



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

**STATEMENT
OF
ACCOUNTS**

for the year ending
31st March 2020
Audited

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Narrative Report	2
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts	17
Auditor's Report to Ceredigion County Council	18

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expenditure and Funding Analysis	21
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	23
Movement in Reserves Statement	24
Balance Sheet	25
Cash Flow Statement	26
Notes to the Statement of Accounts	27
Annual Governance Statement	94

NARRATIVE REPORT

About Ceredigion County Council

The County of Ceredigion covers an area of over 690 square miles of breathtaking scenery, dramatic coastline and vibrant communities. The County is geographically one of the largest in Wales and has a population figure of over 72,000 scattered around the County with the main towns being Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul, Aberaeron and Tregaron.

Ceredigion caters for many industries namely agriculture, tourism, food manufacturing companies, retail, scientific research and many other indigenous businesses scattered around the County. Education plays a big role within Ceredigion, with two Universities, a Further Education College, 4 secondary schools, 3 middle schools and many Primary schools dotted around the County.

Ceredigion County Council is a unitary authority formed on 1 April 1996 and is responsible for a wide range of services and activities. The Council has adopted the "Cabinet" system of administration. The Cabinet normally meets at the Council's offices in Aberaeron every three weeks, and carries out the Executive functions for the Authority. Ceredigion County Council employs over 3,500 members of staff who deliver the services on a day-to-day basis. The Council's main offices are located at Aberaeron and Aberystwyth and there are also satellite offices located in Cardigan and Lampeter.

The Council's vision:

"Ceredigion County Council delivers value for money sustainable bilingual public services that support a strong economy and healthy environment while promoting well-being in our people and our communities."

Priorities and Objectives

The Priorities for Ceredigion incorporating the Well-being and Improvement Objectives for 2019/20 were as follows:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Well-being and Improvement Objectives</u>
1. Boosting the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and provide employment opportunities for the citizens of Ceredigion • Enhance prosperity through collaborative and innovative partnership schemes • Develop 21st Century Infrastructures across the County
2. Investing in People's Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve opportunities for learning and skills development for all citizens. • Protecting people from poverty • Working in partnership to promote and foster healthy and active lifestyles • Promote and facilitate the distinct and vibrant bilingual culture and identity of Ceredigion
3. Enabling Individual and Family Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the well-being of individuals and families within safe and accessible homes • Protect the most vulnerable by promoting early intervention and prevention • Enable individuals and families to regain and maintain their independence
4. Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively engage in programmes to minimise Ceredigion's contribution to climate change and bio-diversity loss and deal with its effects • To improve infrastructure to facilitate future development to meet community needs • To help and assist communities to become more self-resilient

The Priorities and Well-being and Improvement Objectives 2019/20 were expected to contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals as shown below.

	Goal	How the Council's Priorities and Well-being Objectives will meet the Well-being goals?
1.	A prosperous Wales:	All of our Priorities capture the importance of developing an economy in Ceredigion. Employment, skills development, housing, the environment, business support, and regeneration will contribute to a prosperous Wales.
2.	A resilient Wales:	Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience focuses on the protection of our natural environment and includes initiatives to enhance and develop communities ability to respond to environmental disasters
3.	A healthier Wales:	Investing in people's Future focuses on protection of families, children and adults from poverty and promotion of healthier, more active lifestyles whilst Enabling Individual and Family resilience seeks to improve housing, enable independent living and provide early intervention and prevention services for the most vulnerable
4.	A more equal Wales:	All of our Priorities seek to establish a more Equal Wales by ensuring equal opportunities for employment, housing, education, healthier lifestyles and sustainable communities
5.	A Wales of cohesive communities:	Building the strength of our communities is a key feature in three of our priorities
6.	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:	The Council has agreed to conform to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards and further measures to promote bilingualism and the welsh language are included in our objectives
7.	A globally responsible Wales:	In considering our wellbeing and Improvement objectives we have taken into account the well-being assessment and engagement work to ensure that we can make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 crisis emerged at the end of March 2020, and has had far reaching effects. The following summarises The Council's response:

- Phase 1 – Preparedness – closed down all non-essential services
- Phase 2 – Implementation – delivered services under lockdown conditions
- Phase 3 – Adjustment – establish medium to long-term strategies that will identify new working practices that can continue through to the end of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Services of the Council

The Services of the Council for 2019/20 were:

Leadership Group	Schools	Lifelong Learning & Culture	Finance & Procurement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Leadership Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ALN Behaviour & Wellbeing •School Improvement •Infrastructure & Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Learning & Culture •Post-14 Learning & Skills •Leisure •Youth Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Procurement & Payments •Core Finance & Accounts (Deputy 151) •Service Finance & Accounts •Revenues, Tax Support, Benefits & Assessments
Democratic Services	People & Organisation	Children Services	Adult Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Democratic Services •Welsh Language Standards •Communication •Electoral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •HR Advice & Admin •Pay & Benefits •Learning & Development •Health, Safety & Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Safeguarding, Quality Assurance & Independent Review •Prevention & Early Intervention •Statutory Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Housing •Direct Services •Older People & LD Planned Care & Support •Commissioned Services •Porth Gofal •Mental Health & Safeguarding
Policy & Performance	Highways & Environmental	Economy & Regeneration	Customer Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strategic Partnerships, Engagement & Research •Complaints, Compliments & FOI •Public Protection •Corporate Performance & Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Highways •Local Environment Services •Project Development Services •Street Scene Services •Transport Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Economic Development •Planning •Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ICT •Customer Contact •Archives & Info Management •Library Services •Civil Registration
Legal & Governance Services			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Legal •Governance •Internal Audit 			

Governance

The Annual Governance Statement (on pages 94 to 110) outlines the Council's approach to ensuring that it maintains an effective system of corporate governance and internal control. The statement is produced following a review of the council's governance arrangements and includes an action plan to address any significant governance issues identified.

Issues and risks affecting the Council

It is important to recognise risk during these extremely challenging times. The Council's corporate risks, their risk score and RAG (red, amber, green) ratings at the start and end of the year are shown below:

Corporate Risk	Beginning of the year	End of the year
Strategic Plans and Priorities	3/Green	*
Governance	6/Amber	**
Improvement & Performance Management Arrangements	9/Amber	9/Amber
Business Continuity	12/Amber	25/Red
Medium Term Financial Plan	15/Red	15/Red
Transformation of Social Care	15/Red	15/Red
Rising Number of POVA referrals and DoLs	12/Amber	***
Child Protection	12/Amber	***
Information Management – Security	8/Amber	8/Amber
Capacity and Capability	8/Amber	6/Amber
Carbon Management	12/Amber	8/Amber
Coastal Erosion and Flood Incidents	25/Red	25/Red
Supporting Local Food Businesses and Impact on the Economy	9/Amber	6/Amber
Brexit	20/Red	15/Red
Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults	-	15/Red***
Covid-19	-	25/Red****

***Strategic Plans and Objectives** has been removed as the planning process throughout the Authority is now consistent.

****Governance** has been removed. Corporate Governance arrangements are now rated as Good (9/10) in the Annual Framework Review indicating that the risk is now averted. It is therefore appropriate to remove it from the Corporate Risk register in accordance with the Risk Management Framework. Corporate Governance will be reviewed within context of Covid-19.

*****Rising Number of POVA referrals and DoLs** and **Child Protection** have been replaced with a new risk **Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults** to combine the risks associated with safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults

******Covid-19** – a new risk has been added due to the effect of the spread of the Global Pandemic Covid-19 during 2020 including the increased demands on the Council's Social Care services, the effects of lockdown on the delivery of Council services, the wider economy and the well-being of the County's citizens.

Financial Strategy and Resource Allocation

The purpose of the Financial Strategy is to provide a financial governance framework to operate within by setting out the issues that are considered and taken into account for financial planning for the medium term. By bringing together financial assumptions; standards of service delivery; demographic needs; and workforce planning issues it is expected that the Council will be better able to consider overall management of its resources to meet its objectives. The Council's financial objective is for the careful and responsible use of resources and to ensure that the financial resilience of the Council is maintained and strengthened. The Audit Wales issued a Financial Sustainability Report to the Council in February 2020 which concluded that 'The Council has a clear financial strategy over the medium term supporting it to remain financially stable'.

The Council's medium term financial forecast is set within the context of national economy, public expenditure plans and national legislation and regulations. The Council receives approximately 71% of its net revenue budget from the Welsh Government hence reliance is placed on the economy as a whole and the UK Government's ability to raise taxes to fund Public Services. The financial settlement for 2020/21 is the best settlement since 2007/08, being a 4.2% uplift. This provided optimism at the time for sustained improved settlements. However the impact of Covid-19 makes it likely that there will continue to be many challenging years ahead in local government with public finances anticipated to continue to be extremely tight, and this has a direct impact on the Council's budgets. These are therefore difficult times from a budgetary and service delivery perspective. Understanding the overall financial context is important in order to deliver a robust and balanced budget during the next few years.

The population projections indicate that nationally, and for Ceredigion, people will live longer which means more public to serve which will have an impact on all services and particularly in the age category of 65 and above.

The financial strategy is therefore to continue to manage the forecasted gap between likely resources and budget requirement in order to deliver a balanced budget position whilst meeting the Council's objectives. This outcome can be achieved by focusing mainly on identifying savings in advance of the budget being set in order that they can be realised in time for the start of the relevant financial year.

Financial Performance - Revenue

The last monitoring report was for the period to December 2019 and this forecast a break even position for year end. This has been achieved despite the pressure from the first few weeks of the Covid-19 outbreak. The Council's overall performance at bringing in a balanced budget is excellent, being delivered by an effective Corporate Structure. The performance demonstrates that the financial management of the Council continues to be very good. General Balances will remain at £5.6m which is 3.7% of the annual budget and is within the target range of between 3% and 5%.

Earmarked Reserves have been realigned as a result of the expected financial pressures arising from the Covid-19 outbreak and also considering the Council's other commitments. As a result the Contingency / Covid-19 Reserve balance stands at £1.5m with a further £700k being held in the Funding / Council Tax Reduction Support Equalisation Reserve. Further realignment of reserves will be considered if necessary as the 2020/21 year progresses. The reserves at year end have increased from £18.6m to £22.1m.

The Schools were very successful in managing their delegated budgets in 2019/20. This is reflected in the positive position of the School Balances increasing by nearly £900k – with the total School Balances at year end being just under £2.7m. The anticipated budget pressures faced by Schools for 2020/21 have been fully funded, although the non-Teachers pay award still remains to be finalised nationally. The Council continues to actively support all Schools to help manage their budgets.

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

- The Schools Service under spent by £414k which is broadly in line with the quarter three forecast. As referenced above the overall Delegated Schools budget was managed successfully during 2019/20.
- Lifelong Learning & Culture broke even at year end after utilising £26k from earmarked reserves. This was a significant improvement in performance compared to the quarter three forecast.
- The Finance & Procurement Service underspent by £324k which was in line with quarter three forecasts. Savings on interest on loans and an under spend against the Council Tax Reduction Scheme enabled a transfer of £251k to the Funding / Council Tax Reduction Scheme Equalisation Reserve.
- Democratic Services underspent by £189k mainly as a result of carrying vacancies in the Business Support Team during the year following the restructure. Performance is in line with quarter three forecasts.
- People & Organisation under spent by £25k which is broadly in line with the quarter three forecast.

- Children Services overspent by £259k. This was an improved position compared to the quarter three forecast as a result of additional ICF funding for 'Edge of Care'.
- Adult Services overspent by £1.898m which was an improvement of nearly £100k compared to the quarter three forecast. There are a number of significant variances, however the main areas of overspend can be summarised as relating to Unachieved savings targets (£613k), increased costs associated with Independent Sector beds (£739k), an increased cost of Direct Payments (£834k) and an increase cost of running the in-house Residential Homes (£225k). The overall position has benefitted from WG Winter Pressures funding (£389k) and Regional transformation funding (£362k). In terms of the Service areas affected, the overspend predominantly falls on Learning Disabilities (£942k) and Older People (£760k).
- Policy & Performance underspent by £150k, mainly as a result of savings from vacant posts, which was in line with quarter three forecasts.
- Highways & Environmental broke even after transferring £172k from reserves.
- Economy & Regeneration overspent by £126k which matches the quarter three forecast and relates to the deficit on planning income which is being funded corporately.
- Customer Contact underspent by £75k which matches the quarter three forecast.
- Legal & Governance underspent by £195k which is broadly in line with the quarter three forecast. The under spend mainly relates to vacant posts and External Legal Fees.
- Leadership Group under spent by £160k after allowing for an additional transfer to the Contingency / Covid-19 Reserve.
- Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves underspent by £92k which is broadly in line with quarter three forecasts. £462k has been transferred to the Council Tax Premium Reserve.

The table below shows the controllable budget outturn for each Service.

	2019/20 Budget £'000	2019/20 Actuals £'000	Under/ (over) spend £'000
Services			
Schools	48,954	48,540	414
Lifelong Learning & Culture	2,254	2,254	-
Finance & Procurement	18,768	18,444	324
Democratic Services	4,015	3,826	189
People & Organisation	1,946	1,921	25
Children's Services	6,500	6,759	(259)
Adult Services	25,340	27,238	(1,898)
Policy & Performance	1,898	1,748	150
Highways & Environmental Services	16,227	16,228	(1)
Economy & Regeneration	3,215	3,341	(126)
Customer Contact	5,126	5,051	75
Legal & Governance	1,509	1,314	195
Leadership Group	3,268	3,108	160
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	4,604	4,512	92
Total Controllable Budget	143,624	144,284	(660)
Council Tax Surplus			654
Deficit			(6)
Financed by:	£'000	£'000	
Aggregate External Funding	102,091	102,091	
Local Taxation	41,533	42,187	
General Fund	0	6	
	143,624	144,284	

The budget performance for 2019/20 has been very positive in overall terms. With regard to the Adult Services budget, additional work has been ongoing to help manage their budget pressures, including an additional £2.350m being recognised in the 2020/21 budget setting process, which included £1.0m on a temporary basis. In addition the new 'Through age' service delivery structure is starting to take effect, which will also involve the realignment of the Adults, Childrens and Lifelong Learning & Culture budgets during 2020/21 to reflect the new Porth Ceredigion, Porth Cymorth Cynnar and Porth Cynnal services model.

The Council will face financial challenges during 2020/21 and beyond, not least as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, however the Council's strong financial position will help deal with those challenges and ensure that the Council continues to maintain its financial resilience.

Financial Performance - Capital

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Approved Budget	18,583	17,809
Expendable Budget	16,429	15,552
Actual Expenditure	<u>13,679</u>	<u>15,339</u>
	<u>2,750</u>	<u>213</u>

Approved Budget – is the total Capital Programme budget approved by Cabinet/Council which includes a general grants line which is not an expendable budget. This is a mechanism for adding additional approved grant schemes within the year.

Expendable Budget – is the total of the approved schemes within the Capital Programme excluding the general grants line.

The main variances between the expendable budget and actual spend were as follows:

	2019/20
	Under/(Over)
	Spends
	£'000
1. Storm Callum	562
2. 21st Century Schools Programme (Band A)	398
3. Disabled Facilities Grant	(309)
4. ATF IBERS to Penrhyncoch Shared Path	271
5. Replacement Vehicles	250
6. General Highways Improvements	186
7. Canolfan Dulais - TRIP Development Funding	158
8. Other variances under £150K	<u>1,234</u>
	<u>2,750</u>

The reasons for these variances were:

1. Access to the river was not possible at Llechryd Bridge (£70k) due to environmental restrictions, plus the works at the A475 Llandyfriog (£150k), Dan Yr Allt (£288k), A484 Stradmore Gardens (£54k)
2. The scheduled work has been delayed at Henry Richard School, work will recommence as soon as possible.
3. The original budget for the Disabled Facilities Grant was reduced in year due to an anticipated underspend, however work increased in the period January - March bringing the final spend in line with the original budget.
4. The late award of the grant resulted in a reduced timeframe to complete the required land acquisitions. Scheme completion was therefore not achievable by the 31st March 2020.

