total Assets Reclassified from Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	6

49. 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 Durham DLI Museum, 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 the DLI museum, 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.

50. Trust Funds (Not Included in the Balance Sheet)

The Council is responsible for administering 46 individual Trust Funds. The Funds have been established from donations or bequests by benefactors who specified the uses which may be made of them, usually for the provision of educational prizes and scholarships.

2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
357 Balance at 1 April	370
- New Funds opened in year	-
- Funds closed in year	-47
17 Interest on balances, dividends etc, received	16
-4 Expenditure on prizes etc	-30
370 Balance at 31 March	309

The transactions, assets and liabilities of the Trust Funds are not part of the Council's Core Financial Statements.

51. 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 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 20 February 2013 and is available on the Council's website.

The key issues within the strategy were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2013/14 was set at £746.000m. This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long term liabilities.
- The Operational Boundary was set at £693.000m. 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 Poors 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 Sector. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moodys and Standard and Poors, forming the core element. However, it does not rely

solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays:

- Credit 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 £122.895m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2014 that this was likely to crystallise.

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 £16.420m of the £68.272m 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 2013	31 March 2014
£000	£000
9,110 Less than three months	11,422
2,498 Between three and six months	783
1,272 Between six months and one year	1,440
2,951 More than one year	2,775
<u>15,831</u> Total	<u>16,420</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 2014 was £2.424m.

Credit Risk – Icelandic Investments Disclosure

In October 2008, the Icelandic banks Landsbanki, Kaupthing and Glitnir collapsed and the UK subsidiaries of the banks, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander went into administration.

The Council had £7m deposited across three of these institutions, with varying maturity dates and interest rates as follows:

Bank	Date Invested	Maturity Date	Amount Invested £'000	Interest Rate %	Carrying Amount £'000	Impairment £'000
KSF	30/10/07	28/10/08	1,000	6.120	43	254
Landsbanki [1]	12/04/07	13/10/08	1,000	6.010	-	368
Landsbanki [2]	12/04/07	14/04/09	1,000	6.040	-	362
Glitnir Bank [1]	25/10/06	24/10/08	3,000	5.620	702	645
Glitnir Bank [2]	18/12/07	16/12/08	1,000	6.290	224	241
Total			7,000		969	1,870

All monies within these institutions are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The amounts and timing of payments to depositors such as the Council will be determined by the administrators / receivers.

Currently, recovery of the sums deposited varies between each institution and is covered by guidance issued by CIPFA (LAAP Bulletin 82 Update 7) on 17 May 2013, further amended on 28 May 2013. Based on the latest information available the Council considers that it is appropriate to consider an impairment adjustment for the deposits, and has taken the action outlined below.

The Council continues to adopt a prudent approach and as the available information from administrators/receivers is not definitive as to the amounts and timings of future payments, and are based on estimates, further adjustments will be made if required, once more detail has been made available on the final recovery amounts.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd

The current position on actual payments received and estimated future payments is as shown in the table below. The Council has decided to recognise an impairment based on it recovering 85.75p in the £. This reflects an improvement from the position reported as at 31 March 2013 of 85.25p in the £.

Therefore in calculating the impairment the Council has made the following assumptions re timing of recoveries:

Date	Repayment %
Received to 31 March 2014	81.50
June 2014	2.00
June 2015	2.25

Recoveries are expressed as a percentage of the Council's claim in the administration, which includes interest accrued up to 7 October 2008.

Landsbanki

Landsbanki Islands hf is an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Landsbanki) with the management of the affairs of Old Landsbanki being placed in the hands of a resolution committee.

The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board making a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in December 2011. Further distributions were made in May 2012, October 2012 and September 2013 respectively.

An element of the distribution was in Icelandic Krona which was placed in an escrow account in Iceland and was earning interest of 4.17% as at 31 March 2013. This element of the distribution was retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result was subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.

During 2013/14, the Council sold its claims against the insolvent estate of Landsbanki through a competitive auction process. The price at which the claims were sold was based on a reserve price set by the Council, on the basis of legal advice received through the Local Government Association and its lawyers Bevan Brittan.

The administration of the insolvent estate of Landsbanki is likely to continue for several years given the complexity of the on-going issues in Iceland, which created uncertainty around the timings of future recoveries. The sale of the Council's claims has removed this uncertainty.

The sale included the Icelandic Kronur which had been held in an escrow account in Iceland since it was paid with the first distribution to priority creditors in December 2011.

The proceeds of the sale were paid in Pounds Sterling and were received in February 2014, so the Council is no longer a creditor of Landsbanki.

Glitnir Bank hf

Glitnir Bank hf is an Icelandic entity. Following steps taken by the Icelandic Government in early October 2008 its domestic assets and liabilities were transferred to a new bank (new Glitnir) with the management of the affairs of Old Glitnir being placed in the hands of a resolution committee. The Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to grant UK local authorities priority status was followed by the winding up board making a distribution to creditors in a basket of currencies in March 2012.

An element of the distribution is in Icelandic Krona which has been placed in an escrow account in Iceland and is earning interest of 4.2% as at 31 March 2014. This element of the distribution has been retained in Iceland due to currency controls currently operating in Iceland and as a result is subject to exchange rate risk, over which the Council has no control.

The distribution has been made in full settlement, representing 100% of the claim.

Foreign Exchange Risk in Relation to Icelandic Deposits

The Council has foreign exchange exposure resulting from an element of the settlement received from Glitnir. This is being held in Icelandic krona in an escrow account due to the current imposition of currency controls.

Accounting for Interest and Impairment

The total impairment (principal plus interest not received) recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2013/14, has been calculated by discounting the assumed cash flows at the effective interest rate of the original deposits in order to recognise the anticipated loss of interest to the Council until monies are recovered.

Interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2013/14 was £0.085m calculated by discounting the assumed cash flows at the effective interest rate of the original deposits in order to recognise the anticipated loss of interest to the Council until monies are recovered.

Since 2008/09 impairment of £1.870m (2012/13 £1.910m) (principal plus interest not received) to the asset values have been calculated in accordance with CIPFA's LAAP Bulletin 82. During 2013/14, there has been a reduction of £0.040m in the impairment of these assets. This amount has been credited through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&E). This reduced impairment is as a result of the investments in Landsbanki (£0.028m) being written out of the accounts and a reduction in the impairment of the Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (£0.007m) investment due to the increased recovery anticipated. There has also been recognition of the exchange rate gain (£0.005m) on the Icelandic Kronur held in an escrow account in respect of deposits in Glitnir bank.

Adjustments to the assumptions will be made in future accounts as more information becomes available.

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.

All sums owing (£151.300m) are 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, (approved by Council in the Treasury Management Strategy):

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000
3,546	Less than one year	4,447
4,447	Between one and two years	223
27,039	Between two and five years	40,800
70,638	Between five and ten years	79,229
101,340	Between ten and fifteen years	110,386
119,862	Between fifteen and twenty years	88,249
10,801	Between twenty and twenty five years	20,809
102,716	More than twenty five years	92,691
440,389	Total	436,834

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 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 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 rates 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 2014, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be a decrease of £52.050m 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 £10.558m (£10.558m in 2012/13) in Newcastle Airport which is 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.

52. Exceptional Items

There are no exceptional items in 2013/14.

53. Prior Period Adjustments (PPAs)

Valuation of HRA day centres

During the 2013/14 valuation process it was identified that a number of HRA day centres had been overvalued at their last valuation in 2008/09. This was due to the floor area of the whole building being valued in the Land and Buildings category when part was already recorded in Dwellings. The effect of this error is that the value of Property, Plant and Equipment was overstated by £8.114m at the beginning of the previous accounting period (1 April 2012). Whilst this amount is not considered to be material, the Council has decided to restate its accounts in accordance with accounting rules at the time of the error, in order to avoid any impact in 2013/14, as current rules no longer allow for HRA non-dwelling impairment and revaluation losses to be reversed to the Capital Adjustment Account. The adjustment has resulted in no restatement of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2012/13.

Adoption of revised accounting standard IAS 19 (Employee Benefits)

There have been several significant changes in relation to IAS 19 Employee Benefits. A revised IAS 19 came into force for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013. In applying this revised standard, the Council has identified that if it had been adopted for the period ending 31 March 2013 it would increase the expenses recognised for funded benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement from £62.040m to £75.650m. Therefore the 2012/13 comparative figures have been restated in the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts. This adjustment has no effect on the Balance Sheet. In addition, IAS 19 now requires revised and more detailed disclosures. In order to be consistent with the new requirements of IAS 19 the disclosures in relation to the Council's defined benefit pension scheme have changed from those published in 2012/13 (see Note 45).

The effects of these restatements are set out below:

Effect on Opening Balance Sheet – 1 April 2012

The adjustments that have been made to the balance sheet over the version published in the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts are as follows:

	Balances at 1 April 2012 (as reported) £000	Restatement (HRA day centres) £000	Balances at 1 April 2012 (restated) £000
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,905,999	-8,114	1,897,885
Long Term Assets	1,937,751	-8,114	1,929,637
Net Assets	571,779	-8,114	563,665
Unusable Reserves	439,026	-8,114	430,912
Total Reserves	571,779	-8,114	563,665

Effect on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 2012/13

The effect of the IAS 19 adjustment is as follows:

	Net Expenditure as previously stated 2012/13	Restatement 2012/13 (IAS 19)	Net Expenditure as restated 2012/13
	£000	£000	£000
Children's and Education Services	108,699	865	109,564
Adult Social Care	134,510	343	134,853
Highways and Transportation	51,180	150	51,330
Planning and Development	22,875	110	22,985
Cultural and Related Services	30,394	100	30,494
Environmental Services	60,368	174	60,542
Courts and Probation	1,083	1	1,084
Corporate and Democratic Core	9,076	18	9,094
Central Services to the Public	3,483	50	3,533
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	30,169	13	30,182
Other Housing Services (including Supporting People)	31,188	72	31,260
Cost of Services	477,292	1,896	479,188
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	48,762	11,714	60,476
Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services	67,765	13,610	81,375
Actuarial gains/losses on pension assets/liabilities	72,270	-72,270	
Re-measurements of the defined benefit liability		58,660	58,660
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	63,652	-13,610	50,042

The £0.013m restatement affecting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has also been reflected in the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement (Supervision and Management).

Movement in Reserves Statement 2012/13

The restatement of the relevant lines of the Movement in Reserves Statement as at 31 March 2013, as a result of the adjustments is presented below:

Usable Reserves	31 March 2013 (as reported)	Restatement (HRA day centres)	Restatement (IAS 19)	31 March 2013 (restated)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2012 brought forward	132,752	-	-	132,752
Surplus or deficit on provision of services	-67,765	-	-13,610	-81,375
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-67,765	-	-13,610	-81,375
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	74,798	-	13,610	88,408
Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward	139,785	-	-	139,785
Unusable Reserves	31 March 2013 (as reported)	Restatement (HRA day centres)	Restatement (IAS 19)	31 March 2013 (restated)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2012 brought forward	439,026	-8,114	-	430,912
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-63,652	-	13,610	-50,042
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-63,652	-	13,610	-50,042
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	-74,798	-	-13,610	-88,408
Balance at 31 March 2013 carried forward	300,576	-8,114	-	292,462

Effect on Balance Sheet 31/03/2013

The adjustments that have been made to the balance sheet over the version published in the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts are as follows:

	Balances at 31 March 2013 (as reported)	Restatement (HRA day centres)	Balances at 31 March 2013 (restated)
	£000	£000	£000
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,864,770	-8,114	1,856,656
Long Term Assets	1,913,827	-8,114	1,905,713
Net Assets	440,362	-8,114	432,248
Unusable Reserves	300,576	-8,114	292,462
Total Reserves	440,362	-8,114	432,248

Effect on Cash Flow Statement 2012/13

The effect of the IAS 19 adjustment is as follows:

	As previously stated 2012/13	Restatement 2012/13 (IAS 19)	As restated 2012/13
	£000	£000	£000
Net surplus (-) or deficit on the provision of services	67,765	13,610	81,375
Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	-123,194	-13,610	-136,804

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.

HRA Income and Expenditure Statement

2012-13 £000 (restated)		Notes	2013-14 £000
	Income		
-60,173	Dwelling Rents (Net of voids)	6	-63,295
-1,005	Non Dwelling Rents (Net of voids)		-1,103
-127	Charges for Services and Facilities		-156
-413	Contributions towards Expenditure		-413
-61,718	Total Income		-64,967
	Expenditure		
12,717	Repairs and Maintenance	8	13,139
13,940	Supervision and Management	8	13,356
111	Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	9	530
-94	Negative HRA Subsidy Payable	5	-
175	Debt Management Costs		175
63,115	Depreciation and Impairment of Non-Current Assets	10 & 11	43,399
402	Movement in the Allowance for Bad Debts	7	407
63	Sums directed by the Secretary of State that are expenditure in accordance with the Code		45
90,429	Total Expenditure		71,051
28,711	Net Expenditure of HRA Services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		6,084
1,085	HRA Services Share of Corporate and Democratic Core		1,085
387	HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority net expenditure of continuing operations but not allocated to specific services		385
30,183	Net Expenditure for HRA Services		7,554
371	Gain (-) or Loss on Sale of HRA Non-Current Assets		-439
11,314	Interest Payable and Similar Charges		10,881
-266	Interest and Investment Income		-71
-13,088	Capital Grants & Contributions Receivable		-19,400
28,514	Deficit / Surplus (-) for the Year on HRA Services		-1,475

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.

2012-13 £000 (restated)		2013-14 £000	£000
7,820	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year		7,154
-28,514	Deficit / Surplus (-) for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	1,475	
26,538	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	-1,582	
-1,976	Net Increase before transfer to or from reserves	-107	
1,310	Transfers to (-) or from reserves	107	
-666	Increase or decrease (-) in the year on the HRA		-
7,154	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year		7,154

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.

2012-13 £000 (restated)		2013-14 £000
7,692	Transfer to/from the Major Repairs Reserve	7,550
-49,932	Transfer to/from the Capital Adjustment Account	-23,773
-371	Gain or loss (-) on sale of HRA Non-Current Assets	439
402	HRA Share of Contributions to or from the Pension Reserve	390
15,671	Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	16,976
-	Payment to the Secretary of State (to write the revenue transaction out of the HRA as this is defined by Statute to be capital expenditure)	-
-26,538	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	1,582

Notes to HRA Income and Expenditure Account

1. Housing Stock

The Council was responsible for managing an average of 18,584 dwellings during 2013/14. The following table shows the movements in stock numbers at the beginning and end of the year:-

Movements in the Year	Houses	Flats	Bungalows	Total
Stock at 1 April 2013	11,323	1,873	5,451	18,647
Add:				
Additions	-	-	-	-
Less:				
Sales	71	35	5	111
Demolitions	12	4	-	16
Other Disposals	-	-	-	-
Stock at 31 March 2014	11,240	1,834	5,446	18,520

The housing stock is managed on a day to day basis by three separate providers consisting of two Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMO's) – Dale and Valley Homes (4,256 dwellings) and East Durham Homes (8,324 dwellings), and one in-house

provider – Durham City Homes (5,940 dwellings). This reflects the management arrangements that were in place in the former district authorities of Wear Valley, Easington and Durham City prior to Local Government Reorganisation which the Council inherited.

2. 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 2013 £000 (restated)	Asset Type	Valuation at 31 March 2014 £000
447,772	Operational Assets Dwellings	448,631
5,810	Garages	-
453,582	Total Dwellings including Garages	448,631
-	Garages	8,051
7,918	Other Land and Buildings	7,447
71	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	47
5,559	Non-Operational Assets	4,656
467,130	Balance Sheet Valuation	468,832

The Vacant Possession value of the dwellings held in the Housing Revenue Account as at 1 April 2013 was £1,121m (£1,123m at 1 April 2012). The valuation of the dwellings in the Balance Sheet (as shown in the table above) is on the basis of Existing Use as Social Housing with secure tenancies. The difference between the Balance Sheet valuation and the higher valuation on the basis of Vacant Possession shows the economic cost of providing council housing at less than open market rents.

3. Capital Expenditure and Financing

The Council spent £45.698m during 2013/14 on its HRA Assets:

2012-13 £000	Expenditure	2013-14 £000
43,919	Improvements to Council Housing	45,698
43,919	Total Expenditure	45,698

This expenditure was financed as follows:

2012-13 £000	Financing	2013-14 £000
7,692	Majors Repairs Reserve	7,550
960	Capital Receipts	1,293
1,223	Prudential Borrowing (HCA New Build)	-
5,285	Prudential Borrowing (Housing Improvements)	479
13,088	Capital Grants	19,400
13,671	Revenue Contributions	16,976
2,000	Reserves and Balances	-
43,919	Total Financing	45,698

4. Capital Receipts

During 2013/14 the Council generated £3.336m gross capital receipts from the sale of its Housing assets as shown in the following table:

2012-13 £000	Source of Receipt	2013-14 £000
1,625	Council House Sales (RTB Legislation)	2,647
396	Qualifying Council House Disposals	601
11	Council House Mortgage Repayments	38
343	Housing Land & Other Sales	50
2,375	Total Capital Receipts	3,336

Under the Capital Receipts Pooling Arrangements the Council had to pay over to the Government £1.443m of the above sale proceeds in 2013/14. This is shown in the following table:

Source of Receipt	Capital Receipt £000	Usable Element £000	Poolable Element £000
Council House Sales (RTB Legislation)	2,647	1,233	1,414
Qualifying Council House Disposals	601	601	-
Council House Mortgage Repayments	38	10	29
Housing Land & Other Sales	50	50	-
Total	3,336	1,894	1,443

5. HRA Subsidy

On the 31 March 2012 the HRA subsidy system was abolished, a payment of £0.094m was received in 2012/13, which related to an adjustment from 2011/12.

6. Dwelling Rents

This sum represents the gross rental income due for the year after allowance is made for empty properties. During the year 1.84% (1.35% in 2012/13) of properties available for rent were vacant, which is less than the Government's target of 2% for empty properties. The average rent in 2013/14 was £65.67 (£63.13 in 2012/13) a week on a 52 week basis.

7. Rent Arrears and Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts

The amount of rent arrears at 31 March 2014 was £3.625m (£3.631m at 1 April 2013).

The Council, in accordance with the Code, annually reassesses the potential losses that could arise from defaulting debtors. The charge to the HRA reflects the change in the provision required after taking into account sums recovered from former tenants.

The aggregate balance sheet provision in respect of uncollectable debts at 31 March 2014 is £2.920m (£2.880m at 1 April 2013).

The actual charge to the HRA in respect of bad debts provision and debts written off in 2013/14 was £0.407m. This charge relates to write-offs of uncollectable rent of £0.367m and an increase in provision of £0.040m to ensure the provision reflects the estimated doubtful debt based on an age profile of value of rent arrears.

