

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 July 2025

6.00 pm

Committee Room 1, City Hall

Membership:	Jane Nellist (Chair - Independent Member)
	Councillors Emily Wood (Vice-Chair), Debbie Armiger, Annie Currier, Thomas Dyer, Gary Hewson, Neil Murray and Clare Smalley
Substitute member(s):	Councillors Pat Vaughan and Aiden Wells
Independent Member:	Dave Carter
Officers attending:	Democratic Services, Zlati Kalchev, Janine Mills, Laura Shipley, Jonathan Spencer, and Amanda Stanislawski

A G E N D A

A TRAINING SESSION WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE START OF THIS MEETING AT 5.00PM IN RELATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SECTION A	Page(s)
1. Confirmation of Minutes - 02 June 2025	3 - 10
2. Declarations of Interest	
Please note that, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, when declaring interests members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest, and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal and/or pecuniary.	
3. Audit Recommendations Follow Up	11 - 32
4. Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25	33 - 198
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Present: Jane Nellist (*in the Chair*)

Councillors: Debbie Armiger, Annie Currier, Thomas Dyer,
Gary Hewson, Neil Murray, Clare Smalley and
Emily Wood

Independent Member: Dave Carter

Apologies for Absence: None

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 25 March 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

Minute 54 from 25 March 2025 – Internal Audit Recommendations Follow-Up - Resolved that an update be provided at this Committee on the overdue internal audit recommendations relating to IT. An update was provided to the Committee as follows:

- Regular updates were being made to CMT on the overdue recommendations to keep these on track.
- An upcoming exercise on disaster recovery was being developed currently looking at opportunities to also coordinate with neighbouring authorities and the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum. Information from the National Cyber Security Centre had been reviewed and external providers were available to assist where needed.
- A major piece of work was underway to reduce the number of documents held in files and on servers. Data retention and disposal policies were being reviewed to ensure that documents no longer needed could be deleted. So far efforts had reduced the number of obsolete documents from 10million to 7.5million stored on Council servers. A small project team had been set up to continue momentum and support services. An internal spring clean campaign would be promoted for managers and teams to get on board.
- The internal Information Governance Group would be updated on the Cyber Risk Register at the next meeting.
-
- Mobile phone compliance was working through replacing devices which had been identified for upgrade.
- There were no significant issues on the Cyber Incident Log, however close attention was being paid to the aftermath of the recent Marks and Spencer and Co-operative cyber-attacks.
- Asset management actions were ensuring those staff whose equipment was at end of life would receive replacements.
- Under the Asset Disposal Policy, where devices needed to be disposed, there were key regulations to follow for the removal or destruction of data and the disposal of electronic equipment. A contractor had been identified for this.

Questions from the Committee confirmed the following:

- IT assets were used for as long as possible and not replaced on a shorter cycle like some organisations and were often end of life which made donation for community use to improve digital inclusion challenging, however, once sensitive information was removed and if there was still use available in the device, this would be actioned where possible.
- IT assets were bought outright and owned by the Council.
- Many of the outstanding recommendations from the internal audit were due to be completed by July 2025 and the Committee would continue to receive updates on progress as necessary.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4. Information Governance Update

The Data Protection Officer presented the Information Governance Update and directed members to the Information Governance Risk Register. All risks required ongoing mitigation, and the four main risks highlighted for comment were:

- Training (Risk 1)
- Policies and Procedures (Risk 3)
- Retention and disposal of Personal Data (Risk 5)
- Data Subject's Rights and Freedom of Information Requests (Risk 8).