5. An order has been placed for 23 Vans (£323k), however delivery was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. At the 31st March 2020 the vehicles are still to be delivered with delivery dependent upon the lifting of 'lockdown' restrictions.
6. Additional Grants awarded by WG in March 2020 were utilised against costs previously incurred (Devils Bridge Footway and Lampeter Pedestrian crossing) in the General Highways Improvements budget. Time for replacement General Highways Improvement schemes in FY1920 was not available for completion by the 31st March 2020.
7. The project was delayed due to a slower than expected start due to having to decant the site, tenants in situ, plus unforeseen asbestos issues. This project is live and contractually committed by Tai Ceredigion so the balance of available funding is still required in full.

The main areas of capital spend were

- Highways improvements schemes including Public Highways Refurbishment Grant 2018-21 & Roads
- Street Lighting programme
- Vehicle Replacement
- Local Transport Fund - to include Tregaon Traffic Management Measures, Devils Bridge Footway and St Lampeter college New Pedestrian Crossing
- Active Travel Fund - to include Active travel fund and IBERS to Penrhyncoch Shared Path
- Local Transport Network Fund T2/T5 West Wales Trawscymru Corridor Improvements
- Coastal Protection - to include Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Langrannog & Borth
- School Additional Capital Works
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Sewage Treatment Works
- Canolfan Dulais - TRIP Development Funding
- Economic Futures Fund

Capital Expenditure Financing:	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
General Capital Funding	2,729	4,394
Supported Borrowing	2,873	2,883
Developing Education in Ceredigion Reserves	0	56
Prudential Borrowing (Funded by circa £600k restructuring Savings)	0	1,236
Schools (Local Government Borrowing Initiative)	0	269
Capital Receipts	244	868
Revenue/Reserve contributions - Including Corporate Capital Reserve	540	75
WG repayable Funding (HILS & H2H loans)	173	129
Grants	7,120	5,429
	13,679	15,339

The main investment plans and new fixed assets in 2020/21 include:

- 21st Century Schools Programme Band B
- Reducing Infant Class Sizes
- Childcare Provision inc Cenarth, Dyfryn Aeron and Henry Richards
- School - Additional Capital Works
- Canolfan Dulais - TRIP Development funding
- Sewage Treatment works
- Market Hall Cardigan
- Highways improvements Schemes (including £1.3m Public Highways Refurbishment)
- Street Lighting Programme
- ATF IBERS to Penrhycoch shared path
- Aberaeron Coastal Protection Detail Design
- Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) Waste
- Replacement Vehicles
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Warm Homes Energy Measures Grants

Borrowing Facilities

The Council obtains the majority of its long term borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board. The PWLB is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. Its function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments. In addition to this, the Council is able to obtain market loans either direct with banks and building societies or through brokers. For short term borrowing needs the Council can raise temporary funding through the bank or the financial markets. See Note 1.23 for further information.

The Council is maintaining an under-borrowed position as it is using internal borrowing in lieu of external borrowing. Effectively the full capital borrowing need is a higher figure than the Council's actual external loan debt. The Council will not borrow more than, or in advance of, its needs purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance of need will be within the approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates (one of the

Prudential Indicators) and will be carefully considered to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated, that the Council can ensure the security of such funds and can afford the short term 'cost of carry'.

There are limited options for PWLB to PWLB debt rescheduling in the current climate. It is also unlikely that the Council will be in position to repay prematurely any further debt outright, unless it is part of debt rescheduling. However should any restructuring opportunities arise they would be carefully considered.

Retirement Benefits

The Council must state the cost of paying retirement pensions when it becomes committed to the costs, not when the pension payments are actually paid. The Statements fully reflect the net liability of the Pension Fund. The Balance Sheet includes a net liability of £154,386k in 2019/20 (£116,735K in 2018/19). See Note 1.36 for further information. The Pension Fund's actuary has calculated this estimated cost of providing retirement benefits by comparing the current market value of the Council's share of the pension fund assets with the current value of liabilities. This figure will vary each year depending on the actuary's assumptions on how the funds' investments have performed and the discount rates applied under the accounting standard. This liability continues to be managed on our behalf by the Pension Fund's Administering Authority.

ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

This Statement of Accounts has been provided to give electors, local taxpayers, Members of the Council and other interested parties information about the Council's financial position. It provides a summary of the financial position as at 31st March 2020 and includes a number of accounting statements, which show the range and scale in financial terms, of the Council's services and activities. The various services of the Council have co-operated by maintaining adequate accounting records, exercising budgetary control and providing relevant documents. This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (and as further specified in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014) and fully reflects the Code of Practice on Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 requirements for accounting statements.

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Accounts comprises a number of Accounting Statements and the following notes are provided to explain their purpose.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise council tax 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.

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

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 is 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 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is unusable reserves, i.e. 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 difference as shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement

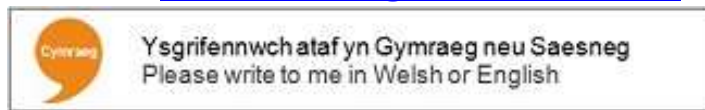
The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows 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.

Further Information

Interested persons have a statutory right to inspect the Accounts before the annual audit is completed. Anyone wishing further information or explanation on the Accounts should contact:

**Finance and Procurement
Ceredigion County Council
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
SY23 3UE**

E-mail: df.technicians@ceredigion.gov.uk



STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Council is required to:

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

Chair of the Council

10 September 2020

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CORPORATE LEAD OFFICER – FINANCE & PROCUREMENT

The Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ('the Code').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement 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 Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement has also:

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

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the reporting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

10 September 2020

THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES TO THE MEMBERS OF CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Ceredigion County Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Ceredigion County Council's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Ceredigion County Council as at 31 March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter: Pension Fund Valuation Uncertainty

I draw attention to Note 1.36 of the financial statements, which describes the impact of a material uncertainty disclosed in a pension fund manager report in their year-end valuation report for the UK property fund they manage on behalf of the Dyfed Pension Fund. The Council has disclosed this material uncertainty and my audit opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the responsible financial officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The responsible financial officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated later in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-20; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Council and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Ceredigion County Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Responsibilities**Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts (set out on page 17 of the financial statements), the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Anthony J Barrett

24 Cathedral Road

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Cardiff

14 September 2020

CF11 9LJ

Electronic publication of financial statements

The maintenance and integrity of Ceredigion County Council's website is the responsibility of Ceredigion County Council; the work carried out by auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS 2019/2020

	Outturn £'000	Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 1.8) £'000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £'000	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis (Note 1.1 & 1.7) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000
Schools	48,540	(102)	48,438	5,790	54,228
Lifelong Learning & Culture	2,254	26	2,280	1,679	3,959
Finance & Procurement	18,444	(384)	18,060	(4,728)	13,332
Democratic Services	3,826	30	3,856	634	4,490
People & Organisation	1,921	0	1,921	233	2,154
Children Services	6,759	34	6,793	654	7,447
Adult Services	27,238	(222)	27,016	3,678	30,694
Policy & Performance	1,748	0	1,748	333	2,081
Highways & Environmental Services	16,228	109	16,337	4,244	20,581
Economy & Regeneration	3,341	61	3,402	2,728	6,130
Customer Contact	5,051	0	5,051	715	5,766
Legal & Governance	1,314	18	1,332	91	1,423
Leadership Group	3,108	(3,100)	8	(61)	(53)
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	4,512	28	4,540	(4,540)	0
NET COST OF SERVICES	144,284	(3,502)	140,782	11,450	152,232
Other Income and Expenditure	(144,278)	0	(144,278)	2,102	(142,176)
(Surplus) or Deficit	6	(3,502)	(3,496)	13,552	10,056
General Fund Opening Balance	(5,569)	(18,623)	(24,192)		
(Surplus) or Deficit	6	(3,502)	(3,496)		
General Fund Closing Balance	(5,563)	(22,125)	(27,688)		

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS 2018/2019

	Outturn £'000	Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 1.8) £'000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £'000	Adjustments between Funding & Accounting Basis (Note 1.1 & 1.7) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £'000
Schools	46,538	792	47,330	8,129	55,459
Lifelong Learning & Culture	2,384	44	2,428	714	3,142
Finance & Procurement	18,090	89	18,179	866	19,045
Democratic Services	1,892	0	1,892	137	2,029
People & Organisation	1,880	38	1,918	173	2,091
Children Services	6,717	0	6,717	554	7,271
Adult Services	26,398	73	26,471	3,209	29,680
Policy & Performance	1,964	6	1,970	261	2,231
Highways & Environmental Services	16,970	410	17,380	3,426	20,806
Economy & Regeneration	3,392	(100)	3,292	1,363	4,655
Customer Contact	4,620	0	4,620	621	5,241
Legal & Governance	1,129	0	1,129	92	1,221
Leadership Group	4,314	(3,780)	534	761	1,295
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	4,195	(238)	3,957	(3,957)	0
NET COST OF SERVICES	140,483	(2,666)	137,817	16,349	154,166
Other Income and Expenditure	(140,513)	(10)	(140,523)	1,952	(138,571)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(30)	(2,676)	(2,706)	18,301	15,595
General Fund Opening Balance	(5,539)	(15,947)	(21,486)		
(Surplus) or Deficit	(30)	(2,676)	(2,706)		
General Fund Closing Balance	(5,569)	(18,623)	(24,192)		

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (CIES)

	Note	2019/2020			2018/2019		
		Gross Exp £'000	Gross Inc £'000	Net Exp £'000	Gross Exp £'000	Gross Inc £'000	Net Exp £'000
Schools		73,677	19,449	54,228	69,943	14,484	55,459
Lifelong Learning and Culture		7,037	3,078	3,959	6,111	2,969	3,142
Finance & Procurement		30,337	17,005	13,332	38,235	19,190	19,045
Democratic Services		4,770	280	4,490	2,062	33	2,029
People & Organisation		3,225	1,071	2,154	3,115	1,024	2,091
Children Services		10,503	3,056	7,447	10,144	2,873	7,271
Adult Services		51,006	20,312	30,694	47,474	17,794	29,680
Policy & Performance		2,916	835	2,081	3,014	783	2,231
Highways & Environmental Services		27,313	6,732	20,581	27,613	6,807	20,806
Economy & Regeneration		9,041	2,911	6,130	7,602	2,947	4,655
Customer Contact		6,612	846	5,766	5,845	604	5,241
Legal & Governance		1,497	74	1,423	1,454	233	1,221
Leadership Group		1,016	1,069	(53)	1,486	191	1,295
COST OF SERVICES		228,950	76,718	152,232	224,098	69,932	154,166
Other operating expenditure	1.9	12,517	0	12,517	11,143	0	11,143
Financing and investment income and expenditure	1.10	8,457	1,123	7,334	8,521	1,169	7,352
Taxation and non-specific grant income	1.11	0	162,027	(162,027)	0	157,066	(157,066)
(SURPLUS) OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES		249,924	239,868	10,056	243,762	228,167	15,595
(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of Fixed Assets	1.26			(40,493)			(7,702)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability (asset)	1.36			23,809			13,248
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				(16,684)			5,546
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				(6,628)			21,141

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	Note	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	TOTAL	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2019/20									
Balance at 31/03/19		(5,569)	(18,623)	(24,192)	(5,881)	(1,157)	(31,230)	(103,995)	(135,225)
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services		10,056	0	10,056	0	0	10,056	0	10,056
Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income		0	0	0	0	0	0	(16,684)	(16,684)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure & Income		10,056	0	10,056	0	0	10,056	(16,684)	(6,628)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	1.7	(13,552)	0	(13,552)	(109)	203	(13,458)	13,458	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(3,496)	0	(3,496)	(109)	203	(3,402)	(3,226)	(6,628)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	1.8	3,502	(3,502)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease Balance at 31/03/20		6	(3,502)	(3,496)	(109)	203	(3,402)	(3,226)	(6,628)
		(5,563)	(22,125)	(27,688)	(5,990)	(954)	(34,632)	(107,221)	(141,853)
2018/19									
Balance at 31/03/18		(5,539)	(15,947)	(21,486)	(6,384)	(1,877)	(29,747)	(126,619)	(156,366)
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services		15,595	0	15,595	0	0	15,595	0	15,595
Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income		0	0	0	0	0	0	5,546	5,546
Total Comprehensive Expenditure & Income		15,595	0	15,595	0	0	15,595	5,546	21,141
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	1.7	(18,301)	0	(18,301)	503	720	(17,078)	17,078	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(2,706)	0	(2,706)	503	720	(1,483)	22,624	21,141
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	1.8	2,676	(2,676)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease Balance at 31/03/19		(30)	(2,676)	(2,706)	503	720	(1,483)	22,624	21,141
		(5,569)	(18,623)	(24,192)	(5,881)	(1,157)	(31,230)	(103,995)	(135,225)

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	£'000	31/03/20 £'000	31/03/19 £'000
ASSETS				
Property, Plant and Equipment	1.13	381,055		340,051
Investment Property	1.14	17,570		16,829
Heritage Assets	1.15	3,131		3,964
Long Term Debtors	1.17	2,722		2,583
LONG TERM ASSETS			404,478	363,427
Short Term Investments	1.18	6,032		9,029
Assets Held for Sale		740		1,470
Inventories		545		502
Short Term Debtors	1.20	22,036		17,909
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.21	15,735		9,754
CURRENT ASSETS			45,088	38,664
TOTAL ASSETS			449,566	402,091
LIABILITIES				
Short Term Borrowing	1.23	(6,264)		(3,272)
Short Term Creditors	1.22	(22,884)		(19,936)
Short Term Provisions		(24)		(30)
CURRENT LIABILITIES			(29,172)	(23,238)
Long Term Creditors		(374)		(374)
Long Term Provisions		0		0
Long Term Borrowing	1.23	(116,877)		(119,831)
Other Long Term Liabilities	1.24	(160,488)		(123,249)
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		(802)		(174)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			(278,541)	(243,628)
TOTAL LIABILITIES			(307,713)	(266,866)
NET ASSETS			141,853	135,225
Usable Reserves	1.25	(34,632)		(31,230)
Unusable Reserves	1.26	(107,221)		(103,995)
TOTAL RESERVES			(141,853)	(135,225)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services		(10,056)	(15,595)
Non cash transactions			
Depreciation and Impairment		10,007	11,464
Capital Grants		(8,778)	(8,407)
Pension Fund adjustments		13,842	16,812
Other non-cash adjustments		0	0
		<u>5,015</u>	<u>4,274</u>
Adjustments for items reported separately on Cashflow			
(Gain)/Loss on the disposal of Fixed Assets		192	(91)
Items on an accrual basis			
(Increase)/decrease in Stock		(43)	(71)
(Increase)/decrease in Debtors		(3,766)	(961)
Increase/(decrease) in Creditors		830	(440)
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	1.27	<u>2,228</u>	<u>2,711</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash Outflows			
Purchase of fixed assets	(10,142)		(12,002)
Other Capital cash payments	(588)		(651)
		<u>(10,730)</u>	<u>(12,653)</u>
Cash Inflows			
Sale of fixed assets	937		567
Capital grants received	7,993		7,627
Proceeds from short term investments	2,993		12
Other Capital Cash Receipts	680		461
		<u>12,603</u>	<u>8,667</u>
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		<u>1,873</u>	<u>(3,986)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash Outflows			
Repayment of short term and long term borrowing	(1,508)		(1,489)
Payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance sheet PFI contracts	(412)		794
		<u>(1,920)</u>	<u>(695)</u>
Cash Inflows			
New Loans Raised		3,800	5,800
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		<u>1,880</u>	<u>5,105</u>
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		<u>5,981</u>	<u>3,830</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at beginning of the year		<u>9,754</u>	<u>5,924</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at end of the year	1.21	<u>15,735</u>	<u>9,754</u>

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1.1 NOTES TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

2019/20	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A) £'000	Net change for Pensions Adjustments (Note B) £'000	Other Differences (Note C) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Schools	3,226	2,206	358	5,790
Lifelong Learning & Culture	1,117	522	40	1,679
Finance & Procurement	243	2,634	(7,605)	(4,728)
Democratic Services	4	463	167	634
People & Organisation	0	235	(2)	233
Children Services	43	622	(11)	654
Adult Services	2,280	1,581	(183)	3,678
Policy & Performance	8	285	40	333
Highways & Environmental Services	3,140	1,162	(58)	4,244
Economy & Regeneration	1,203	637	888	2,728
Customer Contact	142	583	(10)	715
Legal & Governance	0	108	(17)	91
Leadership Group	47	96	(204)	(61)
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	(489)	0	(4,051)	(4,540)
NET COST OF SERVICES	10,964	11,134	(10,648)	11,450
Other Income and Expenditure	(9,579)	2,708	8,973	2,102
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit plus Earmarked Reserves and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,385	13,842	(1,675)	13,552

NOTE A – Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adjusts for depreciation, impairment, revaluation gains and losses, gains and losses on disposal of assets, capital grants and capital expenditure funded from revenue.