8. Supervision and Management (General and Special)

Supervision and Management expenditure on functions relating to all HRA properties are charged under this item. General Services includes expenditure on HRA policy and management, tenancy management, and rent collection and accounting. Special Services are the running costs of those services that benefit specific groups of tenants, these

include communal heating and lighting, lifts, caretaking and cleaning, grounds maintenance and non-essential care welfare services. Sheltered Housing provision comes under the heading of Special Services.

The HRA includes management fee payments to the two ALMO's – Dale and Valley Homes and East Durham Homes of £5.406m and £11.063m respectively. This is broken down as follows:

	East Durham Homes £000	Dale & Valley Homes £000	Total £000
Repairs and Maintenance	5,347	2,597	7,944
Supervision and Management	5,716	2,809	8,525
Total Management Fee	11,063	5,406	16,469

9. Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other

This includes all items which the Council is liable to pay in respect of HRA property. It includes Council Tax on empty properties, lease rental on properties, rates and water charges payable on non-dwellings and landlord insurance costs.

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. During 2013/14 the total charge made for depreciation of HRA assets was £7.576m as shown below: -

2012-13 £000	Asset type	2013-14 £000
7,196	Operational Assets: Dwellings	6,877
495	Operational Assets: Other Buildings e.g. Garages	673
185	Operational Assets: Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	26
<u>7,876</u>	Total Depreciation Charge	<u>7,576</u>

11. Impairment and Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment

During 2013/14, £47.038m (£59.046m in 2012/13) was charged to the Housing Revenue Account 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. Revaluation gains reversing previous losses of £11.215m were credited to the Housing Revenue Account, reducing the charge to £35.823m.

12. Movement on Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

The Council is required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve (MRR). The items to be credited to the reserve are an amount equal to HRA dwelling depreciation for the year, and transfers from the HRA required by statutory provision. Movements in the Major Repairs Reserve during the year were as follows:

2012-13 £000	Movement on Reserve	2013-14 £000
-	Balance as at 1 April	-
-7,692	Depreciation on HRA Assets	-7,550
7,692	HRA Capital Expenditure funded from MRR	7,550
<u>-</u>	Balance as at 31 March	<u>-</u>

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

2012-13		Notes	2013-14		
			Council Tax £000	NNDR £000	Total £000
	Income				
-202,636	Council Tax due from Taxpayers	2.1	-211,969		-211,969
-54,010	Council Tax Benefit		-	-	-
-105,301	Income from Business Ratepayers	3		-112,365	-112,365
<u>-361,947</u>	Total Income		<u>-211,969</u>	<u>-112,365</u>	<u>-324,334</u>
	Expenditure				
	Precepts and Demands				
214,197	Durham County Council (including 112 Parishes of £9.982m)	2.1	174,452		174,452
24,131	Durham Police and Crime Commissioner		20,060		20,060
14,227	County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority		11,596		11,596
	Business Rates				
104,696	Payment to National Pool			-	-
-	Payment to Central Government	3		54,037	54,037
-	Payment to County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority			1,081	1,081
-	Payment to Durham County Council, including Renewable Energy			52,957	52,957
605	Costs of Collection - Business Rates	3		604	604
	Bad & Doubtful Debts				
82	Write Offs		891	1,420	2,311
3,997	Change in Provision for Bad Debts	2.2 & 3.1	4,974	349	5,323
-	Provision for Appeals	3	-	5,192	5,192
-	Distribution of Previous Years Estimated Surplus		-	-	-
<u>361,935</u>	Total Expenditure		<u>211,973</u>	<u>115,640</u>	<u>327,613</u>
-12	Movement on Fund Balance		4	3,275	3,279
6	Surplus on Fund Brought Forward		-6	-	-6
<u>-6</u>	Fund Balance Carried Forward		<u>-2</u>	<u>3,275</u>	<u>3,273</u>
	Allocated to :	2.4 & 3.3			
-5	Durham County Council		-2	1608	1,606
-1	Durham Police and Crime Commissioner		-	-	-
-	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority		-	33	33
-	Central Government		-	1641	1,641
-	Durham County Council - Renewable Energy		-	-7	-7
<u>-6</u>			<u>-2</u>	<u>3,275</u>	<u>3,273</u>

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 Taxbase. Dividing the Council's Council Tax requirement by the taxbase gives the Band D charge for the year.

In 2013/14, a major change to Council Tax billing was the removal of Council Tax Benefit, which when resulting in a reduction in the amount collectable, had been reimbursed in full by Central Government. Instead of this, Council's were required to set up a scheme to replace the benefit. Durham County Council's policy was to replace the Benefit in full with a relief against charges (Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme). The effect of this was to suppress the taxbase from 157,295.3 in 2012/13 to 128,204.9 in 2013/14.

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	Properties in Each Band	Proportion of Band 'D'	Band 'D' Equivalent Properties
Up to £ 40,000	Band A	143,263	6/9ths	95,509
Over £ 40,000 up to £ 52,000	Band B	29,476	7/9ths	22,926
Over £ 52,000 up to £ 68,000	Band C	28,467	8/9ths	25,304
Over £ 68,000 up to £ 88,000	Band D	19,384	9/9ths	19,384
Over £ 88,000 up to £120,000	Band E	9,513	11/9ths	11,627
Over £120,000 up to £160,000	Band F	3,608	13/9ths	5,212
Over £160,000 up to £320,000	Band G	2,011	15/9ths	3,352
Over £320,000	Band H	260	18/9ths	520
		235,982		183,834
Net effect of discounts, reliefs, exemptions and premiums				-55,629
Chargeable Properties (Taxbase) 2013-14:				128,204.9

The Council Tax base for 2012/13 was £157,295.3

The average Band D Council Tax for the year was made up as follows:

Authority	2012-13 £	2013-14 £
Durham County Council	1,282.86	1,282.86
Durham Police Authority	153.41	156.47
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	90.45	90.45
Band D Tax	1,526.72	1,529.78
Town and Parish Council (average)	102.63	102.51
Total Average Band D Tax	1,629.35	1,632.29

Council Tax due from Taxpayers of £211.969m is made up of the following charges and reliefs:

Collection Fund

	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Property charges	295,014	297,545
less:		
Disabled relief	-292	-300
Property exemptions	-12,624	-7,688
Discounts	-24,367	-24,057
Personal disregard	-1,086	-1,111
Transitional relief	1	1
Benefits	-54,010	-
Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	-	-52,421
Council Tax due from Taxpayers	202,636	211,969

Adjusting for bad debts written off and a change in the provision for bad debts (and adding income from Council Tax Benefits 2012/13) enables a comparison to be made with the chargeable properties (Taxbase).

	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Council tax due from Taxpayers	202,636	211,969
Add back Benefits receivable	54,010	-
less:		
Parishes	-12,409	-9,982
Write-offs	-82	-891
Increase in provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	-3,997	-4,974
Net Income due from Council Taxpayers	240,158	196,122

Dividing the Net Income due by the Band D Council Tax £1,529.78 gives an average Taxbase of 128,202.7, compared with 128,204.9 at Budget Setting. (2012/13 average Taxbase of 157,303.2 compared with 157,295.3 at Budget Setting).

2.1 Precepts and Demands

The following authorities made a Precept or Demand on the Fund in 2013/14.

Authority	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Durham County Council	214,197	164,469
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	24,131	20,060
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	14,227	11,596
Total	252,555	196,125

In 2013/14 the County Demands include Town and Parish precepts totalling £9.982m (£12.409m in 2012/13).

The reduction in Town and Parish precepts was caused by the large decrease in the Taxbase brought about by the replacement of Council Tax Benefit by Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. In part, the reduction in income suffered by Town and Parish Councils was mitigated by payments of Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant from the General Fund.

A total of 112 Town and Parish Councils levied a Precept in 2013/14. In addition, the Charter Trust for the City of Durham raised a charge of £3.80 for each Band D equivalent residential dwelling in the former City of Durham area.

The Band D Town or Parish precept ranged from £nil to £263.70. There are also areas for which there is no Town or Parish Council.

Regulations require that those Town or Parish Councils levying a precept of £0.140m or more are separately identified in Council Tax literature. Details of those Councils are shown in the table below:

Authority	2012-13 £	2013-14 £
Barnard Castle	148,642	147,791
Chilton	206,524	154,639
Easington Colliery	320,000	242,841
Ferryhill	626,030	449,910
Great Aycliffe	1,624,400	1,271,600
Horden	475,614	363,161
Monk Hesleden	260,580	213,000
Murton	325,000	260,000
Peterlee	1,468,466	1,097,106
Seaham	1,117,818	857,398
Sedgefield	238,950	232,419
Shildon	669,630	474,570
Spennymoor	1,234,720	1,000,140
Stanley	800,000	587,190
Trimdon	156,816	143,026
Sub Total	9,673,190	7,494,791
Other Town and Parish Precepts	2,735,794	2,487,675
Total	12,408,984	9,982,466

2.2 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 2014 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	2013/14	5%
	2011/12 and 2012/13	25%
	2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11	50%
	2007/08 and older	100%
Category 2- First, second or final reminder	2013/14	25%
	2011/12 and 2012/13	50%
	2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11	75%
	2007/08 and older	100%
Category 3- Summons etc	2013/14	30%
	2012/13	70%
	2011/12	75%
	2010/11 and older	100%

This is the third stage of the review of the overall debtors' provision. At 31 March 2014, the provision covered 61% of arrears (45% at 31 March 2013).

2.3 Previous Year's Surplus

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 has been estimated at a NIL balance for both 2012/13 and 2013/14. Therefore there has been neither distribution, nor recovery from major preceptors during those years.

2.4 Collection Fund – Council Tax Balance

The Collection Fund – Council Tax balance at the end of the 2013/14 financial year amounted to a surplus of £1,596, allocated as follows:

Authority	2012-13 £	2013-14 £
Durham County Council	-4,726	-1,338
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	-589	-164
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-333	-94
Total Distributed	-5,648	-1,596

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	Provision for Bad debts- Council Tax Arrears £000	Council Tax Arrears £000	Council Tax Overpayments and Prepayments £000
Durham County Council	-13,997	22,970	-3,020
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	-1,707	2,801	-368
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-986	1,618	-213
Total Allocated	-16,690	27,389	-3,601

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 previous financial years, the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool administered by Central Government. In 2013/14 the administration of Business Rates changed following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS) which aims to give Authorities a greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying all receivable income to a central pool, the business rates income for the Durham County Council administrative area is shared as follows:

Central Government	50%
Durham County Council	49%
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	1%

The business rates shares payable for 2013/14 were estimated before the start of the financial year on the NNDR1, a statutory document submitted in January 2013. This was similar to the NNDR1 submitted in previous years, but with the addition of a provision against the repayment of rates already collected brought about by successful appeal by businesses for reduction in rateable value.

The sums due to be paid over during 2013/14 were as follows:

Authority	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Durham County Council	-	52,957
Central Government	-	54,037
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-	1,081
Total	-	108,075

In January 2014, when the NNDR1 for 2014/15 was submitted, the estimated outturn for the year's income was calculated, and the resultant surplus or deficit notified to the shareholders for inclusion in the following year's budget – a deficit being netted off the 2014/15 BRRS payments and a surplus being added to them. The deficit for the Durham County Council administrative area was estimated at £3.247m, of which Durham County Council's share was £1.591m.

At the year end the BRRS outturn is calculated, taking into account variations on the bills due for the year, e.g. void periods, change of occupation by charitable organisations, and adjustments for previous years' bills e.g. successful appeal for reduction in rateable value. The provisions for non-payment of arrears and successful appeal against rateable value are re-assessed. The movement in the deficit from January's estimate was an increase of £0.035m to £3.282m of which Durham County Council's share was £1.608m.

In addition, Durham County Council benefitted from income from Renewable Energy schemes which are not shared with Central Government or County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (£0.007m).

Although the outturn figures form part of the statutory accounts, the resultant deficit, or surplus where applicable, does not affect the sums payable in 2014/15. This will remain at the sums determined by the NNDR1 in January 2014. The difference between the estimated surplus or deficit and the outturn will be carried forward to January 2015, when it will be taken into account in estimating the surplus or deficit for 2014/15. All of the balances relating to BRRS - ratepayers arrears, prepayments, provisions for bad debts and appeals - are shared out in the proportions shown above and notified to the shareholders for inclusion in their balance sheets.

Transitional arrangements, which ensure that large increases or decreases in rates payable caused by significant change in rateable value are phased in, are outside BRRS. The net effect of such transactions are either payable to or from Central Government, leading to a neutral effect on the Collection Fund - Business Rates.

In 2013/14, the general multiplier was £0.471 (£0.458 in 2012/13) and the small business multiplier was £0.462 (£0.45 in 2012/13). The total non-domestic rateable value for Durham County Council at 31 March 2014 was £301.771m (VO schedule dated 26 March 2014) (£296.956m at 31 March 2013).

Business Rates due from Ratepayers of £112.365m is made up of the following charges and reliefs:

Collection Fund

	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Property charges	121,184	127,476
Less:		
Charitable relief (net of Council contribution in 2012/13)	-8,542	-10,012
Small business relief	-6,703	-7,097
Property exemptions	-5,147	-5,088
Voids	8,266	7,902
Interest payable	-30	-15
Bad Debts written off	-1,960	-
Increase in Bad Debts Provision	-1,321	-
Rates deferral Scheme	-446	-
Transitional adjustments	-	-801
Income due from Ratepayers	105,301	112,365

Adjusting for bad debts written off, changes in provisions for Bad debts and Appeals and cost of collection allowance gives the net BRRS income.

	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Increase in Bad Debts' Provision	-	-349
Bad debts written off	-	-1,420
Increase in Appeals provision	-	-5,192
Changes in respect of renewable Energy businesses (Durham County Council only)	-	-7
Cost of Collection Allowance (Durham County Council only)	-	-604
	105,301	104,793

3.1 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 2014 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	2013/14	12.5%
	2012/13	25%
	2011/12 and older	100%
Category 2- First, second or final reminder	2013/14	25%
	2012/13	50%
	2011/12 and older	100%
Category 3- Summons etc	2013/14	45%
	2012/13	90%
	2011/12 and older	100%

The percentages applied are unchanged from 2012/13 and cover 57% of arrears (53% in 2012/13).

3.2 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 2014, the provision for Appeals was estimated at £5.192m.

3.3 Collection Fund Balance - Business Rates

The Collection Fund – Business Rates balance at the end of the 2013/14 financial year amounted to a deficit of £3.275m, allocated as follows:

Authority	2012-13 £000	2013-14 £000
Durham County Council	-	1,608
Durham County Council (Renewable Energy - not shared)	-	-7
Central Government	-	1,641
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-	33
Total Allocated	-	3,275

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 2014.

Authority	Provision for Bad debts- NDR Arrears £000	Business Rates Arrears £000	Business Rates Overpayments and Prepayments £000	Provision for Appeals £000
Durham County Council	-2,230	3,916	-496	-2,544
Central Government	-2,276	3,996	-506	-2,596
County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority	-45	80	-10	-52
Total Allocated	-4,551	7,992	-1,012	-5,192

Fund Account

2012-13			2013-14	
£000	£000		£000	£000
DEALINGS WITH MEMBERS, EMPLOYERS AND OTHERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FUND				
-93,884		Contributions receivable	8	-96,800
-6,723		Transfers in from other pension funds	9	-2,623
-5		Other income		-5
	-100,612			-99,428
95,978		Benefits payable	10	96,669
9,053		Payments to and on account of leavers	11	32,300
1,302		Administrative expenses	12	1,266
	106,333			130,235
	5,721	Net withdrawals/ -additions from dealings with members		30,807
RETURN ON INVESTMENTS				
-32,216		Investment income	13	-30,334
-175,578		Profit and losses on disposal of investments and change in market value of investments	16	-50,990
5,499		Investment management fees	15	5,122
	-202,295	Net returns on investments		-76,202
-196,574		NET INCREASE IN THE NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS DURING THE YEAR		-45,395

Net Assets Statement

2012-13				2013-14	
£000	£000		Notes	£000	£000
INVESTMENT ASSETS					
73,341		Fixed interest securities	16	62,934	
435,804		Equities	16	500,898	
410,966		Index linked securities	16	384,175	
<u>1,117,793</u>	<u>2,037,904</u>	Pooled investment vehicles	16	<u>1,128,807</u>	<u>2,076,814</u>
408		Loans	16	390	
		Other cash deposits:			
14,091		Fund Managers	16	49,850	
20,882		Short term investments	16	26,241	
<u>13,739</u>	<u>49,120</u>	Derivative contracts	16	<u>47,205</u>	<u>123,686</u>
	<u>2,087,024</u>				<u>2,200,500</u>
Other Investment Assets					
4,974		Dividend accruals	16,19	4,813	
527		Tax recovery	16,19	378	
<u>41,709</u>	<u>47,210</u>	Other investment balances	16,19	<u>8,931</u>	<u>14,122</u>
2,134,234	Total Investment Assets			2,214,622	
INVESTMENT LIABILITIES					
-11,984		Derivative contracts	16	-40,936	
<u>-39,881</u>		Other investment balances	20	<u>-18,387</u>	
<u>-51,865</u>	Total Investment Liabilities			<u>-59,323</u>	
2,082,369	NET INVESTMENT ASSETS			2,155,299	
1,458	Long Term Assets		19		1,250
Current assets					
6,433		Contributions due from employers	19	6,301	
<u>974</u>		Other current assets	19	<u>922</u>	
	<u>7,407</u>				<u>7,223</u>
Current liabilities					
-538		Unpaid benefits	20	-	
<u>-5,236</u>		Other current liabilities	20	<u>-32,917</u>	
	<u>-5,774</u>				<u>-32,917</u>
2,085,460	NET ASSETS OF THE SCHEME AVAILABLE TO FUND BENEFITS AT 31 MARCH			2,130,855	

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 25.

These accounts should therefore be read in conjunction with the information contained within these notes.

1. Fund Operation and Membership

Durham County Council Pension Fund (the Fund) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by Durham County Council. The Council is the reporting entity for the Fund. The LGPS is a statutory scheme governed by regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972.

With effect from 1 April 2014 the Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- LGPS Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014
- LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009

During the reporting period (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014) the following legislation governed the Fund:

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

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 Strategic Finance 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 ill health, 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. In a minority of cases refunds of contributions can be made.

The following table provides a summary of contributing members, pensioners in payment and deferred pensioners over the last five years.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Contributing Members	19,405	18,526	17,235	16,837	17,454
Pensioners in Payment	14,922	15,341	16,049	16,386	16,700
Pensioners Deferred	9,715	10,595	11,573	12,211	13,040

When comparing the numbers at 31 March 2014 to those at 31 March 2013, the number of pensionable employees in the Fund has increased by 617, the number of pensioners has increased by 314 and deferred pensioners have increased by 829.

