



MERTON COUNCIL

Statement of Accounts

For the year ending

31 March 2018



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Statement of Accounts

For the year ending 31st March 2018

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Narrative Statement

1. Introduction

Welcome to London Borough of Merton's 2017/18 Statement of Accounts, which reports the Authority's financial performance during the year, showing expenditure on all services and the financial position at 31st March 2018.

This Narrative Statement gives an introductory overview of the Authority's financial and service delivery performance in the year.

2. Financial performance

2.1 Revenue Summary

Outturn

The Authority's financial performance is summarised by the table below

	2017/18 Current Budget £000	2017/18 Outturn £000	2017/18 Variance £000
Department			
Corporate Services	9,932	8,963	(969)
Children, Schools & Families	54,691	57,122	2,431
Community & Housing	64,480	65,654	1,174
Environment & Regeneration	18,271	16,810	(1,461)
Net Service Expenditure	147,374	148,549	1,175
Corporate Provisions	1,437	484	(953)
Total General Fund	148,811	149,033	222
Grants	(28,999)	(29,668)	(669)
Business Rates	(35,483)	(35,302)	181
Council Tax and Collection Fund	(84,329)	(84,329)	0
Funding	(148,811)	(149,299)	(488)
Net (under)/overspend	0	(266)	(266)
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	0	266	266

Net service expenditure was overspent by £1.2m. The two main areas of overspend are adults and children's social care placements. Although these budgets received growth in 2017/18 the demand for these services remains high and there are pressures in excess of the growth received.

These overspends were partly offset by an underspend in Corporate Services department and Environment and Regeneration mainly as a result of the implementation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system across the borough. The positive effects of this fully functional system e.g. improved traffic flow are expected to be realised during 2018/19.

Corporate provisions also underspent by just under £1m.

There was an overall underspend of £0.3m against the budget and this particular underspend was included in a transfer to the balancing the budget reserve of £2.5m.

However, there was a net reduction of £1.408m in overall revenue reserves and fund balances as at the 31st March 2018, as explained in the next section.

Reserves

During 2017/18 the Authority's overall usable reserves fell by £5.65m. This was composed of a £1.408m reduction in revenue reserves and fund balances and a £4.246m reduction in capital balances.

The reduction in revenue reserves was composed of a reduction in schools' general fund balances of £0.426m and a £0.982m reduction in earmarked revenue reserves. The general fund balance remained unchanged at £12.778m. The earmarked revenue reserves include the underspend of £0.266m

The reduction in capital reserves was composed of a reduction in usable capital receipts (£7.473m) and an increase in usable capital grants of £3.227m.

Usable Reserves	2017/18 Opening Balance £000	2017/18 Movement £000	2017/18 Closing Balance £000
General Fund Balances	12,778	0	12,778
General Fund Balances held by schools	8,246	(426)	7,820
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	41,105	(982)	40,123
Sub Total-Fund Balances and Revenue Reserves	62,129	(1,408)	60,721
Capital Receipts Reserve	22,986	(7,473)	15,513
Capital Grants Unapplied*	7,251	*3,227	10,478
Capital Reserves	30,237	(4,246)	25,991
Total Usable Reserves	92,366	(5,654)	86,712

*Movement in 2017/18 reflects 2018/19 grants received in advance.

2.2 Capital Summary

Capital investment amounted to £32.7m in 2017/18 (£30.6m in 2016/17), this sum comprises £32.2m capital expenditure and £0.5 million new finance lease. The programme was financed through the application of capital grants/contributions (£16.4m), capital receipts (£12.0m) and revenue contributions (£3.8m). Capital receipts received in year totalled £4.5m (£6.4m in 2015/16).

Of the total £32.2m capital expenditure, £25.2 million (£25.7 million with Colliers Wood Lease) was spent on the purchase/enhancement of property, plant and equipment, £3.4 million on the purchase/enhancement of intangible assets and £3.6 million was revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

Capital Investment Plans

The Authority's capital investment budget for the next four years, as at February 2018, is shown in the following table, alongside 2017/18 outturn. Capital investment is required both to maintain existing levels of service and to expand service provision in some areas.

Department	Outturn 2017/18* £000s	Capital Budget (£000's)			
		2018/19**	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Corporate Services	8,244	28,533	15,818	3,945	3,862
Community and Housing	1,111	937	480	630	280
Children, Schools & Families	6,036	16,082	8,107	3,202	650
Environment & Regeneration	16,840	22,772	9,060	5,017	4,052
Total	32,231	68,324	33,465	12,794	8,844

* Excludes the value of a new lease for the Colliers Wood Library of £0.5 million

**The 2018/19 budget was approved in February 2018 and includes £7.0m net slippage from 2017/18

The following projects, whose cost is included in the above table, are expected to expand service provision:

Capital projects aimed at service expansion	Capital Budget (£000's)			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Secondary school expansions /New School	7,693	6,352	2,552	0
Special Educational Needs school expansions	7,480	1,000	0	0
Replace Morden Leisure Centre and Lake De-silting	6,389	1,492	0	0
Total	21,562	8,844	2,552	0

Further information about capital investment plans can be found in the Authority's Business Plan, located at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/finance.htm>.

2.3 Investments and Borrowing

The Council maintains and operates a Treasury management strategy comprising the principles and practices to which the Treasury Management activities will comply. The strategy is approved by full Council annually and is available on the Authority's website.

The Authority manages its cash in-house, placing investments for periods ranging from overnight to over 12 months depending on anticipated cash flow requirements. At 31st March 2018 the Authority held short-term and long-term deposits totalling £55m and £4.5m respectively (£66m and £5.0m at 31/03/17). The Authority generated £0.78m of investment income from these deposits in the year (£0.83m in 2016/17).

At 31st March 2018 the long-term borrowing was maintained at £113m (£113m on 31/03/17) and £6.6m (£6.8m in 2016/17) was paid as interest on these borrowings during the year.

In 2017/18 the Council repaid all its short term borrowing (it was £15.1m in March 2017) and no new loans were taken. We were able to achieve this by maintaining a robust cash flow model and forward planning.

2.4 Pensions

The Merton Pension Fund is a Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (LGPS) defined benefit statutory scheme administered in accordance with the LGPS and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings. The Fund is administered by London Borough of Merton. As at 31 March 2018 the Fund's net asset value was £663m and it had 13,276 members in total.

The Council is the largest employer of the fund (92%) and as at 31 March 2018 there were 12,210 Council employees in the Fund. At the last Triennial valuation, the Fund was 94% funded with the assets of £526m against its liability of £558m. The next Triennial valuation will be as at 31st March 2019.

2.5 Economic Outlook

Local Government Finance Settlement

The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018/19 contains indicative allocations from central government up to 2019/20. These allocations continue the downward trend in funding since 2010/11. Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the Authority's settlement funding assessment is forecast to fall by 33.9% in real terms and core spending power by 5.7% over the same period.

As the Authority's funding from central government reduces, demographic changes and the impact of the economic climate are expected to further increase pressure on service budgets, particularly those for demand-led areas such as social care.

In order to continue delivering services effectively, the Authority continues to monitor these, and other major risks to its financial position, which are:

- The current and medium term economic outlook
- Demand and other demographic pressures on the budget, particularly on vulnerable groups with demand-led budgets
- Identifying and achieving cost and income improvements in a challenging and uncertain economic environment
- Reforms to local government finance based around 75% business rates retention and the transfer of new responsibilities from central government
- The outcome of the London Business Rates Pool Pilot in 2018/19 which Merton is participating in.
- Devolution
- Risks to future Government funding levels
- Ability to implement approved savings
- Risks to other income streams
- The unknown long-term impact on economic factors of central government's negotiations with the European Union on Brexit

The longer term position is also made more uncertain by potential changes in the way Government Funding is allocated. In the Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19 the Government issued a technical consultation paper "Fair funding review: a review of relative needs and resources" with the objective to set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities by delivering an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and resources, using the best evidence available. The Government proposes to work towards an implementation date for the review of 2020/21 and the review will include: -

- setting new baseline funding allocations for local authorities,
- delivering an up-to-date assessment of the relative needs of local authorities to enable redistribution of business rates between local authorities
- examining the relative resources of local authorities including how council tax income should be taken into account when redistributing business rates at local government finance settlements, and will also consider other potential sources of income available to councils,

The redistribution of resources arising from the review could therefore have significant, ongoing implications for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2020/21 onwards and although the MTFS shows significant progress to date towards a balanced budget over the next two years there is a large budget gap from 2020/21 onwards still to be addressed, with increases in council tax already built in.

2.6 Accounting developments

From the 1st April 2018 (financial year 2018/19), two new accounting standards will be incorporated in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. These standards are IFRS 9 Financial Instruments and IFRS15 Revenue from contracts with customers.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments has been devised to make accounting for financial instruments more transparent. It contains two main topics: classification and measurement of financial instruments and impairment of financial assets.

(a) Classification and measurement:

The default accounting treatment for investments is changed from one where gains and losses in value are not recognised as income or expenditure until an investment matures or is sold to one where income or expenditure is recognised as fair value gains and losses arise. This treatment is reflected in how investments are to be classified under IFRS 9, as set out in the following table.

New Classification	Business Model	Measurement in Balance Sheet	Impact on General Fund
Amortised Cost	The financial asset is held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows of principal and interest.	Principal plus accrued interest	None
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)	The financial asset is held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows of principal and interest and selling financial assets	Fair Value	FVOCI- changes in fair value adjusted through the Unusable Reserves
Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)	All other combinations of business model and contractual cash flows.	Fair Value	Changes in fair value (up or down) will directly affect the General Fund unless regulations change

Currently, the Council's investments will all be classified as being Cash Deposits measured at amortized cost with the exception of its investment in the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund. The CCLA investment of £4.5m will be classified as Fair Value through Profit and Loss and changes in its fair value will directly affect the General Fund unless regulations are amended.

There is a special accounting exemption for shares in group entities which will apply to the Council's shareholdings in its subsidiaries, CHAS and the Property Company. Shares in subsidiaries can be accounted for at cost in the authority-only Balance Sheet on the basis that additional information about the value of the shareholdings is provided by the consolidated financial statements.

(b) Impairment:

The IFRS 9 approach is that no investment or debtor balance is fully secure from credit risk- the risk that the counter party might not make a payment of principal or interest due to a lender. The model for calculating impairment loss allowances for financial assets (i.e. the provision for bad debts) is changed from one based upon losses which have been incurred to one based upon expected losses.

Investments in UK Government instruments and lending to other local authorities are exempted from the new rules and impairment loss allowances for Council Tax, NDR and Housing Benefits (which are statutory schemes and the debts are therefore not regarded as financial instruments) will continue to be calculated under current rules.

The authority has carried out a preliminary assessment of the implications of this standard on the Council's General Fund and these are not considered to be significant. The main expected sources of change in terms of their impact on the General Fund will be the following:

- **Investments:** Change in the value of the authority's investment in the CCLA Property Fund, although this is not expected to be significant.
- **Debtors:**
The authority's trade debtors (£16.2m) are directly affected; however, the Council's calculation of the impairment allowance on its trade debtors should not change significantly because the current calculation already provides for expected impairment rather than simply looking at incurred losses.
The authority will also need to consider impairment of its leasing debtors (£5.5m) although any impairment will be charged against the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve, an Unusable reserve.
The impairment of the authority's major statutory debtors - Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits - are not affected by IFRS 9.
There are other debtors (£7.456m) where the effect on impairment should not be significant.

The table below summarises the potential impact of IFRS 9 on the impairments of the authority's gross debtors as at 31st March 2018. It can be seen that IFRS 9 will affect the impairment of around £29m (52%) of the £55.8m debt though this impact should not be significant and in the case of leases will be chargeable against an unusable capital reserve.

Classification of the authority's debt as at 31st March 2018

	Trade debtors	Lease debtors	IFRS 9 - Other	Statutory and other debtors which are not affected	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long Term	829	5,450	705	5,480	12,464
Short Term	15,335	16	6,751	21,251	43,353
Total Gross Debt	16,164	5,466	7,456	26,731	55,817
Percentage of gross debt	29%	10%	13%	48%	100%

IFRS 15 Revenue from contracts with customers introduces a new model for recognition of contractual income. This model is based upon allocating the overall transaction price for goods and /or services to be provided against the satisfaction of the various performance obligations in the contract.

The new model has the potential to change the date at which revenue is recognised compared to current accounting requirements.

It is anticipated that most local authority contracts will fit comfortably into the new model without any impact on revenue recognition dates. The standard may, however, affect revenue recognition by CHAS, that is to say, the date at which revenue is recognised compared to current accounting requirements. This is because CHAS recognises revenue when payment is received although the services being paid for extend into the following year. This matter will need to be investigated further. The impact of these two new standards is also in the disclosure “Accounting standards issued not adopted”.

3. Service Performance

The Authority is comprised of four departments; Corporate Services, Children, Schools and Families, Community and Housing, and Environment and Regeneration. A selection of key performance indicators from each department is shown in the table below. The Authority’s full key performance indicator set can be found in the Business Plan, which is published at:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/plansandpolicies.htm>.

	Key Performance Indicator	2016/17			2017/18		
	Description	Result	Target	Target met?	Result	Target	Target met?
Corporate Services	% of council tax collected	97.64%	97.25%	Y	97.69%	97.25%	Y
	% of business rates collected	97.91%	97.50%	Y	98.79%	97.50%	Y
	The level of CO2 emissions from the council's buildings (tonnes)	6,924	<8,045	Y	5,849	<7,740	Y
Children Schools and Families	% outcome of schools Ofsted inspections good or outstanding	91%	91%	Y	93%	91%	Y
	% Secondary school attendance	95.5%	95.1%	Y	96%	95.2%	Y
	No. of in-house foster carers recruited	15	15	Y	11	15	N
Community and Housing	No. of people accessing a library at least once in the last 12 months	70,268	56,000	Y	66,154	56,000	Y
	No. of homelessness preventions	458	450	Y	465	450	Y
	No. of DTOCs (Delayed Transfers Of Care) - Adult Social Care delays only	No comparative data as PI definition changed from April 2018			1,517	1,133	N

	Key Performance Indicator	2016/17			2017/18		
		Result	Target	Target Met?	Result	Target	Target met?
Environment and Regeneration	Major applications processed within 13 weeks	71%	55%	Y	73%	67%	Y
	% of sites surveyed on local street inspections for litter that are below standard	9.00%	<8%	N	12.60%	<8.5%	N
	No. of refuse collections including recycling and kitchen waste missed per 100,000	49.96	<50	Y	95.33	<75	N

3.1 Future Service Developments

Corporate Services

Corporate Services department aims to provide high quality services to both residents and internal users of professional services.

We have commenced transforming the way we engage with residents by investing in a new Council website. The new website will increasingly become the preferred means for residents, non-residents and businesses to contact the Council. Already customers can access a quicker and more accurate online service, submit service requests, payments, or comment online. We plan further expansion of the facility for online transactions and improvements that make it easier for residents and service users to track progress on their queries/requests.

Our aim is that all of our customers will have the option of accessing an online personal account, which will be similar to the accounts that many people have with online retailers. For each customer, the account will bring key services together in one place, such as council tax bills and progress on service requests or complaints, so they can be managed easily.

Another major departmental project is the implementation of a new Social Care Information System, which went live in May 2017. We will continue the programme of early life support to improve the way social care information is recorded and presented, allowing better coordination of casework activity across teams. The system will ensure that our social workers are well supported and equipped to respond to the needs of both adult and children social care customers.

Collection of council tax and business rates improved again in 2017/18, with collection rates remaining at record levels. This is the result of the Council's ongoing

dedication to pursuing collection from the minority of taxpayers and businesses that try to avoid paying. In these circumstances the approach is to make full use of legal powers to pursue these debts.

Universal Credit continues to be rolled out across the borough for new claims. The Mitcham Job Centre went live in December 2017 and the remaining Job Centres that cover the borough should be live by October 2018.

CHAS 2013 Limited, wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, provides health and safety pre-qualification assessments to nationally recognised standards. The company continues to grow with an increase in turnover and profit year on year. The company has plans to increase the services offered to compete in the marketplace in the face of the increasing competition.

Children, Schools and Families Department

The Department remains committed to a journey of continuous improvement, by actively seeking new and innovative ways to meet national requirements. The Department aims to deliver the very best services and to improve outcomes for all children and young people, in particular those who are most vulnerable and at risk.

During 2017/18 the department had its OFSTED inspection and was rated good with a number of outstanding areas including leadership and management, Adoption and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

There are a number of considerable challenges to service delivery over the next few years, in particular, a challenging inspection regime including a revised framework for inspecting social care, a local area, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection across a range of partners and a youth justice inspection. We are also continuing to develop our 'practice model' and anticipate major changes in school funding.

Within Social Care, there are radical changes in the way Social Workers will be assessed, which must be implemented in line with their professional registration requirements. The Department also faces a move towards regional adoption and the next phase of embedding of the Children and Families Act, (SEND) reforms in the context of increasing numbers of children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans.

The performance indicators shown are those that are given a high priority by our residents, for example Ofsted inspection outcomes for schools. Performance is generally being delivered in line with expectations. The Department is pleased that 93% of schools in the Borough have received a good or outstanding rating from Ofsted, against a target of 91% and up from 91% last year.

Community and Housing Department

Community and Housing provide a range of services to the residents and families of, and visitors to, Merton. Our unifying mission is to improve the life chances of our customers, whether this is through learning and information, having a place to live, or for older / disabled people living as independent a life as possible. This will be achieved through the provision of our services below and with a focus on:

- Managing demand to match the resources available;
- Ensuring that we have the right providers working in the right way to meet the sustainability challenge;
- Ensuring that we have the internal capacity and capability to work effectively with external partners and ensure an appropriate supply of good quality services.
- Exploiting new technologies, both for the benefit of service users and to improve our own efficiency through a mobile professional workforce.

Adult Social Care

We aim to support people to remain independent, in their own home, in communities with their friends and family network around them, and out of hospital or residential care. We aim to maximise people's independence with the use of equipment, telecare, re-ablement, utilising the voluntary sector to limit isolation and loneliness, working with our partners in health, to ensure that people's needs are met keeping people healthy and out of hospital.

We will work with our partners to integrate services where possible and limit duplication for the customer and service. We aim to complete our duties by putting the customer at the heart of the assessment and maximising and utilising their strengths to ensure that they are enabled to be as independent as possible with minimal, or no, support from the council.

Library, Heritage and Adult Learning Services

These services will retain good standards by providing cutting edge technology and being responsive to customer needs, including helping people to assess a range of services and support with online applications. Library space will be utilised to its maximum potential for other activities and to increase commercial income.

Adult learning is delivered through a commissioning model, contracting services to the best providers in the field and by developing sophisticated evidence based approaches to what we deliver. The service provides a wide range of courses to improve people's life chances and investment is particularly focussed in upskilling residents most in need whilst expanding provision for families and enhancing our range of maths, English and employability courses. The service is funded by an annual grant from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Library usage takes in many different factors and is measured by where customers present a card either to borrow a book or access IT services either in a library or online. Usage continues to be high and is the highest per head of population for any London borough. Continued success is attributable to ongoing work particularly with children and young people.

Housing Needs

The service will continue to deliver homelessness prevention activities to delay/prevent homelessness for our customers and will continue to work closely with landlords to increase housing supply for those customers in acute housing need, as part of the prevention agenda a rebranded housing related support offer will be developed so as to deliver tenancy sustainment and maximise our customers' independence.

The service will also be working with landlords and their managing agents on the introduction of the revised mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation.

The department also achieved its target for the number of homelessness preventions. In line with the new Homelessness Reduction Act, the council is committed to preventing homelessness; interventions can include negotiating with the landlord, resolving Housing Benefit issues, assistance with rent arrears or providing alternative accommodation to achieve this target.

Public Health

The service aims to 'make health everyone's business' and, by working with colleagues in the council, Clinical Commissioning Group and voluntary sector, continue to protect and improve physical and mental health outcomes for the whole population, pupils and employees in Merton throughout the life course, and reduce health inequalities.

The other department's performance indicators reflect the range of services provided and demonstrate our commitment to improving the services offered to our service users.

For the rate of delayed transfers of care from hospital (delayed bed days – Adult Social Care only), there have been some recent improvements in our working arrangements including more collaborative working with the NHS and operational improvements such as the majority of hospital discharges now going through the re-ablement service. This has resulted in a significant improvement in our performance, including Merton achieving the second best performance in London in January 2018

Environmental and Regeneration Department

The Department is embedding the transformation following the significant changes in the delivery of services required to meet the Authority's financial challenges whilst supporting its ambition to become London's Best Council.

Following the externalisation of core services including Waste Collection, Street Cleaning, Parks and Vehicle Maintenance, the department has moved from being a direct provider to acting in a clienting/ commissioning role. With the neighbouring boroughs in the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP), major long-term contracts have been signed with experienced providers. This shift to commissioning will

continue, ensuring quality services are contracted effectively from third parties in many service areas.

The Department has also built on the services that are provided in conjunction with other local authorities. The well-established and successful Regulatory Services Partnership with the London Borough of Richmond has been expanded to include the London Borough of Wandsworth in the last year.

Another key departmental priority is the Place Shaping Agenda – working to deliver growth and regeneration across the Borough and improving the management of public space. Key progress here has been the establishment of Merantun Developments, a wholly owned Local Authority Housing Company which will develop sites for housing over the coming years. Three estate regeneration schemes delivering over 2,500 new homes have received planning consent and move closer to delivery, and plans for the renewal of Morden Town centre are advancing.

The performance indicators above support the conclusion from review of all indicators that the principal services of the Department - those that are of most concern to residents are improving and moving closer to the contract standards set and the expectations of residents. The cleanliness of the Borough, the effectiveness of the refuse collection service and the efficiency of the administrative role of the Authority are all high priorities.

4. Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts is comprised of the following statements:

- **Core Financial Statements**
 - **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services for the functions for which the Authority is responsible and demonstrates how they have been financed.
 - **The Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)** – shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority and is used to adjust the net surplus or deficit on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) to the amount chargeable under statute to the Authority's general fund.
 - **The Balance Sheet** - summarises the Authority's financial position at year-end.
 - **The Cash Flow Statement** - summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

- **Notes to the Core Financial Statements** - provides additional information which supports and explains the figures in the core financial statements. It also includes a technical annex which contains the accounting policies.
- **The Collection Fund** - reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate account that shows the transactions of the Authority in relation to non-domestic rates and council tax.
- **Pension Fund Accounts** - shows the contributions to and the benefits paid from the pension fund and identifies the investments which make up the assets of the fund.
- **Group Financial Statements** which combine the core financial statements of this authority with those of its subsidiary, CHAS and which comprise the following -
 - **Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**
 - **Group Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)**
 - **Group Balance Sheet**
 - **Group Cash Flow Statement**
- **Statements of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts** – sets out the different responsibilities of the Authority and the Director of Corporate Services.