NOTE B - Net Change for Pensions Adjustments

This column shows the adjustments required to comply with IAS19 Employee Benefits - specifically the removal of pension contributions made by the Council as allowed by statute, the replacement with current service costs and past service costs as calculated by the actuary, and the net interests on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTE C - Other Differences

This column includes other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute. These include adjustments to realign expenditure and income in accordance with the code and adjustments for the Accumulated Absences accrual.

2018/19	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note A) £'000	Net change for Pensions Adjustments (Note B) £'000	Other Differences (Note C) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Schools	6,826	1,663	(360)	8,129
Lifelong Learning & Culture	308	402	4	714
Finance & Procurement	171	8,306	(7,611)	866
Democratic Services	0	137	0	137
People & Organisation	0	173	0	173
Children Services	37	518	(1)	554
Adult Services	2,052	1,190	(33)	3,209
Policy & Performance	10	253	(2)	261
Highways & Environmental Services	2,416	945	65	3,426
Economy & Regeneration	(87)	503	947	1,363
Customer Contact	193	428	0	621
Legal & Governance	0	92	0	92
Leadership Group	706	55	0	761
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	0	0	(3,957)	(3,957)
NET COST OF SERVICES	12,632	14,665	(10,948)	16,349
Other Income and Expenditure	(18,960)	2,147	18,765	1,952
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit plus Earmarked Reserves and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,328)	16,812	7,817	18,301

1.2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2019/20 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2020. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, and those Regulations require the accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20*, 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.

ii. 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 only exception to this are some regular payments where the revenue accounts are charged with the number of payments in the year. This policy is consistently applied each year and does not have a material effect on the year's Accounts.

iii. 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. Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts.

iv. Exceptional Items

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

v. 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 stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

vi. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services and support services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding 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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute 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 minimum revenue provision (MRP) in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account (which is included in Unusable Reserves) in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

vii. 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, salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave 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 and flexi leave earned by employees but not taken before the year end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the accounting year. 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 earned.

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 severance or redundancy. Such amounts are charged on an accruals basis to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service 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 severance or redundancy.

Post Employment Benefits

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

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) for the Westminster Government.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Carmarthenshire County Council (and referred to as the Dyfed Pension Fund).

Both schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees working for the Council. However, arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contributions scheme – no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children's and Education line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- Liabilities and service costs of the Dyfed Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. The objective under this method is to expense each participant's benefits under the fund as they would accrue, taking into account future compensation increases and the fund's benefit allocation formula. Thus the total pension to which each participant is expected to become entitled at retirement is broken down into units, each associated with a year of past or future credited service.
- The Benefit obligation is the total present value of the individuals' attributed benefits for valuation purposes at the measurement date, and the service cost is the total present value of the individuals' benefits attributable to service during the year.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discounted rate of 2.4%.
- The assets of the Dyfed Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities – current bid price
 - unquoted securities – professional estimate
 - unitised securities – current bid price
 - property – market value.
- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:
 - Service cost comprising:
 - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to services for which the employees worked
 - past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years

- debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the Finance Service
- Re-measurements 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 actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
 - contributions paid to the Dyfed 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 amounts 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.

viii. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

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

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the 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.

ix. Fair Value Measurement

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

- in the principal market for the asset
- in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset (highest and best use)

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

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets or liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the accounts are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

x. Financial Instruments**Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities are recognised in 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 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 (and 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 lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where re-purchase 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. Where premiums or discounts are incurred that formally meet the terms of a debt restructuring exercise, they are accounted for as an adjustment to the carrying amount of the replacement loan or loans. If they do not meet these terms, they are spread over the longer of the outstanding term on the replaced loan or the term of the replacement loan (premiums) or the outstanding term on the replaced loan up to a maximum of ten years (discounts). 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.

The fair value calculations have been based on the comparable new borrowing rate for the same financial instrument from a comparable lender. A consistent approach has been applied to assets and liabilities.

Financial Assets

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

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income

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

Financial Assets measured at amortised cost

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

The Council recognises expected credit losses on its financial assets held at amortised cost. 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 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

xi. Government Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions (including 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.

xii. Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets are primarily held to preserve items which were common in the district or were unique to it or relate to a significant historical event or person with local connections. They are held in a variety of locations across the county, but most remain in the main Coliseum Museum in Aberystwyth. They are generally held in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment but some rules are relaxed in relation to specific assets for reasons described below.

Art Collection

The Council has approximately 190 pieces of art, both contemporary and historic, spread throughout its museums, council offices and leisure centres across Ceredigion. Most are of relatively insignificant value, well below the de minimis value of £10,000 applied for entry onto the Council's asset register. However four were specifically identified as being potentially above this value and have been valued by an appropriately qualified External Valuer in 2011 and included in the Balance Sheet. These valuations were for insurance purposes at market value and the condition of the items has not changed since this valuation. These are

presumed to have an indeterminate life and thus it is not considered appropriate to apply depreciation.

Civic Regalia

The Council has four official chains of office held for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and their consorts. Only the Chairman's Chain is considered to be worth more than the de minimis level, based on the market values of the metals used in their composition. It has therefore been valued and is included in the Balance Sheet at this amount. It will not be depreciated as it has an indeterminate life, but will periodically be considered for revaluation based on the market price of precious metals.

Historic Sites and Buildings

The Council owns and is responsible for the preservation and display of a number of historic sites and buildings throughout Ceredigion, including two castles. As there is no reliable way of valuing such items, due to the lack of a contemporary market, they are held in the balance sheet at historic cost.

Miscellaneous Exhibits

The Council's main museum at The Coliseum, Aberystwyth contains a large number of exhibits. However, because of low estimated values of each individual item and the lack of a contemporary market for many of the items, the Council considers the costs of a valuation exercise would considerably exceed the value of such a process to the users of the accounts and therefore no such exercise has taken place.

There are also thirteen large and/or potentially valuable items at the museum which have been valued for insurance purposes. Although individually the values are less than the £10,000 de minimis level they are significant in total, so have been added to the register and balance sheet as a single item. They will be treated in the same manner as the artworks and not depreciated. If the council makes any significant new purchase it will be added at cost until the next valuation takes place.

Museum Sites and Buildings

The Council's main Coliseum Museum in Aberystwyth has been extended into an adjacent vacant property. Expenditure on this project has been capitalised and added to the value of the museum. In addition to the main museum in Aberystwyth, the Council holds a number of subsidiary museums throughout the region. Consideration has been given to whether any of these should be held as Heritage Assets as opposed to Property, Plant and Equipment. It has been determined that two of them (including the Coliseum) are being held for their own historic significance, in addition to being used for displaying or holding exhibits. They have therefore been transferred to the Heritage Asset category on the Balance Sheet, continuing on the valuation basis they were on previously (Historic or Depreciated Replacement Cost). Depreciation is charged if considered appropriate, considering the individual circumstances of the building concerned.

Heritage Assets General

If there is any evidence of impairment then the carrying amounts of the balance sheet will be reviewed, although it is expected such events will be rare. Any such impairment will be treated in a similar way to impairment on Property, Plant and

Equipment assets. If any disposals are made they will also be accounted for in the same manner as Property, Plant and Equipment but disposal proceeds will be identified separately in the notes. There were no disposals in the period under consideration for this set of accounts and it is not expected they will be a common event as the collection is fairly static in nature.

xiii. Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

xiv. 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 (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xv. 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 plant, property 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 in the venture.

xvi. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property,

plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

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

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

The Council 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
- 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 (which is included in Unusable Reserves) 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 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 transferred 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 transferred 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 fixed assets is fully provided under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account (which is included in Unusable Reserves) 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.

xvii. Long Term Contracts

Amounts due under long term contracts are charged to revenue as they fall due under the terms of the contract.

xviii. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy follows the principles of the guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government under section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003 through using one of the options outlined in the guidance, combined with introducing a further option that is underpinned by the principle of prudent provision.

The major proportion of the MRP continues to relate to the historic debt liability that existed pre 2008 or post 2008 where it relates to Supported Borrowing funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The MRP liability on the Council's Capital Financing Requirement that relates to pre 2008 debt and post 2008 Supported Borrowing funded through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) system will be provided for through equal annual instalments over a 50 year period (i.e. 2% straight line approach) commencing from 1st April 2015. This period has been selected to match the average lives of Council Assets not specifically financed by Unsupported Borrowing after 1st April 2008. Expenditure that was financed by such Unsupported Borrowing has been subject to MRP under option 3, which is charged over a period which is reasonably commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the nature of expenditure, using the annuity method. For example, capital expenditure on a new building, or on the refurbishment or enhancement of a building, will be related to the estimated life of that building.

Estimated life periods will be determined in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. To the extent that expenditure is not on the creation of an asset and is of a type that is subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the guidance, these periods will generally be adopted by the Council. However, the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.

The Council continues the principle of not charging MRP on any temporary unsupported (Prudential) borrowing. At present, only Welsh Government repayable funding for Housing Improvements and Empty Properties are treated in this manner.

As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

According to the Code, assets held under PFI schemes and finance leases are subject to MRP in the same way as assets acquired using other forms of borrowing. Under regulations and statutory guidance, these charges can match the repayment of the liability. The increase in the MRP due to the finance lease assets has therefore been charged at the same rate as the write down of the corresponding liability on the balance sheet so that there will be no overall impact on the General Fund Balances of the Council. The MRP due to the Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig PFI assets, which was historically treated on a similar basis to finance lease assets, was delinked in 2017/18 and will be written down over the remaining lifespan of the Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig buildings instead

xix. Overheads and Support Services

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is prepared on a Service basis in line with the Council's in-year reporting. As such, the recharging of overhead and support services costs are excluded from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xx. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided School buildings are not included on the Balance Sheet as they are not Council assets.

If any material part of a building has a significantly shorter lifespan than the main structure and the value of that part is more than £10,000, then it is considered a component to be separately identified on the Council's asset register. Any such components identified within the new capital expenditure are valued separately when initially added to the asset register (or when the asset is transferred out of Assets under Construction for newly constructed buildings).

Recognition – Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided 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. A de-minimis rule for capital has been applied – generally no capital expenditure valued at under £10k is included within capital spend. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (e.g. repairs and maintenance) is not added to fixed assets in the Balance Sheet but is charged as an expense as it is incurred. This entry is then reversed out to the Capital Adjustment Account to ensure there is no impact on Council Tax Levels.

Measurement – Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- a) the purchase price
- b) 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
- c) 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 costs of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

Assets are then carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement basis:

- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment and Infrastructure Assets – Depreciated Historical Cost
- Assets under construction, Community Assets and some Heritage Assets – Historical Cost
- Assets Held for Sale – Lower of Carrying Amount and Fair value less costs to sell
- All other assets – Fair value, determined by Market Value

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost 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 consist mostly of Other Land and Buildings and this category is split into five subcategories. Each subcategory as a whole is revalued every five years. The current timetable for asset revaluations is given below:

2020/21	Offices and other Operational Buildings
2021/22	Social Services Buildings
2022/23	Miscellaneous Land Assets and Car Parks
2023/24	Public Buildings (Leisure Centres, Public Conveniences, Theatres & Swimming pools), Heritage Assets (where held at Fair Value)
2024/25	Educational Buildings (Primary, Secondary & all-through schools, Youth Clubs & Referral Units)

Surplus Assets are considered for revaluation based on when it is five years from their last revaluation, so it will be dependent on which of the categories they were transferred into Surplus from.

Further revaluations may take place between the scheduled investigations where the Valuers deem there have been material changes in the value of the relevant asset or assets.

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 the 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.

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 has 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, Heritage Assets and Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Buildings – Straight line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- Vehicles, plant and equipment – Straight line depreciation of the historic cost over the remaining expected life of the asset. Vehicles are given a residual value of 10% of the initial purchase price to reflect their potential resale value
- Infrastructure – Straight line depreciation of historic cost over the remaining expected life of the asset

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets are added to the asset register as at their date of purchase or sale in the relevant accounting year and are therefore depreciated in the usual manner for the year from that date if they are in a category which is normally depreciable.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant (more than £10,000) and whose lifespan is materially different to the host asset, the components are depreciated separately according to the differing estimated lives.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that

would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Disposals – 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 will in most cases be reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. In order for this category transfer to take place, the asset must meet the following criteria:

- It must be available for sale in its current condition and subject to normal terms of sale
- The decision to make the sale must have been made at the appropriate level of management
- The asset must be actively marketed at an appropriate price
- The sale must be expected to be completed within one year

The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

Assets no longer in use that fail to meet all of the above criteria or are to be abandoned or scrapped are normally reclassified as Surplus Assets, unless the Council is not actively marketing the property because it is waiting for prices in the market to rise, in which case the asset might be categorised as an Investment Property. Surplus Assets are depreciated in a normal fashion, however the depreciation is charged to non-distributed costs and not the original service account as the asset is no longer in use.

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 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 disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. 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 fixed 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.

xxi. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibilities 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 Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig PFI scheme, the liability was written down by an initial capital contribution of £12,027,000.

Long term 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 4.5% 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 for write downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)
- lifecycle replacement costs – proportion of amounts payable is recognised as an enhancement to and a corresponding impairment of the Penweddig School asset in Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out. It will have no net effect on the Balance Sheet.

xxii. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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. Provisions included in the accounts may not be legally enforceable and may only be inferred from a set of facts in a particular situation therefore the inclusion of them in the accounts does not mean that liability has been accepted.

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 made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service. Regulations provide the power to make an adjusting entry for certain provisions in the Net Cost of Services and the Balance Sheet.

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.

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. They include situations when legal proceedings and other claims covering a range of matters are pending. They concern difficult and complex factual and legal issues which are subject to many uncertainties and complexities, including but not limited to the facts and circumstances of each particular case. Due to the uncertainty inherent in such matters, it is often difficult to predict the final outcome.

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.

xxiii. 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 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 fixed assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not

represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

xxiv. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a long term 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 there is no impact on the level of council tax.

xxv. Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Accounts have been prepared on a VAT exclusive basis, to the extent that it is recoverable.

1.3 ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The Code of Practice requires that the Council discloses information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. The changes that are introduced in the 2020/21 Code are:

- Amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and joint Ventures: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015 – 2017 Cycle
- Amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement

It is not anticipated that these amendments will have a material impact on the accounts.

1.4 CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Future levels of funding

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. The impact on the Council will be closely monitored as and when the situation becomes clearer.

Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided Schools

Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided school buildings remain out of the Balance Sheet as it has been confirmed that they are not Council assets.

Brexit

There is a high degree of uncertainty about the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. The impact on the Council will be closely monitored as and when the situation becomes clearer.

Covid-19

There is a high degree of uncertainty about the impact of Covid-19. The impact on the Council will be closely monitored during the coming months.

1.5 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 different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020 for which there is a risk of adjustment in following financial years are:

Pensions Liability

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the expected rate of price inflation, the rate at which salaries and pensions are expected to increase, mortality rates and rate of commutation of pensions. A firm of actuaries are engaged by Carmarthenshire County Council as the lead Pension Authority to ensure that the Council receives expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. At the current time, it is not possible to accurately predict the longevity and severity of the impact of Covid-19 therefore, estimates have been based on the situation prior to Covid-19.

Valuations

An issue in relation to the reporting of valuations as at 31 March 2020 is the outbreak of Covid-19. All valuations provided to the Council by its valuers this year have been reported subject to a 'Material Uncertainty Clause' on the basis of RICS guidance. This is true for all asset classes subject to valuations. The valuations contain the following clause:

'The outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a 'global pandemic' on 11 March 2020, has impacted global financial markets. Travel restrictions have been implemented by many countries. Market activity is being impacted in many sectors. As at the valuation date, we consider that we can attach less weight to previous market evidence for comparison purposes, to inform opinions of value. Indeed, the current response to Covid-19 means that we are faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Our valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to our valuation than would normally be the case. Given the unknown future impact that Covid-19 might have on the real estate market, we recommend that you keep valuations under frequent review.'

At the current time, it is not possible to accurately predict the longevity and severity of the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. Therefore, values have been based on the situation prior to Covid-19, on the assumption that values will be restored when the real estate market becomes more fluid.

1.6 EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

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

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Controllable Expenditure		
Employees	97,440	94,732
Premises	8,182	9,516
Transport	10,618	12,060
Supplies and Services	108,270	101,106
Total Expenditure	<u>224,510</u>	<u>217,414</u>
Controllable Income		
Grants	47,822	42,816
Other Income	34,244	33,096
Contract Services/Schools	1,662	3,694
Total Income	<u>83,728</u>	<u>79,606</u>
Controllable Before Reserves	140,782	137,808
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,019	2,362
IAS19 <i>Employee Benefits</i> adjustments	13,842	16,812
Accumulated Absences	507	(337)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	10,007	11,464
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	(505)	(951)
Capital Expenditure charged to the General Fund	(540)	(131)
Other capital accounting adjustments	(3,001)	(2,513)
Precepts	8,972	8,147
Taxation and non-specific grant income	(162,027)	(157,066)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	<u>10,056</u>	<u>15,595</u>

1.7 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.

2019/2020

Usable Reserves

	General Fund Balance £'000	Usable Capital Receipts £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	10,940	0	0	(10,940)
Revaluation losses/gains on PPE	(414)	0	0	414
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	(520)	0	0	520
Capital grants and contributions applied	(8,374)	0	0	8,374
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,019	0	0	(2,019)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal on the Comprehensive I&E Statement	1,128	0	0	(1,128)
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited on the Comprehensive I&E Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(3,029)	0	0	3,029
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(540)	0	0	540
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	(401)	0	401	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	(604)	604
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	(1,099)	1,099	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure	0	(982)	0	982
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	8	(8)	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(543)	0	0	543
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive I&E Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	28	0	0	(28)

Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	22,888	0	0	(22,888)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(9,046)	0	0	9,046
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive I&E Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	507	0	0	(507)
Total Adjustments	13,552	109	(203)	(13,458)

2018/2019

	Usable Reserves			Unusable Reserves £'000
	General Fund Balance £'000	Usable Capital Receipts £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	10,346	0	0	(10,346)
Revaluation losses on PPE	738	0	0	(738)
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	379	0	0	(379)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(7,932)	0	0	7,932
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,362	0	0	(2,362)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal on the Comprehensive I&E Statement	475	0	0	(475)
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited on the Comprehensive I&E Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(2,537)	0	0	2,537
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(131)	0	0	131
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	(474)	0	474	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	(1,194)	1,194

Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	(778)	778	0	0
Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure	0	(1,280)	0	1,280
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	1	(1)	0	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(649)	0	0	649
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive I&E Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	26	0	0	(26)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive I&E Statement	25,756	0	0	(25,756)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(8,944)	0	0	8,944
Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive I&E Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(337)	0	0	337
Total Adjustments	18,301	(503)	(720)	(17,078)

1.8 EARMARKED RESERVES AND DELEGATED SCHOOLS BALANCES

A summary of the earmarked reserves set up by the Council is set out below:

	31/03/18 Balance £'000	Transfer to £'000	Transfer from £'000	31/03/19 Balance £'000	Transfer to £'000	Transfer from £'000	31/03/20 Balance £'000
Delegated Schools Budget - Primary	1,553	124	(328)	1,349	357	(185)	1,521
Delegated Schools Budget - Secondary	315	125	(225)	215	425	0	640
Delegated Schools Budget - All Through	80	193	(17)	256	263	0	519
Insurances - Supply Cover	44	75	0	119	30	0	149
Schools Service	253	303	(42)	514	0	(107)	407
Schools	2,245	820	(612)	2,453	1,075	(292)	3,236
Lifelong Learning & Culture	141	0	(113)	28	0	(26)	2
Corporate Capital	2,068	146	(75)	2,139	2,113	0	4,252
Corporate Capital Vehicle Replacement	1,600	0	0	1,600	0	(490)	1,110
Education Penweddig PFI	2,834	0	(694)	2,140	0	(681)	1,459
Developing Education in Ceredigion	1,937	2,900	(56)	4,781	0	0	4,781
Corporate - Joint Arrangements	15	0	(7)	8	0	0	8
Funding / CTRS Equalisation	228	0	0	228	472	0	700
Corporate Redundancy	803	878	(175)	1,506	0	(444)	1,062
Insurance	301	80	0	381	120	0	501
Finance - General	221	0	0	221	0	(221)	0
Finance & Procurement	10,007	4,004	(1,007)	13,004	2,705	(1,836)	13,873
Democratic Services	112	0	0	112	0	0	112
People & Organisation	96	0	(38)	58	0	0	58
Children's Services	34	0	0	34	0	(34)	0
Adult Services	73	0	(73)	0	222	0	222
Policy & Performance	166	0	(64)	102	0	0	102
Technical	531	0	(280)	251	0	(171)	80
Winter Maintenance/Storm Repairs	277	0	0	277	0	0	277
Environmental & Flood Protection	227	0	(50)	177	0	0	177
Civil Parking Enforcement	36	0	(5)	31	62	0	93
Highways & Environmental Services	1,071	0	(335)	736	62	(171)	627
Buildings & Renewable Energy	67	0	0	67	0	0	67
Local Development Plan	285	0	0	285	0	(37)	248
Economy & Regeneration	196	0	(6)	190	0	(13)	177
Food Centre Wales (Horeb)	217	0	0	217	0	0	217
Sewage Treatment Works Improvement Programme	554	0	0	554	0	(11)	543
Performance & Economy	1,319	0	(6)	1,313	0	(61)	1,252
Customer Contact	134	0	0	134	0	0	134
Legal & Governance	143	0	0	143	0	(18)	125
Contingency (including Covid 19)	56	0	0	56	1,444	0	1,500
Council Tax Premium	0	0	0	0	462	0	462
Growth Deal	150	100	0	250	0	0	250
National Eisteddfod 2020	200	0	0	200	0	(30)	170
Leadership Group	406	100	0	506	1,906	(30)	2,382
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	15,947	4,924	(2,248)	18,623	5,970	(2,468)	22,125

The balance on the Total Earmarked Reserves increased by £3,502k in 2019/20 and £2,676k in 2018/19.

NOTES TO THE EARMARKED RESERVES**Corporate Capital**

This reserve will be used for making a revenue contribution to the Council's Capital Programme.

Developing Education in Ceredigion

This reserve has been earmarked to fund the 21 Century schools grant programme and will continue to fund projects within the Band B Programme of the 21st Century grant. The Band B projects include work at Cardigan Primary school, Cardigan Secondary school and a New Area school in the Aeron Valley.

Other Reserves

All the other reserves are held by the respective services for the specific purpose named. They have been established from savings generated in past financial years to meet one off non-recurring expenditure or will assist services in managing their budgets in any particular financial year.

1.9 OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Community Council Precepts	1,105	1,032
Dyfed Powys Police Precept	7,867	7,115
Levies	4,050	3,947
Loss/(Gain) on the disposal of non-current assets	<u>(505)</u>	<u>(951)</u>
Total	<u>12,517</u>	<u>11,143</u>

1.10 FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Interest payable and other charges	6,063	5,868
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	2,691	2,137
Interest receivable and similar income	(280)	(196)
(Surplus)/deficit on Trading Operations	78	50
Income and Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties	(698)	(886)
(Surplus)/deficit on sale of Investment Properties	0	0
Changes to fair value on Investment Properties	(520)	379
Total	<u>7,334</u>	<u>7,352</u>

1.11 TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Council tax income	51,158	47,409
Non domestic rates	24,526	24,772
Non-ringfenced government grants (RSG)	77,565	76,478
Capital grants and contributions	8,778	8,407
Total	<u>162,027</u>	<u>157,066</u>

Council Tax

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into ten valuation bands, based on estimated 1st April 2003 values for this specific purpose. Charges are calculated by taking the amount of income required for Ceredigion County Council, Town and Community Councils, and the Dyfed Powys Police Authority for the forthcoming year and dividing this amount by the Council Tax base.

The Council Tax base is the total number of properties in each band adjusted by a proportion to convert the number to a Band D equivalent and adjusted for discounts – 31,648.30 for 2019/20 (31,683.05 for 2018/19).

Council Tax Base for Ceredigion County Council 2019/20

Tax Base (@ 98.5% collection rate)

<u>Band</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
A*	1.91
A	1,035.89
B	3,089.15
C	5,670.32
D	6,266.08
E	9,342.79
F	4,637.18
G	1,401.98
H	161.05
I	41.95
Total Tax Base	31,648.30

Analysis of the net proceeds from Council Tax:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Collected	51,198	47,326
<i>Less:</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease Provision for Non-payment	(40)	83
Net Proceeds from Council Tax	51,158	47,409

The net proceeds can be analysed as follows:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Ceredigion County Council	42,186	39,262
Precept for Dyfed Powys Police Authority	7,867	7,115
Precept for Town and Community Councils	1,105	1,032
	51,158	47,409

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

NNDR is operated on a national basis. The Welsh Government specifies an amount for the rate which was 52.6p in 2019/20 (51.4p in 2018/19), and local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount. The Council is responsible for collecting rates due from ratepayers in its area but pays the proceeds into the NNDR pool administered by the Welsh Government (WG). The WG redistributes the sums payable back to Local Authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population over 18 years old.

As at 31 March 2020 the rateable value was £55,746,669 (£55,772,188 as at 31 March 2019).

1.12 GRANT INCOME

Revenue Grants - Credited to Services:	Restated	
	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
WG - Post 16 Funding	3,461	3,346
WG/ERW - Educational Improvement Grant	2,530	2,511
WG/ERW- Pupil Development Grant	1,192	1,191
WG - Supporting People Grant	2,932	2,962
WG - Sustainable Waste Management	557	557
WG - Flying Start Grant	1,082	1,083
WG - Concessionary Fares Grant	600	602
WG - Families First	662	669
WG - Bus Grant	927	907
WG - Project HELIX RDP - Food Centre Wales	460	513
WG - Child Care Offer	5,787	1,064 *
WG - Teachers Pensions Grant	850	0
Social Care Wales - Workforce Development Programme	972	910
DWP - Housing Benefit Subsidy	16,004	18,191
DWP - Housing Benefit Admin Grants	188	232
Other Government Grants and contributions	9,618	8,079
Total Government Grants in Net Cost of Services	<u>47,822</u>	<u>42,817</u>

* 2018/19 restated due to Child Care funding being split and only one part separated in the note

Capital Grants and Contributions - Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
WG - 21st Century Schools	0	2,429
WG - General Capital Grant	2,718	3,377
WG - Road Improvements	717	795
WG - Local Transport Fund	0	496
WG - Local Transport Network Fund	500	400
WG - Economic Futures	563	0
WG - Schools Additional Capital Works	1,001	0
WG - Education IT Equipment Grant	1,083	0
HLF - Ceredigion Museum - New Approaches	0	27
Other Grants	2,196	883
	<u>8,778</u>	<u>8,407</u>

1.13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements in 2019/2020:

	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction (AUC) £'000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 31 March 2019	218,197	20,218	150,892	1,174	1,483	674	392,638
Additions	1,703	3,972	4,503	185	1	516	10,880
Revaluation increases/(decreases) in the Revaluation Reserve	42,426	0	0	21	(593)	0	41,854
Revaluation increases/(decreases) in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(21,031)	0	0	0	(1,196)	0	(22,227)
Derecognition-disposals	(657)	(782)	0	0	(242)	0	(1,681)
Derecognition-other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to) /from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	1,130	0	1,130
Assets reclassified from AUC	674	0	0	0	0	(674)	0
Other movements	(2,376)	269	0	0	1,834	0	(273)
At 31 March 2020	238,936	23,677	155,395	1,380	2,417	516	422,321
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 31 March 2019	(18,977)	(12,158)	(21,407)	0	(45)	0	(52,587)
Depreciation charge	(6,465)	(1,499)	(2,724)	0	(53)	0	(10,741)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	19,475	0	0	0	250	0	19,725
Impairment (losses)/reversals in the Revaluation Reserve	(610)	0	0	0	0	0	(610)
Impairment (losses)/reversals in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,073	(1)	(16)	0	0	0	2,056
Derecognition-disposals	177	694	0	0	17	0	888
Derecognition-other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements	200	9	0	0	(206)	0	3
At 31 March 2020	(4,127)	(12,955)	(24,147)	0	(37)	0	(41,266)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2020	234,809	10,722	131,248	1,380	2,380	516	381,055
At 31 March 2019	199,220	8,060	129,485	1,174	1,438	674	340,051

Movements in 2018/2019:

	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Infrastructure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction (AUC) £'000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 31 March 2018	214,125	18,396	145,567	516	347	2,196	381,147
Additions	934	2,290	5,399	37	6	3,836	12,502
Revaluation increases/(decreases) in the Revaluation Reserve	7,007	0	0	870	(376)	0	7,501
Revaluation increases/(decreases) in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,669)	12	3	100	87	0	(6,467)
Derecognition-disposals	(11)	(1,380)	(77)	0	(80)	0	(1,548)
Derecognition-other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to) /from Held for Sale	(824)	0	0	0	(252)	0	(1,076)
Assets reclassified from AUC	5,358	0	0	0	0	(5,358)	0
Other movements	(1,723)	900	0	(349)	1,751	0	579
At 31 March 2019	218,197	20,218	150,892	1,174	1,483	674	392,638
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment							
At 31 March 2018	(18,121)	(12,209)	(18,755)	0	(137)	0	(49,222)
Depreciation charge	(6,210)	(1,259)	(2,654)	0	(21)	0	(10,144)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,295	0	0	0	8	0	5,303
Impairment (losses)/reversals in the Revaluation Reserve	(330)	0	0	0	0	0	(330)
Impairment (losses)/reversals in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	413	(2)	(3)	0	0	0	408
Derecognition-disposals	7	1,345	5	0	72	0	1,429
Derecognition-other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other movements	(31)	(33)	0	0	33	0	(31)
At 31 March 2019	(18,977)	(12,158)	(21,407)	0	(45)	0	(52,587)
Net Book Value							
At 31 March 2019	199,220	8,060	129,485	1,174	1,438	674	340,051
At 31 March 2018	196,004	6,187	126,812	516	210	2,196	331,925

It should be noted that all valuations presented in this note are reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' that is less certainty – and a higher degree of caution – should be attached to the valuations than would normally be the case due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Note 1.5 provides further detail.