Contributions represent the total amounts receivable from:

- employing authorities, 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:

2012-13			2013-14	
Benefits	Contributions		Benefits	Contributions
£000	£000		£000	£000
77,649	-64,694	Administering Authority	76,488	-65,776
16,570	-25,714	Scheduled Bodies	17,755	-26,962
1,759	-3,476	Admitted Bodies	2,426	-4,062
95,978	-93,884		96,669	-96,800

The names of all 110 contributing employers are as follows:

Scheduled Bodies

Local Authorities:

Durham County Council
Darlington Borough Council

Parish Councils:

Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council
Chilton Parish Council
Easington Colliery Parish Council
Easington Village Parish Council
Fishburn Parish Council
Framwellgate Parish Council
Horden Parish Council
Hutton Henry Parish Council
Lanchester Parish Council
Monk Haseden Parish Council
Murton Parish Council
North Lodge Parish Council
Shotton Parish Council
South Hetton Parish Council
Thornley Parish Council
Trimdon Foundry Parish Council
Trimdon Parish Council
Wheatley Hill Parish Council
Wingate Parish Council

Town Councils:

Barnard Castle Town Council
Bishop Auckland Town Council
Ferryhill Town Council
Great Aycliffe Town Council
Greater Willington Town Council
Peterlee Town Council
Seaham Town Council
Sedgefield Town Council
Shildon Town Council
Spennymoor Town Council
Stanley Town Council

Colleges:

Bishop Auckland College
Darlington College
Derwentside College
East Durham College
New College Durham
Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College

Statutory Bodies:

BRandH Academy Limited
Carmel Education Trust
Central Durham Joint Crematoria Committee
Cleves Cross Primary School
Dale and Valley Homes Ltd
Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham
Easington Academy
East Durham Homes Ltd
Education Village
Excel Academy Partnership (Framwellgate School)
Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust
Federation of Mowden Schools Academy Trust
Firthmoor Primary School
Glendene Arts Academy

Statutory Bodies (continued):

Heathfield Academy Trust
Hummersknott Academy Trust
Hurworth Primary
Hurworth School Limited
IT Systems & EVAT Partnership Ltd
King James I Academy
Longfield Academy Trust
Ribbon Academy (formerly Murton Community School)
New College Durham Academies Trust
New Seaham Primary School
Park View Academy
Parkside Academy
Reid Street Primary School
Shotton Hall Academy Trust
St Aidans C of E Academy
St Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form College
St Bedes RC Primary
St George's CE Academy
St John's Catholic School & Sixth Form College
St John's CE Primary School
Staindrop School
Teesdale School
The Hermitage Academy Trust
Tudhoe Learning Trust
West Park Academy
Woodham Academy

Admitted Bodies:

Barnard Castle School
Blackwell Grange Golf Club Ltd
Bowes Museum
Bulloughs Cleaning Services Ltd
Carillion (AMBS) Limited
Carillion Services Limited
Catering Academy Limited
Cestria Community Housing
Churchill Contract Services Limited
Compass Group UK
Creative Management Services
Derwentside Homes
Future Leisure in Coxhoe
Harbour Support Services
Investing in Children CIC
KGB Cleaning & Support Services
Leisureworks
Livin plc (formerly Sedgefield Borough Homes)
Mears Ltd
Mellors Catering Services Limited
Mitie Cleaning
Mitie PFI Ltd
Morrison Facilities Management Ltd
Murton Welfare Association
North East Council of Addiction (NECA)
Taylor Shaw Longfield
Taylor Shaw Primaries
Teesdale Housing Association
The Forge
Three Rivers Housing Group
Wates Construction Limited

Further information about the Fund can be obtained from its separately published Annual Report which is available on the Council's website at durham.gov.uk

2. Basis of Preparation

The Pension Fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK, 2013/14 (the Code)
- Financial Reports of Pension Schemes – A Statement of Recommended Practice (Revised 2007)

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals and going concern basis.

The financial statements summarise the transactions and the available net assets of the Pension Fund. 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 the triennial review as at 31 March 2013, during 2013/14, the results of which determined the contribution rates from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017. Details of the latest valuation are included in Note 24.

3. 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.

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 other contributions are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the arrangement.

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 on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

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.

Administrative expenses

All administration expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs of the pensions administration team and a proportion of the costs of the pension fund accounting team are charged to the Pension Fund as administrative expenses.

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.

Investment Management Fees

All investment management fees are accounted for on an accruals basis. Fees of the external Investment Managers are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. 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.

The cost of obtaining independent investment advice from consultants is also included in investment management fees. Independent advisers' fees are based on a retainer for attendance at Pension Fund Committee Meetings and the provision of advice to the Pension Fund Committee. Fees for any additional work are based on a daily or hourly rate, as provided for by agreement or by separate arrangement.

A proportion of the costs of the pension fund accounting team and treasury management team are charged to the Pension Fund for investment management activities.

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 for which an asset could reasonably be exchanged, or a liability settled, in an arm's length transaction. In the case of marketable securities fair value is equal to market value. Market value is the bid price quoted in an active market for securities and unitised investments.

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 securities 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 securities 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 23.

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.

Acquisitions 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 actuarial 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 25).

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 21 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 8, as additional contributions from members.

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

The Code has introduced the following accounting standards which will be adopted in future years. They are not considered to have a significant impact on the Fund accounts:

- IAS 32 Financial Instruments Presentation – The Code refers to amended guidance when offsetting a financial asset and a financial liability. This is a presentational change applicable from 1 April 2014 and will not have a material effect on the Fund's accounts
- IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement – This standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. It will be effective from 1 April 2015.

5. 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 private equities 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.

6. 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 24 and 25 summarises the results of the actuarial valuation.	<p>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:</p> <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%

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual differs from assumptions
Fair Value of investments	The Accounts are as at 31 March 2014 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 17) is £108.7m at 31 March 2014 (£101.524m at 31/3/13). Every 1% increase/decrease in fair value would result in an increase/decrease in the value of the Fund by £1.087m (£1.015m at 31/3/13).

7. Post Net Assets Statement (Balance Sheet) Event

There have been no events after 31 March 2014 which require any adjustments to these accounts.

8. Contributions Receivable

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
	Employer contributions:	
-43,861	Normal	-45,014
-120	Early release/ augmentation	-490
-28,306	Deficit funding	-29,630
	Member contributions:	
-21,257	Normal	-21,535
-340	Additional contributions	-131
-93,884		-96,800
-64,694	Administering Authority	-65,776
-25,714	Scheduled Bodies	-26,962
-3,476	Admitted Bodies	-4,062
-93,884		-96,800

9. Transfers in From Other Pension Funds

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-3,441	Group Transfers	-
-3,282	Individual Transfers	-2,623
-6,723		-2,623

10. Benefits Payable

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
81,656	Pensions	84,383
17,484	Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	15,454
1,815	Lump sum death benefits	1,763
-4,977	Recharged benefits	-4,931
95,978		96,669
77,649	Administering Authority	76,488
16,570	Scheduled Bodies	17,755
1,759	Admitted Bodies	2,426
95,978		96,669

11. Payments To and On Account of Leavers

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
4	Refunds to members leaving service	4
1	Payments for members joining state scheme	-
4,491	Individual transfers to other schemes	4,579
4,557	Group transfers to other schemes	27,717
9,053		32,300

The £27.717m shown in the Group Transfers in 2013/14 is the amount payable at 31 March 2014 in relation to the bulk transfer of Durham Probation Service staff, from Durham County Council Pension Fund to Teesside Pension Fund.

12. Administration Expenses

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
1,054	DCC support costs	1,085
37	Legal fees	58
26	External Audit fees	26
25	Internal Audit fees	12
160	Actuary fees	85
1,302		1,266

During 2013/14 a rebate of £3,547 was received from the Audit Commission in respect of the 2012/13 audit fee.

13. Investment Income

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-4,286	Interest from fixed interest securities	-1,717
-2,307	Income from index-linked securities	-3,827
-18,855	Dividends from equities	-17,300
-39	Interest on cash deposits	-35
-6,729	Income from pooled investment vehicles	-7,455
-32,216		-30,334

14. Taxation

The Pensions 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 Income Tax**

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.

15. Investment Management Fees

Investment Managers' 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. All fees are payable in arrears.

Independent Advisers' fees are based on a retainer for attendance at Pension Fund Committee and Annual Meetings and the provision of advice. Fees for any additional work are based on a daily or hourly rate, as agreed in advance.

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
5,164	Manager Fees	4,834
158	Custody Fees	122
177	Adviser Fees	166
<u>5,499</u>		<u>5,122</u>

16. Investments

Analysis by Investment Manager

The following Investment Managers were employed in 2013/14 to manage the Pension Fund's assets:

- AllianceBernstein Limited (AllianceBernstein)
- Baring Asset Management Limited (Barings)
- BlackRock Investment Management UK Limited (BlackRock)
- CB Richard Ellis Collective Investors Limited (CBRE)
- Royal London Asset Management (RLAM)

The long-term strategic allocation as at 31 March was as follows:

31 March 2013 %	Investment Manager	Asset Class	31 March 2014 %
0	Aberdeen	Global equities	15
15	AllianceBernstein	Global Bonds	15
0	BNYM	Global equities	15
20	Barings	Dynamic Asset Allocation	20
37	Blackrock	Global equities	0
8	CBRE	Global property	8
0	Mondrian	Emerging Market Equities	7
20	Royal London	Investment grade sterling bonds	20
100			100

The Pension Fund Committee approved the appointment of three new Investment Managers on 1 May 2013, namely Bank of New York Mellon Investment Management Ltd (BNYM), Aberdeen Asset Management (Aberdeen) and Mondrian Investment Partners Ltd (Mondrian). The first two Managers will have responsibility for global equity mandates and the latter will manage an emerging market equity mandate. The re-allocation of the Fund's equity assets is due to start in October 2014.

In anticipation of the commencement of the new Investment Managers, the actual allocation varies from the long-term strategic allocation at 31 March 2014. The actual market values of investments held by each Investment Manager as at 31 March were as follows:

31 March 2013 £000	%		31 March 2014 £000	%
301,217	14.67	AllianceBernstein	305,405	14.32
397,393	19.35	Barings	418,159	19.60
807,330	39.31	Blackrock	864,856	40.55
135,285	6.59	CBRE	145,432	6.82
0	0.00	Edinburgh Partners	0	0.00
99	0.00	Other - NEL	71	0.00
412,426	20.08	RLAM	399,010	18.71
2,053,750	100.00		2,132,933	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 2014 excludes loans of £0.390m, cash invested by the administering authority of £26.241m, other investment assets of £14.122m and other investment liabilities of £18.387m (£0.408m, £20.882m, £47.210m and £39.881m respectively as at 31 March 2013).

Of the total value of net investment assets reported in the Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2014, £2.133m (98.96%) is invested through Investment Managers (£2.054m or 98.63% of the total in 2012/13).

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2013/14

Investment category	Value at 31 March 2013	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Value at 31 March 2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed interest securities	73,341	419,890	-429,646	-651	62,934
Equities	435,804	188,238	-139,693	16,549	500,898
Index linked securities	410,966	2,002,231	-2,010,126	-18,896	384,175
Pooled investment vehicles	1,117,793	41,133	-66,833	36,714	1,128,807
	<u>2,037,904</u>	<u>2,651,492</u>	<u>-2,646,298</u>	<u>33,716</u>	<u>2,076,814</u>
Derivative contracts:					
Futures, margins & options	1,340	1,095	-472	2,753	4,716
Forward foreign currency	415			1,138	1,553
	<u>2,039,659</u>	<u>2,652,587</u>	<u>-2,646,770</u>	<u>37,607</u>	<u>2,083,083</u>
Other investment balances:					
Loans	408				390
Other cash deposits	34,973			13,383	76,091
Dividend accruals	4,974				4,813
Tax recovery	527				378
Other investment balances	1,828				-9,456
Net Investment Assets	<u><u>2,082,369</u></u>			<u><u>50,990</u></u>	<u><u>2,155,299</u></u>

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.

Reconciliation of Movements in Investments 2012/13

Investment category	Value at 31 March 2012	Purchases at cost	Sales proceeds	Change in market value	Value at 31 March 2013
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed interest securities	44,332	339,972	-313,115	2,152	73,341
Equities	814,163	2,085,867	-2,352,246	-111,980	435,804
Index linked securities	367,949	1,642,392	-1,638,844	39,469	410,966
Pooled investment vehicles	585,487	1,642,480	-1,360,844	250,670	1,117,793
	<u>1,811,931</u>	<u>5,710,711</u>	<u>-5,665,049</u>	<u>180,311</u>	<u>2,037,904</u>
Derivative contracts					
Futures, margins & options	2,628		-141	-1,147	1,340
Forward foreign currency	969			-554	415
	<u>1,815,528</u>	<u>5,710,711</u>	<u>-5,665,190</u>	<u>178,610</u>	<u>2,039,659</u>
Other investment balances:					
Loans	425				408
Other cash deposits	60,657			-3,032	34,973
Dividend accruals	6,816				4,974
Tax recovery	516				527
Other investment balances	5,445				1,828
Net Investment Assets	<u><u>1,889,387</u></u>			<u><u>175,578</u></u>	<u><u>2,082,369</u></u>

Analysis of Investments

2012-13			2013-14	
£000	£000		£000	£000
		ASSETS INVESTED THROUGH FUND MANAGERS		
		Fixed interest securities		
22,932		UK - Public sector - quoted	24,899	
22,256		UK - other - quoted	-	
28,153		Overseas - Public sector - quoted	38,035	
	73,341			62,934
		Equities		
402,039		UK quoted	444,881	
99		UK unquoted	71	
33,666		Overseas quoted	55,946	
	435,804			500,898
		Index linked securities		
371,987		UK quoted - Public sector	351,857	
1,600		UK quoted - Corporate	1,509	
37,379		Overseas quoted -Public sector	27,531	
-		Overseas quoted -Corporate	3,278	
	410,966			384,175
		Pooled Investment Vehicles		
-		Managed funds - non property - UK - Quoted	27,680	
24,875		Managed funds - non property - UK - unquoted	13,095	
55,249		Managed funds - non property - Overseas - Quoted	68,150	
889,394		Managed funds - non property - Overseas - unquoted	878,029	
3,270		Unit Trusts - property - UK quoted	4,481	
39,551		Unit Trusts - property - UK unquoted	28,044	
28,851		Unit Trusts - property - Overseas quoted	22,346	
76,603		Unit Trusts - property - Overseas unquoted	86,982	
	1,117,793			1,128,807
		Derivative Contracts		
13,739		Assets	47,205	
-11,984		Liabilities	-40,936	
	1,755			6,269
14,091	14,091	Fund Managers' cash	49,850	49,850
2,053,750		NET ASSETS INVESTED THROUGH FUND MANAGERS	2,132,933	
		OTHER INVESTMENT BALANCES		
20,882		Short term investments (via DCC Treasury Management)	26,241	
408		Loans	390	
47,210		Other investment assets	14,122	
-39,881		Other investment liabilities	-18,387	
2,082,369		NET INVESTMENT ASSETS	2,155,299	

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:

2012-13		Derivative Contracts	2013-14	
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Forward foreign currency		
2,942		Assets	1,688	
<u>-2,527</u>		Liabilities	<u>-135</u>	
	415	Net Forward foreign currency		1,553
		Futures		
9,493		Assets	40,945	
<u>-9,457</u>		Liabilities	<u>-40,800</u>	
	36	Net Futures		145
		Options		
-		Assets	165	
<u>-</u>		Liabilities	<u>-</u>	
	-	Net Options		165
		Margins		
1,304		Assets	4,406	
<u>-</u>		Liabilities	<u>-</u>	
	1,304	Net Margins		4,406
	<u>1,755</u>	Net market value of derivative contracts		<u>6,269</u>

The Pension Fund invests in the following types of derivatives:

i. Forward Foreign Currency Contracts

Currency is bought and sold by investment managers (Barings, CBRE and Royal London) 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. Contracts are by their nature over the counter and are primarily in US dollars, euros and sterling.