Core Financial Statements

1. 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. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2016/17 (Restated)				2017/18		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
222,317	(160,665)	61,652	Continuing Operations	224,986	(164,367)	60,619
87,757	(18,345)	69,412	Children, Schools and Families	87,178	(18,914)	68,264
118,176	(105,962)	12,214	Community and Housing	114,394	(102,129)	12,265
62,931	(33,714)	29,217	Corporate Services	59,649	(37,356)	22,293
11,120	(11,356)	(236)	Environment and Regeneration	11,511	(11,002)	509
			Public Health			
502,301	(330,042)	172,259	Cost of services	497,718	(333,768)	163,950
		(868)	Other operating income and expenditure (Note 3)			(3,068)
		19,159	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 4)			17,009
		(168,743)	Taxation and non-specific grant income (Note 5)			(167,481)
		21,807	Deficit on Provision of Services			10,410
		(14,782)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets (Note 17)			(21,449)
		1,793	Impairment losses on non-current assets (Note 17)			0
		92,839	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset) (Notes 17 & 32)			(41,898)
		79,850	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(63,347)
		101,657	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(52,937)

2. Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The statement shows how the movements in year of the authority's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The net increase/decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	General Fund Balances	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April 2016 (Restated)	(67,345)	(29,582)	(4,153)	(101,080)	(232,604)	(333,684)
<i><u>Movement in reserves during 2016/17</u></i>						
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	21,807			21,807	79,850	101,657
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	(16,591)	6,596	(3,098)	(13,093)	13,093	
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	5,216	6,596	(3,098)	8,714	92,943	101,657
Balance at 31 March 2017 carried forward	(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(232,027)

	General Fund Balances	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2017 (Restated)	(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(232,027)
<i><u>Movement in reserves during 2017/18</u></i>						
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	10,410			10,410	(63,347)	(52,937)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	(4,756)	4,756	0
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	1,409	7,473	(3,228)	5,654	(58,591)	(52,937)
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward	(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(284,964)

3. Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the Authority's assets and liabilities as at 31st March. The Authority's net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the Authority's reserves.

1 st April 2016 (Restated) £000	31 March 2017 (Restated) £000		Notes	31 March 2018 £000
681,009	686,865	Property, Plant & Equipment	19	724,092
669	802	Heritage Assets	21	802
5,000	5,000	Long Term Investments	9 & 10	4,500
1,291	1,379	Intangible Assets	20	4,301
8,095	8,510	Long Term Debtors	7	7,590
696,064	702,556	Long Term Assets		741,285
80,873	66,030	Short Term Investments	9 & 10	55,193
46	35	Inventories	36	1
30,225	30,049	Short Term Debtors	7	31,373
7,288	7,000	Assets Held for Sale	22	1,183
23,311	30,410	Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	30,434
141,743	133,524	Current Assets		118,184
(16,178)	(15,145)	Short Term Borrowing	9 & 10	(1,487)
(59,345)	(61,701)	Short Term Creditors	8	(62,964)
(1,445)	(757)	Current Provisions	11	(641)
(76,968)	(77,603)	Current Liabilities		(65,092)
(6,516)	(5,518)	Provisions	11	(5,368)
(116,976)	(113,010)	Long Term Borrowing	9 & 10	(113,010)
(32,347)	(30,940)	Other Long Term Liabilities	9	(29,778)
(263,154)	(368,108)	Pension Liability	32	(350,088)
(8,162)	(8,874)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	6	(11,169)
(427,155)	(526,450)	Long Term Liabilities		(509,413)
333,684	232,027	Net Assets		284,964
(101,080)	(92,366)	Usable Reserves	16	(86,712)
(232,604)	(139,661)	Unusable Reserves	17	(198,252)
(333,684)	(232,027)	Total Reserves		(284,964)

Signed



Caroline Holland
Director of Corporate Services
8th November 2018

4. Cash Flow Statement

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

2016/17 (Restated) £000		2017/18 £000
21,807	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	10,410
(43,821)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (note 15a)	(42,875)
25,493	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (note 15b)	24,917
3,479	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities (note 15c)	(7,548)
(14,364)	Investing Activities (note 15d)	(6,056)
3,786	Financing Activities (note 15e)	13,580
(7,099)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(24)
23,311	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	30,410
30,410	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 14)	30,434

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2017/18			
Department	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £000	Differences between General Fund and CIES £000	Net Expenditure in the CIES £000
Children, Schools and Families	57,123	3,496	60,619
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	65,654	3,119	68,773
Corporate Services	8,963	3,302	12,265
Environment and Regeneration	16,810	5,483	22,293
Sub-total	148,550	15,400	163,950
Other income and expenditure	(147,141)	(6,399)	(153,540)
Deficit	1,409	9,001	10,410
Opening General Fund balances (Note 16)	(62,129)		
Closing General Fund balances (Note 16)	(60,720)		

Analysis of Differences between General Fund and CIES

Department	Accounting Basis and Funding Basis 2017/18			Other presentational differences (4)	Total adjustments
	Adjustments for capital purposes (1)	Net change for pensions adjustments (2)	Other statutory adjustments (3)		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	(1,568)	9,535	(315)	(4,156)	3,496
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	407	2,798	23	(109)	3,119
Corporate Services	1,760	(778)	7	2,313	3,302
Environment and Regeneration	11,205	2,604	3	(8,329)	5,483
Sub-total of adjustments within net cost of services	11,804	14,158	(282)	(10,281)	15,400
Other income and expenditure	(26,622)	9,718	224	10,281	(6,399)
Total adjustments	(14,818)	23,877	(58)	0	9,001

1. Adjustments for capital purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

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

receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

2. Net change for the pensions adjustments

This column adjusts for the difference between pension contributions paid in year and the cost of pensions as calculated on an IAS 19 basis:

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For financing and investment income and expenditure — the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

3. Other statutory adjustments

This column adjusts for other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute, including:

- The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund.
- An adjustment for any unused employee holiday balances at year-end, which must be charged to the CIES, but is not chargeable to the General Fund (the charge is transferred to the accumulated absences reserve).

4. Presentational differences

This column adjusts for presentational differences, such as for leases and certain grants, between internal management reporting and reporting as per the Code of Practice.

2016/17 Comparative Figures (Restated)

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2016/17 (Restated)			
Department	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £000	Differences between General Fund and CIES £000	Net Expenditure in the CIES £000
Children, Schools and Families	55,663	5,989	61,652
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	66,785	2,391	69,176
Corporate Services	9,011	3,203	12,214
Environment and Regeneration	22,698	6,519	29,217
Sub-total	154,157	18,102	172,259
Other income and expenditure	(148,941)	(1,511)	(150,452)
Deficit	5,216	16,591	21,807
Opening General Fund balances (Note 16)	(67,345)		
Closing General Fund balances (Note 16)	(62,129)		

2016/17 Comparative Figures (Restated)

Department	Accounting Basis and Funding Basis			Other presentational differences (4)	Total adjustments
	Adjustments for capital purposes (1)	Net change for pensions adjustments (2)	Other statutory adjustments (3)		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	8,530	4,095	2,205	(8,841)	5,989
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	3,224	1,465	(39)	(2,259)	2,391
Corporate Services	4,874	(4,444)	(23)	2,796	3,203
Environment and Regeneration	13,171	1,856	(44)	(8,464)	6,519
Sub-total of adjustments within net cost of services	29,799	2,972	2,099	(16,768)	18,102
Other income and expenditure	(27,730)	9,144	308	16,768	(1,511)
Total adjustments	2,069	12,116	2,406	0	16,591

2. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME BY NATURE

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

	2016/17 Restated £000	2017/18 £000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Employee expenses*	206,742	206,851
Other service expenses	268,820	274,986
Depreciation, Impairment losses and revaluation increases – (Note 18)	27,124	15,791
Support Service Recharges	(385)	(379)
Interest Payments (Note 9)	10,137	10,083
Precepts & Levies (Note 3)	928	933
Interest on net defined benefit liability (asset) (Note 32)	9,144	9,718
Loss on disposal of academies (Note 4)	3,049	0
Trading accounts deficit (Note 35)	522	178
Total Expenditure	526,081	518,161
<u>INCOME</u>		
Fees, charges and other service income	(71,683)	(73,609)
Interest & investment income (Note 9)	(1,621)	(1,630)
Taxation & non-specific grant income (Note 5)	(168,743)	(167,481)
Government grants (Note 6)	(258,359)	(259,691)
Gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets (Note 3)	(1,796)	(4,001)
Other finance and investment income	(2,072)	(1,340)
Total Income	(504,274)	(507,752)
Deficit on the Provision of Services	21,807	10,409

*Includes the following expenditure on staff employed at voluntary-aided and foundation schools:

Employee Expenditure	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000
VA Schools	29,171	31,852
Foundation Schools	5,950	5,953
Total	35,121	37,805

A segmental analysis of certain types of income and expenditure is shown below:

	Fees, charges and other service income	Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority	Depreciation, amortisation and revaluations
2017/18 Segmental Analysis	£000	£000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	(4,097)	5,247	1,775
Community and Housing	(17,414)	4,710	476
Corporate Services	(16,236)	(15,513)	2,000
Environment and Regeneration	(35,862)	5,177	11,540
Total	(73,609)	(379)	15,791

	Fees, charges and other service income	Revenues from transactions with other operating segments of the authority	Depreciation, amortisation and revaluations (Restated)
2016/17 Segmental Analysis	£000	£000	£000
Children, Schools and Families	(5,455)	4,846	7,642
Community and Housing (including Public Health)	(15,587)	5,100	1,520
Corporate Services	(17,325)	(16,669)	4,874
Environment and Regeneration	(33,316)	6,338	13,088
Total	(71,683)	(385)	27,124

3. OTHER OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2016/17 (Restated) £000		2017/18 £000
928	Precepts and Levies	933
(1,796)	(Gains)/ losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(4,001)
(868)	Total	(3,068)

4. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
10,137	Interest payable and similar charges (Note 9)	10,083
9,144	Net interest on defined pension liability (Note 32)	9,718
(1,621)	Interest receivable and similar income (Note 9)	(1,630)
522	Trading accounts not related to services (Note 35)	178
3,049	Loss on the disposal of academies	0
(2,072)	Other (income)/expenditure	(1,340)
19,159	Total	17,009

5. TAXATION AND NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOMES

2016/17 (Restated) £000		2017/18 £000
(82,394)	Council tax income (see Note 6)	(84,579)
(25,880)	Non domestic rates (see Note 6)	(26,174)
(44,255)	Non-ringfenced government grants (see Note 6)	(40,651)
(16,214)	Capital grants and contributions (see Note 6)	(16,077)
(168,743)	Total	(167,481)

6. GRANT INCOME

The London Borough of Merton credited the following grants, contributions, donations and taxation income to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2017/18:

	2016/17 (Restated) £000	2017/18 £000
<i>Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income</i>		
Council Tax	(82,394)	(84,579)
Revenue Support Grant	(23,156)	(15,519)
Business Rates	(25,880)	(26,174)
Top-up Grant	(7,906)	(8,901)
Capital Grant Income	(16,214)	(16,077)
PFI Contribution	(4,797)	(4,797)
New Homes Bonus Grant	(4,734)	(4,148)
Section 31 Grant	(817)	(1,706)
Education Service Grant	(2,350)	(1,592)
Adult Social Care Grant	0	(3,497)
Other grants under £1 million	(495)	(491)
Total	(168,743)	(167,481)
<i>Credited to Services</i>		
Grants over £1million		
Schools Delegated Budget	(138,705)	(142,860)
Housing Benefits Subsidy	(87,302)	(82,137)
Public Health Grant	(10,998)	(10,727)
Benefits Administration	(985)	(909)
Pupil Premium	(5,875)	(5,921)
Sixth Form Funding	(5,436)	(5,530)
Universal Infant Free School Meals	(2,347)	(2,306)
Adult Education Main	(1,075)	(1,111)
Total grants under £1million*	(5,636)	(8,190)
Total Grants	(258,359)	(259,691)
Contributions over £1million		
Contributions from CCG	(1,165)	(2,552)
Registered Nursing Care Contribution	(59)	(47)
Local Taxation Services	(972)	(925)
Shared Legal Service	(7,059)	(3,390)
Recharge for out of borough SEN support	(1,001)	(469)
Total contributions under £1million	(8,725)	(7,960)
Total Contributions	(18,981)	(15,343)
TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	(277,340)	(275,033)

*Includes grant income credited to services to fund REFCUS.

The Authority has received a number of capital grants that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them, which if not met, will require the monies to be returned. The balances at the year-end are shown in the following table:

Long Term Liabilities - Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
1. Government Grants and Other Contributions	(353)	(357)
2. Section 106	(8,067)	(10,380)
3. Schools Capital Grants	(454)	(432)
Total	(8,874)	(11,169)

DEBTORS, CREDITORS AND CASH FLOWS

7. DEBTORS

Gross Debt	Impairment	31 March 2017		Gross Debt	Impairment	31 March 2018
£000	£000	Net Debt £000		£000	£000	Net Debt £000
741	0	741	Long Term Debtors	705	0	705
14,153	(6,384)	7,769	Other local authorities	11,759	(4,874)	6,885
14,894	(6,384)	8,510	Bodies external to general government	12,464	(4,874)	7,590
			Total Long Term Debtors			
			Short Term Debtors			
4,144	0	4,143	Central government bodies	4,902	0	4,902
1,707	0	1,707	NHS bodies	454	0	454
170	0	170	Public corporations and trusts	0	0	0
1,480	0	1,480	Other local authorities	1,700	0	1,700
31,995	(9,447)	22,548	Bodies external to general government	36,297	(11,980)	24,317
39,496	(9,447)	30,049	Total Short Term Debtors	43,353	(11,980)	31,373
54,390	(15,831)	38,559	Total Debtors	55,817	(16,854)	38,963

Financial Instruments in Debtors

Gross Debt	Impairment	31 March 2017		Gross Debt	Impairment	31 March 2018
(Restated)	(Restated)	Net Debt (Restated*)		£000	£000	Net Debt £000
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
741	0	741	Long Term Debtors	705	0	705
7,315	(522)	6,793	Other local authorities	6,324	(354)	5,970
8,056	(522)	7,534	Bodies external to general government	7,029	(354)	6,675
			Total Long Term Debtors			
			Short Term Debtors			
1,707	0	1,707	NHS bodies	454	0	454
140	0	140	Public Corporations and Trusts	0	0	0
1,480	0	1,480	Other Local Authorities	1,669		1,669
18,159	(2,438)	15,721	Bodies external to general government	19,979	(3,087)	16,892
21,486	(2,438)	19,048	Total Short Term Debtors	22,102	(3,087)	19,015
29,542	(2,960)	26,582	Total Financial Instruments in Debtors	29,131	(3,441)	25,690

(*) The 1617 figures for gross debtors qualifying to be financial instruments have been revised downwards from £34.812m to £29.542m, a reduction of £5.270m. This reduction is mainly due to the removal of payments in advance (£5.42m) and statutory and other debtors (£0.140m CR)..The 1718 analysis is consistent with the 1617 revised figures.

8. CREDITORS

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
	Short Term Creditors	
(12,551)	Central government bodies	(8,341)
(3,955)	Other local authorities	(10,080)
(1,554)	NHS bodies	(872)
(223)	Public Corporations and Trusts	(98)
(43,418)	Bodies external to general government	(43,573)
(61,701)	Total Short Term Creditors	(62,964)

Financial Instruments in Creditors

31 March 2017 Restated (*) £000		31 March 2018 £000
	Short Term Creditors	
(0)	Central government bodies	(0)
(3,955)	Other local authorities	(9,962)
(1,554)	NHS bodies	(837)
(223)	Public Corporations and Trusts	(98)
(28,950)	Bodies external to general government	(27,206)
(34,682)	Total Financial Instruments in Short Term Creditors	(38,103)

(*) The 1617 figures have been reduced from £39.376m to £34.682m, a reduction of £4.694m, because they no longer include the year end liability to HMRC for tax and national insurance, which is a balance arising from statutory arrangements. The 1718 analysis is consistent with the 1617 analysis.

9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Instruments are contractual arrangements for the transfer of cash and include all debtors and creditors arising other than from statutory requirements. They do not include debtors and creditors that arise through statutory requirements such as local taxes and government grants.

The Authority is required to disclose the risks inherent in its usage of financial instruments in its treasury activities, their significance, and how they are managed (Note 10). The following tables show the location of financial instruments within the Authority's accounts.

Categories of Financial Instruments

	Long-term (Restated)		Current (Restated)	
	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	5,000	4,500	66,030	55,193
Total investments	5,000	4,500	66,030	55,193
Debtors				
Loans and receivables	8,056	7,029	21,486	22,102
Total debtors	8,056	7,029	21,486	22,102
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	113,010	113,010	15,145	1,487
Total borrowings	113,010	113,010	15,145	1,487
Other Liabilities				
PFI and Finance Lease Liabilities	30,841	29,851	1,560	1,455
Total other liabilities	30,841	29,851	1,560	1,455
Creditors				
Other Financial liabilities at amortised cost	0	0	33,122	36,648
Total creditors	0	0	33,122	36,648

The Authority's policy is to undertake its treasury activities within the scope of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management. The annual treasury strategy, which is approved by Council, is developed with recognition of treasury risks, and includes Prudential Indicator limits for the overall amount of borrowing. The term (maturity) and fixed/variable interest rate characteristics of borrowing and investment are also considered. The treasury strategy also sets out the Authority's criteria for the minimum creditworthiness required for investment counter parties.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2016/17			2017/18		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense - Borrowings	6,805	0	6,805	6,592	0	6,592
Interest Expense - Finance Leases	3,302	0	3,302	3,473	0	3,473
Losses on Derecognition	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reductions in Fair Value	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fee Expenses	29	0	29	18	0	18
Total Expenses in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	10,137	0	10,137	10,083	0	10,083
Interest Income – Investments net of interest paid on fund balances	0	(828)	(828)	0	(762)	(762)
Interest Income - Finance Leases	0	(793)	(793)	0	(868)	(868)
Interest income accrued on impaired financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase in fair values	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gains on derecognition	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fee Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(1,621)	(1,621)	0	(1,630)	(1,630)
Gains on revaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Losses on revaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amounts recycled to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services after impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net gain/loss for the year	10,137	(1,621)	8,516	10,083	(1,630)	8,453

Investments

All short and long-term investments are in compliance with the Authority's investment policy.

Investment Profile		31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000
Long term		5,000	4,500
Short term		65,900	55,000
Accrued Investment Income		130	193
Total		71,030	59,693
Investments - Movement in year			£000
Investments at 1 April 2017			71,030
Change in investment managed internally			(11,400)
Change in accrued investment income			63
Investment at 31 March 2018			59,693
Long term investment (book value)			4,500
Short term investment (book value)			55,000
	Book Value £000	Fair Value £000	Unrealised Profits/(Losses) £000
Managed Internally	59,500	59,500	0
Managed Externally			0
Total	59,500	59,500	0

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is defined as 'the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date'. Fair value has been assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments (Level 2 in the IFRS fair value hierarchy).

The fair value of the Authority's internally managed investment portfolio is not materially different to the book value, and is disclosed in the table above.

The fair value of the Authority's investments is greater than the book value because the Council's portfolio of assets includes a number of fixed rate investments where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar investments in the market at the balance sheet date. This shows a notional future gain based on economic conditions at 31st March 2018 arising from counter-parties' commitment to pay interest to the Council above current market rates.

The Authority has calculated the fair value of its borrowing portfolio in the following table. The calculation of fair value involves estimating the premium payable on each loan if it were redeemed at year end, and adding this to the outstanding principal. All loans are at fixed rates and do not include derivatives, to which the Authority is directly exposed. The Authority is not able to package its debt as a marketable security and no adjustment is required to the book value of these loans on the balance sheet.

The methods and assumptions used in the valuation technique were:

- For Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) debt, fair values as at 31st March 2018 published by PWLB have been used.
- For other market debt, Net Present Value (NPV) methodology has been used, which provides an estimate of the value of future payments in today's terms. The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is usually equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender and would be the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation, for an instrument with the same duration date to maturity.

Borrowing at source - Fair Value	31 March 2017		31 March 2018	
	Fair Value £000	Book Value £000	Fair Value £000	Book Value £000
Public Works Loan Board	70,307	52,010	68,400	52,010
Market Loan	107,355	63,000	102,239	61,000
Temporary Loan	9,998	10,000	0	0
Stock Loan	2,077	1,966	0	0
Total	189,737	126,976	170,639	113,010

Borrowing - Maturity Profile	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000
Less than 1 year	13,966	0
Between 1 and 2 years	0	0
Between 2 and 5 years	4,000	4,310
Between 5 and 10 years	26,510	30,700
More than 10 years	82,500	78,000
Total Borrowings	126,976	113,010
Accrued Interest	1,179	1,487
	128,155	114,497

The balance sheet figures are based upon the maturity profile of borrowings. No early repayment or impairment is recognised. For instruments with maturity of less than 12 months or trade or other receivables, their fair value is assessed as the carrying or billed amount. The fair value of the Council's total liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the Council's loans portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This comparison demonstrates a notional future loss as at 31st March 2018 as a consequence of a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of PWLB loans of £68.4m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the balance sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the Authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates. The Authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets.

10. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises in the lending of surplus funds to banks, building societies and other local authorities as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers.

Lending and Investments

In the case of lending/investing surplus funds, risk is minimised through the Authority's credit policy that seeks to ensure that invested funds (deposits) are at relatively low risk of deposit-taker default. The policy sets a minimum level of creditworthiness for deposits in individual financial institutions, assessed by reference to data from commercial credit rating agencies and credit default swap data. The minimum credit criteria for 2017/18 were as follows:

Category	Fitch	Moody's	Standard & Poor's	Definition
Banks and Building Societies				
Short Tem	F1	P-1	A-1	Highest credit quality on a 12 month view
Long Term	A-	A3	A-1	Very low expectation of credit risk developing
Viability/Rating	bbb+	c-	n/a	Adequate institution with limited weakness
Support	1	n/a	n/a	Expectation of central government support
Money Market Funds	AAAmf	Aaa-mf	AAAm	

In addition to deposits in higher rated deposit-takers, the Authority may use an AAA rated Money Market Fund, (which spreads risk taking across deposit takers), and may also place deposits in UK public sector institutions, such as local authorities. At 31st March 2018 the disposition of investments was:

Category	£000	%	Spread (number of counterparties)	Fitch Rating
UK Clearing Banks	32,000	53.8%	7	F1, A, a-,1
UK Building Society	13,000	21.8%	3	F1, A, a-,1
Local Authority	0	0.0%	1	n/a
Pooled Property Fund	10,000	16.8%	1	AAAmf
Non UK Banks	4,500	7.6%	1	AAA
Total	59,500	100.0%	13	

A high credit standard increases concentration of deposits in fewer institutions than would ideally be the case. However, it is considered that in prevailing market circumstances high credit quality is crucial, and outweighs the alternative of a wider spread of deposits across less well-rated counterparties. As and when credit ratings allow, efforts will be made to spread investment across additional deposit-takers.

Current Deposits and Trade Debtors

No losses or impairments were incurred in 2017/18, nor are expected for the duration of current deposits. The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers. The Authority's maximum potential exposure to credit risk is with trade debtors, which are reviewed individually to assess risk of default and need for a provision. Factors taken into account in the assessment include the stability of the organisation, the size of the debt, the age of the debt and what, if any, security such as a charge on property has been provided. The past-due amount of trade debts can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
< 3 months	9,327	6,547
3 to 12 months	2,220	5,361
> 1 year	3,360	4,251
Total	14,907	16,159

Cash

The Authority's cash is held in a UK clearing bank and when the balance is significant, deposits are spread across a number of institutions to reduce risk.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority's ability to pay its financial commitments as and when due is supported by substantial resources. Also, it has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. It plans a balanced annual budget that provides sufficient revenue to cover annual expenditure, and has access to borrowings from money markets and the Public Works Loans Board.