Depreciation

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

Other Land and Buildings – 1-99 years

Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment – 1-20 years

Infrastructure – 10-99 years

Assets held under Finance Leases are depreciated on a straight line basis over the unexpired term of the existing lease.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value are revalued at least every five years with Investment Properties and County Farms considered annually. All property valuations are carried out internally by the Council's valuers who are Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The assets revalued by the Council in 2019/20 were Educational Buildings (Primary, Secondary & All Through Schools, Youth Clubs & Pupil Referral Units), Investment Properties and County Farms. Valuations of land and buildings are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, referred to as the 'Red Book'. Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the fair values are:

- Historic cost is a reasonable proxy for fair value
- Vehicles, plant and equipment asset lives are based on the leasing periods the Council uses for vehicles or equipment of that specific type
- Residual values for vehicles, plant and equipment assets are 10% of the initial cost for vehicles and other equipment has no residual value

The following statement shows the progress of the Council's rolling programme for the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment:

	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £'000	Surplus Assets £'000
Carried at historical cost:	120	23,677	108
Valued at fair value as at:			
31 March 2020	190,071	0	2,305
31 March 2019	14,190	0	0
31 March 2018	9,078	0	0
31 March 2017	13,849	0	0
31 March 2016	11,628	0	4
TOTAL	238,936	23,677	2,417

1.14 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

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 repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

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

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of the year	16,829	17,415
Additions:		
Subsequent expenditure	0	117
Disposals	(50)	0
Net gains/(losses) from fair value investments	520	(379)
Transfers (to)/from Property, Plant and Equipment	271	(324)
Balance at the end of year	<u>17,570</u>	<u>16,829</u>

1.15 HERITAGE ASSETS

Cost or Valuation	Historic Land & Buildings	Museums	Artwork	Civic Regalia	Museum Exhibits	Total Assets
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1st April 2018	1,154	2,008	95	65	54	3,376
Additions	0	57	0	0	0	57
Revaluations	0	547	0	0	0	547
Impairment Losses/(Reversals) in Revaluation Reserve	0	(16)	0	0	0	(16)
31st March 2019	<u>1,154</u>	<u>2,596</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>3,964</u>
Cost or Valuation						
1st April 2019	1,154	2,596	95	65	54	3,964
Additions	0	7	0	0	0	7
Revaluations	0	(840)	0	0	0	(840)
Impairment Losses/(Reversals) in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
31st March 2020	<u>1,154</u>	<u>1,763</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>3,131</u>

Further information on the Council's Heritage Assets is available in the Accounting Policies section of the Statement of Accounts (Note 1.1 – Part xii).

1.16 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS**Fair Value Hierarchy**

Category / Sub Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value as
				at
				31/03/2020
Assets Held for Sale	0	740	0	740
Corporate Estate	0	11,263	0	11,263
Empty Property	0	808	0	808
Investment Properties	0	2,855	624	3,479
Leased Property	0	50	107	157
Other Buildings	0	1,585	63	1,648
Surplus	0	2,249	130	2,379
	0	19,550	924	20,474

Category / Sub Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value as
				at
				31/03/2019
Assets Held for Sale	0	620	850	1,470
Corporate Estate	0	0	10,966	10,966
Empty Property	0	0	807	807
Investment Properties	0	0	3,362	3,362
Investment Properties Held for Sale	0	50	0	50
Leased Property	0	0	141	141
Other Buildings	0	0	1,503	1,503
Surplus	0	1,122	315	1,437
	0	1,792	17,944	19,736

Transfers between Levels of Fair Value Hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during 2019/20.

Valuation Techniques used to Determine level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties*Significant Observable Inputs – Level 2*

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

Significant Unobservable Inputs – Level 3

The fair value of these assets has been based on the capitalised income received using the Council's own data, but also, where necessary, using a market approach using current market conditions of recent sales/lettings for similar assets in the local Council area.

Highest and Best Use of the Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the Council's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements Categorised within Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance	17,944	17,724
Transfers into Level 3	144	1,144
Transfers out of Level 3	(16,835)	(479)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(287)	123
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(295)	(414)
Additions	1	0
Disposals	(285)	(145)
Other Movements	544	0
Depreciation charge	(6)	(9)
Impairment Losses/(Reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1)	0
Closing Balance	<u><u>924</u></u>	<u><u>17,944</u></u>

Closing Balance

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment property are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

Quantitative Information about Fair Values Measurement of Investment Properties using Significant Unobservable Inputs – Level 3

Sub Category	As at 31/03/2020	Valuation technique used to measure fair value
	£'000	
Commercial	924	Valuation based on the market rent passing or terms agreed for the property
	<u><u>924</u></u>	

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Council's investment property is measured annually at each reporting date. All valuations are carried out internally in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuers work closely with finance officers reporting on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

1.17 LONG TERM DEBTORS

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care	665	781
Housing	1,963	1,691
Other	94	111
	<u>2,722</u>	<u>2,583</u>

1.18 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following categories of financial instruments are carried in the Balance Sheet:

	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investments				
Loans and Receivables	0	0	6,032	9,029
Total Investments	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,032</u>	<u>9,029</u>
	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Debtors				
Loans and Receivables	2,722	2,583	0	0
Financial Assets at amortised cost	0	0	18,599	15,719
Total Debtors	<u>2,722</u>	<u>2,583</u>	<u>18,599</u>	<u>15,719</u>
	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowings				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	116,877	119,831	6,264	3,272
Total Borrowings	<u>116,877</u>	<u>119,831</u>	<u>6,264</u>	<u>3,272</u>
	Long Term			
	31/03/20	31/03/19		
	£'000	£'000		
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	6,102	6,514		
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	<u>6,102</u>	<u>6,514</u>		
	Long Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Creditors				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	374	374	21,762	19,335
Total Creditors	<u>374</u>	<u>374</u>	<u>21,762</u>	<u>19,335</u>

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:

	2019/2020			2018/2019		
	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest Expense	5,792	0	5,792	5,736	0	5,736
Fee expense	15	0	15	15	0	15
Total expense in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,807	0	5,807	5,751	0	5,751
Interest Income	0	(282)	(282)	0	(197)	(197)
Interest income accrued on impaired financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(282)	(282)	0	(197)	(197)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	5,807	(282)	5,525	5,751	(197)	5,554

Fair values of Financial assets and liabilities that are not measured at Fair Value

The fair values calculated are as follows:

<u>Financial Liabilities</u>	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
	Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
Financial Liabilities (All - Premature Repayment rates)	123,141	212,320	123,103	188,082
Financial Liabilities (All - New Loans rate)	123,141	157,366	123,103	163,196
Financial Liabilities (PWLB loans only - Premature Repayment rate)	116,239	198,189	113,795	176,264
Financial Liabilities (PWLB loans only - New Loans rate)	116,239	148,347	113,795	153,767

Valuation of PWLB loans: For loans from the PWLB, fair value estimates have been provided using both redemption and new borrowing (certainty rate) discount rates.

Valuation of non-PWLB loans: For non-PWLB loans, fair value estimates have been provided using both PWLB redemption and new PWLB Certainty Rate loan discount rates.

The valuation basis adopted uses **Level 2 Inputs** - i.e. inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the Financial Liability.

The fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio includes loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date.

PWLB loans:

The commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Council would have to pay if PWLB requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans (Premature Repayment rate). The Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. A supplementary measure of the additional interest that the Council will pay as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB (New loans rate).

The following assumptions have been used in the fair value calculations:

- Interest is calculated using the most common market convention, ACT/365
- Interest is not paid/received on the start date of an instrument, but is paid/received on the maturity date.
- The discount rates were obtained from the market on 29 March 2020, using bid prices where applicable.

Other assumptions made about the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities:

- the fair value of payables and receivables (Short Term Creditors and Debtors) is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.
- the fair value of loans and receivables have been calculated and are not materially different to the carrying value.

1.19 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2020, the authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of property, plant and equipment in 2020/21 and future years budgeted to cost £2,453k.

	£'000
IBERS to Penrhyncoch Shared Path	316
Reducing Infant Class Sizes - Pontrhydfendigaid School	613
Storm Callum - B4333 Dan-yr-Allt, Adpar	288
Bridges & Highways Refurbishment	296
Replacement Vehicles	320
Aberaeron Coastal Protection	135
Street Lighting Programme	485
	<u>2,453</u>

1.20 DEBTORS

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Central Government Bodies	9,640	8,635
Other Local Authorities	2,644	2,131
NHS Bodies	2,712	1,070
Public corporations and trading funds	10	10
Other entities and individuals	9,287	8,007
Impairment Allowance	(2,257)	(1,944)
Total	<u>22,036</u>	<u>17,909</u>

1.21 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Cash held by the Council	33	34
Bank current accounts	(791)	(1,653)
Short-term deposits with banks/building societies/other financial institutions	16,493	11,373
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>15,735</u>	<u>9,754</u>

The Bank current accounts include all outstanding cheques.

1.22 CREDITORS

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Central Government Bodies	3,845	2,068
Other Local Authorities	1,120	1,164
NHS Bodies	198	299
Public corporations and trading funds	20	15
Other entities and individuals	17,701	16,390
Total	22,884	19,936

1.23 BORROWING

The Council's long term borrowing is mainly from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). The loans are analysed by maturity with the interest rates ranging between 1.97% and 9.875%.

An analysis of loans by maturity:

	31/03/20	31/03/20	31/03/20	31/03/19	31/03/19	31/03/19
	PWLB	OTHER	TOTAL	PWLB	OTHER	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Maturing within one year	6,264	0	6,264	3,272	0	3,272
Long Term Borrowing						
Maturing in 1 – 2 years	1,084	0	1,084	6,267	0	6,267
Maturing in 2 – 5 years	13,182	0	13,182	10,053	0	10,053
Maturing in 5 – 10 years	9,405	556	9,961	13,068	0	13,068
Maturing in 10 – 15 years	19,202	250	19,452	17,794	1,294	19,088
Maturing in 15 – 20 years	19,489	0	19,489	15,444	0	15,444
Maturing in 20 – 25 years	8,585	0	8,585	7,650	0	7,650
Maturing in 25 – 30 years	7,864	0	7,864	13,001	0	13,001
Maturing in 30 – 35 years	7,500	0	7,500	7,500	0	7,500
Maturing in 35 – 40 years	20,000	0	20,000	14,000	0	14,000
Maturing in 40 – 45 years	4,000	0	4,000	8,000	0	8,000
45+ years	0	5,760	5,760	0	5,760	5,760
Total Long Term Borrowing	110,311	6,566	116,877	112,777	7,054	119,831

Loan Restructuring

No loan restructuring was carried out during 2019/20.

Welsh Government Grants to be repaid in future years

The Council repaid £738k to the Welsh Government during the year, leaving a balance of £806k within a single scheme to be repaid in the future. Although these have been called grants, they have been treated as loans within the Balance Sheet due to the need to pay them back in 10-15 years.

1.24 OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITIES

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig PFI Liability	4,263	4,568
Pension Liability	154,386	116,735
Finance Lease Liability	679	786
MRP writedown adjustment	1,160	1,160
Total	<u>160,488</u>	<u>123,249</u>

The MRP writedown adjustment relates to the MRP change implemented in 2017/18 whereby the MRP was delinked from the write down of the remaining PFI liability and written down over the remaining lifespan of the Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig Buildings instead.

1.25 USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement on page 24 and Note 1.8.

1.26 UNUSABLE RESERVES

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Revaluation Reserve	107,952	69,913
Capital Adjustment Account	153,658	150,828
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	652	680
Pensions Reserve	(154,386)	(116,735)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2,673	2,130
Accumulated Absences Account	(3,328)	(2,821)
Total Unusable Reserves	<u>107,221</u>	<u>103,995</u>

The following are an analysis of the most significant Unusable Reserves:

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

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

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	69,913	64,653
Upward revaluation of assets	46,355	12,344
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5,863)	(4,642)
	<u>40,492</u>	<u>7,702</u>
Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>(2,280)</u>	<u>(2,024)</u>
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	<u>(173)</u>	<u>(418)</u>
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	<u>(2,453)</u>	<u>(2,442)</u>
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	<u>(2,453)</u>	<u>(2,442)</u>
Balance at 31 March	<u>107,952</u>	<u>69,913</u>

Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and 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 1.7 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	150,828	149,612
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(10,940)	(10,346)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	414	(738)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,019)	(2,362)
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	(1,128)	(475)
	<u>(13,673)</u>	<u>(13,921)</u>
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	2,454	2,442
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current Assets consumed in the year	<u>(11,219)</u>	<u>(11,479)</u>
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	982	1,280
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	8,374	7,932
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	604	1,194
Statutory provision for the financing of capital Investment charged against the General Fund	3,029	2,537
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	540	131
	<u>13,529</u>	<u>13,074</u>
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	520	(379)
Balance at 31 March	<u>153,658</u>	<u>150,828</u>

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	(116,735)	(86,675)
Reversing out IAS19 items	(22,888)	(25,756)
Remeasurements	(23,809)	(13,248)
Pension Costs payable	9,046	8,944
Balance at 31 March	<u>(154,386)</u>	<u>(116,735)</u>

Deferred Capital Receipts

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 arrangement, 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.

	31/03/20	31/03/19
	£'000	£'000
Low Cost Home Ownership Scheme	375	415
WG Houses into Home loans	266	168
HILS/H2H Capital Loans Deferred	440	312
Planning Permissions Commuted	1,244	897
Emergency Repair loans	279	240
Other Deferred Capital Receipts	69	98
Balance at 31 March	<u>2,673</u>	<u>2,130</u>

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave 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.

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	(2,821)	(3,158)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end	2,821	3,158
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	<u>(3,328)</u>	<u>(2,821)</u>
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(507)	337
Balance at 31 March	<u>(3,328)</u>	<u>(2,821)</u>

1.27 CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Interest Paid	(7,104)	(5,279)
Interest Received	302	227

1.28 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year. Details of individual payments, as required by The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough and National Park Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002 are published in the local press.

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	795	786
Expenses	<u>28</u>	<u>33</u>
Total	<u>823</u>	<u>819</u>

1.29 OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

- The multiple between the median full time equivalent earnings and the Chief Executives' maximum salary is **1: 5.5** (2018/19: 1:5.5)
- The average full time equivalent earnings of the Chief Executive is **£114,711** (2018/19: £109,649)
- The median full time equivalent earnings of all the Council's employees is **£20,751** (2018/19 £19,819)

The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees (excluding any election fees paid) is as follows:

Senior Officers Emoluments - Salary between £60,000 and £150,000**2019/20**

Post Holder Information (Post Title)	Salary (inc. Fees & Allowances)	Compensation for loss of employment	Pension Contributions Employers	Total Remuneration Including Pension Contributions
	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	114,829	0	18,119	132,948
Corporate Director	101,418	0	16,001	117,419
Corporate Director	101,418	0	16,001	117,419
Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement (S151)	78,508	0	12,382	90,890
Corporate Lead Officer: Schools	78,390	0	12,382	90,772
Corporate Lead Officer: Policy & Performance (1)	76,338	0	12,039	88,377
Corporate Lead Officer: Economy & Regeneration	75,245	0	11,866	87,111
Corporate Lead Officer: Customer Contact	75,126	0	11,866	86,992
Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services	71,861	0	11,351	83,212
Corporate Lead Officer: Highways & Environmental Services	71,861	0	11,351	83,212
Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance Services	71,861	0	11,351	83,212
Corporate Lead Officer: People & Organisation	71,861	0	11,351	83,212
Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal - Sep '19 to Mar '20 (2)	51,426	0	7,223	58,649
Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning & Culture - Apr '19 to Nov '19 (3)	45,312	0	7,158	52,470
Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Ceredigion - Sep '19 to Mar '20 (4) (5)	43,687	0	6,900	50,587
Corporate Lead Officer: Adult Services - Apr '19 to Aug '19 (2)	32,663	0	5,159	37,822
Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal (Acting) - Nov '19 to Mar '20 (6)	27,310	0	4,313	31,623
Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar - Nov '19 to Mar '20 (3)	26,549	0	4,193	30,742
Corporate Lead Officer: Children Services - Apr '19 to Jun '19 (7)	18,892	0	2,967	21,859

No benefits in kind were paid to senior officers. Any mileage expenses paid were paid at HMRC rate.