Notes to Durham County Council Pension Fund Accounts

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
less than 1 mth	GBP	3,483,821	CHF	-5,100,000	19	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	24,009,647	JPY	-4,052,000,000	399	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	52,041,910	USD	-86,700,000	16	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,586,510	USD	-14,250,000	36	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	5,756,845	USD	-9,600,000		-4
1 to 6 mths	GBP	1,926,371	USD	-3,178,077	19	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	15,028,380	EUR	-18,000,000	143	
1 to 6 mths	USD	72,050,260	GBP	43,549,110	304	
1 to 6 mths	EUR	25,177,669	GBP	21,127,111	301	
1 to 6 mths	AUD	9,457,448	GBP	5,180,176		-50
1 to 6 mths	JPY	1,127,648,685	GBP	6,724,202	149	
1 to 6 mths	AUD	1,246,853	GBP	674,266		-15
1 to 6 mths	USD	1,217,987	GBP	731,744	1	
1 to 6 mths	JPY	213,182,154	GBP	1,245,441	2	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,904,627	EUR	-10,640,000	104	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	6,815,450	USD	-11,255,000	60	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	3,534,268	USD	-5,822,000	40	
1 to 6 mths	EUR	7,953,000	GBP	-6,644,732		-66
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,717,483	USD	-14,410,000	68	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,776,493	USD	-14,576,000	27	
					1,688	-135
Net forward foreign currency contracts at 31 March 2014						1,553

Settlement	Currency bought	Local Value	Currency sold	Local Value	Asset Value £000	Liability Value £000
1 to 6 mths	GBP	4,316,734	SEK	44,959,000		-236
1 to 6 mths	GBP	4,335,714	SEK	44,931,000		-214
1 to 6 mths	GBP	3,974,561	SEK	42,981,100		-378
1 to 6 mths	GBP	4,390,654	SEK	42,817,000	55	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	5,452,206	CAD	8,517,000		-68
1 to 6 mths	GBP	7,198,646	EUR	8,323,000	159	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	5,097,381	CAD	8,048,000		-119
1 to 6 mths	GBP	4,471,910	USD	6,766,000	16	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	4,306,909	USD	6,764,000		-148
1 to 6 mths	GBP	5,438,673	EUR	6,685,400		-216
1 to 6 mths	GBP	3,770,098	CAD	6,038,000		-143
1 to 6 mths	EUR	6,861,000	GBP	5,569,554	233	
1 to 6 mths	CAD	8,063,000	GBP	5,184,876	41	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	3,720,498	EUR	4,471,000		-61
1 to 6 mths	CAD	6,469,000	GBP	4,077,786	115	
1 to 6 mths	SEK	42,811,000	GBP	4,058,492	277	
1 to 6 mths	EUR	4,621,000	GBP	3,974,060		-66
1 to 6 mths	EUR	4,584,000	GBP	3,880,952		-4
1 to 6 mths	GBP	2,075,930	EUR	2,529,000		-63
1 to 6 mths	GBP	950,586	EUR	1,121,000	2	
less than 1 mth	USD	4,047,000	GBP	2,711,194		-46
less than 1 mth	GBP	3,493,098	AUD	5,071,000	14	
less than 1 mth	GBP	1,324,976	AUD	1,932,000		
less than 1 mth	USD	1,358,000	EUR	1,058,993		-3
1 to 6 mths	EUR	24,576,325	GBP	21,433,652	628	
1 to 6 mths	USD	84,118,546	GBP	56,167,663	746	
1 to 6 mths	JPY	529,865,132	GBP	3,694,621		-21
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,495,114	EUR	9,890,000	128	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	22,226,993	USD	34,680,000		-618
1 to 6 mths	GBP	12,074,642	USD	18,250,000	53	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	6,634,667	USD	9,883,000	124	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	11,250,311	JPY	1,555,000,000	351	
1 to 6 mths	GBP	8,178,023	JPY	1,173,000,000		-44
1 to 6 mths	GBP	6,369,802	JPY	920,000,000		-79
					2,942	-2,527
Net forward foreign currency contracts at 31 March 2013						415

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 Barings, are as follows:

Type	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 14	
				£000	£000
Assets					
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	SGX NIKKEI 225	JPY	8,709	
UK equity	1 to 3 mths	FTSE 100 (LIFFE)	GBP	13,634	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	E MINI INDEX (CME)	USD	8,106	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50	EUR	10,496	
Total assets					40,945
Liabilities					
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	SGX NIKKEI 225	JPY	-8,633	
UK equity	1 to 3 mths	FTSE 100 (LIFFE)	GBP	-13,645	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	E MINI INDEX (CME)	USD	-8,047	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 mths	EURO STOXX 50	EUR	-10,475	
Total liabilities					-40,800
Net Futures Contracts at 31 March 2014					<u><u>145</u></u>

	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 13	
				£000	£000
Assets					
UK equity	1 to 3 months	FTSE 100 (LIFFE) (LG)	GBP	1,207	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 months	DOWJONESEURO STOXX 50	EUR	8,286	
Total assets					9,493
Liabilities					
UK equity	1 to 3 months	FTSE 100 (LIFFE) (LG)	GBP	-1,206	
Overseas equity	1 to 3 months	DOWJONESEURO STOXX 50	EUR	-8,251	
Total liabilities					-9,457
Net Futures Contracts at 31 March 2013					<u><u>36</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, through Barings, 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. There were no option contracts held at 31 March 2013.

Type	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 14	
				£000	£000
UK equity	1 to 6 months	FTSE 100 (LIFFE)	GBP	165	
Net Options at 31 March 2014					<u><u>165</u></u>

Type	Expires	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 13	
				£000	£000
UK equity				-	
Net Options at 31 March 2013					<u><u>-</u></u>

iv. Margins

The value of margin amounts outstanding at 31 March, held by Barings are as follows:

	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 14	
			£000	£000
Assets	UBS	GBP	1,383	
	UBS	EUR	907	
	UBS	JPY	1,196	
	UBS	USD	920	
Net Margins at 31 March 2014				<u><u>4,406</u></u>

Type	Product Description	Currency	Market Value at 31 March 13	
			£000	£000
Assets	UBS	GBP	173	
	UBS	EUR	1,131	
Net Margins at 31 March 2013				<u><u>1,304</u></u>

Investments Exceeding 5% of the Market Value of the Fund

The following investments represented more than 5% of the Pension Fund's total net assets available for benefits:

- Aquila Life Fund S1 - a pooled fund managed by Blackrock, valued at £508.117m at 31 March 2014 which equates to 23.85% of the net assets available for benefits (£480.022m or 23.02% at 31 March 2013);
- Diversified Yield Plus fund - a pooled fund of broad bonds through AllianceBernstein. The value of this investment at 31 March 2014 was £305.405m i.e. 14.33% (£301.217m or 14.44% at 31 March 2013).

17. 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 (equal to fair value) of financial assets and liabilities by category and Net Assets Statement heading:

2012-13			2013-14		
Fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000	Fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial assets					
73,341			62,934		
435,804			500,898		
410,966			384,175		
1,117,793			1,128,807		
13,739			47,205		
	408			390	
	14,091			49,850	
	20,882			26,241	
47,210			14,122		
	8,865			8,473	
2,098,853	44,246	-	2,138,141	84,954	-
Financial liabilities					
-11,984			-40,936		
-39,881		-5,774	-18,387		-32,917
-51,865	-	-5,774	-59,323	-	-32,917
2,046,988	44,246	-5,774	2,078,818	84,954	-32,917
2,085,460			2,130,855		
Net Assets at 31 March					

Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

31 March 2013 £000		31 March 2014 £000	
Financial Assets			
178,610	Fair Value through profit and loss	37,607	
-3,032	Loans and receivables	13,383	
Financial Liabilities			
-	Fair Value through profit and loss	-	
-	Loans and receivables	-	
-	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	
175,578	Total	50,990	

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 investments, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The following tables provide analyses of the financial assets and liabilities of the Fund as at 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2013, 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	Total
Values at 31 March 2014	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,084,715	944,687	108,739	2,138,141
Loans and receivables	84,954			84,954
Total Financial Assets	1,169,669	944,687	108,739	2,223,095
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-18,387	-40,936		-59,323
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-32,917			-32,917
Total Financial Liabilities	-51,304	-40,936	-	-92,240
Net Financial Assets	1,118,365	903,751	108,739	2,130,855

	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
Values at 31 March 2013	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Assets				
Financial Assets at fair value through profit and loss	1,054,544	942,785	101,524	2,098,853
Loans and receivables	44,246			44,246
Total Financial Assets	1,098,790	942,785	101,524	2,143,099
Financial Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	-39,881	-11,984		-51,865
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	-5,774			-5,774
Total Financial Liabilities	-45,655	-11,984	-	-57,639
Net Financial Assets	1,053,135	930,801	101,524	2,085,460

18. 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:

1. **MARKET RISK** - the possibility that financial loss may arise for the Fund as a result of changes in, for example, interest rates movements;
2. **CREDIT RISK** - the possibility that other parties may fail to pay amounts due to the Fund;

3. **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 16. By dividing the management of the assets between all managers controls risk further. 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 Treasury Management Code and CLG guidance.

1. **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 and benchmark analysis.

These risks are managed in two ways:

- the exposure of the fund to market risk is monitored through a factor risk analysis to ensure that risk remains within tolerable levels;
- specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk-weighted maximum exposures to individual investments.

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. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses, from shares sold short, is unlimited.

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, Investment Manager volatility and expected investment return movements during the financial year has been completed. From this, the Fund has determined that the potential market movements in market price risk, as shown in the following table, are reasonably possible for the 2014/15 reporting period and are consistent with one standard deviation in market prices. The analysis assumed that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, 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 would vary as illustrated in the following table (the prior year comparator is also shown below):

Manager	Asset type	Asset value at	Potential market	Value on	Value on
		31 March 2014	movements	increase	decrease
		£000	%	£000	£000
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	305,405	6%	323,729	287,081
Barings	DAA	396,025	8%	427,707	364,343
BlackRock	Active UK Equity	350,878	16%	407,018	294,738
BlackRock	Passive UK Equity	508,117	15%	584,335	431,899
CBRE	Unlisted property	96,800	10%	106,480	87,120
CBRE	Listed property	24,433	22%	29,808	19,058
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	395,085	9%	430,643	359,527
Other	UK Equity	71	22%	87	55
	Loans	390	0%	390	390
	Cash	76,091	0%	76,091	76,091
	Net derivative assets	6,269	0%	6,269	6,269
	Net investment balances	-4,265	0%	-4,265	-4,265
Total change in net investment assets available		2,155,299		2,388,292	1,922,306

Manager	Asset type	Asset value at	Potential market	Value on	Value on
		31 March 2013	movements	increase	decrease
		£000	%	£000	£000
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	301,217	6%	319,290	283,144
Barings	DAA	390,795	8%	422,059	359,531
BlackRock	Global Equity	803,427	21%	972,147	634,707
CBRE	Unlisted property	101,525	10%	111,678	91,373
CBRE	Listed property	29,874	24%	37,044	22,704
RLAM	Global Linked Gilts	410,967	8%	443,844	378,090
Other	UK Equity	99	24%	123	75
	Loans	408	0%	408	408
	Cash	34,973	0%	34,973	34,973
	Net derivative assets	1,755	0%	1,755	1,755
	Net investment balances	7,329	0%	7,329	7,329
Total change in net investment assets available		2,082,369		2,350,650	1,814,089

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 2014 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 2014 £000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+50 BPS	-50 BPS
		£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	76,091	380	-380
Fixed interest securities	62,934	315	-315
Total change in net investment assets available	139,025	695	-695

Asset type	Asset Values at 31 March 2013 £000	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+50 BPS	-50 BPS
		£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	34,973	175	-175
Fixed interest securities	73,341	367	-367
Total change in net investment assets available	108,314	542	-542

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 Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements will range between 7% and 14%. For prudence, the Fund has applied a 14% fluctuation (as measured by one standard deviation) based on the adviser's analysis of long-term historical movements in the month end exchange rates over a rolling 12 month period. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

The following table exemplifies, by Investment Manager, to what extent a 14% 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 (a prior year comparator is also provided) :

Manager	Currency exposure by asset type	Level of unhedged exposure	Total Volatility	Asset value at 31 March 14	Value on increase	Value on decrease
				£000	£000	£000
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds	0%	0%	305,405	305,405	305,405
Barings	DAA	20%	3%	396,025	407,906	384,144
BlackRock	UK Equity	0%	0%	350,878	350,878	350,878
BlackRock	Global Equity	90%	13%	508,117	574,172	442,062
CBRE	Global Property	15%	2%	121,233	123,658	118,808
RLAM	UK Index Linked Gilts	0%	0%	395,085	395,085	395,085
Other	UK Equity	0%	0%	71	71	71
	Loans	0%	0%	390	390	390
	Cash	0%	0%	76,091	76,091	76,091
	Net derivative assets	0%	0%	6,269	6,269	6,269
	Net investment balances	0%	0%	-4,265	-4,265	-4,265
Total change in net investment assets available				2,155,299	2,235,660	2,074,938

Manager	Currency exposure by asset type	Level of unhedged exposure	Total Volatility	Asset value at 31 March 13	Value on increase	Value on decrease
				£000	£000	£000
Alliance Bernstein	Broad Bonds & PPIP	0%	0%	301,217	301,217	301,217
Barings	DAA	20%	3%	390,795	402,519	379,071
BlackRock	UK Equity	0%	0%	323,405	323,405	323,405
BlackRock	Global Equity	90%	12%	480,022	537,625	422,419
CBRE	Global Property	15%	2%	131,399	134,027	128,771
RLAM	Global Linked Gilts	0%	0%	410,967	410,967	410,967
Other	UK Equity	0%	0%	99	99	99
	Loans	0%	0%	408	408	408
	Cash	0%	0%	34,973	34,973	34,973
	Net derivative assets	0%	0%	1,755	1,755	1,755
	Net investment balances	0%	0%	7,329	7,329	7,329
Total change in net investment assets available				2,082,369	2,154,324	2,010,414

2. 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 (except derivatives) is exposed to some form of credit risk. 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 2014, this level of exposure to the Custodian is only 2.3% of the total value of the portfolio. 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 £26.241m as at 31 March 2014 (£20.882m at 31 March 2013). This was held with the following institutions:

	Rating	Balances	Rating	Balances
		as at 31 March 2014		as at 31 March 2013
		£000		£000
Bank Deposit Accounts				
Bank of Scotland			F1	11,355
Barclays	F1	4,336	F1	4,731
The Co-operative Bank			F2	444
Natwest Bank	F1	2,601	F1	2,271
Santander UK Plc	F1	4,309		
Fixed Term Deposits				
Barclays				
Bank of Scotland	F1	10,407		
Nationwide Building Society	F1	4,336		
Natwest Bank			F1	1,892
UK Local Authorities	N/A	78		
Income Bond				
National Savings & Investments	N/A	174	N/A	189
Total		26,241		20,882

3. 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.

19. Analysis of Debtors

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
1,680	Central government bodies	1,556
5,649	Other local authorities	5,390
48,746	Other entities and individuals	15,649
<u>56,075</u>	Total debtors	<u>22,595</u>
	Included in the Net Assets Statement as:	
1,458	Long Term Assets	1,250
47,210	Other Investment Assets	14,122
7,407	Current Assets	7,223
<u>56,075</u>		<u>22,595</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.

20. Analysis of Creditors

2012-13 £000		2013-14 £000
-	NHS Bodies	-39
-706	Central government bodies	-742
-1,343	Other local authorities	-29,132
-43,606	Other entities and individuals	-21,391
<u>-45,655</u>	Total creditors	<u>-51,304</u>
	Included in the Net Assets Statement as:	
-39,881	Other Investment Liability Balances	-18,387
-5,774	Current Liabilities	-32,917
<u>-45,655</u>		<u>-51,304</u>

Included in the amount due to Other Local Authorities in 2013/14 is £27.717m. This relates to the transfer value payable to Teesside Pension Fund for Durham Probation Service staff who have already transferred out of the Pension Fund.

All of the £51.304m is expected to be paid by the Pension Fund within 12 months after the year end.

21. 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 table below refers only to the money purchase AVCs:

	Value at 31 March 2013	* Purchases	Sales	Change in Market Value	Value at 31 March 2014
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Equitable Life	2,233	71	-	-90	2,214
Prudential	2,864	824	356	106	3,438
Standard Life	1,339	172	111	110	1,510
Total	6,436	1,067	467	126	7,162

* Purchases represent the amounts paid to AVC providers in 2013/14.

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.

22. 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	
		2012/13	2013/14
Contributions receivable	Amounts received from employers in respect of contributions to the Pension Fund	£93.884m	£96.800m
Debtors	Amounts due in respect of employers and employee contributions	£7.891m	£7.551m
Creditors	Amounts due to the Administering Authority in respect of administration and investment management expenses	£1.343m	£1.356m
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	£1.343m	£1.356m
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 £0.274m	Loans outstanding £0.263m
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= £20.395m Interest = £0.303m	Balance= £17.448m Interest = £0.068m

b) MEMBER RELATED

Member related parties include:

- Member 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 as with all Durham County Council Members. 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 3 Members of the Pension Fund Committee who are in receipt of pension benefits from Durham County Council Pension Fund; a further 4 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.

23. 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.

24. 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 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 increases	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 term annual improvement rate of 1.5%	CMI 2009 core projections with long term 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

25. 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 24 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

26. Funding Strategy Statement

The Local Government Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 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 by the Pension Fund Committee during 2013/14 and will be amended during 2014/15 to incorporate the new Pensions Regulations 2014.

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.

27. 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.

Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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.

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 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.

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.

The Council has approved, adopted and published on its website, a 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”.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 4 (3) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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.

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.

The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

3. THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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.

The Council considers the governance implications of its actions, and revised its Local Code of Corporate Governance in January 2014 to ensure that it remains consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework – “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”. The Code also aims to ensure that the corporate governance arrangements help the Council to appropriately respond to sustained pressures from a variety of sources.

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 2013/14.

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

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 2014 - 2017](#);
- Altogether healthier – improving health and wellbeing, supported by the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 17](#);
- 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 2011 – 2014](#).

The latest three-yearly update of the SCS was approved by the Council in April 2014. This refreshed version of the strategy reflects changes in local priorities and the need to deliver services with fewer resources.

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.

The [Council Plan 2014 – 2017](#) was approved in April 2014 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.

The [Medium Term Financial Plan 2014 – 2017 \(MTFP4\)](#) was approved by the Council in February 2014. 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 Cabinet and the target savings of £20.9m for 2013/14 have been delivered. These arrangements will equip the Council well for dealing with further austerity measures announced as part 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.

Through good governance, the Council continues to improve the quality of services, and this is confirmed by external independent sources of assurance, including Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Housing Inspections and accreditation to professional standards. Further assurance on the performance and direction of travel of the Council was gained by winning the Council of the Year category at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards, described as “the biggest celebration of innovation and talent across British councils”. Judges were impressed by relations with local businesses, support for small and medium

enterprises, real progress in community asset transfer and the contribution made to the wider area.

Assurance can also be taken from the positive conclusions of the [Peer Review](#) by the Local Government Association which was undertaken in 2012 and the actions taken since based on their findings and recommendations.

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.

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 the 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, to facilitate meaningful comparisons with other organisations. Independent assurance of our VFM was also gained from our External Auditor, who issued an unqualified VFM conclusion for our 2012/13 Accounts.

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 Directors during the year. Members have robustly scrutinised the performance of the Council, demonstrated by a number of key scrutiny reviews of Council services during 2013/14, which are outlined in the [Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report](#).

The Annual Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee in September 2013, 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.

To enable better use of resources, the Council has further strengthened its governance arrangements as follows:

- The framework for managing the Council's financial affairs, namely the Financial Procedure Rules, was reviewed and reported to Council in April 2014;
- Financial Awareness training was given to budget holders;
- Business Intelligence software was implemented, providing budget holders with immediate access to tailored financial management information and improving budgetary control;
- ICON, the income management software, was rolled out, enabling the Council to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards;
- A new role of Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager was created to strategically align fraud and internal audit, and a Corporate Fraud Team was formed in December 2013, to provide access to trained investigators and allow greater coverage of counter fraud work;
- A new governance and performance framework to improve financial control of the capital portfolio was implemented;
- A corporate protocol for the governance of insurance and insurable risk was implemented;
- We utilised specialist independent actuaries in September 2013 to provide assurance that we are achieving value for money between external insurance cover and self-funding arrangements, and for those risks which we self-insure, providing assurance that the funds we have set aside to meet estimated future claims are appropriate.

A programme management approach for key corporate projects has been established and embedded including project management training across the Council. Examples which demonstrate that rigorous programme management has enabled effective delivery of major projects include the Council Tax Support Scheme and the transfer of Community Buildings. Moreover, a programme management approach to the changes introduced by the Welfare Reform Act has been put in place. Assurance is gained by regular monitoring of the delivery of these projects by Corporate Management Team. The effectiveness of these arrangements is also demonstrated by the Council being highly commended in the Local Government Chronicle awards for its programme on waste management, recycling and rubbish collection. The judges said:

"In June 2013, the Council completed one of its biggest transformational programmes – the Durham County Council Waste Programme. This has successfully transformed services to become more responsive and high-quality, while massively reducing cost, increasing value for money and introducing improved ways of working. The new arrangements generated £4m of savings and significantly increased landfill diversion and recycling performance".