The report also included monitoring of the Council's compliance with its legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

During discussion and questions arising from the report, the following points were noted:

- An Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Usage Policy was in development which meant no AI programmes or applications were authorised for use on the Council's computer network until the policy had been approved and deployed. AI would provide many benefits for staff, but the risks also needed to be considered.
- A retention and disposal policy had been approved for the automated deletion of 1-1 chat messages on Microsoft Teams after six months. The policy would come into effect on 1 July 2025. There had been no guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office on the length of time such transitional messages should be kept, however six months was decided upon after discussing the matter with other authorities whose retention policies varied from one week to three years. The length of time could be changed, if necessary.
- Recordings on Microsoft Teams should be managed by the owner of the Channel who had responsibility for ensuring videos were saved only if required for future reference (such as for training) otherwise, they should have a short retention.
- The number of Data Subject Access Requests received in quarter October – December 2024 was 41, 88% of which had been completed within the required time. Most requests for personal data had come from third parties such as the Police, NHS or the Home Office. In these cases, the subjects in question were not notified of the request as it was likely for the purpose of crime detection or investigation. The number of requests received had been steadily increasing and it was thought this was due to the public being more aware of their rights around data protection.

- Being a public body, the Council was subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and performance statistics were published online. January to March 2025 had seen the largest number of FOI requests to date, and consideration was being given to allowing more accessibility to data via the Council's website. Data transparency requirements were being met by the Council, but further analysis on the nature of requests was needed.
- It was suggested that protectively publishing more datasets could be used on the website to ensure requests were being made to the correct organisation. Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Council had 20 working days to respond to a request, so each application took officer time to process, even when only signposting.

RESOLVED that the report, including the Information Governance Risk Register, be noted.

5. Internal Audit Progress Report

A report on the progress of the internal audit plan was considered. It explained the current position and summarised the outcomes of audits completed since the previous meeting of the Audit Committee.

The third quarterly follow-up spot check of implemented actions had been completed. This was done to ensure that actions had been implemented as reported to Internal Audit.

Seven reports had been issued during the period. Executive summaries for all of these were provided in the public Committee report with more detailed summaries for the limited reports included in the exempt Appendix A in the private part of the agenda.

Other work completed included the administration of the whistleblowing referrals, completion of a grant claim review, completion of the annual fraud report and scheduling for the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Progress Report be noted.

6. Risk Management - Annual Update

A report was considered detailing the risk management framework adopted by the Council, and the risk management activity during the last 12 months. The Risk Management Strategy was appended to the report, and the Strategic Risk Register for Quarter 4 of 2024/25 formed Item 15 in the private and confidential part of the agenda.

Risk management training was available to the City of Lincoln Council via Lincolnshire County Council with the last round completed in spring/summer 2023. There was also e-learning available for staff and Members.

The latest internal audit of the Council's risk management arrangements had been undertaken in 2024/25, with an overall assurance level opinion of substantial. There had been four recommendations made: two medium (amber), and two low (green) which had all been in relation to completion and review of directorate risk registers. Three of the four recommendations had already been completed, with the fourth (green) not agreed for implementation due to the impact on resources.

It was noted that the change of political leadership at Lincolnshire County Council following the local elections in May 2025 was not expected to affect City of Lincoln Council's strategic risk register.

RESOLVED that the Risk Management Framework adopted by the Council and the Risk Management activity undertaken during the year be noted.

7. Internal Audit Annual Audit Report

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards required that the Internal Audit Manager deliver an annual opinion and report that could be used by the Council to inform its governance statement. The annual internal audit opinion must conclude on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk and control.

The Committee considered a report which covered the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2024/25 and came under the 2017 Internal Audit Standards. Future reports to the Audit Committee would reflect the requirements of the 2024 Internal Audit Standards which took effect from April 2025 for public sector bodies.

Overall, the result was positive with opinions remaining the same as for the 2023/24 result with three areas: governance, risk and internal financial control receiving the highest level of assurance.