- 1) Remuneration includes £1,093 honorarium for additional duties due to a period of sickness absence of the Statutory Director of Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal.

- 2) Due to a restructure of the social care service during 2019/20 the post of Corporate Lead Officer: Adult Services was transferred to the new post of Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal on 1st September 2019.
- 3) Due to a restructure of the social care service during 2019/20 the post of Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning & Culture was transferred to the new post of Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar on 18th November 2019.
- 4) Due to a restructure of the social care service during 2019/20 the post of Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Ceredigion was created. The post was taken up on 1st September 2019.
- 5) Remuneration includes £2,721 honorarium for additional duties due to a period of sickness absence of the Statutory Director of Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal.
- 6) Remuneration is that of the acting Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal from 11th November 2019 due to a period of sickness absence of the Statutory Director of Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal.
- 7) The Corporate Lead Officer: Children Services retired on 30th June 2019. The post was subsequently removed.

Senior Officers Emoluments - Salary between £60,000 and £150,000

2018/19

Post Holder Information (Post Title)	Salary (inc. Fees & Allowances)	Compensation for loss of employment	Pension Contributions Employers	Total Remuneration Including Pension Contributions
	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	109,791	0	17,102	126,893
Corporate Director	99,456	0	15,490	114,946
Corporate Director	99,456	0	15,490	114,946
Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement (S151)	75,395	0	11,737	87,132
Corporate Lead Officer: Adult Services	75,347	0	11,737	87,084
Corporate Lead Officer: Schools	75,253	0	11,737	86,990
Corporate Lead Officer: Economy & Regeneration	73,795	0	11,488	85,283
Corporate Lead Officer: Policy & Performance	73,795	0	11,488	85,283
Corporate Lead Officer: Children Services	73,653	0	11,488	85,141
Corporate Lead Officer: Customer Contact	73,653	0	11,488	85,141
Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services	68,850	0	10,739	79,589
Corporate Lead Officer: Highways & Environmental Services	68,850	0	10,739	79,589
Corporate Lead Officer: Legal & Governance Services	68,850	0	10,739	79,589
Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning & Culture	68,850	0	10,739	79,589
Corporate Lead Officer: People & Organisation	68,850	0	10,739	79,589

No benefits in kind were paid to senior officers during 2018/19. Any mileage expenses paid were paid at HMRC rate.

The number of employees (not including the senior employees shown separately above) whose remuneration was £60,000 or more, in bands of £5,000 is shown below.

These amounts do not include any employer's pension contributions paid. They do however include amounts paid to or receivable by the employee for any compensation for loss of employment (1 employee in 2019/20 and 8 employees in 2018/19).

Remuneration Band	2019/20 No. of Employees	2019/20 No. which Include Termination Payments	2018/19 No. of Employees	2018/19 No. which Include Termination Payments
£60,000 - £64,999	7	0	7	0
£65,000 - £69,999	6	0	4	1
£70,000 - £74,999	0	0	2	1
£75,000 - £79,999	2	0	2	1
£80,000 - £84,999	1	0	3	1
£85,000 - £89,999	2	1	1	0
£90,000 - £94,999	1	0	3	3
£95,000 - £99,999	0	0	0	0
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	19	1	23	8

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2019/20, incurring liabilities of £953k (£2,089k in 2018/19). The following payments comprising of statutory and voluntary redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of added years and pension strain and other ex gratia payments.

Exit package cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total Number of exit packages		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2019/20 no.	2018/19 no.	2019/20 no.	2018/19 no.	2019/20 no.	2018/19 no.	2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
£0 - £20,000	15	14	38	33	53	47	333	291
£20,001 - £40,000	1	2	5	18	6	20	155	561
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	2	2	2	2	97	95
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	1	6	1	6	63	422
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	186
£100,001 - £150,000	1	0	0	3	1	3	106	343
£150,001 - £200,000	1	0	0	1	1	1	187	164
Total	18	16	46	65	64	81	941	2,062
Add: Amounts provided for in Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement not included in bandings							12	27
Total cost included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement							953	2,089

1.30 EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The following fees relating to external audit and inspection for the 2019/20 financial year are payable by the Council:

	Proposed Fee	Actual Fee
	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Financial Audit Work	154	154
Performance Audit Work	100	100
Grant Certification Work	24	41
Other Financial Audit Work:		
Ceredigion Harbour Authority	2	2
	<u>280</u>	<u>297</u>

1.31 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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).

Individual revenue grants received from government departments included within gross income in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services amount to £47,822k for 2019/20.

Members and Officers

The Council has arrangements in place requesting officers and members to identify and disclose related party transactions. There were no related party transactions with members or officers during the year. Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' salaries paid in 2019/20 is shown in Note 1.28.

Other Public Bodies

During the year, other transactions with related parties arose as follows:

	Receipts £'000	Payments £'000
Central Government		
Share of NNDR from National Pool	24,526	0
Revenue Support Grant	77,565	0
Capital Grants		
Welsh Government	9,831	0
Mid and West Wales Fire Authority	0	4,040
Dyfed Powys Police	0	7,867
Town/Community Councils within Ceredigion Area	0	1,105

1.32 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 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.

	2019/20 £m	2018/19 £m
<i>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</i>	141.7	140.0
<i>Capital investment:</i>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	10.7	12.5
Investment Properties	0.0	0.1
Other	0.0	0.1
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under statute	2.0	2.4
<i>Sources of finance:</i>		
Capital Receipts	(0.9)	(1.2)
Government grants and other contributions	(9.0)	(9.2)
<i>Sums set aside from Revenue:</i>		
Direct Revenue Contributions - General Fund	(0.5)	(0.1)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(3.0)	(2.9)
<i>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</i>	<u>141.0</u>	<u>141.7</u>
<i>Explanation of Movements in year:</i>		
Increase in underlying need to borrow (supported)	0.3	(0.1)
Increase in underlying need to borrow (unsupported)	(0.7)	1.8
Assets acquired under PFI	(0.2)	(0.2)
Assets acquired under finance leases	(0.1)	0.2
<i>Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</i>	<u>(0.7)</u>	<u>1.7</u>

1.33 LEASES**Council as Lessee:****Finance Leases**

The Council has acquired various buildings, photocopiers, printers, computers and other equipment under finance lease terms. They were carried in the Balance Sheet at the following values:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	319	432
Infrastructure	1,022	1,049

The Council is committed to making the following payments under these agreements:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Liabilities (NPV on minimum payments):		
- Current	130	155
- Non-current	679	786
Finance costs payable in future years	(74)	(120)
Minimum lease payments	735	821

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2020	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	138	150	130	155
Later than one year and not later than five years	256	323	279	371
Later than five years	341	348	400	415
Minimum lease payments	735	821	809	941

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired refuse lorries, vans, minibuses, photocopiers, computers and various other equipment under operating lease terms. The Council is committed to making the following payments under these agreements:

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	147	195
Later than one year and not later than five years	122	104
Later than five years	0	55
Minimum lease payments	269	354

Council as Lessor:**Operating Leases**

The Council has leased out its Corporate Estate properties under operating lease terms.

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

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	815	775
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,523	2,543
Later than five years	29,325	29,119
Minimum lease payments	<u>32,663</u>	<u>32,437</u>

1.34 PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS**Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig PFI Scheme**

2019/20 was the twentieth year of a 30 year PFI contract for the construction, maintenance and operation of Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig in Aberystwyth. The PFI contract agreement covers the following operating specifications:

- Facilities Management – to ensure that the site and buildings are available during school days, office days and for community use at agreed times and periods;
- Building and Engineering Maintenance – to maintain the school buildings, facilities and equipment in good working order;
- Grounds Maintenance – to ensure that the school grounds are kept in a safe, pleasant, functional and operational condition;
- IT Network Maintenance – to maintain the school's main ICT infrastructure and the telephone system;
- Cleaning – to provide a cleaning service that will ensure that the school operates within a clean environment; and
- Catering Service – to provide meals of high nutritional standards delivered in accordance with the needs of the school.

The agreement specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards. The contractor took on the obligation to construct the school and maintain it to a minimum acceptable condition and to procure and maintain the plant and equipment needed to operate the school. The building and any plant and equipment installed in them at the end of the contract will be transferred to the Council for nil consideration. The Council has rights under the PFI agreement to terminate the agreement if the Provider defaults as stipulated within the agreement. The Council, in the event of such termination, will be liable to pay compensation to the Provider in accordance with Part II of Schedule 3 of the PFI Agreement.

Property Plant and Equipment

The asset is recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in its value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 1.13. The carrying value of Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig is £19,339k.

Payments

The Council makes an agreed payment each year which is increased each year by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year but which is otherwise fixed. Payments remaining to be made under the PFI contract at 31 March 2020 (excluding any estimation of inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

<u>Payments due to be made:</u>	Payment for Services £'000	Reimbursement of Capital Exp £'000	Interest £'000	Total £'000
within 1 year	1,252	305	431	1,988
within 2 to 5 years	3,213	1,741	1,379	6,333
within 6 to 10 years	3,839	2,279	669	6,787
within 11 to 15 years	491	243	17	751
	<u>8,795</u>	<u>4,568</u>	<u>2,496</u>	<u>15,859</u>

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

Value of Liabilities at Balance Sheet Date

	2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Balance at 1 April	5,079	5,737
Repayment of Principal	(511)	(658)
Balance at 31 March	<u>4,568</u>	<u>5,079</u>
Long term	4,263	4,568

1.35 PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita. 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, a notional fund is used 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 purpose of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2019/20 the Council paid £4.8m (£3.8m in 2018/19) to the Department for Education and Skills in respect of teachers' pension costs, which represents 16.48% of teachers' pensionable pay from 1st April 2019 to 31st August 2019 and 23.68% from 1st September 2019 to 31st March 2020 (16.48% for 2018/19). In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years it has awarded, together with the related increases. In 2019/20, £185,956

(£249,583 in 2018/19) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Fund, either directly or via Carmarthenshire County Council (in respect of the Council's share of the former Dyfed County Council's costs relating to the premature retirement of teachers). Also, the Council made payments of £369,321 in 2019/20 (£349,547 in 2018/19) directly to teachers who have retired prematurely since 1 April 1996. The capitalised value of the above payments is £3.35m and £6.65m respectively.

1.36 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 the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Carmarthenshire 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. The estimated employer contributions for 2020/21 are £8,060k and this is based on contribution rates set per the 2019 Actuarial Valuation.

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), declared by the World Health Organisation as a "Global Pandemic" on 11 March 2020, has impacted global financial and property markets. Due to these market conditions, a material valuation uncertainty has been included in a year end valuation report for the Dyfed Pension Fund's pooled property investment fund. The specific wording included in the report is "As at 31st March 2020, RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors) have advised there is currently material valuation uncertainty of UK Real Estate Funds due to market conditions".

The total value of this fund as at 31st March 2020 is £296.4m and Ceredigion Council's share of this fund amounts to £46.8m (15.8%).

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:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Cost of Services:		
- current service cost	17,811	15,386
- past service cost	1,236	7,275
- (gain)/loss from settlements/curtailments	1,150	958
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
- net interest cost	2,691	2,137
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	22,888	25,756
Other Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:		
- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	44,416	(14,130)
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(14,610)	0
- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(9,446)	27,378
- Experience (gain)/loss	3,449	0
	<u>23,809</u>	<u>13,248</u>
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	46,697	39,004
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
- reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(22,888)	(25,756)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
- employers' contributions payable to scheme	<u>9,046</u>	<u>(8,944)</u>

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:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	530,752	529,902
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(376,366)</u>	<u>(413,167)</u>
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	<u>154,386</u>	<u>116,735</u>

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

	All Benefits		Unfunded Benefits	
	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	413,167	389,626	0	0
Interest income	9,891	10,124	0	0
Remeasurement gain/(loss):				
- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(44,416)	14,130	0	0
Contributions from employer	9,046	8,944	395	411
Contributions from employees into the scheme	3,056	2,976	0	0
Benefits paid	(14,184)	(12,397)	(395)	(411)
Other	(194)	(236)	0	0
Closing fair value of scheme assets	376,366	413,167	0	0

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

	All Liabilities		Unfunded Liabilities	
	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening balance at 1 April	529,902	476,301	6,889	6,896
Current service cost	17,617	15,150	0	0
Interest cost	12,582	12,261	160	174
Contributions from scheme participants	3,056	2,976	0	0
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:				
- Experience (gains)/losses	3,449	0	(1,419)	0
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(9,446)	27,378	(73)	230
- Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(14,610)	0	(145)	0
Past service cost	1,236	7,275	0	0
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	1,150	958	0	0
Benefits paid	(14,184)	(12,397)	(395)	(411)
Closing balance at 31 March	530,752	529,902	5,017	6,889

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

	Quoted (Y/N)	Fair value of scheme assets	
		2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Equities:			
UK	Y	87,769	80,565
Overseas Pooled Funds	N	89,462	92,963
US	Y	42,266	44,209
Canada	Y	1,694	1,653
Japan	Y	12,608	13,635
Pacific	N	3,877	4,545
Emerging Markets	N	27,625	36,359
European ex UK	Y	10,237	11,569
Sub-total equities		275,538	285,498
Bonds:			
UK Government Indexed	Y	14,829	25,203
UK Corporate	N	37,975	43,796
Sub-total bonds		52,804	68,999
Property:			
Property Funds	N	46,142	56,191
Sub-total property		46,142	56,191
Cash			
Cash accounts	Y	1,882	2,479
Sub-total cash		1,882	2,479
Total assets		376,366	413,167

Split of assets between investment categories

	2019/20	2018/19
Equities	73.21%	69.10%
Bonds	14.03%	16.70%
Property	12.26%	13.60%
Cash	0.50%	0.60%

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 is dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been estimated by Mercer Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Fund being based on the last actuarial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019. The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31 March 20	31 March 19
Duration information as at the end of the accounting period:		
Estimated Macaulay duration of liabilities	18 years	18 years
Duration profile used to determine assumptions	Very Mature	Very Mature

	31 March 20	31 March 19
Financial assumptions:		
- Rate of CPI Inflation/CARE benefits revaluation	2.10%	2.20%
- Rate of increase in salaries	3.60%	3.70%
- Rate of increase in pensions in payment/deferment	2.20%	2.30%
- Discount rate	2.40%	2.40%
Post retirement mortality assumptions (normal health):		
- Non-retired members	S3PA CMI_2018_[1.75%] (100% males, 91% females)	S2PA CMI_2015_[1.5%] (97% males, 90% females)
- Retired members	S3PA CMI_2018_[1.75%] (94% males, 92% females)	S2PA CMI_2015_[1.5%] (97% males, 90% females)
Life expectancy of a male (female):		
- future pensioner aged 65 in 20 years' time	24.5 (27.1) years	25.2 (28.1) years
- current pensioner aged 65	23 (24.9) years	23 (25.7) years

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

Sensitivity analysis as at 31 March 2020

Disclosure item	Central	Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. discount rate	Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. inflation	Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. pay growth	Sensitivity 4 1 year increase in life expectancy
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Liabilities	530,752	521,370	540,303	532,052	544,929
Assets	(376,366)	(376,366)	(376,366)	(376,366)	(376,366)
Deficit/(Surplus)	154,386	145,004	163,937	155,686	168,563
Projected Service Cost for next year	16,571	16,136	17,025	16,571	17,053
Projected Net Interest Cost for next year	3,609	3,524	3,843	3,644	3,954

Disclosure item**Sensitivity 5
+/- 0.1% change in 2019/20****Investment returns****+1%****-1%****£'000****£'000**

Liabilities

530,752

530,752

Assets

(380,119)

(372,613)

Deficit/(Surplus)

150,633**158,139**

Projected Service

16,571

16,571

Cost for next year

Projected Net Interest

3,518

3,699

Cost for next year

Risks associated with the Pension Fund

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

1.37 DISCLOSURE OF NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council's treasury management 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 and Re-financing risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.