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. A major programme was undertaken to transfer control of around 100 public buildings to the local community, which has ensured continued provision of community facilities, significant reductions in maintenance costs, and continued support to and engagement from members of the community. 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

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.

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.

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 2014. Key changes include the transfer of the overview of customer complaints from the Standards Committee to the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the Petition Scheme to reflect changes in legislation.

The Health and Wellbeing Board, a Committee of the Council, was established as a consequence of the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to the Council. Its functions include:

- Developing and agreeing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and
- 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.

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](#).

Following the Council election in May 2013, 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.

Members and Officers work together on the workload 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. For example, a number of informal sessions took place throughout the [MTFP](#) planning process to ensure CMT and Cabinet have a shared understanding of the complexities in the [MTFP](#) process, and all Opposition parties were briefed during the development of the [MTFP](#). Other examples of Members and Officers working together include monthly meetings of the Capital Member/Officer Working Group and six-monthly updates on disposals of surplus property.

Member remuneration is overseen by an independent panel, and their report was approved by Council in February 2014.

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.

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

The key governance documents supporting this principle are the [Constitution](#), the [Council Plan](#) and the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

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 implemented in May 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.

The values of the Council are further promoted in the revised 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, in 2013/14, the [MTFP](#) was fully equality impact assessed. 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.

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 a new ethical framework was adopted in July 2012. The [Annual Report of the Standards Committee](#) was presented to the Full Council in September 2013.

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. The Monitoring Officer issued a formal reminder during the year to Corporate Directors about their responsibilities in relation to gifts and hospitality.

In response to amendments to the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, the corporate guidance on investigations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act has been updated.

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

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 \(Whistleblowing policy\)](#).

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. This includes the Officer Scheme of Delegation, which is reviewed annually in line with the review of the [Constitution](#). For example, an amendment was made to the [Constitution](#) to reflect the revised scheme of delegation to officers for the Corporate Director Resources.

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.

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. Assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of the control framework for the Committee Management System was provided by Internal Audit.

To maintain the accountability and integrity of the Council's decision-making, a number of further improvements to governance in this area have been implemented in 2013/14. For example:

- Face to face data protection training was provided to 130 officers in November 2013 to address identified training needs, in addition to all staff being covered by online training.
- The Potential Data Breach Policy was updated and circulated;
- A training and awareness session was held in November 2013 for Records Champions.

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 on 20 May 2014.

To further strengthen fraud awareness across the Council, 250 managers and staff have successfully completed fraud awareness training, and work has also progressed during the year to improve the effectiveness of the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy. This has been strengthened by the formation of the Corporate Fraud Team in December 2013.

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:

- Stock Transfer proposals;
- The [County Durham Plan](#);
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;

- The Combined Authority proposals for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership; and
- The Council's [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).

A number of key projects and reviews have also been carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:

- Neighbourhood Wardens;
- Impact of Government Policy and Funding changes to the County Durham economy;
- The impact of flooding on our local communities;
- Customer First Strategy and customer services; and
- Alcohol and substance misuse by young people.

Further assurance on the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function can also be gained from the [Peer Review](#) in 2012, which concluded that it is making a useful contribution through influencing policy development in areas related to the [Council Plan](#).

As part of the annual review of the [Constitution](#), the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Committees were updated in line with the refresh of the [Sustainable Community Strategy](#) and [Council Plan](#) priorities and actions. 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.

With regard to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, key points to note during 2013/14 include:

- Following the Council elections in May 2013, 55 new Councillors were elected. To ensure continued effectiveness of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, a series of bespoke induction sessions were held across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees engaging all Councillors and co-opted members;
- 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;
- Through the Council's various publications and regular updating of web pages, the profile and awareness of the Overview and Scrutiny function was raised;
- Cross party representation on all Overview and Scrutiny Committees serves to promote an independent, non-partisan approach in their activities;
- Established a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils to formally engage and respond to proposals to reconfigure emergency medical and critical care services at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

The Police and Crime Panel has now reviewed the first annual report of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the [Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017](#), to fulfil its legal requirements. An update on activity from the Panel is now presented to each meeting of the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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.

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.

During the year, a new Audit Charter was approved in line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The Council's self-assessment against both the principles of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of Head of Internal Audit and the new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, which were presented to Audit Committee in June 2013, illustrates a high degree of compliance.

A Corporate Complaints policy is in place for non-statutory complaints. From 2013/14 details of complaints, and of investigations by the Commissioner for Local Administration, have been reported to Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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.

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

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

The Council is committed to continually reviewing the development needs of Members and Officers. Our approach to Member development is outlined in the Member Learning and Development Strategy.

Other improvements to governance arrangements in this area during the year include:

- A review of the Corporate Induction programme was completed;
- Recruitment and Selection Policy was reviewed and implemented;
- A new system for maintaining staff records, which will be directly accessible by managers through the Intranet, was implemented, leading to improved efficiency and shortened processing timescales;
- The “The Durham Manager” development programme, which was rolled out to managers from September 2013, was enhanced after seeking feedback from managers through a course evaluation and focus groups programme;
- A revised Grievance Policy has been implemented, and the Disciplinary Policy is under review;
- Following extensive consultation, a revised Organisational Development Strategy will be finalised in October 2014. The Council continues to adopt the principles of the Investor in People Standard through the Organisational Development Strategy, without seeking accreditation under the scheme;
- Induction training was provided for new Members following the election in May 2013;
- Individual training and development plans were produced for all Members;
- The Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace Policy, which is based on the Health and Safety Executive Stress Standards, has replaced the Stress Management Policy and Toolkit;
- The Council’s Occupational Health Service has been 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.
- Health and Safety unitisation and consequential review of health and safety policies and procedures; and
- A pilot scheme to improve the quality and accuracy of sickness absence data commenced in January 2014.

The Council also continues to support employees through the change process with, for example, Jobcentre Plus information sessions.

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

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.

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.

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](#).

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. During 2013, through this network of [AAPs](#), the Council staged 23 'Your Money, Your Choice' consultation events across the county, working with parish councils and the community and voluntary sector. The events encouraged local people to vote for which community projects should be given a share of a community chest funded by the council and other public sector organisations. Residents were also asked to express a view on each area's local priorities. Nearly 10,700 people took part in the events, allocating £563,000 to 177 community projects.

As part of these events, the Council carried out a detailed consultation process during the development of [MTFP4](#), and 97% of the 3,300 respondents agreed with the plan. This process involved in depth exercises at 14 separate [AAPs](#) and the completion of online questionnaires. The key aim of the exercise was to assess public opinion on how to achieve its target savings, and the outputs from the exercise identified areas of the budget the public would wish to protect and those where higher levels of saving should be implemented. Partners and key agencies, including the Police and NHS County Durham and Darlington, were also consulted.

The Durham [Citizen's Panel](#) was consulted about various proposals, projects and issues of concern, including:

- Residential Care Homes;
- [Medium Term Financial Plan](#);
- Garden Waste;
- School Crossing;
- Customer First;
- Community Resilience;
- Fixed Play Provision; and
- Corporate Tree Management Policy.

Evidence of our community engagement includes:

- A [Voluntary and Community Sector \(VCS\) Strategy](#) was developed to help the council work in partnership with the [VCS](#) to realise the ambitions of individuals and to improve their quality of life;
- The [AAPs](#), voluntary sector organisations and a community buildings team funded by the council has worked with local community organisations to take on a number of community buildings, following targeted investment to improve the assets;
- Councillors and employees, particularly those in customer-facing roles, have received training to help them understand the welfare reform changes and how the council and partners can help;
- A comprehensive communications programme has been instigated to ensure that claimants understand proposed welfare reform changes;
- The corporate website is being re-designed, with views being sought from staff and members of the public, and it is planned to go live in 2014;
- Strengthening the remit, representation and focus of the Customer Focus Board that provides a multi service approach to developing and implementing a new Customer First Strategy for the Authority;
- All [AAPs](#) and the Terms of Reference were reviewed this year, during which the first four-year tenures of Public Representatives were completed.

In achieving Council of the Year at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle Awards, judges were impressed by community engagement arrangements across the Council:

The Council has made considerable efforts to engage the community and prides itself on being ambitious, open to trying new things and exhibiting a clear set of priorities. Its 'Altogether Better Council' plan is one example of the organisation's priorities and sets out a precedent for collaborative community strategies. Finally, its pioneering approach to engaging local communities through [area action partnerships](#), neighbourhood budgets and participatory budgeting has won international acclaim. Partnership is a key part of this organisation's success and Durham believes it has a huge amount to offer to its peers".
(LGC article)

Assurance can also be gained from the [Peer Review](#) by the Local Government Association, which was undertaken in 2012, which highlighted that the Council is 'effectively engaging with stakeholders' and has 'communication channels with local communities'.

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.

4 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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.

We are in a group relationship with East Durham Homes and Dale and Valley Homes and undertake significant activities through this group. The main features of their governance arrangements are documented each year through written assurance statements.

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.

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.

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.

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 2013/14. 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.

5 SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

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 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement

Following the production of the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13, an action plan, containing the following recommendations was produced. Progress made in implementing each recommendation, as outlined below, was confirmed by the Corporate Director Resources and formed the starting point of the work to produce the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement.

1. Business Continuity

A backup ICT site, developed in partnership with Sunderland City Council, is now in place. The equipment has been installed and data has been transferred. Testing has taken place at a functional / equipment level and a full test is planned for June 2014.

2. Arrangements for ensuring Value for Money

The Audit Commission VFM profiles which will be adopted by the Local Government Association (LGA) on the demise of the Audit Commission in March 2015, are used to provide assurance that the mechanisms that we currently have in place are identifying and addressing those areas where less than optimal VFM is being achieved. These are supplemented by CIPFA VFM benchmarking information for central services, where available, and this has been done in 2013/14. In Children and Adults Services, analysis of s251 (children and young people's budget statement) and PSSEX1 (Personal Social Services Expenditure) benchmarking data is well embedded and is used to inform VFM considerations in this service.

In conclusion, we are satisfied that the Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2013/14 were sound. As a result of the review of governance arrangements, and the work of both internal and external audit, we have not identified any further areas for significant governance improvement in 2014/15.

Signed:

Simon Henig
Leader of Durham County Council

George Garlick
Chief Executive

Don McLure
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.

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 (CI&E) 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 (CI&E)

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.

Creditors

Persons or bodies to whom sums are owed by the Council.

CSR

Comprehensive Spending Review.

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.

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.

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 fixed 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.

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.

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.

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 fixed 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 arms 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.

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 fixed 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 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.

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 fixed 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.

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.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE



30 September 2014

External Audit: Audit Completion Report Year Ended 31 March 2014 – 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 2014.

Background

2. This report (attached at Appendix 2) illustrates the findings of the external audit completed by Mazars for the year ended 31 March 2014 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 ongoing in a small number of areas at the point of issuing this report. All work should be completed on the day of the Audit Committee and a verbal update will be provided.

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: Catherine Banks

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 2014

September 2014



Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham DH1 5TS

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

September 2014

Dear members of the Audit Committee

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2014

We are delighted to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2014. 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 20 May 2014. 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 6300.

Yours faithfully

Cameron Waddell
Mazars LLP

Contents

01 Executive summary	2
02 Commentary on the financial statements	3
03 Significant findings.....	4
04 Internal control recommendations	8
05 Summary of misstatements	10
06 Value for money	12
Appendix A – Draft management representation letter.....	14
Appendix B – Draft audit report.....	17
Appendix C – Independence	20

Our reports are prepared in the context of the Audit Commission's 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the Authority 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 2014 to the Audit Committee of Durham County Council and forms the basis for discussion at the Committee meeting on 30 September 2014.

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.

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 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 4 and a summary of misstatements discovered as part of the audit in section 5.

Status and audit opinion

We have substantially completed our audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014.

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

- review of events after the balance sheet date; and
- completion of our review procedures.

We will provide an update to you in relation to the significant 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; 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 3 October 2014.

Our proposed audit report is set out in Appendix B.

02 Commentary on the financial statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

The statement shows the cost of providing services for 2013/14 prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2013/14. The statement shows a surplus for the year for the provision of services of £27.2 million. This differs from the Council's reported performance on its revenue budget for 2013/14 because of items of expenditure which are correctly charged to the CIES under accounting rules but are not charged to the General Fund under statute. Note 7 to the financial statements sets out the adjustments between the accounting basis and the funding basis.

The Council's performance against its revenue budget is set out in the Explanatory Foreword (page 3 onwards) of the Statement of Accounts.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the value of the Council's assets and liabilities on a single date at the year end. It shows the Council's net assets of £653 million which is an increase on last year of some £220 million. The most significant movements from last year relate to a decrease in the net pension liability of £176 million following the actuarial valuation and an increase of £35 million in cash and cash equivalents and short term investments arising from lower than expected use of reserves and re-profiling of capital expenditure.

The Council's net assets are matched by reserves which comprise both usable and unusable reserves. Note 23 to the accounts sets out the Council's usable reserves and shows a £28 million general fund balance available to support future budget decisions along with £165.9 million balance on earmarked reserves set aside for future spending plans. The Council has recently reported to members a forecast usage in the current year of £14.3 million of these earmarked reserves leaving £151.5 million balance next year end, of which £102 million relates to non schools.

03 Significant findings

This section outlines 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; and
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 7 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.

Significant risks and key areas of management judgement

Set out below are the significant risks and key areas of management judgement as set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum. We paid particular attention to these risks and judgments in reducing the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements and the tables below detail how we have addressed each risk and our conclusion. We have not identified any additional significant risks during the course of our work.

Significant risk: management override of controls

Description of the risk

Auditing standards state that 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 is a risk of material misstatement due to possible management override of controls which is a significant risk on all audits.

This does not imply that we suspect actual or intended manipulation but that we approach the audit with due professional scepticism.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by performing audit work on:

- accounting estimates which affect material amounts included in the financial statements;
- consideration of identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business;
- journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements;
- the reconciliation of gross income and expenditure to feeder systems and appropriate journals;
- adjustments between the accounting basis and funding basis; and
- the year-end bank reconciliation.

Audit conclusion

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

Significant risk: revenue recognition

Description of the risk

International Standards on Auditing include a rebuttable presumption that a risk of fraud in relation the recognition of revenue always exists. We have decided not to rebut this presumption and as such there is a risk that revenue will be recognised in the incorrect accounting period.

How we addressed this risk

We have carried out audit work relating to journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments which recognise revenue, made in the preparation of the financial statements.

In addition to these procedures, we have increased the level of substantive testing performed on revenue items included in the ledger for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years to confirm they have been accounted for in the correct accounting period.

Audit conclusion

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

Significant risk: expenditure recognition

Description of the risk

In the public sector the risk of fraudulent expenditure recognition is of equal likelihood as the risk of fraudulent revenue recognition. As such there is a risk that expenditure will be recognised in the incorrect accounting period.

How we addressed this risk

We have carried out audit work relating to:

- accounting estimates impacting on amounts included in the financial statements; and
- journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments which recognise expenditure, made in the preparation of the financial statements.

In addition to these procedures, we have increased the level of substantive testing performed on expenditure items included in the ledger for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years to confirm they have been accounted for in the correct accounting period.

Audit conclusion

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

Significant risk: estimation of IAS 19 net pension liabilities

Description of the risk

The Council must include entries for retirement benefits at fair value using the revaluation method as described in IAS 19. 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 evaluated the management controls you have in place to assess the reasonableness of the figures provided by the actuary. We considered the reasonableness of the actuary's assumptions and sought assurance from a national review by the Audit Commission's consulting actuary (PWC).

We also agreed the pension figures from the actuary's report to the financial statements and checked the narrative disclosures are consistent with requirements.

Audit conclusion

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

Key areas of management judgement: property, plant and equipment (including council housing)

Description of the area of management judgement

As in previous financial years, the Council will engage its in-house valuer to carry out a valuation of a proportion of the Council's property and land assets. The valuation of property, plant and equipment is a significant estimate that has a material impact on the financial statements.

How we addressed this area of management judgement

We have carried out a series of procedures in order to gain sufficient assurance that the carrying value of property, plant and equipment is fairly stated and that the valuation programme carried out by the Council complies with the proper accounting practice. These procedures included:

- an assessment of the valuation results using information provided to us by our valuation expert as commissioned by the Audit Commission; and
- substantive testing of individual properties to review the appropriateness of the valuation basis applied by the valuer and the results of that valuation exercise.

Audit conclusion

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

Key areas of management judgement: business rate appeals

Description of the area of management judgement

Business rate appeals were included as a provision in the Council's accounts this year for the first time. Officers made estimates of appeals that were inherited on 1 April 2013, appeals that have been successful in 2013/14 that have not yet been accounted for, and any future trend in appeals based on previous information.

How we addressed this area of management judgement

We have reviewed the methodology used by officers to calculate the provision and ensured that the basis for the provision is reasonable and fairly stated

Audit conclusion

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

Accounting policies and disclosures

ISA (UK&I) 260 requires us to communicate with those charged with governance our views about significant qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures.

We have reviewed the overall neutrality, consistency and clarity of the disclosures in the statement of accounts relating to areas where judgements are made in formulating particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures (for example disclosures related to revenue recognition, remuneration, going concern, subsequent events, and contingencies). We have concluded that the policies adopted by the Council comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Significant matters discussed with management

We have discussed a number of matters with management as part of our audit and a number of these have been included within the draft management representation letter provided in Appendix A.

Significant difficulties during the audit

We are pleased to report that, as a result of the co-operation of Council officers, we consider the audit to have run smoothly. While we have not experienced any significant difficulties in the course of our audit that we wish to bring to the attention of members, there is scope for the Council to further develop the processes it has in place to:

- prepare financial statements that are free from material error;
- prepare a complete suite of working papers that support all entries within the financial statements; and
- quality assure the draft financial statements.

This is of particular importance due to the likelihood of earlier deadlines for the preparation and audit of financial statements from 2017/18. We are committed to working closely with the Council's strategic finance team to support them to achieve faster closedown and an even more efficient audit process in the coming years.

04 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 reported 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. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

Our findings and recommendations are set out below. We have assigned priority rankings to each of them to reflect the importance that we consider each poses to your organisation and, hence, our recommendation in terms of the urgency of required action. In summary, the matters arising 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.	0
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.	3
3 (Low)	In our view, internal control should be strengthened in these additional areas when practicable.	0

Internal control recommendations

Level 2 – General Ledger journal authorisation

Description of deficiency

We have raised the lack of documentation accompanying journals when entered into the ledger in previous years. Officers agreed last year to authorise all journals with a value greater than £1 million and to retain supporting documentation where possible within Oracle prior to upload into the ledger; or to retain outside Oracle if not.