During discussion and questioning, the following was noted:

- Progress was being made on obtaining responses from management in a timely manner, however for the 2024/25 report, only 56% of management responses had been received within the 10-day response period. This impacted on audit reports not being issued when expected and additional resource taken up in chasing responses. Members offered support from the Committee should officers need to reinforce the deadline.
- It was noted that the Internal Audit team was now back to full capacity following a period of sickness and a vacancy in 2024/25. The Internal Audit Manager assured the Committee that she could not foresee any issues with her team in the coming year.
- There was an error noted on page 22 of the Internal Audit Annual Report (page 75 of the agenda pack) that action number 4.4 *Continue to review the PAQ process and look at ways to improve completion of the questionnaires and linking the comments back to improvements* should have a completion date of March 2026, not 2024 as printed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and appendix, and comments made, be noted.

8. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

A report presenting the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 was considered. The Council was required to publish an Annual Governance Statement that reviewed how it complied with and applied the Code of Corporate Governance. The Code was reviewed annually and, following a recent update in February 2025, the new version was presented with the report.

It was noted that Appendix C to the report was removed from the agenda prior to the committee meeting.

There had been no significant issues in the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 or 2024/25 however, Internal Audit had issued limited assurance reports for two new issues in the 2024/25 Statement relating to the housing fleet and debtors/recovery. Whilst neither met the threshold to be classed as significant, they did warrant monitoring over the coming year to be addressed.

It was highlighted that from the RAG rating of the seven Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) core principles, none had been given a 'red' RAG rating, and the two rated 'amber' were directly linked to the two governance issues identified for monitoring. The remaining five principles had been rated 'green'.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the outstanding action featured on the Action Plan for the Annual Governance Statement was 90% complete and would be finalised shortly.

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and the content of the two appendices be noted.

9. Internal Audit Annual Fraud Report

A report was considered which informed the Committee of the performance against the 2024/25 Counter Fraud Work Plan, outcomes of the proactive fraud work, fraud cases and an update of the fraud risk register.

A number of actions had been taken by the Council in relation to fraud which were set out in the report. There had not been any significant frauds to report during the 2024/25 year, nor had there been any whistleblowing cases, however there had been 16 confidential reports, and a large increase in reports related to private landlords. New concerns had been raised during the year around National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) in relation to splitting up businesses to claim reduced business rates.

The completion of the annual single persons council tax discount review had resulted in 1039 discounts being removed from the scheme.

During discussion, the following was noted:

- A question was asked about how many direct debits the Council had on its bank accounts. The Internal Audit Manager would seek the answer and respond to the members of the Committee.
- Reference was made to tenancy Notices to Quit being issued for non-occupation. A question was raised concerning what is meant by non-occupation and the Internal Audit Manager would seek the answer and respond to the members of the Committee.
- Issues were raised regarding the removal of 1,039 single person council tax discounts, and whether there had been any follow up to ensure none of those households were entitled to it, and had it removed incorrectly. A question was also asked whether there was any checking of the household identified, as part of the review, to other records that might confirm whether it was a single occupant household. The Internal Audit Manager would find out the answer and respond to the Committee.
- Work was currently in progress to undertake a rolling review of single person council tax discounts through an external provider.

RESOLVED that the report and appendix, and comments made, be noted.

10. External Audit: Audit Plan and Strategy 2024/25

The Committee considered the External Audit: Audit Plan and Strategy for the year ended 31 March 2025 provided by KPMG, currently appointed as the Council's external auditor.

Rashpal Khangura from KPMG presented the progress report and summarised the planned audit approach, highlighting significant audit risks and setting out the approach to forming the value for money conclusion.

There was a discussion about the increase in fees paid to KPMG over recent years, and it was explained that following the abolition of the Audit Commission in 2015, fees were reduced. They had however risen to what was now considered to be the correct level as the amount of work needed to deliver the audit opinion had also increased.

A question was asked about the membership of the sector led Public Service Audit Appointments (PSAA). It was confirmed this was not a membership and not a paid for service. The Audit Committee was given the opportunity every five years to decide whether to continue to opt into the PSAA for the procurement of external audit services.