- 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.

The Covid-19 pandemic presents additional uncertainty in relation to the financial risks described, particularly credit risk. However, the Council's Treasury Management Strategy minimises the effect of these risks as described in this note.

Treasury Management is carried out by a central Treasury team supported by an external advisor – Link Asset Services. Treasury Management is defined as '*The management of the authority'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 the optimum performance consistent with those risks*'.

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set out its Treasury Management Strategy, which is approved annually by Full Council. Guidance exists in the form of a CIPFA Treasury Management code of practice. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and debt and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they have a credit rating.

All credit ratings are monitored via a creditworthiness service which provides online information together with weekly credit rating lists provided by Link Asset Services. This utilises credit ratings from all 3 credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moodys and Standards & Poors) and also factors in credit default swaps data where this exists in the markets. The Council is notified electronically every time a change occurs to the rating of an institution that is on the approved list. If a counterparty or investment scheme is down-graded with the result that it no longer meets the Council's minimum credit criteria, the use of that counterparty/investment scheme will be withdrawn with immediate effect.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the Council as at 31st March 2020 are detailed below:

Financial Asset Category	Criteria	Maximum Individual Investment held as at 31/03/20	Total Investments held as at 31/03/20
Deposits with UK Government Debt Management Office	Not credit rated	£1.0m	£1.5m
Deposits with UK Local Authorities	Not credit rated	£1.0m	£2.0m
Deposits with Banks / Building Societies	Minimum rating: Long Term A- Short Term F1	£9.0m	£19.0m

The Council has an investment schedule which is approved by Full Council as part of the annual Treasury Management Strategy. This list shows:

- the categories of investment that are allowed and who is authorised to invest in each category (e.g. in house officers, external fund managers);
- the minimum credit rating criteria required for each type of investment;
- the maximum value of funds that can be invested with each individual counterparty;
- the maximum value of funds that can be invested for each category of investment;
- the maximum duration allowed for each type of investment;
- the upper limit for investments of greater than 364 days' duration.

This schedule is reviewed regularly and updated in line with latest credit ratings and market conditions.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last twelve financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

	<u>Amount</u> <u>at</u> <u>31/03/20</u>	<u>Historical</u> <u>experience</u> <u>of default</u>	<u>Historical</u> <u>experience</u> <u>adjusted</u> <u>for market</u> <u>conditions</u> <u>as at</u> <u>31/03/20</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Maximum</u> <u>exposure to</u> <u>default and</u> <u>un-</u> <u>collectability</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>maximum</u> <u>exposure</u> <u>at</u> <u>31/03/20</u>
	<u>£'000</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
	A	B	C	A x C	
Deposits with Banks and financial institutions	22,491	1.9%	1.9%	427	427

During the financial year the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's annual Treasury Management Strategy report.

Although the full economic impact of the Covid-19 is yet to play out, the financial services sector is facing much uncertainty and challenges. The Council continues to closely monitor the credit ratings of institutions on its approved counterparty list. Any counterparty that is downgraded resulting that it no longer meets the Council's minimum credit criteria, will with immediate effect be withdrawn from the approved counterparty list.

Liquidity and Re-financing Risk

As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the Public Works Loans Board, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will need to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. To this end the debt maturity profile is a key

consideration when undertaking new borrowing or the restructuring of existing borrowing.

The maturity analysis of the Council's external debt as at 31st March 2020 is:

	£'000
Less than 1 year	6,264
Between 1 and 2 years	1,084
Between 2 and 5 years	13,182
Between 5 and 10 years	9,961
10 years and above	92,650
	<u>123,141</u>

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

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to 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:

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Income and Expenditure Account will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall.
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Income and Expenditure Account will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are carried at amortised cost, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Income and Expenditure Account. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Income and Expenditure Account and affect the General Fund Balance pound for pound.

The Council has a limited number of strategies for managing interest rate risk given the current low interest rate environment. The main strategy is to manage the core balance and cashflow requirements, making longer investments where surplus funds allow, whilst at the same time recognising the financing requirements within the Council's 3 year capital programme and undertaking new long term borrowing whilst interest rates are still generally at historic lows.

For 2019/20 the Council's investment portfolio (excluding accrued interest) began the year at £20.4m and ended the year at £22.5m. The debt portfolio (excluding accrued interest) began the year at £120.5m and ended the year at £122.8m.

An assessment of the latest interest rate position and future forecasts feeds into the setting of the annual budget. This is also used to monitor and project a budget outturn position regularly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be taken into account. Interest rate forecasts are received from

independent forecasters via the Council's external treasury advisors. This not only influences borrowing strategies but also investment timescales and the overall balance of the investment and borrowing portfolios.

At 31/03/2020, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase in Interest Receivable on variable rate investments	94
Total impact on Income and Expenditure Account	94
Fair Value Impact	£'000
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings	20,081

The Council also does not have any variable rate borrowing liabilities.

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

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic on interest receivable in the financial year 2019/20 is minimal due to the pandemic taking hold towards the end of the year. However it is likely that investment returns for 2020/21 will be very low due to historically low interest rates as a continued consequence of the pandemic.

Price Risk

The Council no longer uses an external fund manager; therefore the investments it places are currently based on fixed interest rates. The Council is therefore not currently exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of traded items e.g. shares, gilts, certificates of deposits.

Foreign Exchange Risk

In normal circumstances the Council would not have any financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and therefore would not have an exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates. However as a result of the Icelandic Heritable Bank Administration process and the LBI Composition agreement, an amount denominated in Euros (equivalent to c£9k) is being held in escrow pending the outcome of further payment(s) from the Administrators of Heritable Bank.

1.38 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Municipal Mutual Insurance

The former Council's insurers prior to 1996 were Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), who ceased writing insurance business on 30 September 1992. In order to ensure an orderly run-off, a Scheme of Arrangement (Scheme) was put in place that became effective on 21 January 1994. The directors of MMI triggered the Scheme on 13 November 2012, after it became clear that a solvent run-off was not able to be achieved. Ernst and Young were appointed as the Scheme administrators and set an initial levy rate of 15%, an amount of £30K, which was paid by the Council in 2013/14. In 2015/16, the Council was notified that the levy rate was being increased to 25% and so a further amount of £20k was paid. The Scheme requires the largest insurance creditors (Scheme Creditors) of MMI to accept partial payment of claims (past as well as future). The maximum amount of

clawback that can be made due to any future levies is £174,014 provided that there are no further claims by Ceredigion against the Scheme, which is not expected.

21st Century Schools Programme Grant Clawback

The Council has received 21st Century Schools Programme grant funding for Bro Teifi and Dyffryn Cledlyn schools. There is a clawback condition on this grant whereby a proportion would have to be repaid if the school does not hit surplus capacity targets in 5 years (10% clawback if between 15-25% and 20% clawback if over 25%). The Council is continually monitoring the surplus capacity and is confident that the grant will not need to be repaid.

Water Rates Legal Case

The Council transferred its housing stock to Tai Ceredigion in 2009, prior to that water rates were collected on behalf of Dwr Cymru from tenants as part of their rent. In return for this service the Council received a commission. This arrangement has been called in to question in the case *Kim Jones v London Borough of Southwark [2016] EWHC 457*. The court ruled that the defendant was acting as a water supplier and not as an agent of the water supplier in collecting water rates as part of rent. This ruling has potential financial implications in terms of the agency fee and where action has been taken against rent arrears that could be deemed to include water rates.

Contaminated Land

The Council is using its statutory powers to investigate a contaminated land issue. The total cost of the investigation and the works is expected to be in the region of £334k. There is no guarantee that the costs will be recovered from a third party as the third party is alleging that the Council is at fault and liability is undetermined presently.

1.39 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR ISSUE

There are no post balance sheet events for 2019/20.

The Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue by the Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement on 10 September 2020.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. Scope of responsibility

Ceredigion County 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 Authority also has a duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 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.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 also introduces new governance arrangements for public services in Wales. Public bodies are required to carry out sustainable development. It places a well-being duty on public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives designed to maximise their contribution to the seven national well-being goals. They are also expected to take all reasonable steps towards achieving their objectives.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.

A Governance Framework was developed in 2010 and has been revised in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016. The framework has been used to review the existing governance arrangements on an annual basis.

Following the review and in accordance with the requirements of the Framework a Local Code of Corporate Governance was approved by Council on the 29th June 2017. The Local Code of Governance has been revised and approved by Council on the 19 March 2020.

The local Code of Corporate Governance brings together in one document all the governance and accountability arrangements the Council has in place. The code is based on best practice guidance set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

The 2020/21 Code is due to be reviewed further to take account of changes to governance due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The framework is based on the International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CIPFA/IFAC, 2014) and the following seven principles;

- A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

- D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- F: Managing the risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- G: Implementing good practices in transparency reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the seven core principles and sub-principles contained in the framework and in our Local Code of Corporate Governance.

This statement also meets the requirement of The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

2. Assessment of the effectiveness of key elements of the governance framework

Ceredigion County Council is committed to demonstrating that it has the necessary corporate governance arrangements in place to perform effectively.

The Leader of Ceredigion County Council provides clear strategic direction and the Constitution clearly defines the roles of Councillors and officers. Internal and External Audit, Ethics and Standards Committee and the Audit Committee are committed to ensuring the governance arrangements are effective and robust.

Ceredigion County Council has conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of its governance against the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework (2016). The review involved member/officer workshops and included the following members; The Chair and Vice Chair of Audit Committee, the Audit Committee Lay Member and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. In addition the Monitoring Officer, Corporate Manager - Internal Audit, S151 Officer, Corporate Lead Officer - ICT and Customer Services, Corporate Lead Officer - Economy & Regeneration, Corporate Lead Officer - Policy & Performance, Corporate Lead Officer - Democratic Services, Corporate Performance & Improvement Officer and the Corporate Manager – Partnerships and Performance also took part. During the workshops each behaviour was introduced and scored against a scoring mechanism as follows:

- 1/2 Unacceptable Immediate action required
- 3/4 Below satisfactory – urgent Action Required (within 3-6 months)
- 5/6 Satisfactory - Action Required (before end of year 9-12 months)
- 7/8 Acceptable Minor adjustments may be required
- 9/10 Good - overall Governance considered to be good and meets best practice no further action required

The review of effectiveness conducted at officer level was also informed by managers within the Authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment and also by comments made by the external auditors, other inspection agencies, Leadership Group and Corporate Lead Officers. The review framework was presented to Audit Committee in January 2019.

The effectiveness of the governance framework draws on evidence and assurances from:

- Internal and External Audit and Inspection
- Financial Controls
- Risk and Performance Management
- Legal and Ethical standards
- Corporate Directors and Other Senior Management, including the s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer
- The Audit Committee
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees

In addition the Corporate Manager – Internal Audit undertakes an independent review of the Annual Governance Framework and the method of scoring and evidence, on an annual basis. The last review of the 2018/19 Framework was dated 22 May 2019 and presented to Audit Committee on 17 July 2019, which provided high assurance that there was a sound system of scrutiny and robustness in place. The 2019/20 review is currently still in progress, due to the pandemic.

The Council has drawn together a Local Code for Corporate Governance which sets out the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which the authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that code 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 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 Local Code for Corporate Governance is available on the Council's website at www.ceredigion.gov.uk

3. Corporate Governance Achievements for 2019-20

The Local Code for Corporate Governance sets out the Local Authority's commitment to the principles of good governance. The following paragraphs outline the Corporate Governance achievements during 2019-20.

A. Behaving with Integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law

- The Constitution has been the subject of further monitoring and review during 2019-20 with a revised edition being published on the Council's website in June 2019. This now requires a further revision.
- CeriNet has been developed to include information for new starters, the Employee Handbook, Corporate Managers and Head teachers Toolkit and access for staff to arrange Learning and Development information and opportunities. The Well-being & Improvement Objectives Annual report 2018-19 was published on the 31st October 2019 and included a review of the Well-being Objectives
- An Audit of Ethics carried out by Carmarthenshire County Council was presented to Audit Committee in July 2019
- Training on equality and diversity and recruitment and selection including equal opportunities is mandatory for all Ceredigion County Council managers

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

- A Helping us to Help You Survey was completed to give a voice to citizens on the future of service delivery
- An Equality and Engagement officer has been appointed to co-ordinate the Engagement policy and Strategic Equality Plan
- All consultations are made available on the Council website
- Consultations are promoted through Social Media
- The Well-being & Improvement Objectives Annual Report 2018-19 was published on the 31st October 2019
- The Annual Improvement Report 2018-19 report did not make any formal recommendations for improvement
- Protocol for access by Cabinet Members to Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved by Council (Part 5 Document M2 Constitution)
- Council / Cabinet report template updated to include reference to legal implications, staffing implications, property / asset implications and risks

- A review of the Community Safety Partnership was undertaken in 2019 and was subject to scrutiny
- Worked in partnership with Local Authorities and Public Services across Mid and West Wales on the review of our Strategic Equality Plans. A joint question set and engagement and consultation framework was produced and as a result, feedback was obtained from people with protected characteristics

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social and environmental benefits

- The Well-being and Improvements Objectives Annual Report 2018-19 was published in October 2019
- A public engagement toolkit has been developed in accordance with the National Principles of Public Engagement
- The Risk Management Policy and Strategy and the Risk Management Framework was approved by Council on the 24 September 2019
- Risk Management training rolled out to Members and Senior Managers and an e-learning package is to be developed for officers and staff
- Updates on the budget savings and the work of the Development Group are reported to the Cross Party Transformation and Efficiency Consultative Group
- The Authority has undertaken the following steps towards the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Prepared Well-being and improvement objectives and a Well-being statement
 - Embedded the Well-being Goals and Sustainable development principal into the business planning process
 - Implemented a new Integrated Impact Assessment tool
 - Established a WFGA group and action plan
 - Continues to monitor the Constitution and update as required
 - Completed the PSB assessment of Local Well-being
- The Integrated Impact Assessment Tool and guidance is available and used to support decision making

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

- The Integrated Impact Assessment Tool and guidance is available and training has been rolled out for officers and Members
- Corporate Performance Management Arrangements are in place to ensure achievement of intended outcomes

- Corporate project management group has been established to formalise project development and management
 - A review of Collaboration Projects is in progress. The review includes a section on assessing risks across collaboration projects
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- Members training
 - Media Training for Cabinet Members: How to handle crisis media
 - Media Training for Cabinet Members: Broadcast skills masterclass with 'live' TV interviews
 - Corporate Project Management & Transformation Workshop
 - Carers' Service
 - Scam Awareness
 - Boosting the Economy Workshops
 - New Delivery Model Workshop
 - Scrutiny Training for Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Full Induction training for a new Councillor
 - Impact Assessment of Brexit on Ceredigion Workshop
 - Dementia Bus Experience
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - Budget Workshop (scheduled January 2020)
 - Risk Management Training
 - County Lines Awareness
 - Social Media Training
 - E-learning modules are also available to all Members
 - Safeguarding Thresholds: A Ceredigion Manager Programme has been developed and implemented. All managers must complete 6 mandatory courses. A range of optional courses have also been developed
 - A further cohort of Managers will undertake ILM Level 4 Leadership & Management programme during 2019/2020
 - Senior Managers continue to attend Regional and National Leadership events throughout the year including the Wales Academi Summer School
 - An apprenticeship scheme was developed in 2018/19, the first cohort of apprentices have qualified and have all been successful in gaining employment. A second cohort will start during Autumn 2019 with the addition of one Level 3 opportunity
 - A corporate qualifications panel has been developed. The purpose of the panel is to consider applications from employees for any qualification or award they wish to undertake as part of their career

pathway or continuing professional development. This will ensure that access to funding and support is applied fairly and equitably across the organisation

- Implementation of the learning and development and performance management modules within Cerinet
- A number of training courses for staff are available via e-learning modules
- The Council has agreed to the employment of an Employee Health & Wellbeing Officer to coordinate and promote health and wellbeing within the workforce
- A Workforce Plan 2017-2021 identified four themes
 - Engagement and Opportunity
 - Flexible & Agile Workforce
 - Promote a bilingual workforce that will serve the community
 - Leadership and Management development

Progress on actions within the plan is good.