Recommendation

Journals over £1m (some of lesser value) are currently being approved but in some cases it is not easy to source the supporting documentation. Officers could consider a retrospective review of approval of journals along with the supporting documentation, possibly on a sample basis.

Management response To discuss how this can be carried out for 2014/15.

Level 2 – Payroll – Timesheet authorisation signatory lists

Description of deficiency

As reported in previous years, there is no authorised signatory list to enable payroll staff to check that timesheet authorisers are appropriate. It is not possible to check signatures to an authorised signatory list to ensure the person signing is an appropriate person to authorise timesheets. There is however now a compensating control in place. The new Oracle Business Intelligence system allows service managers to check hours paid and monitor employee costs charged to the revenue account.

Recommendation

We have previously reported that payroll should consider a control to check the validity of the timesheet authoriser. However, it was noted last year that there is project currently working on the further development of Resource Link which would enable on line authorisation. We are not aware that this system is yet in operation. Continued monitoring by service managers of their Business Intelligence reports for 2014/15 will ensure the revenue account accurately reflects payroll service costs.

Management response We will discuss with all officers for 2014/15.

Level 2 – Infrastructure assets

Description of deficiency

The Council does not hold detailed information to support the entries in the fixed asset register for a number of older infrastructure assets (total asset class net book value £357 million). It has not been easy to physically verify some of these assets. Our testing on the balance of infrastructure assets does not indicate a risk of material misstatement. However, incomplete records in relation to these assets could result in misstatements in the statements in future years should assets be disposed if they cannot be recognised in the register.

Recommendation

The Council should ensure that adequate records are maintained for all future infrastructure expenditure.

Management response We will discuss how best this can be achieved following receipt of the guidance in the new CIPFA Code on Infrastructure.

05 Summary of misstatements

Adjusted material and / or sensitive misstatements

Our audit identified the following material errors in the presentation of disclosure notes within the financial statements. We did not identify any material errors which affect the main statements or the bottom line. We have discussed each of the errors set out below with management who have made appropriate amendments to the financial statements. In addition to the issues noted below a number of amendments have been made to correct minor presentational errors found..

Primary statement / disclosure note	Error identified	
Housing revenue account (HRA)	Note 2 to the HRA incorrectly showed the year-end value for council dwellings as £405.7million instead of £448.6million, consistent with Note 12, an error of £42.9 million. The majority of this difference arose because 2013/14 housing enhancements had not been uploaded into the Asset Manager system when the note was prepared.	
CIES: taxation and non-specific grant income	Note 11 shows top-up grant and Small Business Rate Relief Section 31 grant of £60.4 million included in 'non-domestic rates'. These should instead be shown as 'non-ring fenced government grants'.	
Post balance sheet events Note 6	<p>Subsequent to preparation of the statements in June the Council has approved the LSVT of its Housing stock in March 2015. Note 6 to include this as an event after the balance sheet date.</p> <p>In addition, the Council is to add to Note 6 a reference to the Combined Authority which was approved in April 2014.</p>	
Related party transactions Note 38	<p>The disclosure note has been amended to disclose grant funding to local environmental projects, youth groups and community associations was actually £467k rather than £364k.</p> <p>Late member declarations form received after June statements identified that £15.8k transactions in 13/14 with one of the companies disclosed. This has now been added to the £88k works and services figure disclosed.</p> <p>Statements amended to disclose a directorship for one Director originally omitted in error from the statements.</p> <p>Transactions in the year between the Council and- Durham Foundation have been added - value £84k.</p> <p>The Pension Fund average balance of £14.932 million amended to correct amount of £17.448 million.</p>	
Exit packages (Note 34)	<p>Note amended to reflect banding requirements per Code (£20k bands).</p> <p>Note updated to reflect a comparative amount excluded in error.</p>	

Unadjusted non-material misstatements

Unadjusted misstatement 1– Additions to land and buildings)

Correction of expenditure incorrectly included as additions to land and buildings.

Adjustments to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for 2013/14	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
REFCUS expenditure		890
Property, plant and equipment – land and buildings	890	

Unadjusted misstatement 2– Usable reserves

The County Durham Sports surplus of £1.2m should be in reserves not creditors

Adjustments to the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
Short-term creditors	1,185	
Useable reserves		1,185

Unadjusted misstatement 3– Provisions

Review of the Equal pay provision of £3.9 million indicates it may be overstated as to date only £60k has been paid. Officers to review this provision in 2014/15.

Unadjusted misstatement 4 –Central admin services, internal recharges

During our sample testing we found that certain internal recharges between the ICT section and schools had not been identified as such and hence had not been eliminated. This results in an overstatement of both income and expenditure in the CIES. We have established that the maximum value of this overstatement is £1.9 million, which is not material.

06 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. We do this by considering the Council's arrangements against two criteria specified by the Audit Commission:

- securing financial resilience: looking at the Council's financial governance, financial planning and financial control processes; and
- challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness: looking at how the Council is prioritising resources and improving efficiency and productivity.

In our Audit Strategy Memorandum presented on 20 May 2014 we did not identify any significant risks relevant to the value for money conclusion. The focus of our audit has been on how the Council is addressing the increasing pressures and challenges over the next three to five years given the reductions in central government support and restrictions on council tax increases. Securing financial resilience into the medium term is one of the Council's top priorities. We have carried out the work detailed below to address these concerns.

We intend to conclude that the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and issue an unqualified Value for Money conclusion as set out in Appendix B.

Securing financial resilience

Description of the issue

The Council's track record in delivering the savings required in recent years has been successful. The arrangements underpinning this track record have been maintained in 2013/14, with a £26.4 million underspend being achieved. However, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) programme remains very challenging and the savings for 2014/15 represent an increase of 10 per cent on the savings required in 2013/14.

How we addressed this issue

We assessed processes for managing the savings programme and then selecting a sample of savings projects for further testing. This involved reviewing project plans, savings projections and the arrangements in place for delivery.

Conclusion

The Medium Term Financial Plan 4 covering 2014/15 to 2016/17 has been agreed by Council and for 2014/15 the savings target is just over £23 million. This forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2016/17 of around £224 million.

The Council has good arrangements in place for managing its savings programme. Our testing has indicated that the savings plans we reviewed are established, well monitored and on track to be achieved. The robust approach in managing the savings programme gives assurance that the Council will achieve its 2014/15 savings targets. Already to date over 60 per cent of the target has been met and some £14.2m achieved in the first quarter. Since April 2011 the Council has now made almost £128 million of savings, which represents about 57 per cent of the projected savings target of £224 million.

The Council is in a strong position to continue to meet the financial challenges ahead through accurately forecasting the level of savings required, developing strong plans and robustly managing implementation including high volumes of consultation and communication. This position is further enhanced by the approach of planning and delivering MTFP proposals early where possible. As a result we have not identified a significant risk to our VFM conclusion for securing financial resilience.

Key areas of focus in maintaining on-going financial resilience include:

- consistent and clear reporting to Members of the cumulative financial position (revenue and capital) and progress in achieving savings throughout the year; and
- maintaining the rigorous budgetary control of previous periods, particularly as staff rationalisations continue and

savings become harder to achieve.

Challenging economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Description of the issue

The Council has, like other councils, faced significant cuts in funding and changes in how it works such as the transfer of public health, localisation of business rates and the local council tax benefit scheme. Other significant changes are likely in the near future.

How we addressed this issue

We have considered the Council's arrangements to challenge economy, efficiency and effectiveness in prioritising resources and improving efficiency and productivity.

Conclusion

The Council has risen to the challenge well despite staff restructures and on-going retirements. The forward planning which has underpinned the MTFP process to date has been extremely effective and has enabled the Council to maintain its financial strength whilst still investing in key front line services and priorities including the capital programme. Effective forward planning and robust assurance frameworks have ensured that the Council has been successful in delivering the necessary savings required to date.

We have not identified a significant risk to our VFM conclusion for challenging economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Key areas of focus for the future include continued work on a strategic plan for the achievement of the savings required for 2015/16 to 2016/17 and beyond.

Appendix A – Draft management representation letter

To:

Cameron Waddell
Director
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Durham County Council - audit for year ended 31 March 2014

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the statement of accounts for Durham County Council ('the Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2014 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 financial statements 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 financial statements 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 Corporate Director 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 Cabinet 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 Authority 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 Authority 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.

I confirm the Council has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Corporate Director 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 financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Council's financial statements 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 financial statements 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.

Equal Pay

I confirm that I have made appropriate enquiries to establish the extent and value of Equal Pay liabilities and that these have been appropriately disclosed in the financial statements.

Service Concession Arrangements

I am not aware of any material contract variations, payment deductions or additional service charges in 2013/14 in relation to the Council's PFI schemes.

Infrastructure non-current assets

I confirm the useful economic lives of these non-current assets have been reviewed and are considered to be appropriate and the depreciated historical cost balance is an accurate representation of the value of infrastructure.

Provisions

I confirm that all provisions required under IAS37 have been included in the financial statements.

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.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Authority 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.

Signed

For and on behalf of Durham County Council.

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

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director Resources 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, 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 Corporate Director Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword 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 2014 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword 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 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998;
- we designate under section 11 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 any recommendation as one that requires the Authority to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. 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 2013/14.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority'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 Corporate Director Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword and the annual 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 2014 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2014 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.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword and the content of the Annual 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 5 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria published by the Audit Commission, 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 resources for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

Cameron Waddell
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Rivergreen Centre

Aykley Heads

Durham

DH1 5TS

September 2014

Appendix C – 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.

AUDIT COMMITTEE



30 September 2014

External Audit: Audit Completion Report Year Ended 31 March 2014 – 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 2014.

Background

2. This report (attached at Appendix 2) illustrates the findings of the external audit completed by Mazars for the year ended 31 March 2014 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 ongoing in a small number of areas at the point of issuing this report. All work should be completed on the day of the Audit Committee and a verbal update will be provided.

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: Catherine Banks

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 2014

September 2014



Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham DH1 5TS

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

September 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2014

We are delighted to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2014. 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 20 May 2014. 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 6300.

Yours faithfully

Cameron Waddell

Mazars LLP

Contents

01 Executive summary	2
02 Significant findings	3
03 Internal control recommendations	5
04 Summary of misstatements	6
Appendix A – Draft management representation letter	7
Appendix B – Draft audit report	11
Appendix C – Independence	14

Our reports are prepared in the context of the Audit Commission's 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the Authority 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 2014 to the Audit Committee and forms the basis for discussion at the Committee meeting on 30 September 2014.

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 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 2014.

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

- review of events after the balance sheet date; and
- completion of our review procedures.

We will provide an update to you in relation to the significant 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 financial statements.

Our proposed audit report is set out in Appendix B.

02 Significant findings

This section outlines 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; and
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 4 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.

Significant risks

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.

This does not imply that we suspect actual or intended manipulation but that we approach the audit with due professional scepticism.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by performing the following audit work:

- reviewing material accounting estimates included in the financial statements;
- considering identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business;
- testing 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 not highlighted any issues in this area to report.

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

Description of the risk

As at 31 March 2014, the fair value of unquoted investments was £1.104 billion, which accounted for 51.2% of the Fund's total investments. As prices for these investments are not available on recognised stock markets, the values included in the accounts are based on those provided by fund managers, who obtain the values from a variety of external sources. 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 undertook the following tests:

- agreed holdings from fund manager reports to the global custodian's report;
- agreed fair values to independent evidence;
- when appropriate, agreed the valuations to audited accounts, where available;
- where audited accounts were available, checked that they are supported by a clear opinion; and
- where available, reviewed independent control assurance reports for weaknesses which would present a risk

of material misstatement.

Audit conclusion

Our work 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 Pension Fund's accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they materially comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code).

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. There is however scope for the Council to further develop the processes it has in place to:

- prepare financial statements that are free from material error;
- prepare a complete suite of working papers that support all entries within the financial statements; and
- quality assure the draft financial statements.

This is of particular importance due to the likelihood of earlier deadlines for the preparation and audit of financial statements from 2017/18. We are committed to working closely with the Council's strategic finance team to support them to achieve faster closedown and an even more efficient audit process in the coming years.

03 Internal control recommendations

The purpose of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we have 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.

We have identified no matters to report. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

04 Summary of misstatements

We set out below the material adjusted misstatements identified during the course of the audit.

Adjusted material and / or sensitive misstatements

No adjustments were identified during the audit which impacted on the core statements (The fund account and net assets statement). The following misstatements were identified and amended in the notes to the accounts.

Adjustment 1 – Adjustments to Note 15 – Analysis of Investments		
Classification error - quoted investments listed on the stock market included in unquoted.		
	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
Managed funds – non property - UK quoted	27,680	
Managed funds – non property- UK unquoted		27,680
Managed funds – non property - Overseas quoted (comparative amendment £55,249)	68,150	
Managed funds – non property- Overseas unquoted (comparative amendment £55,249)		68,150
Adjustment 2 – Adjustments to Note 15 –Reconciliation of movements in Investments		
BlackRock sale proceeds included twice.		
Equities sale proceeds	15,000	
Change in market value cash		11,532
Pooled Investment Vehicle sale proceeds		3,468
Index linked purchases incorrectly included in fixed interest purchases		
Index linked purchases	7,912	
Fixed interest securities		7,912
Adjustment 3 – Adjustment to note 11 – Administration Expenses		
Audit fee understated by £5k.		
External audit fees	5	

Legal fees		5
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Adjustment 4 – Adjustment to note 16 – Financial Instruments

Reclassification of financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss from level 2 to level 1 (comparative adjustment £51,865)	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
Level 2	59,323	
Level 1		59,323

Adjustment 5 – Disclosure note - Related party transactions

Debtors: Employer and employee contributions understated by £1.631m due to omission of Magistrates Court (£1.458m) and augmentation debtors (£0.173m).

Investment income: Average surplus cash balance understated by £2.516m due to inclusion of the December quarter average rather than the average for the year.

Unadjusted non-material misstatements and uncertainties

The following non-material misstatements identified during the course of the audit has no been adjusted.

Unadjusted –net assets statement

Barings Hedge Select Fund Class A investment £2.339 million included within investments - transaction completed 1 April 2014	Dr £'000	Cr £'000
Cash	2,339	
Pooled Investment Vehicles (note 15 - Analysis Non Property overseas unquoted)		2,339

Appendix A – Draft management representation letter

To:

Mazars LLP
The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Durham County Council Pension Fund - audit for year ended 31 March 2014

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Durham County Council Pension Fund (the Pension Fund) for the year ended 31 March 2014 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 (the Code).

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 financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code and relevant legislation and International Financial Reporting Standards.

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 financial statements 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 Corporate Director 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 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 Code 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 Pension Fund in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. I confirm that disclosures related to accounting estimates are complete and that no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and disclosures included in the financial statements.

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 Code and relevant legislation and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

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.

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

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Corporate Director 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 financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Pension Fund's financial statements 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 financial statements 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 Code and relevant legislation and International Financial Reporting Standards.

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 Code, relevant legislation and International Financial Reporting Standards 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 financial statements.

Unadjusted misstatement

I confirm that the effect of the uncorrected misstatements is non-material to the financial statements as a whole.

Specific representation on unquoted investments

Unquoted investments are included in the net assets statement at the value estimated by the general partner managing each fund 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.

Signed

For and on behalf of Durham County Council.

Appendix B – Draft audit report

Local Government Pension Fund in Statement of accounts

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

Opinion on the pension fund financial statements

We have audited the pension fund financial statements of Durham County Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Audit Commission Act 1998. 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 2013/14.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority'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 Corporate Director Resources; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the explanatory foreword and the annual 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 2014 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2014 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.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the explanatory foreword and the content of the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Cameron Waddell

Director and Engagement Lead

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Rivergreen Centre

Aykley Heads

Durham

DH1 5TS

September 2014

Local Government Pension Fund in Statement of accounts

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 2014, which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes.

This report is made solely to the members of Durham County Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 48 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by the Audit Commission in March 2010.

Respective responsibilities of the Corporate Director Resources and the auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporate Director Resources Responsibilities, the Corporate Director 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 City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and its compliance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

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 guidance issued by the Audit Commission. 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 2014 and comply with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14.

Cameron Waddell

Director and Engagement Lead
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

The Rivergreen Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TS

Date September 2014

Appendix C – 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.

Audit Committee

30 September 2014

**Internal Audit Progress Report
Quarter Ended 30 June 2014**



Report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To inform Members of work carried out by Internal Audit during the period April to June 2014.
- 2 The report aims to:
 - Provide a high level of assurance, or otherwise, on internal controls operated across the Council that have been subject to audit
 - Advise you of issues where controls need to improve to effectively manage risks
 - Advise you of any 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 you of amendments to planned work and unplanned work carried out or to be carried out
 - Track progress on the response to audit reports and the implementation of agreed audit recommendations
 - Advise you of any changes to the audit process
 - Provide an update on our performance indicators comparing actual performance against planned
- 3 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 1	Report Implications
Appendix 2	Audit methodology
Appendix 3	Progress on plan
Appendix 4	Final reports issued this quarter
Appendix 5	High and medium priority actions raised and implemented
Appendix 6	*Overdue actions
Appendix 7	*Limited Assurance Audit Opinions
Appendix 8	Performance Indicators

Background

- 4 Internal Audit is an independent, objective assurance and consultancy activity designed to add value and improve the organisation's operations.
- 5 The audit strategy and annual audit plan covering the period July 2013 to June 2014 was approved by Audit Committee at its meeting on the 27 June 2013.
- 6 The audit methodology used to determine the risk priority for addressing audit findings and how we arrive at our assurance opinion on each review is given in Appendix 2.

Progress against planned work

- 7 A summary of the approved annual plan for each service grouping, updated to reflect work in progress and/or brought forward from last year's plan, is attached at Appendix 3. The status of each audit as at 30 June 2014 is indicated.
- 8 The status of each type of audit, including work in progress carried forward from the 2012/13 plan and as shown in Appendix 3, is summarised below:

Status	Assurance	Advice & Consultancy	Proactive Fraud
Not Started	0	0	0
Planning & Preparation	2	1	0
Terms Of Reference Agreed	1	0	0
Fieldwork In Progress	31	11	7
Complete (Draft or Final Report)	121	23	12
Agreed to Defer/Cancelled	14	7	1
Total	168	42	20

- 9 Where work is finalised the resultant assurance opinion, if applicable, is also shown in Appendix 3.
- 10 A summary of final audit reports issued this quarter is given in Appendix 4.