There is no significant risk that the Authority will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments, although there is risk the Authority may be bound to replenish some of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The maturity profile is designed to limit the consequence of significant amounts of finance being required when market conditions are difficult or expensive. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is set out in the following table:

	31 March 2017		31 March 2018	
	£000	%	£000	%
Under 12 months	13,966	11.0%	0	0.0%
1yr to 2yrs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
2yrs to 5yrs	4,000	3.1%	4,310	3.8%
5yrs to 10yrs	26,510	20.9%	30,700	27.2%
10yrs and over	82,500	65.0%	78,000	69.0%
Total	126,976	100%	113,010	100%

The above represents the nominal exposure to debt maturities, but some Lenders Option (LOBO) debt allows the Lender to prompt a repayment by requesting an interest rate change that is unacceptable to the Authority. The risk of this occurring is limited by the current rate of interest on such debt, which is higher than current and forecast market rates. The Authority is therefore not exposed to immediate refinancing risk. In addition, if redemption were required, the Authority has adequate resources to finance it, and its occurrence would currently offer the prospect of cost saving.

LOBO debt exposure with market rates of:	Prospectively repayable / requiring Re-finance £000	Proportion of total debt %
4.00 - 4.99%	5,000	4.4
5.00 - 5.99%	24,000	21.2
6.00 - 6.99%	15,500	13.7
7.00 - 7.99%	2,000	1.8
8.00 - 8.99%	4,500	4.0
Total	51,000	45.1

None of the above debt is reasonably in prospect of option exercise. Liquidity is supported by the significant funds the Authority has under short-term cash investment. Fixed interest rate deposits (investments) are placed in maturities that balance the need to support liquidity for day-to-day cash flow needs with the spreading of investments over a range of periods to optimise investment return.

At 31st March 2018 the sources of potential borrowing appear unimpaired, and the maturity profile of investments, available to support liquidity going forward, is as follows:

Maturity Profile of Investments	£000	%
April to June 2018	8,000	13.4
July to September 2018	18,000	30.3
October to December 2018	5,000	8.4
January 2019 to March 2019	14,000	23.5
April 2019 to June 2019	0	0.0
June 2019 to September 2019	0	0.0
October 2019 and beyond	14,500	24.4
	59,500	100.0

The Authority did not experience any liquidity problems in 2017/18 and does not anticipate any for 2018/19.

Interest Rate (or Market) Risk

The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments as follows:

- Borrowing at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement can rise or fall.

- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise or fall accordingly.
- Borrowing at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall if market rates rise and increase if rates fall.
- Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall if rates rise and increase if rates fall.

If market interest rates move by 0.5% and 1.0%, with other variables held constant, the financial effect on the portfolio is estimated to be:

	2017/18 £000	0.50% £000	1.00% £000	Mitigation
Borrowings	113,010	565	1,130	In the short term, a 0.5% or 1.0% rise in market interest rate is unlikely to have any impact on the existing debt portfolio because of the LOBO rates in the portfolio. On the other hand, should a 0.5% or 1.0% change in market interest rate be translated directly into a corresponding increase in investment rates, the existing investment portfolio will be affected to the extent by which the Authority is locked into its investments until maturity. A premium would be payable to unwind the fixed deposits.
Investments	(59,500)	(298)	(595)	
Impact on CIES	N/A	267	535	

Borrowings

The Authority's portfolio of borrowings is effectively on long-term fixed rates, and the consequence of exposure to short-term rate movements is very limited. Prudential Indicators, incorporated into treasury strategy, set limits to control exposure to this prospective risk and the policy of maintaining a spread of transaction maturities over time acts to average and moderate the consequences of interest rate movements.

Maturity in	At 31st March 2017		At 31st March 2018	
	£000	Interest Rate %	£000	Interest Rate %
Under 12 months	13,966	3.1	0	0.0
1 to 2 years	0	0.0	0	0.0
2 to 5 years	4,000	6.8	4,310	6.7
5 to 10 years	26,510	5.9	30,700	6.2
10 to 15 years	4,500	8.4	0	0.0
15 to 20 years	12,500	5.2	12,500	5.2
20 to 25 years	0	0.0	0	0.0
25 to 30 years	13,500	6.6	13,500	6.6
30 to 35 years	0	0.0	0	0.0
35 to 40 years	32,000	4.6	32,000	4.6
40 to 45 years	0	0.0	0	0.0
45 to 50 years	20,000	5.0	20,000	5.0
	126,976	5.3	113,010	5.58

Prudential Indicator Limits

Maximum % exposure to	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021
Fixed rates	100	100	100	100
Variable rates	50	50	50	50

Investments

Investment strategy seeks to exploit the forecast trend in interest rates. If rates are expected to rise, then investments tend to be placed on variable rate terms or short fixed period to allow early re-investment at higher rates. If they are expected to fall, an extended fixed period will maintain income at a higher rate for longer. However, interest rate forecasts do not imply certainty, and optimising investment returns has to be balanced with the need to maintain adequate liquidity. Against this background a Prudential Indicator controls the balance between short-term investments, influenced by liquidity, and longer strategic investment.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021
Maximum investment over 1 year as percentage of total investments	50	50	50	50

At 31st March 2018, the investment portfolio's exposure to interest rates is set out in the following table.

Deposit Maturity in:	At 31st March 2017		At 31st March 2018	
	£000	Interest Rate %	£000	Interest Rate %
0-3 months	8,000	0.4	8,000	0.6
3-6 months	21,900	0.4	18,000	0.6
6-9 months	8,000	1.0	5,000	0.9
9-12 months	23,000	0.8	14,000	0.8
over 12 months	10,000	2.5	14,500	2.4
	70,900	0.9	59,500	0.9

Note: Time deposits incur penalties if called before the end date, while the pooled property would incur selling fees.

PFI Borrowing

The PFI loans or liabilities and rate of interest payable are derived from the unitary payment schedule with New Schools and do not change.

Price Risk

The Authority (excluding its Pension Fund, which is subject to separate constraints) does not currently invest in financial instruments that are subject to market price volatility. If this were to change then the treasury strategy would be developed to manage these risks.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Authority has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies (other than in respect of its Pension Fund), and thus has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Authority maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments made for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council's approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer-term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer-term cash flow needs.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets, and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services.

11. PROVISIONS

	2017/18
	NDR Appeals
Short term provisions	£000
Balance at 1 April 2017	(757)
Additional provisions made in 2017/18	(138)
Amounts used in 2017/18	254
Balance at 31 March 2018	(641)

	2017/18		
	Insurance Fund	NDR Appeals	Total
Long Term Provisions	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2017	(4,175)	(1,343)	(5,518)
Additional provisions made in 2017/18	(935)	(248)	(1,183)
Amounts used in 2017/18	882	451	1,333
Balance at 31 March 2018	(4,228)	(1,140)	(5,368)

Insurance Fund: The Authority self-insures for claims up to a certain value. As part of this it maintains an Insurance Fund to cover claims. The authority tops up the fund at year end, so it is maintained within the limits recommended by the authority's actuaries.

NDR Appeals: The Collection Fund contains a provision of £5.936m for the estimated cost of appeals against NDR (Business Rates) charges which may be settled in future years.

The authority's share of this provision (30%) is £1.780m, £0.64m current and £1.14m non-current. During 2017/18, the authority's share of sums charged against this sum was £0.706m and its share of sums set aside to cover future appeals was £0.386m.

The balance of the appeals provision (70%, £4.155m) is held within the Collection Fund as part of consolidated balances for the GLA and MHCLG.

12. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are three employment disputes with a maximum potential liability of £0.089m. There is also one claim for loss of earnings and damage to property (£0.261m) following flood at Council premises.

Where appropriate, the authority defends itself against claims. Due to the inherent uncertainties surrounding the outcome of disputes, the authority has not made provision for these in the accounts.

13. CONTINGENT ASSETS

There are no new contingent assets identified in 2017/18

14. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
11,989	Main bank account	(4,444)
739	Cash in transit (held by agents)	1,477
17,663	Cash advanced to schools	17,382
0	Short Term Deposits	16,000
19	Cash advanced to establishments (Cash imprests)	19
30,410	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	30,434

15. CASH FLOWS

15a. Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements

2016/17 Restated £000	ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS	2017/18 £000
	Non Cash Movements	
(18,824)	Depreciation	(19,246)
(7,762)	Revaluation (gain) loss (net)	3,947
(538)	Amortisation	(492)
(7,501)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	(435)
(12,116)	Movement in Pension Liability	(23,877)
(925)	(Increase) in provision for the impairment of bad debts	(1,023)
1,686	(Increase)/decrease in Provisions	266
(45,980)		(40,860)
	Accruals Adjustments	
(11)	Increase/(decrease) in Inventories	(34)
1,164	Increase/(decrease) in Debtors	1,427
(343)	Increase/(decrease) in Interest Debtors	63
1,351	(Increase)/decrease in Creditors	(3,779)
(2)	(Increase)/decrease in Interest Creditors	308
2,159		(2,015)
(43,821)	Total	(42,875)

15b. Adjustments for Items Included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

2016/17		2017/18
£000	ADJUSTMENTS FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES	£000
6,634	Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	5,247
18,859	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	19,670
25,493	Total	24,917

15c. Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

2016/17		2017/18
£000	CASH FLOW STATEMENT - OPERATING ACTIVITIES	£000
(4,663)	Cost of services – Payments less Receipts	(15,722)
(1,964)	Interest received from investments and finance leases	(1,583)
6,803	Interest paid on borrowings	6,284
3,302	Interest paid in respect of finance leases	3,473
3,479	Net cash flows from operating activities	(7,548)

15d. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2016/17		2017/18
£000	CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES	£000
26,370	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	32,555
383,400	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	323,200
(6,634)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(5,247)
(397,900)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(334,600)
(19,600)	Other receipts from investing activities	(21,964)
(14,364)	Net cash flows from investing activities	(6,056)

15e. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2016/17		2017/18
£000	CASH FLOW STATEMENT - FINANCING ACTIVITIES	£000
0	Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	0
1,249	Cash payments for the reduction of finance leases	1,138
5,000	Repayment of short- and long-term borrowing	13,351
(2,463)	Other payments/(receipts) from financing activities	(909)
3,786	Net cash flows from financing activities	13,580

RESERVES

16. USABLE RESERVES

Usable Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2016 £000	Transfers out 2016/17 £000	Transfers in 2016/17 £000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £000	Transfers out 2017/18 £000	Transfers in 2017/18 £000	Balance at 31 March 2018 £000
General Fund:							
Balances held by schools	(10,504)	2,258	0	(8,246)	426	0	(7,820)
General Fund Balances	(15,151)	2,373	0	(12,778)	0	0	(12,778)
Earmarked reserves	(41,690)	5,762	(5,177)	(41,105)	3,183	(2,200)	(40,122)
Total General Fund	(67,345)	10,393	(5,177)	(62,129)	3,609	(2,200)	(60,720)
Capital:							
Capital Receipts Reserves	(29,582)	12,993	(6,397)	(22,986)	12,001	(4,528)	(15,513)
Capital Grants Unapplied	(4,153)	830	(3,928)	(7,251)	185	(3,413)	(10,479)
Total Capital	(33,735)	13,823	(10,325)	(30,237)	12,186	(7,941)	(25,992)
Total Usable Reserves	(101,080)	24,216	(15,502)	(92,366)	15,795	(10,141)	(86,712)

General Fund Balance - This fund includes any surplus after meeting net expenditure on Council services.

Earmarked Reserves - Earmarked reserves are amounts set aside from the General Fund to provide financing for future expenditure plans. Also included in this note are amounts held by schools under delegated schemes and amounts set aside to meet future insurance claims. (see Note 11 for detail)

Capital Receipts Reserve - This represents receipts from the sale of land and other assets. The reserve can be used for the repayment of external loans, or transferred to the capital adjustment account to finance capital expenditure.

Capital Grants Unapplied - These are unapplied capital grants set aside for future capital expenditure. The balance includes unapplied Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Balance at 31st March 2016	Net Transfer (to)/from Reserve	Balance at 31st March 2017	Net Transfer (to)/from Reserve	Balance at 31st March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Outstanding Council Programme Board	(6,281)	1,362	(4,919)	374	(4,545)
For use in future years' budgets	(5,865)	(1,924)	(7,789)	(2,472)	(10,261)
Revenue Reserve for Capital/Revenuisation	(7,747)	932	(6,815)	3,317	(3,498)
Renewable energy reserve	(1,522)	0	(1,522)	1	(1,523)
Repairs and renewals fund	(1,224)	77	(1,147)	57	(1,090)
Pension fund additional contribution	(63)	(434)	(497)	44	(453)
Local land charges	(1,645)	(258)	(1,903)	(135)	(2,038)
Apprenticeships	(406)	104	(302)	42	(260)
Community care reserve	(1,386)	0	(1,386)	(1)	(1,385)
Local welfare support reserve	(533)	90	(443)	67	(376)
Economic development strategy	(619)	518	(101)	99	(2)
Corporate services reserves	(290)	(486)	(776)	(995)	(1,771)
Wimbledon tennis courts renewal	(102)	(25)	(127)	(23)	(150)
Governor support reserve	(18)	(24)	(42)	14	(28)
Redundancy costs reserve	0	(600)	(600)	600	0
BRS Reserve	0	(870)	(870)	0	(870)
New homes bonus scheme	(1,037)	746	(291)	169	(122)
Adult social care contributions	(350)	350	0	(2,160)	(2,160)
Culture & environment contributions	(134)	120	(14)	0	(14)
Culture & environment grants	(413)	163	(250)	(267)	(517)
Children & education grants	(371)	65	(306)	(119)	(425)
Supporting people balances	(65)	65	0	0	0
Housing planning development grants	(101)	101	0	0	0
Housing GF grants	(106)	0	(106)	0	(106)
Public health grant reserve	(22)	(325)	(347)	347	0
Insurance reserves	(1,955)	0	(1,955)	0	(1,955)
DSG reserve	(4,369)	705	(3,664)	2,736	(928)
Refund of school PFI contributions	(100)	0	(100)	100	0
School standard Fund	0	(6)	(6)	(366)	(372)
Schools PFI fund	(4,601)	(226)	(4,827)	(421)	(5,248)
CFS Reserves	(365)	365	0	(25)	(25)
Grand Total	(41,690)	585	(41,105)	983	(40,122)

Purpose of Earmarked Reserves

Outstanding Council Programme Board: This reserve is held to fund the transformation of services for the Council.

For use in future years' budgets: These funds are used to balance any budgetary gaps, as identified in the medium term financial strategy, until agreed savings are achieved.

Revenue reserve for capital/revenue support: The reserve provides revenue support towards funding capital expenditure and, where necessary, funds revenue expenditure which has been re-classified from the capital programme.

Renewable energy: To fund the cost of implementing renewable energy measures with lower carbon impact in Council buildings, as part of the Authority's strategy to reduce its environmental impact.

Repairs and renewals fund: To support day-to-day revenue expenditure, such as maintenance work, on fixed assets.

Transforming families reserve: The reserve is held to fund central government's troubled families' initiative.

Pension fund additional contribution: This reserve is used to fund the costs of any enhanced early retirement benefits, which must be borne by the general fund.

Local Land Charges: The reserve will be used to fund any liability arising from potential legal challenges in relation to local land charges.

Apprenticeships: The reserve is used to fund the Authority's apprenticeship scheme.

Community care reserve: Used to fund learning and disability transition expenditure, including TUPE and redundancy cost from the NHS, and other learning and disability related expenditure.

Local welfare support reserve: Reserve holds any underspend arising from the local welfare support scheme.

Economic development strategy: For projects that support economic development in the Borough.

Governor support reserve: Service provided jointly with LB Sutton. This reserve holds an underspend from prior years. Expenditure must be agreed jointly by the two Boroughs.

BRS reserve: This holds the difference between sums received in respect of Business Rates Supplement and sums paid to the GLA pending confirmation as to whether there is a liability for this balance.

Wimbledon tennis courts renewal: Funds held in accordance with the agreement for the upkeep of Merton's tennis courts.

Corporate services reserves: This reserve funds corporate projects, LPFA former GLC contributions and also provides a contingency to cover any Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant that may be clawed back from the Council by the Department of Work and Pensions.

New homes bonus scheme: Top-slice funding received from the Greater London Authority. The funds must be used to deliver three specific projects that contribute to London - Brighter Business: Resilience through energy efficiency; Morden Master planning; and Morden Retail Gateway.

Adult social care grants: To ensure that government grant provided for Adult Social Care is utilised efficiently and effectively.

Culture & environment contributions: The grants and funds will mainly be spent on the weekly collection support scheme.

Culture & environment grants: To hold unspent funds from various grants, including: Trees for Cities, Air Quality, Heat Networks Delivery Unit and Sports Blast

Children & education grants: The reserve holds unspent receipts from the following grants: Social Work Improvement Fund Training, Troubled Families, Adoption Reform, and SEN Reform.

Housing planning development grants: Funds are used to support housing planning developments.

Housing GF grants: Used to fund rent deposits for homeless people.

Public health grant reserve: Carry forward of unspent public health grant. The funds will be spent on public health related services

Insurance reserves: The Authority, in line with most other local authorities, self-insures for claims up to a certain value. The insurance reserve is held for this purpose.

DSG reserve: The reserve holds prior year underspends on the Dedicated Schools Grant. It is used to fund projects determined by the Schools Forum.

Schools reserve: Resources to support inspections preparation, project support, capacity building for transformation and commissioning post funding.

Refund of schools' PFI contributions: To fund the reimbursement of previous overpayments, made by three schools to the Authority, towards the Private Finance Initiative Scheme (see Note 27).

Schools PFI fund: Programmed reserve to balance general fund contributions to the PFI scheme evenly over the contract term.

17. UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2017 (Restated) £000		31 March 2018 £000
(300,386)	Revaluation Reserve	(317,688)
(205,491)	Capital Adjustment Account	(228,718)
368,109	Pensions Reserve	350,088
(5,481)	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(5,465)
(1,395)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(1,171)
4,983	Accumulated Absences Account	4,701
(139,661)	Total Unusable Reserves	(198,253)

Revaluation Reserve

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

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used to provide services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

2016/17 (Restated) £000		2017/18 £000
(84,678)	Balance at 1st April	(300,386)
(211,505)	Correction to opening balance	
(296,183)	Revised Opening Balance at 1st April	
(18,148)	Upward revaluation of assets	(48,821)
5,160	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	27,372
(12,988)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(21,449)
5,655	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	4,101
3,130	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	46
8,785	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	4,147
(300,386)	Balance at 31st March	(317,688)

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 authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

2016/17 (Restated) £000		2017/18 £000
(187,067)	Balance at 1st April	(205,491)
(8,371)	Correction to opening balance	
(195,437)	Revised Opening Balance at 1 st April	
(8,785)	Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(4,147)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
18,824	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	19,246
10,146	Revaluation losses charged to CIES for Property, Plant and Equipment where there is no prior Revaluation Reserve balance	3,250
(2,384)	Reversal of impairment charges to the CIES of non-current assets in prior years where the non-current assets have had an upward revaluation in year	(7,197)
538	Amortisation of intangible assets	492
3,200	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	3,620
7,501	Amounts of non-current assets written off on derecognition or sale as part of gain/loss on disposal	435
37,825		19,846
29,040	Net reversal of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	15,699
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
(12,993)	Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(12,001)
(15,791)	Application of grants and contributions to capital financing on the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(16,443)
(8,616)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(6,789)
(1,842)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(3,786)
(39,242)		(39,019)
149	Loan Repayments	92
(205,491)	Balance at 31st March	(228,718)

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 authority 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 authority 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 authority 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.

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
263,154	Balance at 1st April	368,109
92,839	Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/asset	(41,898)
29,906	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit in the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive and Expenditure Statement	40,466
(17,790)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(16,589)
368,109	Balance at 31st March	350,088

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the authority 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.

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
(5,319)	Balance at 1st April	(5,481)
(176)	Correction of balance relating to previous years	0
14	Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/ loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	16
(5,481)	Balance at 31st March	(5,465)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

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

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
(1,703)	Balance at 1st April	(1,395)
308	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory Requirements	224
(1,395)	Balance at 31st March	(1,171)

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
2,884	Balance at 1st April	4,983
(2,884)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(4,983)
4,983	Amount accrued at 31st March	4,701
2,099	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	(282)

18. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

The following tables detail the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2017/18

	Usable Reserves			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(19,246)			19,246
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(3,250)			3,250
Reversal of impairment charges to the CIES of non-current assets in prior years where the non-current assets have had an upward revaluation in year	7,197			(7,197)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(492)			492
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,620)			3,620
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	(435)			435
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	6,789			(6,789)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	3,786			(3,786)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grant Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	19,670		(3,228)	(16,442)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account				
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,436	(4,436)		0

	Usable Reserves			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	12,001	0	(12,001)
Repayment of debt	0	(92)	0	92
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(17)	0	0	17
Correction of balance relating to previous years	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 32)	(40,466)	0	0	40,466
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	16,589	0	0	(16,589)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustments Account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(224)	0	0	224
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account				
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	282	0	0	(282)
Total Adjustments	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	4,756

2016/17 Comparative Figures (Restated)				
	Usable Reserves			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the</u>				
<u>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(18,824)	0	0	18,824
Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(10,146)	0	0	10,146
Reversal of impairment charges to the CIES of non-current assets in prior years where the non-current assets have had an upward revaluation in year	2,384	0	0	(2,384)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(538)	0	0	538
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,200)	0	0	3,200
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	(7,501)	0	0	7,501
Other				
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the</u>				
<u>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	8,615	0	0	(8,615)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balance	1,842	0	0	(1,842)
Revaluation gains charged direct to Revaluation Reserve				
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grant				
Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	18,889	0	(3,928)	(14,961)
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	830	(830)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	6,249	(6,249)	0	0

	Usable Reserves			Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	12,993	0	(12,993)
Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance debt premium				
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals				
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash				
Repayment of debt	0	(149)	0	149
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(14)	0	0	14
Correction of balance relating to previous years	176	0	0	(176)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see Note 32)	(29,906)	0	0	29,906
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	17,790	0	0	(17,790)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustments Account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(308)	0	0	308
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account				
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	(2,098)	0	0	2,098
Total Adjustments	(16,590)	6,595	(3,098)	13,093

CAPITAL

19. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Prior Period Adjustment

Background: The Accounting Code requires that the authority must restate material prior period errors. (Code of Practice paragraph 3.3.2.18). The authority values specialised assets at Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) as an estimate of current value. These have a current value of £320m and form the majority of the authority's Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) assets. During a review of audit working papers for 2017/18, these assets were found have been valued incorrectly. The authority has undertaken work to correct these valuations and this work has had a material effect on the authority's PPE valuation going back to financial year 2015/16.

Nature of the errors:

- The land values used particularly for DRC assets were industrial values as opposed to residential values. Due to the location of these land and buildings, residential land values should be used.
- The remaining useful life for valuation purposes was too long in some cases. It is now capped at remaining life of 40 years for older buildings (pre 1970) and total life of 60 years for newer buildings (post 1970).
- A discount factor was applied to the valuation when it was not required.

Accounting Requirements: The Accounting Code requires that when an authority corrects for a prior period error, it should present an additional balance sheet at the beginning of the preceding period where those adjustments have a material effect on the information in the third balance sheet. The authority has therefore prepared restated balance sheets as at 1st April 2016 and also as at 31st March 2017. The information for 2016/17 in the other core statements- the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, the Movement in Reserves Statement and the Cash Flow Statement - has also been restated. The 2016/17 comparative information in relevant disclosure notes has also been changed.