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong financial management

- The Corporate Risk Register is a standing agenda item at weekly Leadership Group meetings and presented to each Audit Committee
- The identified current and longer-term corporate risks presented by the pandemic have been collated and added to the Corporate Risk Register as RO18, which will be regularly monitored both by Leadership Group and Audit Committee.
- The Corporate Risk Management Policy and Strategy and the Risk Management Framework was approved by Council on the 24th September 2019
- All Corporate Risks are allocated to a Corporate Lead Officer
- Risks form the basis of Internal Audit's audit programmes of work, as required by the Pentana/MKI audit management software system.
- The Cabinet report template has been expanded to include risks and implications arising
- The Well-being & Improvement Objectives Annual Report 2018-19 was published in October 2019
- The Medium Term Financial Strategy was updated and approved in February 2018
- An ICT and Digital strategy was approved by Council in March 2018

- An Internal Audit Section re-structure was implemented in May 2019. The Section was fully resourced to January 2020.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability
- Annual reports are published including
 - i. Well-being and Improvement Objective Annual Report (Oct 2019)
 - ii. Annual Financial Statement including the Annual Governance Statement (September 2019)

G. Implementing Good Practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

- Council meetings are webcast
- There is a Local Code of Corporate Governance in place
- The Internal Audit function is headed by a CIPFA qualified Corporate Manager Internal Audit (CMIA) who has considerable local government experience, supported by a team with appropriate knowledge and skills. Three members of staff currently studying for IIA qualification, and two developing ICT auditing skills.
- The Council publishes an Annual Governance Statement each year

4. Opinion on the level of assurance that the governance arrangements can provide

The Corporate Manager - Internal Audit prepares an Annual Report which is presented to Audit Committee in June. The report sets out the individual and collective outcomes of the audit reviews undertaken during the year, and provides the overall audit opinion of assurance based on this audit work. The assurance provided also takes into account progress in implementing improvements, consideration of the risk register and assurances provided in reports issued by external regulators. The scope of audit work and how the need to constantly reprioritise to ensure sufficient work is undertaken for the assurance is detailed in the report. Due to the pandemic, the Audit Committee of 1 April 2020 was postponed, resulting in a delay in approving the Internal Audit annual reports. These are now due to be presented to the Audit Committee on 7 October 2020. The CMIA has appraised the Chair of Audit Committee of the Service's situation regularly during this period.

Audit Wales (AW) did not identify any material weaknesses in the Council's internal controls in the 2018-19 ISA260 although it was noted that the Audit Committee is still monitoring the ongoing actions required regarding the service due to the long and short-term absences previously experienced within the Section.

The Annual Governance Statement has been the subject of review by AW to ensure that it is consistent with their knowledge and with legislation. In addition, the Internal Audit section undertakes an independent review of the Annual Governance Framework and the method of scoring and evidence, as noted in Point 2 above.

The Internal Audit Section undertakes an annual self-assessment of the service using CIPFA's LG Application Notes template at each year-end which was subject to an external peer review during 2016-17. This external assessment is planned to be repeated every five years, as required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The resultant improvement plans from these assessments are included in the quarterly Progress Reports presented to Audit Committee and reviewed annually in the Internal Audit Annual Report. The Improvement Plans identify improvements made and planned against the recommendations arising from the assessments, along with the results of the service's Quality Assurance Improvement Programme as required by the PSIAS to ensure the Audit Committee is able to monitor the service's progress.

The Corporate Manager - Internal Audit has concluded in her 2019/20 Annual Report dated 25 June 2020, based on:

- the number, scope and assurances from internal and external reviews and follow-up audits undertaken during the year to 31 March 2020, and
- the acceptance of actions by management (especially those deemed significant),

that the Council has a satisfactory framework of governance, risk management and internal controls in place to manage the achievement of the organisation's objectives.

The 2019/20 Annual Report is due to be presented to Audit Committee on 7 October 2020, as noted above.

The Council's Corporate Lead Officer - Customer Contact acts as the Authority's Senior Information Risk Owner and also has responsibility for Data Protection and ICT Security.

The SIRO Forum traditionally included subject matter experts: E.g. Facilities, Data Protection, IT Security, Head of IT Legal, HR and some departmental representation. This meets every quarter to discuss information risk and information management issues.

The current key roles and scrutiny of Information Assets are as follows:

- An IT Security Officer (ITSO) who advises on data security and external advisers and consultants are employed from time to time to test and advise on the Authority's security arrangements

- An Information and Records Management Officer (IRMO) who advises on legal compliance and ensures that policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to
- Corporate Data Protection (Known internally as Corporate Data Protection / FOI / EIR Group Meeting) meets quarterly and is chaired by Head of Service Policy (Deputy HOS ICT&CS)
- Annual Reports as required to the Council's Audit Committee

Additionally:

- ITSO is the Vice-chair of Wales National Public Sector Security Forum (CymruWARP) which meets quarterly
- IRMO Chairs the Information and Records Management Society Wales/Cymru and arranges events across Wales
- IRMO is part of the WASPI - Mid and West Wales Quality Assurance Panel

Following the Governance Framework review, overall governance arrangements are considered to be acceptable or good on the basis that average scores applied were 7/8.

The introduction of the Local Code for Corporate Governance outlining how the Council is committed to the core principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE delivering good Governance in Local Government Framework provides guidance to all members and officers on the governance agenda.

Regular review of the Local Code of Governance will provide a high level of assurance that the governance arrangements are fit for purpose.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the coronavirus pandemic crisis, all Council offices were closed to the public with effect from 23 March 2020.

In light of the national emergency and urgent situation arising as a result of the pandemic, and in order to protect the Council and the public's interests, in circumstances where the decision is deemed urgent such that any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests, the Council Leader granted temporary delegated powers to the Council's Chief Executive and Leadership Group to make decisions relating to the Council's Covid-19 response.

The decision was made in accordance with part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

The Record of Urgent Decision Notice is available on the Council's website.

The Gold Command forum was set-up immediately to facilitate operations and provide a robust decision-making process from the outset, holding daily virtual meetings.

The Council had a clear vision that every single person, business and service could understand and agree upon in order to ensure Ceredigion succeeded in not

only reducing predicted deaths through the first peak but more importantly for any future predicted peaks. This has been actioned in three phases to date:

- Phase 1: Preparedness – Closing down of all non-essential services
- Phase 2: Implementation – Delivering services under lockdown conditions
- Phase 3: Adjustment and long term resilience

Phase 3 provides an adjustment phase from the first two phases to a fourth, recovery phase. To enable this to happen, the adjustment phase must consider three main components that will be critical to dealing with Covid-19 whilst at the same time releasing elements of the lockdown safely and in a controlled and structured manner. The three elements are:

Containment + Isolation + Eradication

As lockdown restrictions are gradually eased and the Welsh Government amends its guidance, the Council is looking at how and when it can recommence its services or how they will be delivered differently. This is documented in a 'Roadmap' on the Council's website.

It is hoped that the business sectors and community groups will also contribute to this roadmap so that there is clarity for all residents of Ceredigion.

Following an initial immediate suspension of public meetings, Council meetings are currently being reintroduced, via a virtual platform.

Members of the public are able to attend the remote meetings by e-mailing the Democratic Services for registration details. A full list of remote meetings are available on the Council website. These meetings are also available on the Council's Facebook page to view.

5. Issues identified for last year 2019-2020

The following table records the actions that have been taken during 2019-20 to resolve the issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement for 2018-2019

Issue	Progress to date	Lead Officer	Completion Date
<p>(A1.3) Leading by example and using these standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions Action: Audit Committee to carry out benchmarking exercise.</p>	<p>A benchmarking exercise will be incorporated into the forward work programme for Audit Committee.</p>	CJ	March 2020
<p>(A2.2) Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values Action: A training needs analysis should be carried out and an action plan to deliver training in 19/20 should be prepared</p>	<p>Audit of Ethics Report presented to Audit Committee 17/7/19.</p> <p>Staff questionnaire circulated in 'Newyddion Ceredigion News 09-08-2019' email to staff to analyse training requirements.</p> <p>Advice requested from Learning & Development Team re compilation and presentation of training module (to be developed once questionnaire responses analysed).</p> <p>Compilation of training module undertaken as project by student placement. Discussed at LG 28/5/19.</p> <p>Compilation of e-learning module discussed with Learning & Development Team 16/12/19.</p>	AR	March 2020
<p>(B1.1) Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness Action: Complete the review of the FOI publication scheme</p>	<p>The Council's new webpage for FOI is now live. The new organisational chart for the Council, which provides detailed information on the newly formed Integrated Services Model. This will assist with completion of the Publication Scheme, though co-operation from Corporate Managers is vital for its success.</p>	MNH	March 2020

<p>(B1.4) Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/ courses of action.</p> <p>Action: - Carry out actions to improve engagement activity</p>	<p>An engagement policy and toolkit is in place on the new Ceri net site. A third draft of the new Engagement Policy, <i>'Talking, Listening and Working Together,'</i> has been produced and is waiting CLO and CM approval before progressing to LG and taking through the political process.</p> <p>An Equality and Engagement Officer has been appointed to co-ordinate the Engagement Policy and the Strategic Equality Plan in addition to giving policy advice and guidance. The Strategic Equality Plan for 2020 to 2024 has been revised in a draft format. This has gone to Scrutiny and Cabinet and then went out to public consultation between 18/12/19 to 29/1/20. The final draft will go to Cabinet on the 17/3/20. We are aiming to publish the final version by the 31/3/20.</p>	MS	March 2020
<p>(B3.1) Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes.</p> <p>Action: – Carry out a review of the Community Engagement Policy</p>	<p>A major review of the Engagement Policy has commenced. This will set out how we engage with the people of Ceredigion. This will include the ways in which we inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower. A third draft of the new Engagement Policy, <i>'Talking, Listening and Working Together,'</i> has been produced and is waiting CLO and CM approval before progressing to LG and taking through the political process. The policy is based on the Future Generations Commissioner's <i>'Spectrum of Public Participation'</i> and a digital engagement platform, <i>'Engagement HQ.'</i></p>	DD	March 2020
<p>(B3.5) Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity</p> <p>Action: To liaise with other LA's to establish Best Practice</p>	<p>We worked in partnership with Local Authorities and Public Services across Mid and West Wales on the review of our Strategic Equality Plans. A joint question set and an engagement and survey framework was produced along with an analysis report. The report has helped to inform the revision of the SEP</p> <p>We are building and widening an engagement partnership with the Regional Engagement Group. This includes sharing engagement activities and information to avoid duplication and to increase efficiency, including the use of digital engagement platforms like Engagement</p>	MS	March 2020

	HQ and Tractivity.		
(C1.5) Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available Action: Complete the Risk Management Framework Review Action: (From 17-18) Introduce a Performance Management system and publish service performance data online including costs per service and value for money data.	A review of the Corporate Risk Management Framework has been carried out. The Policy and Strategy was approved by Cabinet on the 24th September and training for Members and Officers was provided in January 2020. The Corporate Performance Management System was introduced during 2018-19 with the 2018-19 business plan reporting going live in October of that year. The resignation of the Database Development Officer in early 2019 has had an impact and delayed development, however a new officer is in post good progress has been made with the finance tables which will allow publication of costs and value for money data.	CJ	September 2019 December 2019
(D2.3) Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively including shared risks Action: Audit Committee to receive a paper on a review of collaboration projects. This be followed with an action plan for improvement.	A review of collaboration projects has been undertaken under the direction of the Sue Darnbrook, Corporate Director. The review included a section on assessing risks across collaboration projects. The results of the review have been collated and analysed and were presented to Audit Committee on the 5 th of February 2020 and will be taken to Cabinet on the 17 th of March 2020.	DD	March 2020
(F3.4) Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor.	Service re-structure effective from 4/5/19. All IA staff Annual Performance Appraisals undertaken 15/5/19. Draft Audit Plan 19/20 presented to Audit Committee 11/4/19; and final Internal Audit Strategy & Plan 19/20 approved by Audit Committee 17/7/19.	AR	March 2020

Action: Ensure capacity and capability are considered during the impending re-structure of Internal Audit.	<p>Regular internal audit section and staff meetings in place to monitor outcomes and performance.</p> <p>Three audit staff commencing IIA professional qualification training; and two enhancing ICT audit knowledge.</p> <p>One member of staff left 31/1/2020. Arrangements in progress to ensure least impact on service.</p>		
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Note: Any actions not fully completed by the completion date will be carried forward into the 2020-21 Action Plan.

6. Agreed action plan for matters to be considered during 2020-2021

Following the implementation and review of the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering good governance in Local Government Framework (2016) the following issues have been identified for resolution during 2020-2021

Issue	Action	Outcome	Lead Officer	Completion Date
A1.1 Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation	<p>Monitoring Officer to continue to advise Members further on the need to declare hospitality/gifts.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer to advise Chief Officers further on the need to declare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close personal associations with other officers members, <p>MO to undertake review of Members holding directorships when appointed onto outside bodies.</p> <p>Update Dispensations forms for Members</p>	Further embedding of behaviour with Integrity	EP	March 2021
A1.4 Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the standard operating	<p>Register of Contracts to be published.</p> <p>Delegated decision</p>	Further embedment of Standard Operating principles	EP	March 2021

principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively	Register to be published. Continued monitoring of the Mandatory e-learning take up of Whistleblowing module. Currently lower than required. Ethics/Governance training to be offered.		AR	
B1.1 Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness	Complete the Review of the FOI publication Scheme.	Demonstrating commitment to openness	MNH	March 2021
B3.1 Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service (or other) provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes	Complete the review of the Community Engagement Policy to include provisions for how stakeholders are engaged in future.	Improving Community Engagement	MS	March 2021
C1.5 Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available	Manage Service User expectations through Publication of service performance including costs and value for money data	Managing Service user Expectations	CAJ	March 2021

7. Conclusion

The annual governance framework review measured progress against the new CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework (2016) and overall governance arrangements were found to be acceptable or good.

The Council has made good progress during the year with recorded achievements against each of the seven core principles.

The development of a Local code of Corporate Governance bringing together all the local codes and documents together in one document provides assurance that there are clear governance arrangements in place. This enabled the Council to react swiftly to the threats presented by the coronavirus pandemic at year-end.

The Council has identified a number of minor issues for resolution during 2020/21 and set these out in an action plan for completion (as above). The actions taken as a direct result of the pandemic will be recorded, as appropriate.

8. Certification of Annual Governance Statement

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness throughout the 2019/20 year and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review. It is acknowledged that the pandemic may hinder some of these steps, which will be addressed and reported accordingly to Council in the 2020/21 AGS.

Signed:

Chief Executive

Leader of the Council

Date: 10 September 2020