RESOLVED that the content of the External Audit Plan and Strategy for 2024/25 be noted.

11. Learning and Development Plan for Members of the Audit Committee 2025/26

The Committee considered its Learning and Development Plan for 2025/26 which contained a combination of directly delivered sessions, self-led learning through the Local Government Association website, and reading.

In addition to the learning programme, a series of short topic-based videos would be shared with the Committee with one or two being shown before the start of the next few meetings.

It was noted that the two new members appointed in May would be required to complete the skills and knowledge self-assessment.

As per the agreed action from the review of audit Committee effectiveness, Appendix A to the report provided details of each committee member's attendance at the four directly delivered training sessions in 2024/25.

RESOLVED that the Learning and Development Plan 2025/26 be noted.

12. Audit Committee Work Programme 2025/26

The Committee considered its work programme for 2025/26 and noted that the training session on Local Government Financial Statements which had originally been scheduled for 2 June 2025 would be moved to 14 July 2025 at 5pm, immediately prior to the Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the Committee note and agree the work programme for 2025/26

13. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of 'exempt

information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

14. Information Governance Update - Appendix A

RESOLVED that the information in Appendix A to Information Governance Update be noted.

15. Internal Audit Progress Report - Appendix A

RESOLVED that the information in Appendix A to Internal Audit Progress Report be noted.

16. Risk Management - Annual Update - Appendix B

RESOLVED that the information in Appendix B to Risk Management – Annual Update be noted.

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SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW UP

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

REPORT AUTHOR: AMANDA STANISLAWSKI, AUDIT MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present an update to Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Audit Committee on outstanding agreed actions.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The attached report (Appendix A) provides a summary of the outstanding actions and progress made on implementation. There are currently 2 High actions and 32 Medium actions remaining to be implemented. There are 14 Medium overdue risk actions. 11 of these continue to relate to audits undertaken within IT. There has been a significant increase in the number of actions from 2024/25 being implemented from 47% to 75%.
- 2.2 The report provides more details of the splits between those overdue, extended and not due, and also the changes made since the last report in March, including the new actions agreed.
- 2.3 There are seven reports where the actions have now all been implemented, Performance Management, Council Tax, Contract Management, Contract Management Follow up, VAT/Taxation, Risk Management and Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support key control.
- 2.4 The report also sets out the Limited and Low audits which require a follow-up and the current position of these.
- 2.5 Appendix 2 of the report provides details of the relevant audits, outstanding recommendations / agreed actions and current position.
- 2.6 Following their review of the accounts for 2023/24, External Audit made 7 recommendations. All of these have now been completed. The details are provided in Appendix 3 of the report.

3. Organisational Impacts

3.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

3.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.

3.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

There are no direct E and D implications arising as a result of this report.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Audit Committee is asked to review the attached Appendix and responses and provide comments.

Is this a key decision?	No
Do the exempt information categories apply?	No
Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?	No
How many appendices does the report contain?	One
List of Background Papers:	None

Lead Officer:

Amanda Stanislowski, Audit Manager
Email address: amanda.stanislowski@lincoln.gov.uk



Internal Audit Agreed Action Progress Report



June 2025



Process for following up Agreed Actions

Recommendations are made within Internal Audit reports to address the weaknesses identified during the audit. Management are requested to agree actions to address the weaknesses setting out the responsibilities and timeframe for completion. These actions may or may not be the same as the recommendations.

The Internal Audit Standards require that Internal Audit must confirm that management has implemented the agreed actions made within the Audit Reports. As part of this process Internal audit must follow an established methodology which includes:-

- Inquiring about progress on the implementation
- Performing follow-up assessments using a risk-based approach
- Updating the status of management's actions in a tracking system

Where management has not progressed with the implementation of the agreed actions Internal Audit must obtain an explanation from management and determine whether there remains an unacceptable level of risk.