Scale of adjustment: The corrections in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment have led to an increase in their value of £219.9m as at 31st March 2016 and £173.7m as at 31st March 2017 when compared to those previously reported in the audited accounts. These changes in the value of the Councils assets have been matched by a net increase in the authority's unusable reserves.

Details: The details of the changes in the previous years' accounts are set out in the following tables.

The first table, "Assets valued at DRC" shows the difference in each year between the unadjusted Net Book Value of DRC assets, the value following the revaluation exercise

and their effect on Unusable Reserves. The second table, "Content of change" summarises the nature of the corrections. The overall change reflects timing differences wherein the upward revaluation is showing more in 2016/17 accounts and less in 2017/18 accounts. The third shows the impact of the changes on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

Table 1 Assets valued at DRC -

	Net Book Value Original (£000)	Net Book Value restated (£000)	Change in net book value - cumulative (£000)
1st April 2016	252,025	471,901	219,876
31st March 2017	302,734	476,480	173,746

Charged to:

	Revaluation Reserve (£000)	Capital Adjustment Account (£000)	Change in book value in year (£000)
1st April 2016	211,505	8,371	219,876
31st March 2017	(40,024)	(6,106)	(46,130)

Table 2 Content of change

	1 st April 2016 £000	31 st March 2017 £000	Total £000
Revaluation	219,876	(43,590)	176,286
Depreciation	0	(1,653)	(1,653)
Derecognition	0	(887)	(887)
Total change in Property Plant and Equipment (PPE)	219,876	(46,130)	173,746

Table 3 Restated Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

	2016/17 Original	2016/17 Restated	Change Including rounding
	(£000)	(£000)	(£000)
Cost of Services	162,504	172,259	9,755
(Surplus) or deficit on provision of services	11,164	21,807	10,643
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	44,363	79,851	35,488
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	55,527	101,658	46,130

Depreciation

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

- Other Land and Buildings 20 - 50 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment 5 - 10 years
- Infrastructure 25 years

Amortisation

Intangible Assets are amortised over 5 years

Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2018, the Authority has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2018/19 and future years totalling an estimated £11.5m (£11.3m at 31/03/2017).

	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2017	569,717	15,410	164,286	0	7,026	3,536	759,975	132,721
Additions	10,734	2,690	7,327	513	0	7,153	28,417	765
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	9,583	0	0	0	300	0	9,883	(1,473)
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	4,482	(24)	0	(513)	0	0	3,945	0
Derecognition – Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Other	(452)	(3,821)	(4,110)	0	0	0	(8,383)	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for Sale	5,817	0	0	0	0	0	5,817	0
Other – reclassifications	(15,533)	0	0	0	15,533	(2,720)	(2,720)	0
At 31 March 2018	584,348	14,255	167,503	0	22,859	7,969	796,934	132,013
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2017	2,977	7,236	62,897	0	0	0	73,110	0
Depreciation Charge	10,189	2,552	6,505	0	0	0	19,246	1,684
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3,413)	0	0	0	0	0	(3,413)	0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision Services	(8,152)	(1)	0	0	0	0	(8,153)	(1,684)
Impairment Losses /(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition – Other	(43)	(3,795)	(4,110)	0	0	0	(7,948)	0
Other- reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2018	1,558	5,992	65,292	0	0	0	72,842	0
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2018	582,790	8,263	102,211	0	22,859	7,969	724,092	132,014
At 31 March 2017	566,740	8,174	101,390	0	7,026	3,536	686,865	132,721

Comparative Movements in 2016/17 (Restated):

	Other Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets under construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant and Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2016	354,927	20,584	155,577	0	7,026	1,472	539,586	57,376
Correction of balance relating to previous years	214,597	(37)	0	0	0	0	214,560	73,430
Additions	12,416	2,694	8,709	916	0	2,064	26,799	75
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	2,465	0	0	0	0	0	2,465	1,917
Revaluation increase/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(7,411)	0	0	(916)	0	0	(8,327)	(77)
Derecognition – Disposals	(7,565)	(7,831)	0	0	0	0	(15,396)	0
Derecognition – Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from held for Sale	288	0	0	0	0	0	288	0
Completed assets under construction To Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2017	569,717	15,410	164,286	0	7,026	3,536	759,975	132,721
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2016	9,334	12,444	56,673	0	0	0	78,451	1,218
Correction of balance relating to previous years	(5,289)	(37)	0	0	0	0	(5,326)	(1,218)
Depreciation Charge	10,021	2,580	6,223	0	0	0	18,824	354
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(10,741)	0	0	0	0	0	(10,741)	(354)
Impairment Losses/(reversals) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(120)	0	0	0	0	0	(120)	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus /Deficit on the Provision of Services	(80)	0	0	0	0	0	(80)	0
Derecognition – Disposals	(147)	(7,751)	0	0	0	0	(7,898)	0
Derecognition – Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2017	2,978	7,236	62,896	0	0	0	73,110	0
Net Book Value								
At 31 March 2017	566,739	8,174	101,390	0	7,026	3,536	686,865	132,721
At 31 March 2016	345,593	8,140	98,904	0	7,026	1,472	461,133	56,158

20. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

All software is given a finite useful life. The useful life assigned to the major software suites used by the London Borough of Merton is 5 years.

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

	2016/17	2017/18
	Intangible Assets £000	Intangible Assets £000
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	2,973	2,431
Accumulated amortisation	(1,682)	(1,052)
Net carrying amount at start of year	1,291	1,379
Disposals:		
Gross carrying amounts	(1,168)	(796)
Accumulated amortisation	1,168	796
Additions:		
Purchases	626	694
Reclassified from assets under construction	0	2,720
Amortisation for the period	(538)	(492)
Net carrying amount at end of year	1,379	4,301
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	2,431	5,049
Accumulated amortisation	(1,052)	(748)
	1,379	4,301

21. HERITAGE ASSETS

The authority's collection of Heritage Assets consists of Regalia and Art. Much of the art is on display within the Civic Centre and Libraries. The Regalia is not generally accessible other than when in use and the higher value items are stored securely. All Heritage Assets are held on the Balance Sheet at insurance value, which is based on market values. Valuations were carried out in February 2017 by qualified external valuers, Denham's, a Sussex based firm of auctioneer's founded in 1884. There are four items within the Art collection and nine items within the Regalia with a valuation of £20,000 or above. The highest value item is the Chain of Office of the Mayor of the former Borough of Wimbledon, which has been valued at £104,000.

The following table shows the carrying value of Heritage Assets held by the authority at the Balance Sheet date:

	Art Collection £000	Regalia & Ceremonial £000	Total Assets £000
Cost or Valuation			
1 April 2017	191	611	802
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0
Impairment Losses/(reversals) recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Service	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0
31 March 2018	191	611	802

22. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Current	
	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	7,288	7,000
Recognition	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Other Land & Buildings	(288)	(5,817)
Balance outstanding at year end	7,000	1,183

23. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

The Council carried out an impairment review in 2017/18, the result of which is that there were no impairment losses in 2017/18. In 2016/17 there were impairment losses of £1.8m.

24. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI/PP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the London Borough of Merton, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the London Borough of Merton that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the following table:

	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	198,616	190,000
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	26,800	28,417
Intangible Assets	626	694
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	3,200	3,620
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts	(12,993)	(12,001)
Government grants and other contributions	(15,791)	(16,443)
Sums set aside from revenue:		
Direct revenue contributions	(1,842)	(3,786)
MRP	(8,616)	(6,789)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	190,000	183,712
Decrease in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	(8,616)	(6,788)
Assets acquired under finance leases	0	500
(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	(8,616)	(6,288)

25. LEASES

Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

In the past the Authority has acquired a variety of assets, including operational buildings and IT equipment, under finance leases. The last such lease for IT equipment has now ended and current policy is not to enter into any more. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
2,871	Other Land and Buildings	5,492
162	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	12
3,033	Total	5,504

The authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the authority and finance costs that will be payable by the authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding.

The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value minimum lease payments):	
79	- current	36
390	- non current	819
1	Finance costs payable in future years	1,340
470	Total minimum lease payments	2,195

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Payments	
	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2018 £000
Not later than one year	79	101	79	36
Later than one year and not later than five years	123	378	123	48
Later than five years	268	1,716	267	770
Total	470	2,195	469	854

The finance lease payments represent the long term liability excluding interest costs.

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2017/18, £0.134m contingent rents were payable by the Authority (2016/17 £0.264m).

Operating Leases

The authority has acquired Land, Buildings and Vehicles by entering into operating leases. The minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
1,465	Not later than one year	1,469
5,670	Later than one year and not later than five years	5,876
6,023	Later than five years	4,494
13,158	Total	11,839

Authority as Lessor

Finance leases

The authority has leased out property at a number of sites across the borough on a finance lease basis. The authority has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term and the residual value anticipated for the property when the lease comes to an end. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long term debtor for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee and finance income that will be earned by the authority in future years whilst the debtor remains outstanding.

The gross investment is made up of the following:

31 March 2017		31 March 2018
£000		£000
	Finance lease debtor (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
15	- current	16
5,469	- non current	5,453
19,729	Unearned finance income	19,404
2	Unguaranteed residual value of property	2
25,215	Gross investment in lease	24,875

The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following period:

	Gross investment in the Lease		Minimum Lease Payments	
	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	340	340	340	340
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,360	1,360	1,360	1,360
Later than five years	23,515	23,175	23,512	23,173
Total	25,215	24,875	25,212	24,873

The minimum lease payments receivable does not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2017/18, £0.818m contingent rents were receivable by the authority (£0.738m in 2016/17).

Operating Leases

The authority leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purpose:

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

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

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
2,957	Not later than one year	4,757
9,858	Later than one year and not later than five years	19,029
26,951	Later than five years	13,096
39,765		36,882

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

SCHOOLS

26. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The authority's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is provided by the Department for Education. DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2015. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2017/18 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £'000	Individual Schools Budget £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Final DSG for 2017/18 before Academy recoupment			162,535
Academy figure recouped for 2017/18			(19,675)
Total DSG figure after Academy recoupment for 2017/18			142,860
Plus: Brought forward from 2016/17			3,663
Less: Carry-forward to 2018/19 agreed in advance			(2,824)
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2017/18	21,187	122,512	143,699
In year adjustments			
Final budgeted distribution for 2017/18	21,187	122,512	143,699
Less: Actual central expenditure	(22,886)		(22,886)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(122,709)	(122,709)
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2017/18			0
Carry forward for 2017/18	(1,699)	(197)	(1,896)
Carry-forward to 2018/19 agreed in advance			2,824
Total carry forward 2018/19			928

The £0.928m balance is held in the DSG earmarked revenue reserve (see Note 16).

The following table shows a breakdown of the Authority's schools, by category, and the net surplus/(deficit) attributable to each.

School Category		2016/17		2017/18	
		Number of Schools	Net surplus/(deficit) £'000	Number of Schools	Net surplus/(deficit) £'000
Maintained	Primary	29	3,463	28	2,776
	Secondary	2	1,676	2	1,586
Voluntary Aided	Primary	11	999	11	1,202
	Secondary	2	563	2	502
Foundation		1	316	1	325
Special Schools		4	1,229	4	1,429
Total		49	8,246	48	7,820

27. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES AND SIMILAR CONTRACTS

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Authority has a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme under which six secondary schools were rebuilt by a PFI operator, New Schools Ltd. Following a partial termination of the contract in 2006, two schools were transferred to academies. In 2013, a third school also became an academy, but remains within the PFI scheme. Under the PFI contract, which runs until 2030, New Schools Ltd are contracted to provide soft services (such as caretaking and facilities maintenance) to the remaining three schools and one academy, in return for an annual payment. The contract does not allow for any of the four remaining schools to leave the arrangement before 2030. At the end of the arrangement, the Authority will retain ownership of the school land and buildings.

Value of Assets Held

The Authority's accounts include school buildings constructed under the PFI scheme.

	31 March 2017 Restated £000	31 March 2018 £000
Gross Value	132,721	132,013
Accumulated Depreciation	0	0
Net	132,721	132,013

Value of Liabilities

The Authority has two long term liabilities relating to the original PFI scheme of six schools. The first liability is in respect of the capital works on the two schools that became academies in 2006. The second liability is in respect of the capital works incurred on the remaining three schools and one academy within the PFI scheme. The total combined liability is shown in the following table:

	Capital £000	Interest £000	Services £000	Total £000
Mar 2019	1,419	3,390	4,491	9,300
Apr 2019 - Mar 2024	8,700	16,763	25,371	50,834
Apr 2024 - Mar 2029	17,294	19,558	21,247	58,099
Apr 2029 - Mar 2030	3,038	3,900	7,440	14,378
Liability at 31st March 2018	30,451	43,611	58,549	132,611
Liability at 31st March 2017	31,932	47,049	62,635	141,616
Liability at 31st March 2016	33,277	50,053	69,805	153,135

Partial Termination

	Capital £000	Interest £000	Services £000	Total £000
Mar 2019	735	924	0	1,659
Apr 2019 - Mar 2024	4,547	3,749	0	8,296
Apr 2024 - Mar 2029	6,430	1,866	0	8,296
Apr 2029 - Mar 2030	1,575	84	0	1,659
Liability at 31st March 2018	13,287	6,623	0	19,910
Liability at 31st March 2017	13,973	7,594	0	21,567
Liability at 31st March 2016	14,613	8,613	0	23,226

Three Schools and One Academy

	Capital £000	Interest incl. Contingent Rent £000	Services £000	Total £000
March 2019	684	2,466	4,491	7,641
Apr 2019 - Mar 2014	4,153	13,014	25,371	42,538
Apr 2024 – Mar 2029	10,864	17,692	21,247	49,803
Apr 2029 – Mar 2030	1,463	3,816	7,440	12,719
Liability at 31st March 2018	17,164	36,988	58,549	112,701
Liability at 31st March 2017	17,959	39,455	62,635	120,049
Liability at 31st March 2016	18,664	41,440	69,805	129,909

MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND RELATED PARTIES

28. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The cost of members' allowances to the Authority is shown in the table below.

	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Allowances	721	723
Total	721	723

29. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The following table shows the number of staff whose total remuneration, excluding pensions contribution but including gross salary, expense allowances, supplements, compensation for loss of office (i.e. redundancy) and benefits, exceed £50,000 in bands of £5,000.

CIPFA guidance states that the disclosure should exclude staff where the authority is not the employer i.e. teaching staff employed at voluntary aided and foundation schools. Therefore, 58 voluntary aided and foundation school employees have been excluded from both 2017/18 and 2016/17 figures.

Remuneration Band £	2016/17 Teaching Staff	2016/17 Other Staff	2017/18 Teaching Staff	2017/18 Other Staff
50,000 – 54,999	76	50	80	57
55,000 – 59,999	36	21	32	29
60,000 – 64,999	22	16	20	7
65,000 – 69,999	8	18	13	17
70,000 – 74,999	11	16	3	14
75,000 – 79,999	8	3	10	9
80,000 – 84,999	5	2	4	5
85,000 – 89,999	1	4	1	2
90,000 – 94,999	4	3	3	5
95,000 – 99,999	0	2	3	0
100,000 – 104,999	0	0	0	1
105,000 – 109,999	0	1	0	1
110,000 – 114,999	0	1	0	0
115,000 – 119,999	1	1	1	1
120,000 – 124,999	1	0	0	0
125,000 – 129,999	0	0	1	0
130,000 – 134,999	0	0	0	0
135,000 – 139,999	0	3	0	3
140,000 – 144,999	0	0	0	0
145,000 – 149,999	0	0	0	0
150,000 – 154,999	0	0	0	0
155,000 – 159,999	0	0	0	0
160,000 – 164,999	0	0	0	0
165,000 – 169,999	0	0	0	0
170,000 – 174,999	0	0	0	0
175,000 – 179,999	0	0	0	0
180,000 – 184,999	0	0	0	0
185,000 – 189,999	0	1	0	1
Total	173	142	171	152

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

Exit package cost band (including special payments) £	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
0 - 20,000	58	32	19	42	77	74	423,316	566,119
20,001 - 40,000	6	5	4	6	10	11	295,896	328,470
40,001 - 100,000	1	2	3	1	4	3	193,314	178,834
TOTAL	65	39	26	49	91	88	912,526	1,073,423

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, there is a legal requirement to report the remuneration of certain senior employees:

- Senior employees whose salary is £150,000 or more per year must be identified by name
- Senior employees who meet the regulation's definition and whose salary is between £50,000 and £150,000 must be listed by job title. Current Directors have chosen to be named to aid transparency.

The following table provides this detail for 2017/18 and 2016/17 with supporting sub-notes.

2016/17				Post holder information	2017/18			
Sub-Notes	Remuneration £	Employer's Pension contributions £	Total £		Sub-Notes	Remuneration £	Employer's Pension contributions £	Total £
6	186,682	25,972	212,654	Chief Executive Ged Curran	1	187,885	28,685	216,570
7	136,351	18,953	155,304	Director of Corporate Services Caroline Holland	2	137,713	20,932	158,645
8	109,522	0	109,522	Director of Community and Housing Simon Williams (Left - 31/07/17)	3	36,966	0	36,966
				Hannah Doody (Started - 10/7/17)		94,283	14,331	108,614
9	136,155	18,926	155,081	Director of Children, Schools and Families Yvette Stanley (Left - 31/03/18)	4	138,358	20,932	159,290
10	136,155	18,926	155,081	Director of Environment & Regeneration Chris Lee	5	137,713	20,932	158,645

Sub-notes 2017/18

2017/18

1. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, remuneration for 2017/18
Two separate payments were received, totalling £7,139.43 for Acting Returning Officer duties at the General election on 8 June 2017, and Returning Officer duties at the St Helier by election on 20 July 2017.
2. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, remuneration for 2017/18
One payment of £2,436 was received for Deputy Acting Returning Officer duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.
3. Mr S. Williams, Director of Community and Housing, remuneration for 2017/18
During 2017/18 the Director's contracted hours were the equivalent of 0.8 FTE. No payments received. He retired on 31st July 2017 and has been replaced by Ms Hannah Doody on 10th July 17 on an annualised salary of £129,901.
4. Ms Y. Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families, remuneration for 2017/18. The figure includes untaken leave.
One payment of £804.95 was received for Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.
5. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration for 2017/18.
One payment of £874.63 was received for Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the General election on 8 June 2017.

2016/17

6. Mr G. Curran, Chief Executive, remuneration was a salary of £186,682. Four additional separate payments were received, totalling £11,893, for Borough Returning Officer duties at the GLA election on 5th May 2016, Returning Officer duties at Figges Marsh and St Helier by elections on 5th May and 19th May 2016 respectively, and Counting Officer duties at the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016. A further £800 payment was also received for Local Authority Gold Team duties.
7. Ms C. Holland, Director of Corporate Services, remuneration was a salary of £136,351. Two separate payments were received, totalling £4,004, for Deputy Borough Returning Officer duties at the GLA election on 5th May 2016, and Deputy Counting Officer duties at the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016. A further £800 payment was also received for Local Authority Gold Team duties.
8. Mr S. Williams, Director of Community and Housing, remuneration was a salary of £109,522. During 2016/17 the Director's contracted hours were the equivalent of 0.8 FTE. Two additional separate payments were received, totalling £568, for Borough Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the GLA election on 5th May 2016.
9. Ms Y. Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families, remuneration was a salary of £136,155. Two separate payments, totalling £568, were received

for Borough Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the GLA election on 5th May 2016.

10. Mr C. Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration, remuneration was a salary of £136,155. Four separate payments, totalling £870, were received for Borough Returning Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector duties at the GLA election on 5th May 2016, and for Counting Officer Assistant and Polling Station Inspector at the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016.

30. RELATED PARTIES

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

Central Government

The UK Government has significant influence over the operations of the Authority. It provides the statutory framework within which the Authority operates and the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills, housing benefits). Details of grants received from government departments are set out in Note 6.

Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the financial and operating decisions of the Authority. The total of members' allowances paid in 2017/18 is shown in Note 28.

This disclosure note has been prepared using the Authority's Register of Members' Interest in addition to a specific declaration obtained in respect of related party transactions from members and senior officers. The Authority issued 61 standard letters to members; 56 have responded.

During 2017/18, members of the Authority (or members of their immediate family or household) had links with the following organisations, which undertook related party transactions with LBM to the gross value of £0.48m). The amounts disclosed below are those material to either party of the related party transaction (i.e. the Authority or the other entity).

Organisation	2017/18 £000
South Wimbledon Community Association Charity	9
Merton and Morden Guild	32
Friends in St Helier	30
Faith in Action	10
North East Mitcham Community Association	38
Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust	10
Actions for Children Services Ltd	351
Total	480

Senior Officers

Senior officers of the Authority also have direct control over the financial and operating decisions of the Authority. Senior officers are required to make a specific

declaration in respect of related party transactions. The Authority issued 28 standard letters to current senior officers; there have been 27 responses.

Three senior officers are directors of CHAS 2013 Ltd and two senior officers are directors of Merantun Development Ltd (See Note 34). Otherwise, senior officers within the Authority did not hold any positions in other organisations which would enable them to significantly influence the policies of the Authority and result in a related party transaction of a material nature.

Voluntary Organisations

The Authority made grants and payments totalling £0.48m to voluntary and other organisations whose senior management included members of the Authority (or members of their immediate family or household). These payments are summarised in the above disclosure on members' related party transactions. In all instances the grants were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The Authority's Register of Members' Interest is open to public inspection on the Authority's website.

Pension Fund

The Pension Fund is a separate entity from the authority with its own Statement of Accounts. In 2017/18 an administration fee of £0.460m was paid by the Fund to the Authority (£0.368m in 2016/17, see Pension Fund Accounts, Note 11).

Entities Controlled by the Authority

Details of the transactions between the Authority and its subsidiary CHAS2013 Ltd are disclosed in Note 34.

PENSION FUND

31. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Teachers employed by the Authority are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Authority contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. In 2017/18, the employer's contribution was 16.48% (16.48% average in 2016/17). Valuations of the notional fund are undertaken every four years.

The scheme has in excess of 3,700 participating employers and consequently the Authority is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme. As a proportion of the total contributions into the Teachers' Pension Scheme during the year ending 31st March 2018, the Authority's own contributions equate to approximately 0.1%.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. The Authority is not liable to the scheme for any other entities' obligations under the plan.

The Authority also pays an employer's contribution of 14.30% (14.38% in 2016/17) to the NHS Pension Scheme, for staff who transferred to the Authority but remain in the NHS scheme. The NHS scheme was previously a defined benefit scheme, with staff benefits linked to their average earnings in the final ten years of employment. From 1st April 2015, it became a career average revalued earnings scheme.

Contributions to the scheme for the current and previous year are set-out in the table below:

	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Authority's contribution to DfE teacher's pension scheme	8,612	8,633
Authority's contribution to NHS pension scheme	116	101

Assuming a 2.7% staff pay award in 2018/19, an estimate of the contributions to be paid in the next financial year would be:

DfE Teacher's Pension Scheme: £8.93m
NHS Pension Scheme: £0.12m

32. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although the benefits will be payable in the future, (when employees retire), the Authority is required to disclose current payments towards employees' future entitlements.

The Authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme is administered locally by the London Borough of Merton, in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulatory Framework 2015/16. This is a defined benefit scheme, whereby both the Authority and employees make contributions into a fund. The contributions are calculated with the aim of balancing pension liabilities and investment assets. The benefits payable in respect of service from 1st April 2014 are based on career average revalued earnings, rather than final salary. The scheme accounts are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2017/18, which governs the preparation of financial statements for Local Government Pension Scheme funds.
- Discretionary post-retirement benefits to fund early retirement. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement. Liabilities are recognised when awards are made but there is no accompanying investment built-up to meet these pension liabilities, so cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

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.

The cumulative remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/asset recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is a gain of £41.898m (£92.839m loss in 2016/17).

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
Service Cost	20,269	30,321
Administration	493	427
<i>Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
Net interest on defined liability	9,144	9,718
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	29,906	40,466
<i>Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>		
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/asset	92,839	(41,898)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	122,745	(1,432)
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(29,906)	(40,466)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	17,790	16,589

Assets and Liabilities in relation to Post-Employment Benefits

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	745,771	966,736
Current Service Cost	20,713	30,499
Interest Cost	26,479	25,879
Change in financial assumptions	189,704	(45,331)
Change in demographic assumptions	13,256	0
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	(9,271)	0
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	(3,008)	(1,620)
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(21,162)	(19,088)
Past service costs including curtailments	675	682
Contributions by Scheme participants	5,290	4,912
Unfunded pension payments	(1,711)	(1,672)
Defined Benefit Obligation at end of period	966,736	960,997

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme (plan) assets:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of Scheme assets	482,618	598,628
Interest on assets	17,335	16,161
Return on assets less interest	88,891	(3,433)
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	11,959	0
Actuarial gains (losses)	0	0
Administration expenses	(493)	(427)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	17,790	16,589
Contributions by Scheme participants	5,290	4,912
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(22,873)	(20,760)
Settlement prices received/(paid)	(1,889)	(760)
Fair value of Scheme assets at end of period	598,628	610,910

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The estimated asset allocation for LBM as at 31st March is as follows:

LBM asset share - bid value	2016/17		2017/18	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equities	429,655	72	445,940	73
Gilts	144,647	24	140,946	23
Property	20,303	3	21,188	3
Cash	4,023	1	2,836	1
Total	598,628	100	610,910	100

The above asset valuations are all based on Level 1 inputs (from the IFRS fair value hierarchy), with the exception of the property, which is valued using Level 1 and Level 2 inputs.

Scheme History

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Present value of scheme liabilities						
The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)	(589,722)	(630,064)	(748,920)	(722,264)	(937,022)	(932,840)
Unfunded Liabilities	(23,119)	(24,634)	(26,459)	(23,507)	(29,714)	(28,157)
Fair value of assets in the LGPS	417,967	430,372	481,560	482,618	598,628	610,910
Surplus / (Deficit) in the scheme	(194,874)	(224,326)	(293,819)	(263,153)	(368,108)	(350,087)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £350m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the authority as recorded in the balance sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the authority remains healthy. The Authority, through the advice of the actuary, provides additional employers contributions to the fund in support of the recovery of past service deficiencies over a twelve-year period. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

	2016/17	2017/18
Long Term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:		
Mortality Assumptions		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners retiring today at 65:		
Men	24.4	24.5
Women	26	26.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners retiring in 20 years at 65:		
Men	26.6	26.8
Women	28.3	28.4
	%	%
Rate of Inflation	2.7	2.55
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2	3.8
Rate of increase in pensions	2.7	2.3
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7	2.55
Take up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	50.0	50.0

The current estimate of the duration of the Authority's liabilities is 19 years.

The following assumptions have also been made:

- Members will retire at one retirement age for all tranches of benefit, which will be the pension weighted average tranche retirement age.
- 10% of active members will take up the option under the new LGPS to pay 50% of contributions for 50% of benefits.

Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis on the major assumptions used in calculating the Fund liabilities is shown in the following table.

Sensitivity Analysis	£000	£000	£000
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	943,652	960,997	978,678
Projected service cost	27,748	28,420	29,109
Adjustment to long term salary increase	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	962,374	960,997	959,628
Projected service cost	28,420	28,420	28,420
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present value of total obligation	977,327	960,997	944,963
Projected service cost	29,110	28,420	27,746
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption	+1 Year	None	-1 Year
Present value of total obligation	997,612	960,997	925,769
Projected service cost	29,326	28,420	27,542

The sensitivity analysis shows the impact of adjusting individual assumptions. The analysis does not show the impact of adjusting combinations of assumptions, as this cannot easily be measured.

Estimation of Contributions to be paid in 2018/19

The table below shows the estimated contributions to be paid to the plan during 2018/19, assuming a 1% staff pay award.

	2017/18	2018/19
	Actual	Estimated
	£000	£000
Employers contributions -normal	12,783	13,128
Employers Additional Funding (Deficit Funding)	3,430	3,523
Employers Additional Funding (Pension Strain)	813	835
Employees contributions	5,719	5,873
Total	22,745	23,359

Associated Risks

Participating in a defined benefit pension scheme means that the Authority is exposed to a number of risks:

- Investment risk. The Fund holds investment in asset classes, such as equities, which have volatile market values and while these assets are expected to provide real returns over the long-term, the short-term volatility can cause additional funding to be required if a deficit emerges.
- Interest rate risk. The Fund's liabilities are assessed using market yields on high quality corporate bonds to discount the liabilities. As the Fund holds assets such as equities the value of the assets and liabilities may not move in the same way.
- Inflation risk. All of the benefits under the Fund are linked to inflation and so deficits may emerge to the extent that the assets are not linked to inflation.
- Longevity risk. In the event that the members live longer than assumed a deficit will emerge in the Fund. There are also other demographic risks.

In addition, as many unrelated employers participate in the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund, there is an orphan liability risk where employers leave the Fund but with insufficient assets to cover their pension obligations so that the difference may fall on the remaining employers.

All of the risks above may also benefit the Authority e.g. higher than expected investment returns or employers leaving the Fund with excess assets which eventually get inherited by the remaining employers.

OTHER DISCLOSURE NOTES

33. EVENTS AFTER BALANCE SHEET DATE

Stanford School is seeking to become an Academy.

34. INTEREST IN SUBSIDIARIES & JOINT VENTURES

Subsidiaries

CHAS 2013 Ltd

CHAS 2013 Ltd provides businesses with health and safety pre-qualification assessments to nationally recognised standards.

CHAS 2013 Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, based in the Authority's offices at the Civic Centre in Morden. LBM's Director of Environment & Regeneration chairs its board of directors.

LBM's investment in CHAS 2013 Ltd is recognised and measured at cost in the Authority's balance sheet. LBM is exposed to variable returns from CHAS 2013 Ltd. In 2017/18, CHAS 2013 Ltd's total comprehensive income was £1.47m (£0.9m in 2016/17). Dividends received by LBM from CHAS 2013 Ltd are recognised within the Authority's comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES). In 2017/18, £0.7m dividend income was recognised (£0.4m in 2016/17).

Separate from any dividends, CHAS 2013 Ltd also makes an annual licence fee payment to LBM, for use of intellectual property owned by the Authority. In 2017/18, the licence fee was £0.5m (2016/17 £0.8m), which has been recognised within financing and investment income and expenditure in the CIES.

CHAS 2013 Ltd now has its own banking facility in place where in 2016/17, LBM provided a banking facility to CHAS 2013 Ltd. The remaining cash balance generated by CHAS 2013 Ltd that was held by LBM in the banking facility owed to CHAS 2013 Ltd at 31/03/2018 was £0.25m (£1.05m at 31/03/2017), with an intercompany balance of £0.08m.

Audited abbreviated accounts of CHAS 2013 Ltd are filed with Companies House and available on request from:

London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

LB Merton have prepared group accounts consolidating CHAS 2013 Ltd.

Merantun Development Ltd

Merantun Development Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of LB Merton, based in the Authority's offices at the Civic Centre in Morden. Its board of directors is chaired by senior officers within LBM. The company was incorporated on the 5th August 2017.

Merantun Development Ltd will specialise in developing high quality housing and commercial property for market rent. LBM will be supplying working capital and development finance on commercial terms for the development and acquisition of sites, council and private. Loan finance will be used by the company to fund construction of sites where schemes have demonstrated being commercially viable. At the year-end no land transfers or funding had been made.

On the grounds of materiality Merantun has not been consolidated in the LB Merton's group accounts

Joint Venture

The Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board (MSJCB) oversees the Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery, which is situated on Garth Road in Morden.

MSJCB is jointly controlled by the London Boroughs of Merton and Sutton. Any cash balance belonging to MSJCB is held by LB Merton in its single entity Balance Sheet, with a corresponding creditor to reflect the sum owed to MSJCB. At 31/03/2018, including cash held and loans to MSJCB, there was a net creditor balance of £40k (net debtor balance of £118k at 31/03/2017).

On the grounds of materiality, MSJCB has not been consolidated in the LB Merton group accounts.

Audited accounts of MSJCB are available on request from:

London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

35. TRADING OPERATIONS

The Authority has established trading units where the service is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance its budget by generating income from other parts of the Authority or from other organisations. A brief description is given below:

- Printing and Graphic Design: design and printing of official documents.
- Translation Services: provides translation and interpreting services.
- Transport: recharged income and expenditure for service department vehicles

Included within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		2016/17	2017/18
		£000	£000
Printing and Graphic Design	Turnover	(310)	(319)
	Expenditure	510	331
Deficit		200	12
Translation Services	Turnover	(438)	(527)
	Expenditure	359	453
(Surplus)		(79)	(74)
Transport	Turnover	(10,303)	(4,170)
	Expenditure	10,704	4,410
Deficit		401	240
All trading operations		2016/17	2017/18
		£000	£000
Turnover		(11,051)	(5,016)
Expenditure		11,573	5,194
Total	Deficit	522	178

36. INVENTORIES

The stock balance of £0.001m in 2017/18 represents the complete stock relating to the Partnership Agreement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES).

	Consumable Stores	
	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	46	35
Purchases	746	1,002
Recognised as an expense in the year	(757)	(1,036)
Balance outstanding at year-end	35	1

37. POOLED BUDGETS – Partnerships - Section 75

Community Equipment Services

During 2017/18 the Authority has continued to host a Partnership Agreement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, to provide integrated community equipment services (ICES). This includes the continued operation of the pooled funds in respect of these services.

POOLED FUND FOR COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICES IN MERTON MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT	Total 2016/17 £000	Total 2017/18 £000
INCOME		
PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTIONS		
Brought forward	217	0
LB Merton	339	377
Merton CCG	7	283
Additional From LB Merton (BCF Contribution)	200	382
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	763	1,042
EXPENDITURE		
Community Equipment Services	746	1,002
Stock Adjustment	11	34
Management & Support Costs	6	6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	763	1,042
NET (UNDER) / OVERSPEND CARRIED FORWARD	0	0

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a major policy initiative between local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS providers. Its primary aim is to drive closer integration of care services and to improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers.

The CCG receives the full BCF allocation from NHS England, then transfers a proportion (£5,083,000 in 2017/18) into a pooled fund, hosted by the Authority, to be spent on services. The Authority makes a £1 contribution to the pool. The gross income and expenditure of the partnership is shown in the table below. As per accounting standards, the Authority records only its £1 share of the pooled funds as expenditure in its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES). The CCG's contribution, therefore, is not recognised in the Authority's CIES.

Better Care Fund Pooled Budget - Income and Expenditure	Total 2016/17 £000	Total 2017/18 £000
Merton CCG contribution to pool	(5,508)	(5,083)
LBM contribution to pool	0	0
Total contributions	(5,508)	(5, 083)
Expenditure		
Integrated Locality Teams	650	773
Seven Day Working	500	505
Community Equipment and Adaptions	200	382
Protecting and Modernising Social Care	3,577	3,222
Investing in Integration Infrastructure	181	144
Developing Personal and Health Care Budgets	400	57
Total revenue expenditure	5,508	5, 083
Net	0	0

38. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and assurance of the Teachers Pensions End of Year Certificate, provided by the authority's external auditors.

	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Fees payable to the External Auditor with regard to audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year.	174	160
Fees payable to the External Auditor for other services provided in year . The 1718 figure includes fees relating to the audit of the Housing Benefit grant claim . In 1617 these fees are shown in the audit services line.	9	50
Total	183	210

*The 1617 figures include grants certification work whereas this is shown in 'other services' in 1718

39. On-Street Parking Account

The Council maintains a memorandum account in respect of on street parking and how the income from it is spent. In 2017/18 the Council made a surplus of £9.655 m (£7.55m in 2016/17). This surplus was applied notionally as a contribution towards concessionary fares, the cost of which is in the Community and Housing budget. As this surplus exceeded the cost of concessionary fares (£9.03m in 2017/18), the balance (£0.62m) was applied to the cost of day to day maintenance (£0.85m). In 2016/17, the on street parking surplus was less than the cost of the concessionary fares.

2016/17				On-Street Parking Account	2017/18			
On Street Parking	Bus Lanes	Moving Traffic Violations	Total		On Street Parking	Bus Lanes	Moving Traffic Violations	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
Income								
(2,977)	(1,177)	(3,070)	(7,224)	Penalty Charge Notices	(3,242)	(1,430)	(4,100)	(8,772)
(1,239)	0	0	(1,239)	Residents' Parking Permits	(1,677)	0	0	(1,677)
(870)	0	0	(870)	Residents' Visitors' Parking Permits	(923)	0	0	(923)
(223)	0	0	(223)	Business Parking Permits	(233)	0	0	(233)
(39)	0	0	(39)	Teachers Parking Permits	(37)	0	0	(37)
(2,622)	0	0	(2,622)	On-Street Parking Charges	(3,157)	0	0	(3,157)
(416)	0	0	(416)	Other Income	(367)	0	0	(367)
(8,386)	(1,177)	(3,070)	(12,633)	Total Income	(9,636)	(1,430)	(4,100)	(15,166)
				Expenditure				
906	358	934	2,198	On-Street Parking	953	420	1,205	2,578
0	0	0	0	Off-Street Parking Spaces	0	0	0	0
97	38	100	235	Parking Management & Planning	120	53	151	324
1,091	431	1,124	2,646	Parking Enforcement	964	425	1,220	2,609
6,294	349	911	7,554	Contribution to Public Transport Including (Concessionary Fares)	7,599	532	1,524	9,655
8,388	1,176	3,069	12,633	Total Expenditure	9,636	1,430	4,100	15,166

2016/17 £000	Memorandum Items	2017/18 £000	Surplus Applied £000
	Total Expenditure on:		
9,319	Concessionary fares	9,035	9,035
1,142	Carriageway & Footway Day-to-Day Maintenance	845	620
10,461	Total	9,880	9,655

TECHNICAL ANNEX – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

40. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2017/18 financial year and its position at the year end of 31st March 2018. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, 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 provision of services is recognised when the authority 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 authority.
- 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 income 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.

Notwithstanding the accrual principle, some items are recorded as received/paid on the basis that there is no material distortion of the 'true and fair view' concept. These items include:

- a) Housing benefit payments and the related subsidy grant are recorded when the payment to housing benefit recipients falls due.
- b) Income received from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) does not equate to the full recorded value of PCNs issued. This is due to prompt payment discounts, disputed notices and other mitigating circumstances. Consequently, income from PCNs is recognised on a

cash basis. This accounting treatment is consistent year-on-year, therefore the revenue impact of not accruing PCN income in the CIES is not material.

iii. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions (including Money Market Funds invested for up to 3 months). They are repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

iv. 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 to accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices, or when the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the authority'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.

v. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Authority is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Authority 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 in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two. There was a change to the MRP policy for 2017/18.

Depreciation is provided for on all non-current assets (other than land) with a determinable finite life, and is calculated on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful economic life.

vi. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the authority's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the authority's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The Balance Sheet includes the authority's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

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 benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual and sick leave and non-monetary benefits in lieu of salary (e.g. childcare vouchers), where material for current employees. They are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlement (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. They are charged on an accruals basis to the individual services, within the Cost of Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when

the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment or has made an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of the following separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The National Health Service Pension Scheme, administered by NHS Pensions.
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by the London Borough of Merton.

All schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' and NHS schemes mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate that is in accordance with actuarial guidance.
- The assets of the Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are measured at fair value:
 - quoted securities: current bid price
 - unquoted securities: professional estimate
 - unlisted 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 the services for which the employees worked
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate Services segment.
- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

- the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
- actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Contributions paid to the Pension Fund:

- Cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority 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 transfers 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 Authority 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 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. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

Where financial instruments are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that amounts due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service.

For most of the borrowings that the authority has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and

Expenditure Account is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority 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 Account for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For all of the loans that the authority has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Where premiums and discounts are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, the Authority charges the whole amount incurred in the year.

In respect of soft loans, where the interest foregone is material, the Authority will recognise it in the CIES.

x. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

Amounts recognised as due to the authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the revenue 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.

Sums advanced as revenue grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied and are unlikely to be satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Where conditions are not satisfied but are expected to be met, these are classified as Receipts in Advance. When conditions are satisfied, the revenue 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 grants have yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, they are posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. Where they have been applied, they are 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.

Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a precisely defined area within the local authority's boundaries within which the businesses have voted to invest collectively in local improvements to enhance their trading environment. The authority has 3 BIDS (Wimbledon, Willow lane and South Wimbledon Business Area). The latter came into operation in from 1st July 2017.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Authority has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Authority) with appropriate planning consent. The Authority charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects (these include transport, flood defences and schools) to support the development of the area. CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure and held in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account until used. However, a small proportion of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure.

xi. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations. They are held by the authority in pursuit of its overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of heritage. The majority of the authority's heritage assets are held in the Civic Centre, with a number of paintings of

minor value held in the authority's libraries around the borough. Heritage assets are measured at valuation in accordance with FRS30 but where it is not possible to obtain a valuation at a cost which is commensurate with the benefit to the users of the financial statements, heritage assets are measured at historical cost (less any depreciation, amortisation and impairment). Depreciation or amortisation is not required on assets with indefinite lives.

xii. Intangible Assets

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it can be demonstrated that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the authority will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase. Research expenditure cannot be capitalised. Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the authority's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xiii. Interest in Subsidiaries and Other Entities

The authority has reviewed its relationships with companies and external organisations in accordance with the Code guidelines. In 2017/18, the authority has two subsidiaries (CHAS and Merantun) and one joint venture (MSJCB). From 2017/18 onwards, the authority will publish consolidated group accounts. Details of the subsidiaries and joint venture are disclosed in Note 34.

xiv. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

The inventory balance is the Authority and the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's shared value of the aids and adaptations stock owned by the Pooled Account. The stock is maintained in partnership with Croydon Integrated Procurement Hub (IPH). Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

xv. Jointly Controlled Operations

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Authority 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 Authority 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. These arrangements include: -

South London Waste Partnership (SLWP): the SLWP is a joint operation with the LB Croydon for the collection of waste and the RB Kingston for the disposal of waste. LB Croydon and RB Kingston recharges the authority for its share of the cost and this is accounted for as part of the Cultural Environmental and Planning Service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The SLWP is managed by a joint committee of officers which cannot contract on its own behalf but must do so through one of the participating boroughs.

The authority has also outsourced the maintenance of its parks and open spaces to a company called Idverde (IDV) in February 2017. The contract includes LB Merton and LB Sutton, but the contract is held by LB Croydon. IDV invoice LB Croydon and the recharge Merton and Sutton for its share of costs.

Shared Internal Audit Service: LB Richmond hosts the service, which provides the internal audit function for LB Merton, RB Kingston, LB Wandsworth and LB Sutton. Each authority makes a financial contribution to LB Richmond. A shared service board with senior representatives from each authority oversees the delivery of the service and arrangements between the boroughs.

South London Legal Partnership: this is a cost-sharing arrangement with the LB Richmond, LB Sutton, RB Kingston and LB Wandsworth. Merton administers the service and recharges the other authorities with their share of the cost.

Pooled Budget for Community Equipment Services: this is a cost-sharing arrangement with the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. The authority's contribution is accounted for in the Community & Housing line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The Balance Sheet contains the value of the pooled aids and adaptations stock.

Better Care Fund: The Authority hosts a pooled budget, under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006, with Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in respect of the Better Care Fund. The CCG receives the allocation from the Department of Health. The CCG then appropriates a proportion to the pooled budget to spend on services. Income and expenditure relating to the Authority's contribution to the pooled budget is reported within the Community & Housing line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

Mental Health Service: This is a delegated Section 75 budget hosted by the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. This is an arrangement where placement and staff costs are shared across the LB Merton and the NHS in the provision of a Mental Health Service.

Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP): The RSP administers key public protection services including Environmental Health, Trading Standards, and Licensing. The partnership is based on a cost-sharing arrangement with LB Richmond and LB Wandsworth. Merton administers the service and recharges LB Richmond and LB Wandsworth with their share of costs. The service is governed via Management Board and Joint Regulatory Committee.

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.

The key consideration for classifying the authority's leases are as follows: -

- Whether the Present Value of the Minimum Lease Payments amounts to substantially all the fair value of the leased asset.
- The duration of the lease agreement in relation to the anticipated economic useful life of the asset.
- Terms in the lease relating to the transfer (or lack thereof) of risks and rewards in relation to the asset.

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 Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) held under finance leases are 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 authority are added to the carrying amount of the asset. 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 PPE – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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

The authority 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 between the Capital Adjustment Account and 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 PPE. 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 Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the authority 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 authority'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 the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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

xvii. Overhead and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services hosted within Corporate Services are re-charged to service segments in accordance with the Authority's arrangements for accountability and financial performance. The Corporate Services segment does not report such overhead recharges as income, but as a reduction of gross expenditure.

xviii. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

De Minimis

Capital expenditure of under £10,000 is charged directly to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

The authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

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

- infrastructure and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated using Level 1 observable inputs and highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (Existing Use Value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

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

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

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

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

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

Revaluations

The revaluations of the authority's properties, which have been performed during the financial year, were carried out by an internal valuer who is a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Revaluations are undertaken as at 31st March.

Assets regarded by the authority as operational were valued on the basis of Existing Use Value (EUV) or, where this could not be assessed because there

was no market for the subject asset, by the Depreciated Replacement Cost method (DRC), subject to the prospect and viability of the occupation and use.

Parks, allotments, cemetery land and crematorium land, which are non-operational are classified as Community Assets. Community Assets are carried at fair value.

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all non-current assets (other than land and assets under construction) with a determinable finite life, and is calculated on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful economic life.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of asset in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 25 years.

Where a Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost

being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this carrying amount and the fair value less costs of sale. Where there is a subsequent reduction in fair value less costs of sale, 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.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can only be used for new capital investment, to fund debt redemption premiums (or set aside to reduce the authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

xix. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the Property, Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the authority 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 authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the authority 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.

Non-Current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the authority.

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 on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)
- Lifecycle replacement costs – a proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

xx. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

1. General

The Authority makes provision where it has a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The Authority does not normally create provisions for sums less than £250,000.

2. Insurance Fund

The Insurance Fund provides an integral part of our risk management policy to meet claims excluding catastrophic losses, which are insured by an external provider. The level of the fund is based upon a statistical assessment of claims information. The authority makes provision for its legal obligations for claims as at the 31st March each year. Where there is a possibility of further claims for which at this stage the authority is not legally obligated, on grounds of prudence the authority sets aside further sums in a separate Insurance Reserve. The expected timing of a future transfer of economic benefit depends upon the settlement of claims and no assumption has been made in respect of these.

Contingent Liabilities

These are possible liabilities as a result of a past event that will only materialise as a result of an uncertain future event. The authority's policy is to disclose a contingent liability when this criterion has been met.