Audit activity this quarter

Amendments to the approved 2013/14 Audit Plan

- 11 The following amendment to the approved plan have been agreed with Corporate Directors this quarter:

Service Grouping	Audit	Audit Type	Type of Amendment	Reason
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Data Protection Review of Data Access, Records Storage and Scanned images	Assurance Review	Cancelled	The service requested that Internal Audit focusses on the data protection review of procurement in the final quarter of 2013/2014. A schedule of data protection reviews for 2014/2015 is to be developed.
Children & Adults Services (CAS)	Troubled Families Programme	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014 / 2015	Service confirmed that actions are currently being undertaken in this area and requested review be deferred until October.
Children & Adults Services (CAS)	First Contact Service	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014 / 2015	Review not scheduled to begin until July 2014.
Children & Adults Services (CAS)	School Financial Performance Management	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014 / 2015	Review not scheduled to begin until July 2014.
Children & Adults Services (CAS)	Schools Organisations and Capital Programme	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014 / 2015	Review not scheduled to begin until July 2014.
Neighbourhood Services	Stanley Bowls	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014/15	Review not scheduled to begin until July 2014.
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Sustainable Transport	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014/15	As an advice and consultancy review had only recently completed during 2013/2014, it was agreed to defer this assurance review until 2014/2015.
Resources	Personal Budgets	Counter Fraud	Cancelled	This planned counter fraud review was cancelled as new working arrangements are being developed between the Direct Payments Team in CAS, the Corporate Fraud Team and Internal Audit. An assurance review of Personal Budgets is now included in the 2014/2015 audit plan.
Resources	Ethics	Assurance Review	Cancelled	This review was cancelled, and will be carried out as part of specific audits included within the 2014/2015 audit plan.
Resources	Electoral Services	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014/15	This audit was deferred to 2014/2015 at the request of the service.

Service Grouping	Audit	Audit Type	Type of Amendment	Reason
Resources	Information Security Policies – Business Continuity Policy	Assurance Review	Cancelled	It was agreed to cancel this review, as management is already aware of several outstanding issues in relation to the policy. It was agreed, with the service, that the scope of this compliance review would be built into the audit of ICT Business Continuity Planning, which is included in the 2014/2015 audit plan.
Resources	School Financial Performance Management (Part 2)	Assurance Review	Deferred to 2014/15	This review has been deferred to 2014/2015, as the Part 1 review is still in progress, and the outcome of the Part 1 review is needed to inform Part 2.

- 12 10 unplanned reviews have been added to the plan this quarter. Of these 3 relate to potential fraud or irregularity investigations. Details of the progress on all investigations will be included in the next fraud and irregularity update report which will be considered by the Committee at its meeting in July.
- 13 The 7 non-investigative reviews, which are to be resourced from the contingency provision within the plan, are detailed below:

Service Grouping	Audit	Audit Type	Reason
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Freemans Quay Cash Collection	Assurance	Planned for 2014/15 however there was the opportunity to start work early.
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Durham Town Hall – Income and Bookings	Assurance	Planned for 2014/15 however there was the opportunity to start work early.
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Bishop Auckland Town Hall – Income and Bookings	Assurance	Planned for 2014/15 however there was the opportunity to start work early.
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Grounds Maintenance Arrangements - Schools	Assurance	Planned for 2014/15 however there was the opportunity to start work early.
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Housing Stock Transfer	Advice & Consultancy	It was agreed with the service to attend project meetings so that Internal Audit could be kept up to date on the status of the project.
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	Evidence of Council Asset	Advice & Consultancy	Complaint in relation to evidence held for a Council asset.
Resources	Pensions Project Group	Advice & Consultancy	Internal Audit involvement in the Project Board which has been established for the implementation of the replacement Pensions System.

Outstanding Management Responses to Draft Reports

- 14 There are no responses to draft reports remain overdue at the time of writing.

Response to audit findings and recommendations

- 15 Details of the numbers of High and Medium priority ranking recommendations raised and overdue, by Service Grouping and Audit Year, are given in Appendix 5.
- 16 A summary of progress on actions due by the 30 June 2014 is given below:

Service Grouping	Number of Actions Due to be Implemented	Number of Actions Implemented	Actions Overdue by Original Target Date	Actions with Agreed Revised Target Date	Actions Overdue by Revised Target Date
Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	20	19	1	1	0
Children and Adult Services (CAS)	59	56	3	3	0
Neighbourhood Services (NS)	179	161	18	18	0
Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)	44	41	3	3	0
Resources	275	259	16	16	0
TOTAL	577	536	41	41	0

* For some service groupings these figures include actions raised in previous financial years. Once all actions for a year have been cleared they are no longer reported.

It is encouraging to note of the 577 actions due to be implemented that 536 (93%) have been implemented. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), benchmarking exercise indicates that average performance in this area is 70 to 80%. At present the Council is delivering in excess of this target.

Limited Assurance Opinion Audits

- 17 There have been no audits finalised in this quarter which resulted in a 'limited assurance' opinion.

Performance Indicators

- 18 A summary of our actual performance at the end of June 2014 compared to agreed target performance indicators is given in Appendix 8.
- 19 Your attention is drawn to our primary PI, which is an important measure of the ability to provide an annual audit opinion and is the % of planned assurance reviews complete. Actual performance stands at 93% at present against the full year target of 90%.

Recommendations

- 20 Members are asked to note,:
- The amendments made to the 2013/14 Annual Audit Plan
 - Work undertaken by Internal Audit during the quarter ended 31 June 2014 and the assurance on the control environments provided
 - The performance of the service during the period
 - Progress made by service managers in responding to the work of Internal Audit

Contact: Paul Bradley Tel: 03000 269645

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising for the Council as a result of this report, although we aim through our audit planning arrangements to review core systems in operation and ensure through our broad programme of work that the Council has made safe and efficient arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs.

Staffing

None

Risk

This report requires no decision and so a risk assessment has not been carried out

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Human rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

None

Legal Implications

None

ASSURANCE OPINION METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX 2

Findings

Individual findings are assessed on their impact and likelihood based on the assessment rationale in the tables below:

Impact Rating	Assessment Rationale
Critical	A finding that could have a:
	Critical impact on operational performance (Significant disruption to service delivery)
	Critical monetary or financial statement impact (In excess of 5% of service income or expenditure budget)
	Critical breach in laws and regulations that could result in significant fine and consequences (Intervention by regulatory body or failure to maintain existing status under inspection regime)
	Critical impact on the reputation of the Council (Significant reputational damage with partners/central government and/or significant number of complaints from service users)
	Critical impact on the wellbeing of employees or the public (Loss of life/serious injury to employees or the public)
Major	A finding that could have a:
	Major impact on operational performance (Disruption to service delivery)
	Major monetary or financial statement impact (1-5% of service income or expenditure budget)
	Major breach in laws, regulations or internal policies and procedures (non compliance will have major impact on operational performance, monetary or financial statement impact or reputation of the service)
	Major impact on the reputation of the service within the Council and/or complaints from service users
Minor	A finding that could have a:
	Minor impact on operational performance (Very little or no disruption to service delivery)
	Minor monetary or financial statement impact (less than 1% of service income or expenditure budget)
	Minor breach in internal policies and procedures (non compliance will have very little or no impact on operational performance, monetary or financial statement impact or reputation of the service)

Likelihood	Assessment criteria
Probable	Highly likely that the event will occur (>50% chance of occurring)
Possible	Reasonable likelihood that the event will occur (10% - 50% chance of occurring)
Unlikely	The event is not expected to occur (<10% chance of occurring)

Overall Finding Rating

This grid is used to determine the overall finding rating.

LIKELIHOOD			
Probable	M	H	H
Possible	M	M	H
Unlikely	L	L	L
	Minor	Major	Critical
	IMPACT		

Priority of our recommendations

We define the priority of our recommendations arising from each overall finding as follows;

High	Action that is considered imperative to ensure that the service/system/process objectives are not exposed to significant risk from weaknesses in critical or key controls.
Medium	Action required to ensure that the service/system/process objectives are not exposed to major risk from weaknesses in controls.
Best Practice	The issue merits attention and its implementation will enhance the control environment or promote value for money.

Overall Assurance Opinion

Based upon the ratings of findings and recommendations arising during the audit as summarised in risk matrix above we define the overall conclusion of the audit through the following assurance opinions:

Substantial Assurance	Whilst there is a sound system of control, there are either no weaknesses or some weaknesses, which may put some of the system objectives at minor risk.
Moderate Assurance	Whilst there is basically a sound system of control, there are some weaknesses, which may put some of the system objectives at major risk.
Limited Assurance	There are weaknesses in key areas in the system of control, which put the system objectives at significant risk.

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECTION	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
AUDITS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2012 / 2013 AS WORK IN PROGRESS						
AAP Information Governance	11000/2012/03 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Parts and Comm Eng.	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Data Quality - Rolling Programme of PIs	11090/2013 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning & Perf	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Development of Intranet	11005/2012/02 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Policy & Comms	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Moderate Assurance
Internet Development (Corporate Comms)	11017/2013/01 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Policy & Comms	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Business Continuity Project Support	11001/2013 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Policy & Comms	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Looked After Children - to perform follow-up on VFM study undertaken by Service	78463/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Advice & Consultancy	Closed	
Educational Support Services	78462/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Caldicot Compliance	58809/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
One Point - Arrangements with the Health Service	70245/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Early Intervention & Involvement	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Control Risk Self Assessment in Schools	70070/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Pollution Control	12265/2012 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Environmental Protection	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Enforcement & Education	13421/2013 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Streetscene	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Construction Services and Planned Maintenance Programme	60720/2013 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Building and Facilities	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Trade Waste - Systems testing	22010/2013/01 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Streetscene	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Highways Maintenance Self Assessment	25890/2012 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Limited Assurance
MTPP Savings - Use of Council Vehicles for home to work journey	20100/2013/02 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - County Fleet	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	Moderate Assurance
Business Durham	13561/2013 bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Private Sector Housing	13562/2013 bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Final Report	Full Assurance
Housing Tenancies/Lettings	00820/2013 bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Project Genesis	26045/2013 bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Strat. Progs & Perf.	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Taxi contracts follow up	25895/2013 bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Transport & Contract Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Income & Debt Recovery	10400/2013 bf	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Procurement Cards	10925/2013 bf	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Flexible working and contract variations	11021/2013 bf	Resources	Human Resources	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
Internet Security	98012/2013 bf	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Final Report	Limited Assurance
Income and Expenditure Project	98114/2013 bf	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Petty Cash Usage	10928/2013 bf	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Corporate Governance - Litigation Database	86530/2013 bf	Resources	Legal & Democratic	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Unix review	98004/2013 bf	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Invoice scanning and indexing	10465/2013 bf	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
ICON v11 project	10460/2013/01 bf	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Cash Security	99900/2013/03 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Payroll IDEA	99900/2013/04 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Payroll timesheets	99900/2013/05 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Payroll overtime	99900/2013/06 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Payroll starters & leavers	99900/2013/07 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Payroll expenses & allowances	99900/2013/08 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Award of Contracts	99900/2012/05 bf	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
AUDITS THAT WERE DEFERRED FROM 2012 / 2013 AUDIT PLAN						
Data Protection - Data Access	11018/2013/02 bf	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning & Perf	Assurance Review	Cancelled	
Specialist Services - to focus upon Prevention and Early Intervention	78473/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Assurance Review	Defer to 2014/15	
Safeguarding of Children in Schools - consideration will be given to other third party	78475/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education / Children's Care	Assurance Review	In Progress	
County Durham Children and Families Trust	70050/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Early Intervention & Involvement	Assurance Review	Final Report	Full Assurance
POPIE system review	58802/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning & Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Adult Learning and Skills Service	50065/2014/05	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Markets	13350/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Consumer Protection	Assurance Review	Deferred	N/A
Visit County Durham	14615/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Final Report	Full Assurance
Mystery Shopping (Planning applications)	26040/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Advice & Consultancy	Cancelled	N/A
PCI Compliance	10417/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Limited Assurance

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECTION	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
AUDITS SCHEDULED FROM THE STRATEGIC AUDIT PLAN 2013 / 2014						
Development of Joint Working Methodology on Corporate Programmes (Trans Change)	11060/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Policy & Comms	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Data Quality - Rolling programme of PIs	11080/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning & Perf	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Data Protection - Rolling programme of reviews	11018/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning & Perf	Assurance Review	Preparation	
Information Governance Group	11010/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Planning & Perf	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Partnerships - Rolling programme of reviews	11000/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Partners and Comm Eng.	Assurance Review	ToR Issued	
Secure Services - Contract with Youth Justice Board	78469/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Assurance Review	In Progress	
SEN Placement and Provision	78466/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Assurance Review	Closed	
Schools Organisations and Capital Programme	70501/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Assurance Review	Defer to 2014/15	
School's SLA funded Audit Programme	Various	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Assurance Review	In Progress	20 Substantial Assurance 14 Moderate Assurance 2 Limited Assurance
5 Nursery Schools						
37 Primary Schools						
5 Secondary Schools						
5 Special Schools						
Troubled Families Programme	00611/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Childrens Care	Assurance Review	Defer to 2014/15	N/A
Quarter 1	00611/2014/01			Grant Certification	Complete	
Quarter 2	00611/2014/02				Complete	
Quarter 3	00611/2014/03				Complete	
Quarter 4	00611/2014/04				Complete	
Calcott Compliance	58809/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning and Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Health and Well Being Board	58105/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning and Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Cancelled	N/A
Strategic Waste Management	22001/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects and Business Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Full Assurance
Clean and Green Services - Housing Association Contracts	13124/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Streetscene	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Building Compliance Assurance	25820/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Building and Facilities	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Inspection of Licensing - Taxis	13054/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Public Safety	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Inspection of Licensing - Premises Requiring Alcohol License	13054/2014/02	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Public Safety	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Private Sector Housing - Complaints	13031/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Environmental protection	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Winter Maintenance	25900/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services - Strategic Highways	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Gala - Stage School	14902/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Gala - Box Office	14901/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Stanley Bowls	12210/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Advice & Consultancy	Defer to 2014/15	
Ad hoc grant certification work	00601/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Strat. Progs & Perf.	Grant Certification	Complete	N/A
Planning System (Attendance at Steering Group)	26035/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	
Planning System	26030/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Assurance Review	Deferred	N/A
Building Control (Potential focus on 'Safety at Sports Grounds')	13093/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Asset Management (Focus on disposal arrangements)	13551/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Durham City Homes - Housing Rents	00800/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
ALMOs Housing Rents	00805/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ. Dev. & Housing	Assurance Review	Cancelled	N/A
Civil Parking, Park and Ride, Off Street Parking (Potentially to focus on income)	25830/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Transport & Contract Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Sustainable Transport	25804/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Transport & Contract Services	Assurance Review	Deferred	
Supported Housing - CCTV	13025/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Transport & Contract Services	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Electoral Services	10940/2014	Resources	Legal & Democratic	Assurance Review	Deferred	
Electoral Services - verification of expenses	10940/2014/01	Resources	Legal & Democratic	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Homeworking	98024/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Pavoll - Governance and Key controls	10210/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Assurance Review	In Progress	
GL - Key controls and reconciliations	10609/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	In Progress	
MIFP (also need to liaise with ACE)	10801/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Journal Transfers	10606/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Bank Reconciliations	10602/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Short Term Investments	10500/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Quotation System	11052/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Cancelled	N/A
Tendering System	11053/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Capital Accounting	10000/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Central Establishment Recharges	10651/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Revs & Bens reconciliations	00720/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECTION	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
P2P Key Controls (include procurement cards)	10150/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Reduction (CTR) admin (incl. HB Subsidy and DHP)	00700/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Welfare Assistance Scheme	00725/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Limited Assurance
NNDR	00550/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Council Tax	00500/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Cash Collection	10460/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Debtors	10400/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Limited Assurance
Information Security Policies - Part 1	98103/2014/01	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Cancelled	
Information Security Policies - Part 2	98103/2014/02	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Information Security Policies - Part 3	98103/2014/03	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Infrastructure/Networks	98005/2014	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Mobile Computing	98025/2014	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
SQL Server	98034/2014	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Software Licenses	98110/2014	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Moderate Assurance
ICT Purchasing	98100/2014	Resources	ICT	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
RIPA Working Group	11011/2014	Resources	Legal & Democratic	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Strategic Procurement Network	11057/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Advice & Consultancy	Cancelled	N/A
Digital Durham	98112/2014	Resources	ICT	Advice & Consultancy	Complete	N/A
Declarations of Interest - Members	99900/2014/01a	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Draft Report	N/A
Declarations of Interest - Schools	99900/2014/01b	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	In Progress	
Declarations of Interest - Employees	99900/2014/01	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	In Progress	
Grants Payable	99900/2014/02	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Housing Tenancy	99900/2014/03	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Not Started	
Creditor Payments (IDEA) - Q1	99900/2014/04a	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Creditor Payments (IDEA) - Q2	99900/2014/04b	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Creditor Payments (IDEA) - Q3	99900/2014/04c	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Final Report	N/A
Creditor Payments (IDEA) - Q4	99900/2014/04d	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Cancelled	N/A

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECTION	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Personal Budgets	99900/2014/05	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Not Started	
Procurement	99900/2014/06	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	Not Started	
NFI	99903/2014	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	In Progress	
Ethical Culture	66530/2014	All Directorates	All Services	Corporate Governance	Not Started	
AUDITS / REVIEWS COMPLETED AT SERVICE REQUEST						
AAPs - Performance Management Framework	11025/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Parts and Comm Eng.	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Participatory Budgets Model	11027/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Parts and Comm Eng.	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Community Buildings	11019/2014	Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)	Parts and Comm Eng.	Advice & Consultancy	Draft Report	N/A
Review of Supported Housing linked to Staff Houses	50215/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
School Benevolent Fund - Annual Audit of Financial Statements	70107/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Advice & Consultancy	Cancelled	N/A
Gypsies & Travellers Un-authorized Encampments	66630/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Early Intervention & Involvement	Advice & Consultancy	Cancelled	N/A
Youth Offending Service Financial Management arrangements	85819/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Early Intervention & Involvement	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group (Partnership Governance Framework Review)	58100/2013 bf	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Early Intervention & Involvement	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
High Needs Students	70219/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Blue Badge Scheme	50180/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning and Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Capita One	70227/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Planning and Service Strategy	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Tees, Esk & Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Truist Partnerships	50216/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
Stop Smoking Service - Nicotine Replacement Therapy Voucher Scheme	50217/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Assurance Review	Final Report	Limited Assurance
Support to the Director of Public Health on providing assurance on Health Protection Environment Partnership (Support in developing the Performance Management Framework)	50217/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Assurance Review	In Progress	
QMS (Quarterly Visit) Quarter 1	11000/2014/02	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Customer Relations, Policy & Performance	Advice & Consultancy	Preparation	
Quarter 2	13125/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Building and Facilities Maintenance	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
Quarter 3	13125/2014/02	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Building and Facilities Maintenance	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
Quarter 4	13125/2014/03	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services - Building and Facilities Maintenance	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
GLUK Income Share Agreement	20730/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
County Durham Sport	12211x/2013 bf	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Grant Certification	Final Report	N/A
Carbon Reduction Commitment	64050/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	26031/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Appraisals	11022/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Attendance Management Framework	64446/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Assurance Review	Deferred	N/A
Comensura (request from CAS)	11023/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Moderate Assurance
ST7 payments - Safeguarding welfare of children	70071/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Public Health (Financial arrangements)	50076/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
School Financial Performance Management (Part 1 & 2)	70072/2014/01	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	In Progress/Cancelled	
70072/2014/02	70072/2014/02	Resources	Finance Services	Assurance Review	Not Started	
UNPLANNED WORK						
Direct Payments	50030/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Commissioning	Assurance Review	Complete	N/A
Out of Hours Safeguarding arrangements in Secure Services	53401/2014	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Assurance Review	Final Report	Substantial Assurance
Mobile Box Office Grant	14901/2014/02	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Advice & Consultancy	Defer to 2014/15	N/A
Events Management	13430/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHP/Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Final Report	N/A
Gala - Variation Order	14901/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Final Report	Moderate Assurance
Spenny Moor Gymnastic Club Inventory	13064/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Disposal of Fixings and Equipment	14901/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Freemans Quay Cash Collection	13057/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Substantial Assurance
Durham Town Hall - Income and Bookings	69175/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Substantial Assurance
Bishop Auckland Town Hall - Income and Bookings	14006/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Substantial Assurance
Grounds Maintenance Arrangements - Schools	20080/2014	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Assurance Review	In Progress	
Empty Homes Loans Fund	00612/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ Dev & Housing	Assurance Review	Draft Report	Moderate Assurance