Contingent Assets

These are possible assets as a result of a past event that will only materialise as a result of an uncertain future event. The authority's policy is to disclose a contingent asset when this criterion has been met.

xxi. Reserves

The authority sets aside specific amounts as usable reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. These reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure from a Usable Reserve is incurred it is charged to the appropriate service in that year and forms part of the Surplus or Deficit in the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge to Council Tax for the expenditure.

The authority has a protocol for setting up and managing usable reserves. Under this protocol usable revenue reserves require the approval of the Director of Corporate Services.

Unusable Reserves are kept to manage accounting processes for non-current assets, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the authority.

xxii. 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 non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

xxiii. VAT

Income and expenditure are shown net of VAT. VAT is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account only where it is irrecoverable.

xxiv. Local Authority Schools in England and Wales

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom confirms that the balance of control for local authority maintained schools (i.e. those categories of school identified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended) lies with the local authority. The Code also stipulates that those schools' assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows are recognised in the local authority financial statements (and not the Group Accounts). Therefore, schools' transactions, cash flows and balances are recognised in each of the financial statements of the authority as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the authority.

41. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

IFRS9 Financial Instruments

The purpose of IFRS9 is to provide a single approach to the classification and measurement of financial instruments. In particular, it is designed to provide for greater transparency in respect of gains and losses arising on financial assets and greater prudence in respect of impairment in the value of fixed assets.

Under IFRS 9, the authority is required to carry out the following-

- A review of the classification of all financial assets
- A recalculation of the allowance for impairment of financial assets

This disclosure sets out a preliminary assessment of the impact of IFRS 9 which is not expected to be material.

1. Classification of all financial assets

(a) Investment Portfolio

The purpose of IFRS9 is to change the default accounting treatment for investments from one where gains and losses in value are not recognised as income or expenditure until an investment matures or is disposed of to one where income or expenditure is recognised as fair values gains and losses arise (Fair Value Through Profit and Loss, or FVtPL). There are three classes of financial asset under IFRS as set out below in Table 1

Table 1: Classification of financial assets under IFRS 9

New Classification	Business Model underlying classification	Balance Sheet	Impact on General Fund
Amortised Cost	The financial asset is held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows of principal and interest.	Principal plus accrued interest	None
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)	The financial asset is held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows of principal and interest and selling financial assets	Fair Value	FVOCI- changes in fair value adjusted through the Unusable Reserves
Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)	All other combinations of business model and contractual cash flows.	Fair Value	Changes in fair value (up or down) will directly affect the General Fund unless regulations change

The authority has reviewed its investment portfolio and considers that the following reclassification may apply (Table 2). Except in the possible case of CCLA, these changes should not affect the General Fund. In the case of CCLA, if there are changes in the fair value of the CCLA Local Authority Property Loan, these will directly affect the Council's General Fund unless regulations are amended. The effect in 2017/18 is a reduction in fair value of £4,221.

Table 2: Classification of investments under IFRS 9

2017/18 Accounts Classification	Current value £000	Current Accounting classification	Proposed IFRS9 2018/19 Classification
Deposits in banks and building societies	45,000	Investment - Amortised Cost	Investment -Amortised Cost
Deposits in non UK banks	4,500	Investment - Amortised Cost	Investment - Amortised Cost
CCLA Local Authority Property Fund	10,000	Investment - Amortised Cost	Investment - Fair Value through profit and Loss unless regulations are amended
	59,500		

(b) Investment in wholly-owned subsidiaries-CHAS and Merantun

There is a special accounting exemption for shares in group entities, but this is only available if group accounts are prepared. Shareholdings in subsidiaries can be accounted for at cost in the authority-only Balance Sheet, on the basis that additional information about the value of the shareholdings is provided by the consolidated financial statements.

2. Allowance for impairment of financial assets

Impairment losses relates to credit risk-the possibility that a counterparty might not make a payment of principal and/or interest due to a lender under a contract. The Accounting Code excludes Government investments and loans to other authorities.

IFRS 9 provides for a change in the basis upon which impairment of financial assets is calculated from one based upon incurred losses to one based upon expected losses.

- Incurred Losses: an impairment loss is provided for in relation to a financial asset if, and only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of a past event that occurred subsequent to the initial recognition of the asset e.g. significant

financial difficulty of a debtor or a breach of contract including default on interest or principal.

- **Expected Losses (IFRS 9)** an impairment loss is provided for the present value of the difference between the cash flows that the authority is expected to receive and the cash that it expects actually to receive, taking account the risks that default may occur over the remaining term.

The expected effect of these impairment provisions of IFRS 9 are summarised below:

Investments: The effect on Bank, Money Market deposits and the CCLA Property Fund investment is expected to be insignificant.

Trade debtors: The authority already uses forecast of impairment in its calculation of the impairment provision and for this reason the impact of IFRS 9 is not expected to be material.

Council Tax, NDR and Housing Benefit Debtors: These are not affected by IFRS 9 because non-contractual balances are outside the scope of changes.

Lease debtors: will need to be impaired but the impact of impairment would be charged against deferred capital receipts.

IFRS 15 Revenue from contracts with customers introduces a new model for recognition of contractual income which has the potential to change the date at which revenue is recognised compared to current accounting requirements. This standard is not expected to affect most local authority contracts though it is relevant to CHAS.

IAS 12 Income Taxes requires an entity to recognise a deferred tax liability or asset for all temporary differences, with some exceptions. Although Merton has tax paying subsidiaries (CHAS & Mertantun), this standard is only relevant to authorities with significant unrealised losses on investments which affect deferred tax calculation. Therefore, it is not expected that this standard will affect the London Borough of Merton accounts.

42. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying certain policies set out in Note 40, the authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- It is expected that future levels of funding will be reduced however this is not expected to influence the authority's ability as a going concern.
- Group Accounts - CHAS 2013 Ltd., MSJCB and Merantun excepted, the authority's relationships with other bodies do not fall within the scope of group accounts. In 2017/18, the Authority will publish group accounts which consolidates CHAS, as the other two entities are not material to the accounts.
- The potential outcomes from legal claims are not expected to be material to the Authority's accounts.
- Accounting for Schools – in line with accounting standards and the Code on group accounts and consolidation, all maintained schools in the borough are considered to be entities controlled by the Authority. Rather than produce group accounts, the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school are recognised in the Authority's single entity accounts.
- Accounting for Schools – Balance Sheet recognition of schools. The Authority recognises the land and buildings used by schools in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice. It states that property used by local authority maintained schools should be recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property. The Authority recognises the schools land and buildings on its Balance Sheet where it directly owns the assets, the school or Governing Body own the assets or rights to use the assets have been transferred from another entity. Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Authority, school or Governing Body then it is not included on the Authority's Balance Sheet. The exception is where the entity has transferred the rights of use of the asset to the Authority, school or school Governing Body.

43. 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 London Borough of Merton about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the London Borough of Merton's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2018 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item:

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Uncertainty:

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate and funding position may have an impact on the levels of spending on repairs and maintenance, thus impacting on the useful lives assigned to assets.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:

If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. PPE of £593m is included in the accounts.

Therefore, a 1% movement in value would result in a change of £5.9m. The depreciation charge for PPE in 2017/18 was £20.2m. A movement of 1% would result in a change in the depreciation charge of approximately £0.20m.

Item:

Provisions

Uncertainty:

The authority has made provisions of £4.2m for insurance claims. The fund is used to pay claims for which the authority is self-insured. The level of the fund is calculated by a firm of actuaries and is based on a number of assumptions. The current funding climate for local authorities raises the risk of cut backs on repairs and maintenance works, which could lead to greater incidence of claims against the authority.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:

If the actuals differ from the assumptions, then it is possible that the Insurance Fund would be insufficient to cover the liabilities of the authority and further demands would be made on the General Fund. If future claims exceeded the insurance fund provision by 1%, this would result in an additional £0.04m charge to the General Fund.

Item:

Provision for NDR appeals

Uncertainty:

The authority has made provision of £1.78m for its share of appeals against business rates charges. The amount represents an estimate of the potential effects of appeals and proposals that may be settled in future years. It is based upon the most recent outstanding Rating List proposals provided by the Valuation Office Agency. The potential effect of the proposals is an estimate based on changes in comparable properties, market trends and other valuation issues including the potential for certain proposals to be withdrawn.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:

If the actuals differ from the assumptions this will impact on the NDR surplus/deficit of the Collection Fund for following years, as the cash collected from NDR payers will be different to that anticipated in calculated estimates of NDR collection which are used to determine the Authority's retained income. Similarly, there is a potential impact on possible future safety net and levy payments introduced in the business rate retention scheme, these are calculated by comparing actual amounts collected to the Authority's NDR funding baseline.

Item:

Pension Liability

Uncertainty:

Estimation of the net £350m pension liability depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

Effect if actual result differs from assumptions:

The assumptions interact in complex ways and changes in assumptions cannot be easily measured. Refer to Note 32 for further detail.

Collection Fund

This statement represents the transactions of the Collection Fund; a statutory fund separate from the General Fund of the Authority. The presentation of these accounts is based on the Collection Fund Regulations alone and does not take into account the requirement of the Code to show as a liability the shares of the fund balance relating to the Greater London Authority and to central government.

Note 5 to this statement contain this information and thus provides the link between the Collection Fund accounts and the core statements. The Collection Fund accounts for income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of the Authority, the Greater London Authority and central government. The costs of administering collection are accounted for in the General Fund.

2016/17				2017/18		
Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000		Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
0	102,714	102,714	A) INCOME	0	106,908	106,908
88,341	0	88,341	Council Tax Receivable	87,467	0	87,467
2,466	0	2,466	Business Rates Receivable	2,526	0	2,526
90,807	102,714	193,521	Business Rates Supplements Receivable	89,993	106,908	196,901
			B) EXPENDITURE			
			Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus/(Deficit)			
(2,868)	0	(2,868)	Central Government	634	0	634
(1,721)	3,200	1,479	Billing Authority (LBM)	380	1,386	1,766
(1,147)	853	(294)	Greater London Authority	254	345	599
(5,736)	4,053	(1,683)		1,268	1,731	2,999
			C) Precepts, Demands and Shares			
43,873	0	43,873	Central Government (MHCLG): NDR	29,041	0	29,041
26,324	78,920	105,244	Billing Authority (LBM): NDR & Council Tax	26,401	82,563	108,964
17,549	19,686	37,235	Greater London Authority: NDR & Council Tax	32,561	20,285	52,846
2,466	0	2,466	Greater London Authority: Business Rates Supplement	2,526	0	2,526
90,212	98,607	188,818		90,529	102,848	193,377
			D) Charges to Collection Fund			
673	1,790	2,463	Less: increase/(decrease) in bad debt provision	1,146	1,786	2,932
1,936	0	1,936	Less: increase/(decrease) in provision for appeals*	(1,064)	0	(1,064)
273	0	273	Less: cost of collection	264	0	264
2,882	1,790	4,672		346	1,786	2,132
3,449	(1,736)	1,713	Surplus/(Deficit) arising during the year (=A-(B+C+D))	(2,150)	543	(1,607)
(4,347)	3,810	(538)	Surplus/(Deficit) b/fwd 1st April	(898)	2,074	1,176
(898)	2,074	1,176	Surplus/(Deficit) c/fwd 31st March	(3,048)	2,617	(431)

*The 2016/17 change in Appeals Provision was shown on a gross basis. For 2017-18 the figure, in line with the CIPFA recommended model now being used by LBM, is shown net of charge to the provision.

1. Council Tax

Council Tax income is derived from charges on the value of residential properties. There are eight separate valuation bands. These bands are based on valuations taken in April 1991 for this specific purpose.

The Council tax base is the total number of properties in each of the eight valuation bands adjusted by a set proportion for each band to convert to the Band D equivalent for that band. The Band D charge is the required income from the Collection Fund divided by the Council Tax base. An individual amount due for each Band is calculated by multiplying the Band D charge by the proportion that is specified for each particular band. The Council Tax base in 2017/18 before allowance for non-collection is 74,491 (73,343 for 2016/17). The derivation of this is shown in the table below.

Council Tax Band	Number of Dwellings on Valuation Officers List		Number of Dwellings after Discounts and Exemptions		Ratio to Band D	Equivalent Number of Band D Properties	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18		2016/17	2017/18
A adjust	2	2	1	1	5/9	0	0
A	1,033	1,073	577	622	6/9	385	415
B	8,142	8,265	5,355	5,514	7/9	4,165	4,289
C	22,386	22,704	17,039	17,521	8/9	15,146	15,575
D	27,528	27,560	22,896	23,146	9/9	22,896	23,146
E	13,051	13,084	11,624	11,733	11/9	14,207	14,340
F	5,300	5,385	4,895	4,981	13/9	7,070	7,195
G	3,967	3,983	3,743	3,768	15/9	6,238	6,279
H	1,669	1,681	1,615	1,623	18/9	3,231	3,247
Total						73,338	74,486
Defence properties						5	5
Council Tax Base						73,343	74,491

The average Council Tax charge for a Band D property (including the GLA) was £1,419.73 in 2017/18 compared to £1,382.45 in 2016/17. From this an income yield of £102.8m was expected (£98.6m in 2016/17). In 2017/18 the income generated was £106.9m (£102.7m in 2016/17) and includes changes to liabilities, exemptions, discounts and the council tax support scheme incurred in the current year but which relate to previous years. This income is received from council taxpayers.

2. Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The Authority is responsible for collecting rates due from the business ratepayers in its area. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) sets the rateable value. These values are then multiplied by a Uniform Business Rate, which is set by Central Government. Under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, the Authority now retains a 30% share of NDR Income. Precepts are also paid from NDR Income to the Greater London Authority (37%) and central government (33%) as shown in the Collection Fund statement.

	31 st March 2017	31 st March 2018
Non-domestic rateable value at year end	£201m	£215m
Number of Hereditaments	5,378	5,475
Uniform Business Rate (in the £)	49.7p	47.9p

The amounts included in the Collection Fund in respect of non-domestic rates were as follows:

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Gross Rates payable (including net amounts for previous years)	99,237	102,069
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs	(10,150)	(13,232)
Transitional Protection Payments	(746)	(1,370)
Business Rates Receivable	88,341	87,467
Allowance for Provision for bad and doubtful debts	(673)	(1,146)
Change to Provision for losses on appeals	(1,936)	1,064
Cost of collection	(273)	(264)
Net Income	85,459	87,121

Business Rate Supplements (BRS) were introduced by the Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 and related regulations and statutory guidance. The Act confers powers on relevant local authorities 'to impose a levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on projects expected to promote economic development.'

LBM have a duty under the BRS Act to collect and enforce the Crossrail BRS on behalf of the GLA. All properties with a rateable value greater than £70,000 pay an additional 2p in the pound.

The amounts included in the Collection Fund in respect of National Business Rate Supplements were as follows:

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Gross Rates payable	2,680	2,772
Mandatory and discretionary reliefs	(214)	(246)
Net contribution to GLA	2,466	2,526

3. Provisions for Impairment of Bad Debts and Losses on Appeals

The movements in the provisions for impairments of bad debts and for losses on appeals were as below. Following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in April 2013, the Authority is liable for its proportionate share of successful appeals against NDR charges made in the period to 2016/17. A provision based on best information available has been made for appeals that are outstanding with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

	Balance at 1 st April 2017	Allowance for Impairment	Amounts charged against Allowance	Balance at 31 st March 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax: Impairment of Bad Debts	6,479	1,786	(817)	7,448
Non-Domestic Rates: Impairment of Bad Debts	2,409	1,146	(380)	3,175
Non-Domestic Rates: Losses on Appeals	7,000	1,289	(2,353)	5,936
TOTAL	15,888	4,221	(3,550)	16,559

4. Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

Council Tax

There is an accumulated surplus of £2.617m on the Collection Fund (£2.074m in 2016/17). This surplus is attributable to the London Borough of Merton and to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and is based on their respective demands upon the Collection Fund. The estimated shares of the fund are shown in the following table.

	2016/17	2017/18	Change in the Year
	£000	£000	£000
London Borough of Merton Council Tax surplus	(1,663)	(2,086)	(423)
Greater London Authority Council Tax surplus	(411)	(531)	(120)
Total	(2,074)	(2,617)	(543)

In the Authority's Balance sheet, the Collection Fund balance contains the Authority's share only. The share owed to the Greater London Authority is included in a net balance owed to the Greater London Authority. This treatment is in accordance with the Code. A detailed analysis of the balances is given below.

	Greater London Authority	London Borough of Merton	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Accumulated surplus as at 1 st April 2017	(411)	(1,663)	(2,074)
Paid to GLA in 2017/18	346	0	346
Transfer to/(from) General Fund in 2017/18	0	1,386	1,386
Surplus/Deficit in 2017/18	(466)	(1,809)	(2,275)
Total	(531)	(2,086)	(2,617)

NDR

There is a deficit of £3.048m on the Collection Fund (£0.898m in 2016/17). This deficit is attributable to the London Borough of Merton, the Greater London Authority and central government; it is based on their respective demands upon the Collection Fund. The estimated shares of the fund are shown in the following table.

	2016/17	2017/18	Change in the Year
	£000	£000	£000
London Borough of Merton NDR deficit	269	914	645
Greater London Authority NDR deficit	180	1,128	948
MHCLG NDR deficit	449	1,006	557
Total	898	3,048	2,150

In the Authority's Balance sheet, the Collection Fund balance contains the Authority's share only. The shares owed to the Greater London Authority and central government are included in net balances owed to the Greater London Authority and central government. This treatment is in accordance with the Code. A detailed analysis of the balances is given below.

	Greater London Authority	MHCLG	London Borough of Merton	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Accumulated deficit as at 1 st April 2017	180	449	269	898
Paid to/(from) preceptors in 2017/18	634	254	0	888
Transfer to/(from) General Fund in 2017/18	0	0	380	380
Deficit in 2017/18	326	291	265	882
Total	1,140	994	914	3,048

5. Link to Core Statements

This note provides the link between the Collection Fund accounts, which are based on the Collection Fund Regulations, and the relevant Core Statements, which are based on the Code.

CIES

The £84.371m Council Tax income and the £26.136m NDR income are the Authority's share of Council Tax and NDR income received in the year according to normal accounting rules. The Council Tax and NDR income which ultimately is credited to the General Fund includes the Authority's share of the Collection Fund surplus or deficit generated from the previous year's income. This is shown in the following table.

A further £209,318 council tax income and £36,743 NDR income have also been recognised in the CIES in 2017/18. These are receipts which had been over-paid by

taxpayers prior to 2011/12 and are now beyond the statutory period during which they could legally be reclaimed.

Income and Expenditure Council Tax	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Demand on the Fund	78,920	82,563
Transfer of Surplus	3,200	1,386
Total included in I&E under Collection Fund Regulations	82,120	83,949
Adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)	(1,342)	422
Council Taxation Fund Income	80,778	84,371
Movement in Reserves Statement	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code	1,342	(422)
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements	82,120	83,949

Income and Expenditure Business Rates	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Demand on the Fund	26,324	26,401
Transfer of Deficit	(1,721)	380
Total included in I&E under Collection Fund Regulations	24,603	26,781
Adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code (Reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement)	1,034	(645)
Business Rates Fund Income	25,637	26,136
Movement in Reserves Statement	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000
Reversal of adjustment of Collection Fund Surplus under 2011 Code	(1,034)	645
Net charge to General Fund, which is based on statutory requirements	24,603	26,781

Balance Sheet

The cash collected by the Authority for Council Tax and NDR belongs proportionately to the Authority and its major preceptors (the GLA and the MHCLG). There will therefore be a debtor/creditor position at the end of year to be recognised between the Authority and each of its major preceptors since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of cash collected from Council Tax and NDR payers. The amounts paid to preceptors are based on estimates made prior to the financial year as required by statute.

In 2017/18, the net cash paid to major preceptors was less than their proportionate share of net cash collected from Council Tax and NDR debtors/creditors in the year. The Authority has therefore net creditor balances for the amount underpaid to its major preceptors in the year.

The following table summarises the Council Tax and NDR cash balances for the Collection Fund and the Authority's Balance Sheet. In the Collection Fund column, the balance relating to each preceptor is their proportionate share of the surplus/deficit. In the Balance Sheet column, the balance relating to each preceptor is a consolidated sum comprising their proportionate share of the surplus/deficit and their proportionate share of arrears, provisions and receipts in advance.

Balance Sheet	Collection Fund 2017/18	Balance Sheet 2017/18
	£000	£000
Council Tax		
Arrears	7,941	6,399
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(7,449)	(5,956)
Receipts in Advance	(4,883)	(3,904)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(2,085)	(2,085)
GLA	(531)	(1,461)
Cash	(7,007)	(7,007)
Business Rates		
Transitional Protection	294	294
Arrears	325	271
Impairment Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(3,176)	(953)
Impairment for Loss on Appeals	(5,935)	(1,780)
Receipts in Advance	(2,992)	(898)
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	914	914
GLA	1,128	(3,322)
MHCLG	1,006	(2,962)
Cash	(8,436)	(8,436)

Group Financial Statements

The Group Financial Statements consolidate the Authority's single entity accounts with its fully owned subsidiary Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) 2013 Limited.

1. Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2016/17 (Restated)				2017/18		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
222,317	(160,665)	61,652	Continuing Operations	224,986	(164,367)	60,619
87,757	(18,345)	69,412	Children, Schools and Families	87,178	(18,914)	68,264
118,176	(105,962)	12,214	Community and Housing	114,394	(99,425)	14,969
62,931	(33,714)	29,217	Corporate Services	59,649	(37,356)	22,293
11,120	(11,356)	(236)	Environment and Regeneration	11,511	(11,002)	508
			Public Health			
502,301	(330,042)	172,259	Cost of services	497,718	(331,064)	166,653
		(1,736)	Other operating income and expenditure			(6,744)
		19,152	Financing and investment income and expenditure			17,006
		(168,743)	Taxation and non-specific grant income			(167,481)
		20,932	Group Deficit on Provision of Services			9,434
		226	Tax on Profit			342
		21,158	Group Deficit on Provision of Services			9,776
		(14,781)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(21,449)
		1,793	Impairment losses on non-current assets			0
		92,970	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)			(41,994)
		79,982	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(63,443)
		101,140	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(53,667)

2. Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Balances £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiaries £000	Total Group Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2016 (for Group) Prior Period Adjustment	(67,345)	(29,582)	(4,153)	(101,080)	(12,728)	(113,808)	(1,711)	(115,519)
Prior Period Adjustment					(219,876)	(219,876)		(219,876)
Revised Balance Adjustments	(67,345)	(29,582)	(4,154)	(101,080)	(232,604)	(333,684)	(1,711)	(335,396)
<i><u>Movement in reserves during 2016/17 (Restated)</u></i>								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	21,807	0	0	21,807	79,850	101,657	(917)	100,740
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	(16,591)	6,596	(3,098)	(13,093)	13,093	0		0
Adjustments between Group Accounts and the Authority's accounts							400	400
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	5,216	6,596	(3,098)	8,714	92,943	101,657	(517)	101,140
Balance at 31 March 2017 carried forward (Restated)	(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(232,027)	(2,229)	(234,256)

	General Fund Balances £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiaries £000	Total Group Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2017 (for Group)	(62,129)	(22,986)	(7,251)	(92,366)	(139,661)	(232,027)	(2,229)	(234,256)
<i><u>Movement in reserves during 2017/18</u></i>								
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	10,410			10,410	(63,347)	(52,937)	(1,471)	(54,409)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 18)	(9,001)	7,473	(3,228)	(4,756)	4,756			
Adjustments between Group Accounts and the Authority's accounts							742	742
(Increase)/Decrease in Year	<u>1,409</u>	<u>7,473</u>	<u>(3,228)</u>	<u>5,654</u>	<u>(58,591)</u>	<u>(52,937)</u>	<u>(729)</u>	<u>(53,667)</u>
Balance at 31 March 2018 carried forward	(60,720)	(15,513)	(10,479)	(86,712)	(198,252)	(284,964)	(2,957)	(287,923)

3. Group Balance Sheet

01 April 2016 (Restated) £000	31 March 2017 (Restated) £000		31 March 2018 £000
681,009	686,865	Property, Plant & Equipment	724,093
669	802	Heritage Assets	802
5,000	5,000	Long Term Investments	4,500
1,291	2,092	Intangible Assets	5,191
44	79	Deferred Tax Asset	160
8,095	8,510	Long Term Debtors	7,590
696,108	703,348	Long Term Assets	742,336
80,872	66,030	Short Term Investments	55,193
46	35	Inventories	1
30,565	31,194	Short Term Debtors	31,814
7,288	7,000	Assets Held for Sale	1,183
0	0	Current Tax Asset	0
23,311	32,534	Cash and Cash Equivalents	34,521
142,083	136,793	Current Assets	122,712
(16,178)	(15,145)	Short Term Borrowing	(1,487)
(57,796)	(62,874)	Short Term Creditors	(64,343)
0	(263)	Current Tax Liability	(422)
(1,666)	(757)	Current Provisions	(641)
(75,640)	(79,039)	Current Liabilities	(66,894)
(6,516)	(5,518)	Provisions	(5,368)
(116,976)	(113,010)	Long Term Borrowing	(113,010)
(32,346)	(30,939)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(29,778)
0	0	Deferred Tax Liability	0
(263,154)	(368,505)	Pension Liability	(350,907)
(8,162)	(8,874)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(11,169)
(427,154)	(526,846)	Long Term Liabilities	(510,232)
355,396	234,256	Net Assets	287,923
(102,792)	(94,990)	Usable Reserves	(90,489)
(232,604)	(139,266)	Unusable Reserves	(197,434)
(335,396)	(234,256)	Total Reserves	(287,923)

4. Group Cash Flow Statement

2016/17		2017/18
£000		£000
21,158	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	9,776
(45,296)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(44,465)
25,806	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	24,897
1,668	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	(9,792)
(15,077)	Investing Activities	(5,796)
4,186	Financing Activities	13,599
(9,223)	Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,988)
23,311	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	32,534
32,534	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	34,521

Notes to the Accounts

Disclosure notes have not been replicated in the Group Accounts because it is deemed that there is no material change between the Authority's single entity notes and the Group Accounts. The single entity accounting policies are also the accounting policies of the Group.

Pension Fund Accounts

2016/17 £000	Fund Account	Notes	2017/18 £000
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the scheme		
(23,175)	Contributions	7	(22,745)
(2,748)	Transfers in	8	(6,748)
(25,923)	Total Income		(29,493)
23,400	Benefits	9	24,695
1,503	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	2,746
24,903	Total Expenditure		27,441
(1,020)	Net (additions)/withdrawals from dealings with members		(2,052)
1,854	Management expenses	11	1,869
834	Net (additions)/withdrawals including fund management expenses		(183)
	Returns on investments		
(11,575)	Investment income	12	(12,605)
249	Taxes on income	13	148
(109,202)	(Profit) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	14.3	4
(120,528)	Net returns on investments		(12,453)
(119,694)	Net (increase)/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year		(12,636)
(530,822)	Opening net assets of the scheme		(650,516)
(650,516)	Closing net assets of the scheme		(663,152)

Net Assets Statement

2016/17 £000		Notes	2017/18 £000
651,090	Investment assets	14	661,536
(2,330)	Investment liabilities	14	(1,348)
648,760	Total Investments		660,188
2,720	Current assets	20	4,581
(964)	Current liabilities	21	(1,617)
650,516	Net assets of the Fund available to Fund benefits at period end		663,152

The Fund's financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed in Note 19.

Notes to the Pension Fund Accounts

1. Description of Fund

The London Borough of Merton Pension Fund (“the Fund”) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by the London Borough of Merton (“the Authority”). The Authority is the reporting entity for this Pension Fund.

The LGPS Regulations require the Authority to maintain specified pension arrangements for eligible employees, and to act as the Administering Authority for these arrangements.

(a) General

The Fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and amendments) Regulations 2014 (as amended), and;
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

The Pension Fund Advisory Panel (PFAP) oversees and advises on investment of the Fund. This Panel comprises Council Members, a pensioner representative, staff side representative and officers, with the Director of Corporate Services responsible for administration. The Authority takes independent professional advice on investment policy and strategy.

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires each Fund within the Local Government Pension Scheme, to establish and run a Local Pension Board. Merton’s Local Pension Board is responsible for assisting the Council as administering authority to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Fund and to comply with legislation and with any requirement imposed by The Pensions Regulator.

The Board meets quarterly and has no decision-making powers on policy matters but may make recommendations to PFAP. The Board has four members comprising two employer and two scheme member representatives.

(b) Membership

Certain associated organisations, known as Admitted and Scheduled Bodies, may also participate in the Pension Scheme. The Scheduled Bodies have a right to be incorporated, whereas Admitted Bodies require the agreement of the Administering Authority. In addition to the Authority, the Admitted and Scheduled Bodies that currently contribute to the Fund are shown in the following table:

Admitted Bodies	Scheduled Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenwich Leisure Merton Priory Homes CATCH 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Harris Academy Merton Harris Academy Morden Harris Academy Primary St Mark's Academy Benedict Academy Park Community School CHAS (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme) Beecholme Academy Aragon Academy

The following table summarises the membership numbers of the scheme.

2016/17		2017/18
	Active Members	
3,705	London borough of Merton	3,565
240	Scheduled bodies	305
74	Admitted bodies	63
4,019		3,933
	Pensioners	
3,455	London borough of Merton	3,571
113	Scheduled bodies	163
157	Admitted bodies	115
3,725		3,849
	Deferred Pensioners	
4,821	London borough of Merton	5,074
306	Scheduled bodies	302
112	Admitted bodies	118
5,239		5,494

(c) Funding

The scheme is financed by contributions from employees and employers, together with income and proceeds from investment of the Pension Fund administered by the Authority in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2013.

Contributions are made by active members of the Fund and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31st March 2018. The employee contributions are matched by the employer contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The latest valuation occurred at 31 March 2016. Currently, employer contribution rates range from 12.0% to 26.4%. Employers pay a monetary contribution towards past service costs.

(d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service, summarised in the following table.

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service Post 1 April 2008
Pension	Each year worked is worth $1/80 \times$ final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth $1/60 \times$ final pensionable salary.
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3x pension. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

From 1 April 2014, the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of $1/49$ th. Accrued pension is uprated annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits.

Normal Pension Age is no longer assumed to be 65, but rather the State Pension Age, which is subject to change. This would affect survivor benefits and ill health provision.

2. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2017/18 financial year and its financial position at year-end as at 31 March 2018. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18', which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits, which fall due after the end of the Fund year. The actuarial position of the Fund, which does take account of such obligations, is disclosed in Note 19.

The Fund Account is operated on an accruals basis except where otherwise stated.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Fund account – revenue recognition

3.1 Contributions

Normal contributions, both from members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due date on which they are payable in accordance with the recovery plan under which they are paid. Employers' deficit funding contributions are made on the advice of the Authority's actuary. Their purpose is to finance the recovery of past service deficiencies over an agreed period (currently twelve years).

Refund of contributions have been brought into the accounts on the basis of all valid claims paid during the year rather than the date of leaving or date of retirement.

Where members of the pension scheme have no choice but to receive a refund or single cash sum on retirement, these accounts have included any material amounts as accruals.

3.2 Transfers

Transfer values are sums paid to or received from other pension schemes, relating to periods of previous pensionable employment. These are included on the basis of payments made or receipts received in the case of individual transfers and on an accruals basis for bulk transfers, which are considered material to the accounts.

3.3 Investment income

Investment income is reported gross of taxation, regardless of whether tax may be payable on a portion of that income. Tax paid is reported separately.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

The figure shown as investment income is made up of different types of income (dividend income for equity and interest income for bond).

3.4 Interest income

Interest income is recognised in the Fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

Revenue account – expense items

3.5 Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Lump sums are accounted for in the period in which the member becomes a pensioner. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

3.6 Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a Fund expense as it arises.

By virtue of LB Merton being the Administering Authority, VAT input tax is generally recoverable on all Fund activities.

3.7 Management Expenses

The code does not require any breakdown of pension fund administrative expenses. However, in the interests of greater transparency, the Fund discloses its management expenses in accordance with CIPFA's *Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses* (2016).

(a) Investment Management Expenses

Fees of the external investment managers and custodian are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. They are deducted from Fund assets by the Fund Managers.

A proportion of the Authority's costs representing management time spent by officers on investment management are charged to the Fund.

(b) Oversight and Governance Costs

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the Fund.

The cost of obtaining investment advice from the external advisor is included in oversight and governance costs.

3.8 Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Pension administration has been carried out by the London Borough of Wandsworth on a shared service basis since 1st December 2013.

Net Asset Statement

3.9 Investment Assets

The Pensions Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requires that investments should be included at their market value at the date of the Net Assets Statement, where such a value is available. Changes in market value are debited or credited to the Fund Account. The SORP promotes the use of bid values for market values but only where they are quoted prices in an active market. If a market is not active or has not been active since significant change in economic circumstances, then Fund Managers may provide an alternative valuation, which in their professional opinion provides a more reliable basis for market value.

3.10 Financial liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

3.11 Movement in the net market value of investment

Changes in the net market value of investments (including investment properties) are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

3.12 Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are converted into Sterling by the investment managers. This is done at London rates prevailing at close of business on the 31 March 2018.

3.13 Cash

Cash comprises cash in hand and includes amounts held by the Fund's external managers.

3.14 Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Assets Statement (Note 19).

3.15 Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount. Provision is made for unusual items which meet the definition of a provision but only when these are judged to be material to the accounts.

3.16 Additional Voluntary Contributions

Merton Pension Fund provides an Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Pension Fund. The Fund only uses one provider, the Prudential PLC. AVC's are not included in the accounts in accordance with section 4(2)(b) of the Local Government

Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3093) but are disclosed in note 22.

3.17 Going Concern

The Pension Fund Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

3.18 Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place prior to the year-end giving rise to a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events. Contingent liabilities can also arise in circumstances where a provision would be made, except that it is not possible at the balance sheet date to measure the value of the financial obligation reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events. Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net assets statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

3.19 Events After The Reporting Date

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events after the reporting period), and;
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events after the reporting period).

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 3 above, the Authority has had to make certain critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

4.1 Pension Fund Liability

Actuarial valuation of the Fund is carried out every three years and there are annual updates in the intervening years. These valuations determine the Pension Fund liability at a given date. There are various assumptions used by the actuary that underpin the valuations, therefore the valuations are subject to significant variances dependent on the assumptions used.

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

The main item in the Fund's Net Asset Statement at 31 March 2018 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year is the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits.	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions and the judgements used in these estimations are carried out by the actuary, Barnett Waddingham LLP. The significant judgements are in regard to the discount rate used, salary increase projections, and retirement age.	The impact of a small change in the discount rate of +0.1% would decrease the closing defined benefit obligation by £17.3m and a -0.1% reduction would increase the obligation by £17.7m. An adjustment to the mortality age rating assumption of -1 year would decrease the obligation by £35.2m.

6. Events After The Reporting Date

There have been no events after the reporting date that would have a material impact on these financial statements.

7. Contributions Receivable

2016/17 £000	By Category	2017/18 £000
17,413	Employers	17,026
5,762	Members	5,719
23,175	Total	22,745

2016/17 £000	By Authority	2017/18 £000
21,486	Administering	20,900
1,145	Scheduled	1,372
544	Admitted	473
23,175	Total	22,745

2016/17 £000	By Type	2017/18 £000
11,901	Employers normal	12,783
5,762	Employees normal	5,719
4,548	Deficit funding	3,430
964	Employers additional	813
23,175	Total	22,745

8. Transfers In From Other Pension Funds

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
2,748	Individual Transfers	3,760
0	Group Transfer	2,988
2,748	Total	6,748

9. Benefits Payable

2016/17 £000	By Category	2017/18 £000
19,746	Pensions	20,516
3,387	Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	3,558
267	Lump sum death benefits	621
23,400	Total	24,695

2016/17 £000	By Authority	2017/18 £000
21,597	Administering	22,915
978	Scheduled	861
825	Admitted	919
23,400	Total	24,695

10. Payments to and on Account of Leavers

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
1,430	Individual transfers	2,425
0	Group transfers	250
88	Refunds of contribution	68
(15)	State scheme premiums	3
1,503	Total	2,746

11. Management Expenses

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
368	Administrative costs	460
1,295	Investment management expenses	1,108
191	Oversight and governance costs	301
1,854	Total	1,869

11a. Investment Management Expenses

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
1,043	Management fees	788
9	Performance related fees	10
17	Custody fees	10
226	Transaction costs	300
1,295	Total	1,108

12. Investment Income

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
2,359	Income from bonds	2,232
7,566	Income from equities	8,860
79	Pooled investments – unit trusts and other managed funds	166
832	Pooled property investments	826
739	Other	521
11,575	Total	12,605

13. Taxes on Income

2016/17 £000		2017/18 £000
200	Non-recoverable tax	115
49	Withholding tax	33
249	Total	148

14. Investment

14.1 Asset management arrangements

The management of Pension Fund assets is delegated to external investment managers who are authorised to conduct investment management business in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The table below shows the market value of the assets (including accrued dividends) by Fund Manager and the proportion managed by each manager as at 31 March 2018. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

2016/17		Fund Manager	2017/18	
£000	%		£000	%
274,663	42	Aberdeen	277,265	42
366,997	57	UBS	375,198	57
6,950	1	Blackrock	7,575	1
648,610	100	Total	660,038	100

14.2 Analysis of investment assets and income

An analysis of investment assets at 31 March 2018 is shown in the following table. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

Market Value 31 March 2017 £000		Market Value 31 March 2018 £000
	Investment Assets	
153,178	Bonds	152,315
236,697	Equities	244,427
232,468	Pooled investments	236,156
21,321	Pooled property investments	22,896
2,328	Derivative contracts - Futures	1,329
3,638	Cash held with fund managers	2,829
1,310	Investment income due	1,434
650,940	Total Investment Assets	661,386
	Investment Liabilities	
(2,330)	Derivative contracts - Futures	(1,348)
150	LCIV Subscription	150
648,760	Net investment assets	660,188

14.3 Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The following table shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2017/2018. The reconciliation shows the opening and closing value of investments analysed into major class of assets. The amount of sales and purchases is also shown. Derivative assets are recognised at market value, and derivative liabilities are recognised at economic exposure.

	Market Value 1 April 2017 £000	Purchases during the year and derivative payments £000	Sales during the year and derivative receipts £000	Change in Market Value during the Year £000	Market Value 31 March 2018 £000
Bonds	153,178	4,870	(2,974)	(2,759)	152,315
Equities	236,697	64,820	(50,592)	(6,498)	244,427
Pooled Investments	232,468	14,510	(18,655)	7,833	236,156
Pooled Property	21,321	444	(262)	1,393	22,896
	643,664	84,644	(72,483)	(31)	655,794
Derivatives (Futures)	2,328	8,170	(9,193)	24	1,329
Future Asset	(2,330)				(1,348)
Future Liability	643,662	92,814	(81,676)	(7)	655,775
Other Investment Balances					
Cash with Fund Managers	3,638				2,829
Investment Income Due	1,310				1,434
Realised Loss on FX				3	
External Investments at Market Value	648,610				660,038
LCIV Subscription	150				150
Investment Assets	648,760			(4)	660,188

Reconciliation of movements in investments and derivatives

The table below shows the movement in the market value of investments held during the financial year 2016/2017.

	Market Value 1 April 2016	Purchases during the year and derivative payments	Sales during the year and derivative receipts	Change in Market Value during the Year	Market Value 31 March 2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bonds	130,929	5,881	(4,026)	20,394	153,178
Equities	194,037	46,780	(39,711)	35,591	236,697
Pooled Investments	179,624	24,016	(24,079)	52,907	232,468
Pooled Property	21,183	203	0	(65)	21,321
	525,773	76,880	(67,816)	108,827	643,664
Derivatives (Futures)					
Future Asset	1,528	10,251	(9,837)	386	2,328
Future Liability	(1,527)				(2,330)
	525,774	87,131	(77,653)	109,213	643,662
Other Investment Balances					
Cash with Fund Managers	2,005				3,638
Investment Income Due	1,261				1,310
Realised Loss on FX				(11)	
External Investments at Market Value	529,040			109,202	648,610
LCIV Subscription	150				150
Investment Assets	529,190			109,202	648,760

14.4 Detail Analysis of Investments

The table below shows an analysis of investment assets between 'UK' and 'overseas' and between 'quoted' and 'unquoted'. The analysis excludes derivatives.

Market Value 31 March 2017 £000		Market Value 31 March 2018 £000
	Bonds	
115,432	Public Sector : UK quoted	114,952
37,746	: Overseas quoted	37,363
153,178		152,315
	Equities (Direct)	
219,251	UK quoted	226,155
17,446	Other European quoted	18,272
236,697		244,427
	Pooled Investments	
55,303	UK (Equities)	54,917
35,301	Other European (Equities)	35,927
66,106	American (Equities)	69,087
27,652	Japanese (Equities)	27,858
25,917	Other Overseas (Equities)	26,083
22,189	Developing Markets (Equities)	22,283
6,935	Property Managed Fund/Units quoted	7,561
14,386	Property Managed Fund/Units unquoted	15,336
1,310	Other Investment Balances	1,434
3,638	Cash with Fund Managers	2,829
2,328	Derivatives (Futures)	1,329
261,065		264,644
	Investment Liabilities	
(2,330)	Derivatives (Futures)	(1,348)
150	LCIV Subscription	150
648,760	Total	660,188

14.5 Analysis of derivatives

Futures contracts are used to gain exposure to investment markets without the need to purchase underlying stocks and shares. The economic exposure represents the notional value of stock purchased under futures contracts and is therefore subject to market movements.

The derivative instruments, which are used by the Fund, are FTSE future contracts, which have been applied to the active and passive sub-funds managed by UBS Asset Management. These instruments are essentially used by the Fund Managers for efficient portfolio management.

At 31 March 2018, the value of FTSE futures amounted to less than 0.5% of all equity investment in the Fund (0.5% in 2016/17).

The following table reflects the Fund's exposure to future contracts.

Type	Expires	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2017 £000	Economic exposure £000	Market value 31 March 2018 £000
UK Equities	Three – Six months	2,330	2,328	1,348	1,329

14.6 Stock lending

There were no stock lending arrangements in place during the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

14.7 Investments exceeding 5% of net assets

The table below shows investments exceeding 5% of total net assets, (all these investments are pooled).

% Market Value 2016/17	Security	% Market Value 2017/18
11.90	Aberdeen Global II Index Linked	11.65
9.34	UBS Life North America Equity Tracker	9.38
7.23	UBS Life UK Equity Tracker	7.35
5.84	Aberdeen Global II Global Aggregate	5.69
5.34	UBS Life Europe Ex UK Equity Tracker	5.34

The largest single direct holding is HSBC at 1.74% (1.62% in 2016/17).

The following investments represent more than 5% of their asset class.

% Market Value 2016/17		Security	% Market Value 2017/18	
£000	% of asset class		£000	% of asset class
Bonds				
37,746	24.64	Aberdeen Global II Global Aggregate	37,363	24.53
76,902	50.20	Aberdeen Fund Mana Sterling	76,545	50.25
26,224	17.12	Aberdeen Sterling Long Dated Gov Bond	26,368	17.31
12,306	8.03	Aberdeen Sterling Long Dated Corp Bond	12,039	7.90
Pooled Investments				
60,310	25.94	UBS Life North America Equity Tracker	61,632	26.10
46,694	20.09	UBS Life UK Equity Tracker	48,308	20.46
34,522	14.85	UBS Life Europe Ex UK Equity Tracker	35,082	14.86
17,692	7.61	UBS Life Pacific/Ex Japan Eqty Tracker	17,765	7.52
17,165	7.38	UBS Life Japan Equity Tracker	17,973	7.61
13,805	5.94	Aberdeen Global Emerging Markets	12,438	5.27
Pooled Property Investments				
14,145	66.35	UBS Triton Property Unit Trust	15,336	66.98
6,935	32.53	Blackrock UK Property	7,561	33.02
2,328	100	Derivative Contracts - Futures	1,329	100

15. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represent the highest and best price available at the reporting date.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Current market “bid” price	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Current market “bid” price	Not required	Not required
Derivatives	Level 1	Valued from prices set by independent participants in the market	Not required	Not required
Property funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required

15a Fair Value Hierarchy

The valuation of financial instruments can be classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. All the financial instruments of the Fund are classified as level 1, 2 and 3, as follows:

Level 1 – Financial instruments at Level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed interest securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts. Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2 – those financial instruments where market prices are not available. For example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3 – those financial instruments where at least one input, that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation, is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into Levels 1 and 2, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

31 March 2017			31 March 2018	
Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000		Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Quoted market price Level 2 £000
625,981 3,788	21,321	Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss Loans and Receivables	635,661 2,979	22,896
(2,330)		Financial Liabilities Fair Value through profit and loss	(1,348)	
627,439	21,321	Total	637,292	22,896

16. Financial Instruments

16.1 Classification of financial instruments

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and Net Asset Statement heading.

31 March 2017				31 March 2018		
Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables Restated £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000		Designated at fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised costs £000
153,178 236,697			Financial Assets	152,315 244,427		
232,468			Bonds			
21,321 2,328			Equities	236,156		
	3,638		Pooled Investments	22,896		
	150		Pooled Property Investments	1,329		
			Derivative Contracts		2,829	
			Cash With Fund Managers		150	
1,310			LCIV Subscription			
	2,641		Other Investment Balances	1,434		
			Debtors		4,339	
647,302	6,429	0		658,557	7,318	0
			Financial Liabilities			
(2,330)			Derivative Contracts	(1,348)		
		(708)	Creditors			(1,344)
(2,330)	0	(708)		(1,348)	0	(1,344)
644,972	6,429	(708)		657,209	7,318	(1,344)

16.2 Net gains and losses on financial instruments

The table below shows net gains on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss.

31 March 2017 £000		31 March 2018 £000
	Financial Assets / Liabilities	
109,173	Fair Value through profit and loss	(16)
29	Loans and Receivables	12
109,202	Total	(4)

17. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

17.1 Risk and risk management

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise opportunity for gains across the whole portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cashflows. The Fund manages these investment risks as part of its overall Pension Fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Advisory Panel. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority's pensions operations. The Investment Strategy Statement and Risk Register are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in the Fund's strategy, activity and in market conditions. The Fund also ensures authorised investment managers are used through its rigorous fund manager selection process. In addition the Fund employs an adviser, JLT Employee Benefits, who provides advice on investment issues.