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECORATE	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Housing Stock Transfer	00830/2014	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ Dev & Housing	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Evidence of Council Asset	99901/2014/67	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)		Advice & Consultancy		
Proposal to merge Durham and Sunderland ICT	98130/2014	Resources	ICT	Advice & Consultancy	Cancelled	N/A
Cost of transactions	00721/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
BACS	10115/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Banking Contract	10907/2014	Resources	Corporate Finance	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Teachers Pension Fund	10318/2014	Resources	HR&OD	Advice & Consultancy	Final Report	N/A
Invoice Payment Improvement Group	10160/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Debtors Working Group	10418/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
PCI Compliance Group	10419/2014	Resources	Finance Services	Advice & Consultancy	In Progress	
Employees Paid via Accountis Payable	99900/2014/07	All Directorates	All Services	Proactive Fraud	In Progress	
FRAUD / INVESTIGATIONS						
Procurement Rules	99901/2013/47	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Procurement of Adult Learning Contracts	99901/2013/56	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2013/69	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2013/70	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2013/71	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2013/72	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2013/75	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Data control and disposal of equipment.	99902/2013/26	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School Admission Application	99901/2014/02	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of money	99901/2014/03	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing money	99901/2014/10	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing money	99901/2014/11	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Cash discrepancies	99901/2014/14	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Internet Misuse	99901/2014/17	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Home to School Transport Application	99901/2014/18	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Car Mileage	99901/2014/20	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing monies	99901/2014/23	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Alleged income discrepancy	99901/2014/25	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
False invoices	99901/2014/27	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School banking discrepancy	99901/2014/28	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employment	99901/2014/29	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheet	99901/2014/32	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Commissioning	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing money	99901/2014/33	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of money	99901/2014/34	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Service Users Property	99901/2014/37	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing money	99901/2014/38	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Private school fund money irregularity	99901/2014/39	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Private school fund money irregularity	99901/2014/40	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing money	99901/2014/45	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
School banking discrepancy	99901/2014/47	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Cash discrepancies	99901/2014/48	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of money	99901/2014/51	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Adult Care	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Breach of Procurement Rules	99901/2014/52	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Public Health	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	
Cash discrepancies	99901/2014/54	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Education - Schools	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheet	99901/2014/58	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	
Car Assessment	99901/2014/59	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care / Commissioning	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheet	99901/2014/60	Children and Adult Services (CAS)	Children's Care	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	
Procurement Rules	99901/2012/23	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	
Internet Misuse	99901/2013/09	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects & Business Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of materials	99901/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services - Strategic Highways	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of materials	99901/2014/04	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Claims	99901/2014/05	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT TITLE	Audit Ref	CORPORATE DIRECTION	SERVICE	TYPE	STATUS	OPINION
Employee Conduct	99901/2014/07	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Consumer Protection	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Conduct	99901/2014/08	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Consumer Protection	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheets	99901/2014/09	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	EHCP - Consumer Protection	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Breach of Procurement Rules	99901/2014/15	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Theft of materials	99901/2014/19	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missuse of Work Mobile Phone	99901/2014/22	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Breach of Confidentiality	99901/2014/26	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects & Business Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Missing Money	99901/2014/30	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects & Business Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheets	99901/2014/35	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheets	99901/2014/43	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheets	99901/2014/44	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Complaint - Provision of Leisure Services	99902/2014/01	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Sport and Leisure	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Misappropriation of Grant Monies	99901/2014/46	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Projects & Business Services	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	N/A
Hired Vehicle - Theft	99901/2014/56	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Hired Plant Machinery - Theft	99901/2014/57	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Technical Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Fleet Private Works Charging	99901/2014/61	Neighbourhood Services (NS)	Direct Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Income Irregularity	99901/2013/34.bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Trans. & Cont. Serv.	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Access to Documents	99902/2013/14.bf	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ Dev & Housing	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Data Investigation	99901/2014/72	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Taxi contracts	99901/2014/73	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Trans. & Cont. Serv.	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Caravan Park	99901/2014/16	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Timesheets	99901/2014/36	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Employee Conduct	99901/2014/53	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Planning & Assets	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Internet Misuse	99901/2014/55	Regeneration & Economic Development (RED)	Econ Dev & Housing	Fraud / Investigations	In Progress	N/A
Theft of Mobile Phone	99901/2014/06	Resources	Legal Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Unauthorised Direct Debits	99901/2014/21	Resources	Corporate Finance	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Access to Records (1)	99901/2014/24	Resources	Finance Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Unauthorised Direct Debit	99901/2014/31	Resources	Corporate Finance	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Supplier Bank Details	99901/2014/41	Resources	Finance Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Access to Records (2)	99901/2014/42	Resources	Finance Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Breach of Procurement Rules	99901/2014/49	Resources	Corporate Finance	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A
Unauthorised Direct Debits	99901/2014/50	Resources	Finance Services	Fraud / Investigations	Complete	N/A

FINAL REPORTS ISSUED IN QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ACE)		
Data Quality – PIs	Assurance review of the data quality of 6 specified performance indicators.	Moderate Assurance
Economic Partnership	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a lack of clarity in respect of the roles and responsibilities of each partner - the financial management arrangements being inadequate - The performance management arrangements being inadequate - The risk management arrangements being inadequate 	Full Assurance
County Durham Children and Families Trust	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a lack of clarity in respect of the roles and responsibilities of each partner - The performance management arrangements being inadequate 	Full Assurance
CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES (CAS)		
Adult Learning & Skills Service (ALSS) - Learner Validation Phase 2	A request from the Strategic Lead: Progression and Learning for Internal Audit to validate on a sample testing basis that the Service had complied with Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Funding Rules 2013/14 and was eligible to the funding received in relation to Adult Learners.	Not Applicable
Blue Badge Scheme	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff are unaware of the procedures to follow and do not carry out, or incorrectly carry out tasks - Legislation relevant to the service is not known and/or is not incorporated into working practices - Income is not accounted for/misappropriated - Unauthorised payments are made - Information and data are not protected from loss, damage or unauthorised disclosure - Performance management arrangements in place are inadequate - There is ineffective budgetary control 	Substantial Assurance
Caldicott Arrangements	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and data which are sent or received using the postal system are not protected from loss, damage or unauthorised disclosure 	Substantial Assurance
County Durham Children and Families Trust	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a lack of clarity in respect of the roles and responsibilities of each partner - The performance management arrangements in place are inadequate 	Full Assurance
Partnerships: Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group (DAFEG)	To provide assurance on the management of the risk of poor governance arrangements.	Moderate Assurance
POPPIE	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information/data is accessed by unauthorised/inappropriate source - Loss of data 	Moderate Assurance

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
	- Corruption of data	
Review of Out of Hours Safeguarding arrangements in Secure Services	To ensure there are effective out of hours arrangements in place for the safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of possible self-harm whilst being held in Secure Accommodation.	Substantial Assurance
Supported Housing linked to Staffing Houses	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Household accounts are not correctly complete - Arrangements in place for effectively using staffing resources are inadequate - The arrangements in place for completing and submitting rotas are inadequate - The arrangements in place for completing and submitting timesheets for payment are inadequate - Failure to carry out DBS checks on relevant employees - Ineffective budgetary control - Staff are unaware of their responsibilities and there is an inconsistent approach resulting in the service being challenged. 	Moderate Assurance
Youth Offending Service – Financial Management Arrangements	To support and assist the work the service is carrying out in ensuring the following risks are being effectively managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial information used to support decision making is not accurate or timely - Budget is significantly under/over spent 	Not Applicable
Petty Cash Irregularities	A request from the Strategic Manager: Service Support to evaluate the controls in place for petty cash in Locality Offices.	Not Applicable

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES (NS)		
Strategic Waste Management	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planned savings are not achieved - Performance targets are not met 	Full Assurance
Clean & Green – Housing Association Contracts	To evaluate the control framework in place to provide assurance on the management of the risks associated with the Clean & Green Services - Livin Housing Association Contract.	Moderate Assurance
Gala Theatre Box Office	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customers unable to book tickets during busy periods - Loss of databox, internet, or phone lines. - Loss of cash through error or theft. - Discounted/Free tickets are inappropriately issued. 	Moderate Assurance
QMS Quarter 4 (Incorporated activities intended for review in Q3)	An advice and guidance review of the Quality Management System and Procedures prior to external inspections	N/A
Mountsett Crematorium	An annual assurance review of key systems in accordance with agreed SLA.	Substantial Assurance
Gala Variation 3194	To evaluate compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) in the procurement of the services of Technical Staff at the Gala Theatre prior to the granting of the variation 3194 to the CPRs	Moderate Assurance
Events Management	An advice and guidance review of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) protocol and the associated support mechanisms.	N/A
Freemans Quay Cash Collection	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income is recorded or processed inaccurately. - Cash is held or transported insecurely. - Unauthorised access to the cash receipting system and till. 	Substantial Assurance

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
Durham Town Hall – Income and Bookings	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoices not raised for hired facilities. - Charges made are incorrect. - Income not received for facility hires. - Cash banked does not match that collected. - Unauthorised access to cash receipting system and till. - Cash is held and transported insecurely. 	Substantial Assurance
Bishop Auckland Town Hall – Income and Bookings	To provide assurance on the management of the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hired facilities are appropriately invoiced and monitored for payment. - Cash is collected, handled, and banked in an appropriate and secure manner 	Substantial Assurance

REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED)		
Private Sector Housing	Assurance review of the arrangements in place for performance management and performance monitoring.	Full Assurance
Economic Partnership (Note that this review is included within the ACE audit plan)	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a lack of clarity in respect of the roles and responsibilities of each partner - the financial management arrangements being inadequate - The performance management arrangements being inadequate - The risk management arrangements being inadequate 	Full Assurance
Civil Parking, Park and Ride and Off Street Parking	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of Income through fraud or error - Incorrect treatment of VAT - Service is not delivered in accordance with agreed contracts - Data is inaccurate, lost, stolen or inappropriately disclosed - IT system inaccessibility or failure 	Moderate Assurance

RESOURCES		
Counter Fraud – Grants payable	Planned counter fraud review to verify that there had been no fraudulent activity in relation to the sample of grants and loans reviewed.	N/A
Counter Fraud – Declarations of Interest: Employees	Planned counter fraud review to identify potential undeclared interests that could expose DCC to the risk of fraud / corruption.	N/A
Counter Fraud – Declarations of Interest: School Employees and Governors	Planned counter fraud review to identify potential undeclared interests that could expose DCC and School Governing Bodies to the risk of fraud / corruption.	N/A
Central Establishment Recharges	Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The information provided is not reliable / accurate - The allocation and apportionment of costs is not reliable / accurate - The information provided to Services is not transparent / understandable / user friendly 	Substantial Assurance

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
Public Health – Financial Arrangements	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate commissioning arrangements - Inadequate budget management and monitoring arrangements are in place - Dataflows of information relating to health-related activities are ineffective 	Substantial Assurance
Tendering & Quotations	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The procurement system and processes do not adhere to legislative requirements or best practice - Contracts are awarded where a county / regional / collaborative contract is already in place - Competition is restricted - Contracts are split to not exceed procurement thresholds - The most favourable offer as regards Council objectives, price and quality is not chosen - Sustainability aims are not considered or achieved - Collusion between candidates in order to share contracts and / or inflate prices - Preference is given to a favoured candidate; criteria, scoring or results may be manipulated, due to nepotism or inducement - Documentation is incomplete, lost, destroyed, tampered with, or inappropriately disclosed - Pressure from members on services and corporate procurement to influence procurement and bypass procedures 	Substantial Assurance
ICT Purchasing	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICT purchases inconsistent with ICT Strategy and business requirements, including securing value for money - Breach of council standards and policies - Unaccounted for IT hardware and software 	Substantial Assurance

AUDIT AREA	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF THE AUDIT	FINAL OPINION
NNDR	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to adhere to legislation, best practice, and/or procedures - Parameters are incorrectly input - Annual billing run commences before input is complete - Bills produced are incorrect - Delays occur in sending out NNDR bills - Contributions and returns are not submitted promptly - Refunds are incorrectly calculated and valued - NNDR system and General Ledger are not updated to record payment and refund transactions - Recovery action is not initiated promptly and relevant records and accounts are not updated to record the recovery action - Debt recovery is inefficient - Direct Debits are improperly managed - NNDR system failure - Records and accounts are not updated to record amendments to properties - Valuation Office amendments are not processed in a timely manner - New/amended property records are incorrectly input or updated - Accounts are inaccurately and/or fraudulently set up - Amendments are not initiated and recorded promptly - Reliefs / Exemptions are incorrectly awarded - There is no / insufficient documentation to support transactions 	Moderate Assurance
Mobile Computing	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risks of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data leakage resulting from device loss, device theft, theft of data from devices or interception of data in transit - Malware propagation, which may result in data leakage, data corruption, service unavailability or financial loss - Exposure of sensitive data resulting from unencrypted information stored on the Tablet device - Inappropriate device use - Tablet devices may not be identified, recorded, tracked, and protected 	Moderate Assurance
Homeworking	<p>Assurance review of the arrangements in place to mitigate against the risk of homeworking agreements being arranged which are contrary to stated policies and procedures.</p>	Moderate Assurance

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Progress on the Implementation of Audit Recommendations

Risk Category	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)										
2012 / 2013										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	14	12	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	12	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	11	8	7	1	8	1	1	0	0	0
Total	11	8	7	1	8	1	1	0	0	0
Overall Total	25	20	19	1	20	1	1	0	0	0
CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES (CAS)										
2012 / 2013										
High	15	14	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	21	21	21	0	21	0	0	0	0	0
Total	36	35	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	9	6	5	0	5	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	22	18	16	0	16	2	2	0	0	0
Total	31	24	21	0	21	3	3	0	0	0
Overall Total	67	59	56	0	56	3	3	0	0	0
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES (NS)										
2011 / 2012										
High	6	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	50	50	49	0	49	1	1	0	0	0
Total	56	56	55	0	55	1	1	0	0	0
2012 / 2013										
High	9	9	8	0	8	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	79	79	70	0	70	9	9	0	0	0
Total	88	88	78	0	78	10	10	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	8	6	4	1	5	2	2	0	-1	0
Medium	32	29	24	2	26	5	5	0	0	0
Total	40	35	28	3	31	7	7	0	-1	0
Overall Total	184	179	161	3	164	18	18	0	-1	0
REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (RED)										
2012 / 2013										
High	13	13	12	0	12	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	12	12	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25	25	24	0	24	1	1	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	42	17	15	7	22	2	2	0	0	0
Total	44	19	17	7	24	2	2	0	0	0
Overall Total	69	44	41	7	48	3	3	0	0	0
RESOURCES										
2011 / 2012										
2012 / 2013										
High	32	32	29	0	29	3	3	0	0	0
Medium	134	134	133	0	133	1	1	0	0	0
Total	166	166	162	0	162	4	4	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	18	18	17	0	17	1	1	0	0	0
Medium	97	91	80	2	82	11	11	0	0	0
Total	115	109	97	2	99	12	12	0	0	0
Overall Total	281	275	259	2	261	16	16	0	0	0
TOTAL COUNCIL										
2011 / 2012										
High	6	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	50	50	49	0	49	1	1	0	0	0
Total	56	56	55	0	55	1	1	0	0	0
2012 / 2013										
High	69	68	63	0	63	5	5	0	0	0
Medium	260	258	248	0	248	10	10	0	0	0
Total	329	326	311	0	311	15	15	0	0	0
2013 / 2014										
High	37	32	28	1	29	4	4	0	-1	0
Medium	204	163	142	12	154	21	21	0	0	0
Total	241	195	170	13	183	25	25	0	-1	0
OVERALL TOTAL	626	577	536	13	549	41	41	0	-1	0

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APPENDIX 6

**PLEASE SEE ITEM NO. 11
AS APPENDIX EXEMPT**

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APPENDIX 7

**PLEASE SEE ITEM NO. 11
AS APPENDIX EXEMPT**

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Performance Indicators as at March 2014

Objective: To provide maximum assurance to inform the annual audit opinion			
Efficiency	Measure of Assessment	Target & (Frequency of Measurement)	Actual
KPI			
Planned audits completed	% of planned assurance work from original approved plan complete to draft report stage	90% Annually	93%
Timeliness of Draft Reports	% of draft reports issued within 30 Calendar days of end of fieldwork/closure interview	90% (Quarterly)	71% - 26 days on average
Timeliness of Final Reports	% of final reports issued within 14 calendar days of receipt of management response	95% (Quarterly)	92% - 4 days on average
Quarterly Progress Reports	Quarterly progress reports issued to Corporate Directors within one month of end of period	100% (Quarterly)	100%
Terms of Reference	% of TOR's agreed with key contact in advance of fieldwork commencing	95% (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)	98%
Post Audit Customer Satisfaction Survey Feedback	% of customers scoring audit service good or above (4 out of 5) where 1 is poor and 5 is very good	100% (Quarterly)	92% - Average score 4.6
Customers providing feedback Response	% of Customer returning satisfaction returns	70% (Quarterly)	32%
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 (2012-13)

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