17.2 Market risk

The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities especially through its equity holdings. Equity futures contracts and exchange traded option contracts on individual securities may also be used to manage market risks on equity investments. The Fund has one future valued at £1,328,765 (£2,328,160 as at 31 March 2017)

17.3 Price risk

Potential price changes are based on the observed historical volatility of asset class returns. London Borough of Merton asset allocation is predominantly in equities, the majority of which are priced in Sterling. Riskier assets in the Fund such as equities display greater potential price volatility than bonds. The Fund investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities. Other financial instruments are monitored by the Authority to ensure they are within limits specified in the Fund investment strategy.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	2,829	0.7	2,849	2,809
Investment portfolio assets				
UK Equities	281,073	9.4	307,494	254,652
Overseas Equities	199,510	9.4	218,264	180,756
Bonds and Index Linked	152,315	10.3	168,003	136,626
Property	22,896	3.5	23,698	22,095
Income Due	1,434	0.00	1,434	1,434
Fixed Deposits (LCIV Subscription)	150	0.00	150	150
Total Assets	660,207		721,892	598,522

Note: The % change for total assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2017 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	3,638	0.01	3,638	3,638
Investment portfolio assets				
UK Equities	274,554	8.05	296,656	252,452
Overseas Equities	194,611	10.29	214,636	174,586
Bonds and Index Linked	153,178	11.03	170,074	136,282
Property	21,321	2.40	21,833	20,809
Income Due	1,310	0.00	1,310	1,310
Fixed Deposits (LCIV Subscription)	150	0.00	150	150
Total Assets	648,762		708,297	589,227

The potential volatilities are consistent with one standard deviation movement in the change in value of the assets over three years. This was applied to the 31 March 2018 asset mix as shown in the following table (Note 17.4):

17.4 Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk). Whether those changes are caused by factors specific to individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities represent a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The Fund's investment managers aim to mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments.

The following table shows the volatility between the asset classes invested in.

Asset Type	Potential market movements (+/-) %
Equities	9.4
Bonds and Index Linked	10.3
Cash	0.7
Property	3.5

17.5 Interest rate risk

The fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the council and its investment advisors in accordance with the fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

17.6 Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the GBP. The majority of foreign equities in the UBS portfolio are priced in GBP thereby reducing currency risk fluctuations. The % change has been derived from the measurement of volatility of the Fund over three years.

The table below shows the currency exposure by asset type as at 31 March 2018.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	199,510	8.8	217,067	181,953
Overseas Bonds	37,363	8.8	40,651	34,075
Total Overseas Assets	236,873		257,718	216,028

The table below shows the currency exposure by asset type as at 31 March 2017.

Asset Type	Value at 31 March 2017 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	194,611	8.46	211,075	178,147
Overseas Bonds	37,746	8.46	40,939	34,553
Total Overseas Assets	232,357		252,014	212,700

The following table calculates the aggregate currency exposure within the Fund as at 31 March 2018. In doing this we have applied the single outcome to all non-UK assets where the manager has not priced the security in GBP and multiplied the weight of each currency by the change in its exchange rate (relative to GBP) and sum to create the aggregate change.

Currency	Value at 31 March 2018 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Danish Krone	1,287	9.00%	1,403	1,171
EURO	13,977	9.00%	15,235	12,719
Swedish Krona	1,618	9.70%	1,775	1,461
Swiss Franc	4,805	10.30%	5,300	4,310
US Dollar	37,508	9.70%	41,146	33,869
Total	59,195		64,859	53,530

Currency	Value at 31 March 2017 £000	% Change	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Danish Krone	1,007	9.15	1,099	915
EURO	8,463	9.13	9,236	7,690
Norwegian Krone	351	10.96	389	313
Swedish Krona	2,289	9.07	2,497	2,081
Swiss Franc	5,364	12.46	6,032	4,696
US Dollar	37,785	9.13	41,235	34,335
Total	55,259		60,488	50,030

17.7 Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the Authority's credit criteria. The average long term credit rating in the bond portfolio is AA as at 31 March 2018. The investment manager reports on the credit quality of the portfolio on a quarterly basis.

The table below shows the credit quality for the Aberdeen Bond portfolio.

Value at 31 March 2017 £000		Value at 31 March 2018 £000
3,829	AAA	7,768
117,793	AA	111,342
14,399	A	14,470
14,399	BBB	15,536
1,379	BB or below	1,219
1,379	Cash	1,980
29	Settled Cash	38
153,207		152,353
150	LCIV Subscription	150
153,357	Total	152,503

17.8 Liquidity risk

The Authority has immediate access to its Pension Fund cash holdings to enable it to meet its financial obligations when due. Within the bond portfolio, the Fund is permitted to hold up to 10% of the Fund in cash for this reason and to ensure that

the Fund has available an element of cash to ensure that settlement of the segregated securities traded in the portfolio do not take the cash accounts overdrawn.

Fund cashflow is periodically reviewed by the Pension Fund Panel on a quarterly basis.

17.9 Refinancing risk

This is the risk that the Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its Pension Fund financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Authority does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategy.

18. Funding Arrangements

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the Fund actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2016 and the next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2019.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- 1) To ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet pension liabilities as they fall due for payment;
- 2) To ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible;
- 3) To minimise the long-term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return;
- 4) To reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where it is reasonable to do so, and;
- 5) To use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 12 years and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the funds held, plus future expected investment returns and future contributions, are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

As at the 2016 actuarial valuation, the Fund was assessed as 94% funded. This corresponded to a deficit of £32.7m. at that time.

The table below shows the funding level and deficit for the past three triennial valuations.

	2010 Valuation	2013 Valuation	2016 Valuation
Funding Level %	84.0	89.0	94.0
Funding (Deficit) £m	(67.2)	(53.2)	(32.7)

The assessed value of assets held by the Fund at 31 March 2016 was £525.5m (2013 valuation: £451.0m), whilst the liabilities accrued in respect of pensionable service were £558.2m (2013 valuation: £504.2m).

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service. The principal assumptions were as follows.

Financial Assumptions

Financial Assumption		31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Discount rate	Long Term Short Term	5.5%	5.9%
Pay increase		3.9%	4.5%
		Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for period from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2020	CPI for period 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2015
Consumer price inflation (CPI)		2.4%	2.7%
Pension increases		2.4%	2.7%
		Funds will pay limited increases for members that have reached Statutory Pension Age (SPA) by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase.	
Pension increases on GMP		For members that reach SPA after this date, we have assumed that Funds will be required to pay the entire inflationary increases.	No allowances for limit in increase for any members

Demographic Assumptions

The main assumptions are detailed below:

Demographic Assumptions	31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Allowance for improvement in life expectancy	2015 Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) Model with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a.	2012 CMI Model with a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a.
Allowance for cash commutation	Members will commute pension at retirement to provide a lump sum of 50% of the maximum allowed under HMRC rules and this will be at a rate of £12 lump sum for £1 of pension	Members will commute pension at retirement to provide a lump sum of 50% of the maximum allowed under HMRC rules and this will be at a rate of £12 lump sum for £1 of pension
Allowance for 50:50 membership	Based on members' current section	10% of active members will opt to pay 50% of contributions for 50% of benefits under the new scheme

19. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The accounting standard IAS26 sets out the measurement and disclosure principles for reporting retirement benefit plans. For this purpose the Code of Practice requires that actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes. In order to meet

this requirement, the Fund's actuary has carried out an additional assessment of the Fund as at 31 March 2018, using a valuation methodology that is consistent with IAS19.

The financial assumptions used for the purposes of the calculations are as follows:

Financial Assumptions	Assumptions as at 31/03/18 %
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.30
Salary Rate Increase	3.80
Discount Rate	2.55

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2018 was:

31/03/17 £m		31/03/18 £m
1,002.2	Present value of promised retirement benefits	1002.5

20. Current Assets

31/03/17 £000	Current Assets	31/03/18 £000
79	Contributions Due	242
189	Sundry Debtors	641
2,452	Cash in Hand	3,698
2,720	Total	4,581

Analysis of Debtors

31/03/17 £000	Current Debtors	31/03/18 £000
38	Administering Body	168
41	Admitted and Scheduled Bodies	74
189	Sundry Debtors	641
268	Total	883

21. Current Liabilities

31/03/17 £000	Creditors	31/03/18 £000
(628)	Fund Managers Fees	(755)
(80)	Sundry	(589)
(256)	Payroll	(273)
(964)	Total	(1,617)

22. Additional Voluntary Contributions

The scheme provides for members to pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to increase their benefit entitlement at retirement, subject to HMRC limits. Under Regulation 4 (2) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and

Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No: 3093), AVCs are not included in the Pension Fund accounts but are paid over by the Authority's shared payroll service and invested by a specialist AVC provider, Prudential PLC, independently of the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund.

The amount of additional voluntary contributions paid by members during 2017/18 to AVC schemes outside the Authority's responsibility was £0.442m (£0.172m at 31 March 2017). The external providers have reported that at 31 March 2018 the total value of accumulated AVCs is £2.36m (£2.05m at 31 March 2017).

23. Related Parties

Merton Council

Merton Pension Fund is administered by Merton Council consequently there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Pension Fund. During the reporting period, the Council incurred costs of £0.41m (2016/17 £0.36m) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of scheme members and contributed £15.7m to the Fund in 2017/18 (2016/17: £16.2m).

There were no significant year end asset or liability balances that needed to be disclosed in respect of related party transactions.

Governance

C Holland, (Director of Corporate Services) is an active member of the Pension Fund. There are no members of the Pension Fund Advisory Panel (PFAP) in receipt of pension benefits.

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the fund are the Director of Corporate Services, the Interim Assistant Director of Resources and the Head of Treasury and Pensions. Total remuneration payable to key management personnel is shown below:

	31/03/17 £000	31/03/18 £000
Short-term benefits	88,570	103,114
Post-employment benefits	-	-
Other long-term benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
Total remuneration	88,570	103,114

24. Contingent Asset/Liabilities

As at 31 March 2018 there were no contingent assets or liabilities to disclose.

Statements of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority 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 Authority, that officer is the Director of Corporate Services.
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets.
- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

1.1. The Director of Corporate Services' Responsibilities

The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the authority'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 Director of Corporate Services 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 of Practice.

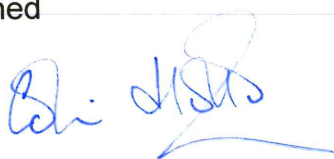
The Director of Corporate Services has also:

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

1.2 Certification of Responsible Finance Officer

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Signed



C Holland

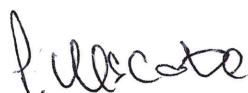
Director of Corporate Services

8th November 2018

1.3 Approval of Accounts by Standards and General Purposes Committee

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts has been approved by resolution of the Standards and General Purposes Committee of the London Borough of Merton in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

Signed



Peter McCabe

Chairman Standards and General Purposes Committee

8th November 2018

Further information about the accounts is available from:

Director of Corporate Services
8th Floor

Merton Civic Centre

London Road

MORDEN

Surrey

SM4 5DX

Or alternatively, please ask for Stephen Bowsher on 020 8545 3531.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LONDON BROOUGH OF MERTON

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the London Borough of Merton for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- Authority and Group Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Authority and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Authority and Group Balance Sheet,
- Authority and Group Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 43,
- Collection Fund and the related notes 1 to 5.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the London Borough of Merton and Group as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the authority and group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the Director of Corporate Service's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Director of Corporate Services has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts for the year end 2017/18, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the London Borough of Merton put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Authority;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Responsibility of the Director of Corporate Services

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 163 the Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Corporate Services is responsible for assessing the Authority'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 the Authority either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our 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 our 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 our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in November 2017, as to whether the London Borough of Merton had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the London Borough of Merton put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements.

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

Certificate

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the London Borough of Merton, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and

Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the London Borough of Merton and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Suresh Patel
Ernst & Young LLP

Suresh Patel (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
London
9 November 2018

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

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON PENSION FUND

Opinion

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes 1 to 24. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

In our opinion the pension fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2018 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2018; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the pension fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the Director of Corporate Services' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Director of Corporate Services has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the pension fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Merton Council Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the Director of Corporate Services

As explained more fully in the Statements of Responsibilities set out on page 163, the Director of Corporate Services is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director of Corporate Services is responsible for assessing the Pension Fund'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 the Pension Fund either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements


Our 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 our 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 our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of Merton Pension Fund, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and the Fund's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Handwritten signature of Suresh Patel in blue ink, with 'Ernst & Young LLP' written below it.

Suresh Patel (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
London
9 November 2018

The maintenance and integrity of the Merton Pension Fund web site is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Glossary

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Rules and practices followed in drawing up the accounts.

ACCOUNTING CODES OF PRACTICE

These are designed to support consistent standards of financial accounting in local authorities. There are two accounting codes :-

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting supports consistent financial reporting at the level of the formal statements of accounts.

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid. This concept is reflected in the accounts by the inclusion of debtors and creditors.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- a. Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses); or
- b. The actuarial assumptions have changed.

APPROPRIATIONS

The assignment of revenue balances for specified purposes.

ASSET HELD FOR SALE

An asset is classified as held for sale if its carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. The asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition and its sale must be highly probable.

ASSETS

These are rights or access to future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or events.

BALANCES

Balances are maintained to meet expenditure pending the receipt of income and to provide a cushion against expenditure being higher or income lower than expected.

Contributions to balances can be either a planned contribution from the revenue budget or a transfer of any revenue surplus at the year end. The maintenance of an appropriate level of balances is a fundamental part of prudent financial management.

BUDGET

Statement of the spending plans for the year.

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT (CAA)

This reserve is debited with the historical cost of acquiring, creating or enhancing fixed assets over the life of those assets and with the historical cost of deferred charges. It is credited with resources set aside to finance capital expenditure. Where there is a credit balance, capital finance is being set-aside at a faster rate than resources have been consumed. Where there is a debit balance, fixed assets are being consumed in advance of their being financed.

CAPITAL CHARGES

Charges to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of services.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure, which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS DEFERRED

Amounts receivable in the future from mortgages granted on the sale of Authority houses.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets and repayments of capital grants and loans. These are divided into reserved and usable parts.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA)

The Institute produces standards and codes of practice that must be followed in preparing the Authority's financial statements.

CLG

This is the Government department for Communities and Local Government. This was formerly called the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

COLLECTION FUND

This is a statutory 'ring fenced' account. It records income and expenditure on Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, payments to the precepting authorities and transfer to the Authority's General Fund.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, which have no determinable useful life and which may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples include parks and historic buildings.

COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW (CSR)

The CSR is a governmental process carried out by HM Treasury which sets out fixed three-year departmental expenditure limits and through public sector service agreements defines key service improvements.

CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

A contingent asset is a possible asset, which may arise in the future if certain events take place. A contingent liability is a possible loss or charge, which may arise in the future if certain events take place. In both cases, these events may not be wholly within the control of the Authority.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the accounts but should be disclosed by way of a note if there is a possible obligation which may require payment or a transfer of economic benefits.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

The corporate and democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multi-purpose authorities. It has two elements - corporate management and democratic representation and management. The activities within the corporate and democratic core are in addition to those which would be carried out by a series of independent, single purpose bodies managing the same services. There is, therefore, no logical basis for apportioning these costs to services.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate Governance is the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and communicate to their communities.

COUNCIL TAX

This is the main source of local taxation to local authorities. It is levied on households within the authority's area and the proceeds are paid into the Collection Fund for distribution to precepting authorities and to the authority's own General Fund.

CREDIT APPROVAL

The permission to borrow given to each local authority annually by the Secretary of State. Local authorities can obtain supplementary credit approvals during the year for particular projects.

CREDITORS

Money owed by the Authority, which is due immediately or in the short term. Accordingly, it does not include money on taxation to the Authority. Creditors are an example of the concept of accruals.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of the liabilities earned by employees in the current period in a defined benefit scheme.

CURTAILMENT COSTS

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- a. termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example, as a restructuring of operations
- b. termination of, or amendment to, the terms of a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEBTORS

Money that is due to the Authority but which has not yet been received. Debtors are an example of the concept of accruals.

DEFERRED CONSIDERATION

This is the value of buildings transferred to NewSchools under the PFI contract and will be amortised over the life of the contract.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

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

DEFRA

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is a charge to the revenue account to reflect the reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset. The reduction in the value of a fixed asset in the balance sheets is in line with the expected useful life.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Authority's discretionary powers, such as The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996, The Local Government (Discretionary Payments and Injury Benefits) (Scotland) Regulations 1998, or The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.

EMOLUMENTS

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee, and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Material items, which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the authority, but which are not expected to recur frequently or regularly.

Exceptional items should be shown as part of the Net Cost of Services to which they relate or on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account if that degree of prominence is necessary to give a fair representation of the accounts.

FAIR VALUE

Fair value is defined as 'the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date'. The IFRS 13 fair value hierarchy has three levels of valuation:

Level One – fair value has been obtained using quoted prices in active markets for identical items.

Level Two - fair value has been obtained using other inputs observable for the item.

Level Three – unobservable inputs have been used to reach fair value.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

This account provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which gains and losses are recognized under the SORP and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund. The account is designed to hold the difference between the book value and fair value. It is not used at present because the sums involved are not significant.

FINANCE LEASE

A finance lease is one that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee. It should be presumed that such a transfer of risks and rewards occurs if at the inception of a lease the present value of the minimum lease payments including any initial payment, amounts to substantially all (normally 90% or more), of the fair value of the leased asset.

FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year runs from the 1st April to the following 31st March.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another. In practice, this covers both assets and liabilities and includes bank deposits, investments, debtors, loans and advances, debt premiums, creditors and borrowings.

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the local authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. These can be tangible or intangible.

FTSE 100

This is the index of the top 100 UK listed companies by market capitalisation.

GENERAL FUND

The main fund of the Authority, from which all expenditure is met and all income is paid, with the exception of those items, which by statute have to be taken to some other account.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Financial assistance by government and other bodies, in the form of cash transfers to an authority in return for compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

GROSS EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure of a fund or account.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

Accounts that show the total financial results for a group of entities for a particular period, rather than the separate results of each entity.

HERITAGE ASSETS

These are a class of assets which were formerly categorized as Community Assets. These assets are deemed to contribute to a nation's society, knowledge and/or culture.

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards: these are the standards that have superseded national accounting standards. The Code of Practice which has replaced the SORP is fully IFRS based.

IMPAIRMENT

The loss of value in a fixed asset arising from physical damage, deterioration in the quality of service provided by the asset or from a general fall in prices.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Accounts which show all money receivable or payable by the Authority in the accounting period to which they relate. Accounts that record receipts and payments are converted to income and expenditure by the inclusion of debtors and creditors.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets that have no realistic expectation of being sold but are retained to deliver core services e.g. roads, drainage etc. and in respect of which expenditure cannot be recovered through disposal.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets are defined in IAS38 as 'identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance'.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

INVESTMENTS (PENSION FUND)

The investments of the pensions fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However, authorities (other than district councils in Northern Ireland) are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosures relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

INVESTMENTS (NON-PENSION FUND)

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

Investments, other than those in relation to the pensions fund that do not meet the above criteria should be classified as current assets.

JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITY

A joint venture that involves the establishment of a corporation, partnership or other entity in which each venturer has an interest.

LEASING

This facility is a means to obtain the use of vehicles, plant and computer equipment without actually owning these items.

LEVY

An amount levied by a local authority or other statutory body which is paid by the Authority.

LIABILITIES

An entity's obligations to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

MATERIALITY

Materiality sets the threshold for determining whether an item is relevant. This is defined as: an item of information is material to the financial information if its misstatement or omission might reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users of those financial statements, including their assessments of management's stewardship. Whether information is material will depend on the size and nature of the item in question judged in the particular circumstances of the case.

NET ASSETS

The Net Assets of the authority is the amount that the authority owns (its assets) less the amount that it owes (its liabilities).

NET BOOK ASSETS

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of an asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational asset), less the expenses required realising the asset.

NET WORTH

The Net Worth of the authority shows how the net assets of the authority are allocated between usable resources, resources that have been set aside to finance capital expenditure, unrealised gains from increases in asset values and the reserves which are needed to manage the complexities of local authority accounting.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads from which no user now benefits and these costs should not be apportioned to services.

NON-DOMESTIC RATE (NDR)

The rates paid by businesses. The amount paid is based on the rateable value set by the Valuation Office multiplied by a rate in the £ set by the government, which is consistent throughout the country.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of these assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

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

PAST SERVICE COST

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

POOLED VEHICLES

A pooled vehicle is a single investment whose value and performance is the aggregate of a number of separate investments held within the pooled arrangement. Pooled investments are undertaken to improve the diversification and efficiency of investment activity, particularly where a similar spread of segregated investments would incur higher management costs, and be less economic.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

These are events which arise after the end of the accounting period. They can be divided into

- Adjusting events, which provide further evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the accounting period and that may require changes to the accounts.
- Non Adjusting Events, which are indicative of conditions that arose subsequent to period end, that are reported by way of a note to the accounts.

PRECEPTS

An amount collected by the Authority as part of the Council Tax on behalf of another statutory body.

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

PFI contracts are agreements with private sector organisations to refurbish, maintain and operate fixed assets on behalf of public sector organisations such as local authorities.

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

Prior period adjustments are material adjustments relating to the accounts of previous years and which arise from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. Prior period adjustments do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PROVISIONS

Amounts set aside for any liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred, but which are uncertain as to the amounts or the dates on which they will arise.

RESERVES

These are amounts set aside for specific purposes. The Authority has discretion in whether it wishes to set aside these amounts as distinct from sums set aside in provisions.

RESIDUAL VALUE

This is the estimate, based on current prices, of the increase in market value of the buildings transferred to NewSchools under the PFI contract.

REVALUATION RESERVE

The Revaluation Reserve records increases and reductions in the value of fixed assets when compared to their original book value. Reductions in value can be offset against accumulated revaluation gains before they are charged to the income and expenditure account.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure incurred on day to day running costs and confined to accounts within one financial year.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY CAPITAL RESOURCES UNDER STATUTE

This is expenditure which is classified as revenue expenditure but which can be funded from capital resources under statutory requirements. This expenditure was called deferred charges under the 2007 SORP.

SCHEME LIABILITIES

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

SETTLEMENT COSTS

An irrevocable action that relieves the employer (or the defined benefit scheme) of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the obligation and the assets used to effect the settlement. Settlements include:

- A lump-sum cash payment to scheme members in exchange for their rights to receive specified pension benefits;
- the purchase of an irrevocable annuity contract sufficient to cover vested benefits; and
- the transfer of scheme assets and liabilities relating to a group of employees leaving the scheme.

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE (SORP)

This is the authoritative guidance on the application of accounting standards and incorporates UK GAAP. (See Accounting Codes of Practice). The SORP has now been superseded by the IFRS based Code of Practice.

STOCKS

The amount of unused or unconsumed supplies held in expectation of future use.

SUBSIDIARY

An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is controlled by another entity (known as the parent).

SUPPORT SERVICES

These are services that are not statutory local authority services but which give support to those services.

UK GAAP

UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles cover accounting practices that are regarded as permissible by the accounting profession. These practices may be laid down in accounting standards and/or legislation (such as Local Government Finance Legislation) but it also includes accounting practices that are outside the scope of accounting standards but are generally accepted by practitioners as legitimate. Local Authority accounts are now required to be IFRS compliant.

USEFUL LIFE

This is the period over which the local authority derives benefit from the use of a fixed asset.

VESTED RIGHTS

In relation to a defined benefit scheme, these are: -

- a) for active members, benefits to which they would unconditionally be entitled on leaving the scheme;
- b) for deferred pensioners, their preserved benefits;
- c) for pensioners, pensions to which they are entitled.