To meet these requirements we have a process in place to review all actions every quarter and obtain management updates on those due. We also review a sample of completed actions to ensure that the actions have been implemented as expected. These are selected based on their level of priority and the assurance level of the report, concentrating mainly on those rated High risk or from Low or Limited reports.

All actions are currently recorded and tracked using a spreadsheet although progress is being made to move it to a bespoke forms based system through the internal Business Development Team.

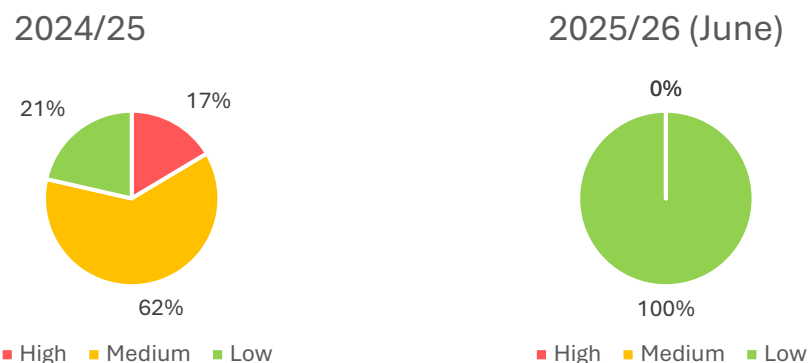
There is a protocol in place (See Appendix 1) which sets out the roles and responsibilities for all in the follow-up process.

The Purpose of the Report

In accordance with the Internal Audit Standards and the Protocol a status report is required to be presented to Management and Members setting out the progress made on implementing the agreed actions (corrective action) and any implications on the level of remaining risk.

Summary of Agreed Actions

The following charts show the number of agreed actions within reports issued during 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date:

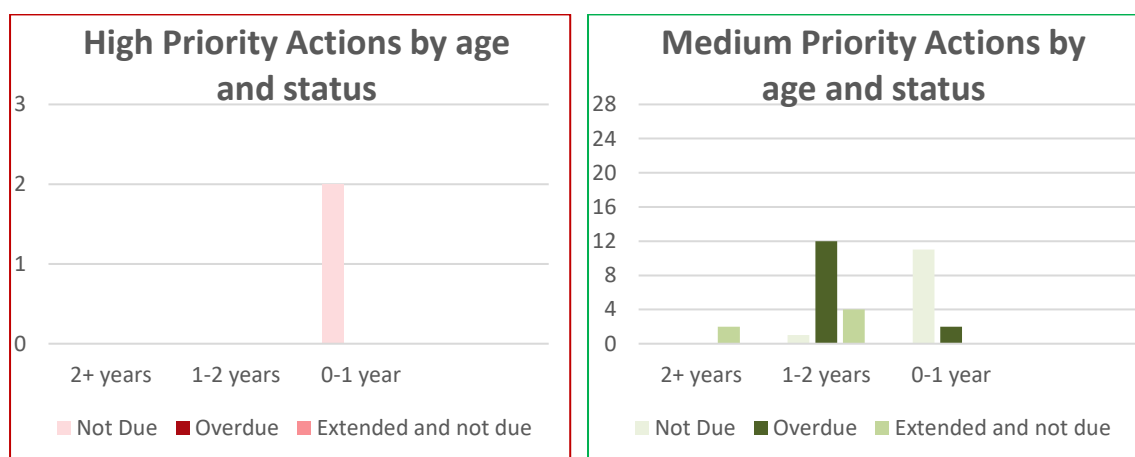


The current implementation rates for reports issued in the year are included below. The rates for 2025/26 will fluctuate up and down as reports are issued.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
88%	75%	0%

There are 2 agreed actions for 2025/26 which have not yet been implemented, and an increase from 47% to 75% for the implementation of actions raised in 2024/25. There has been no change for 2023/24 and a reduction from 3 to 2 remaining agreed actions for reports issued prior to 2023/24. These have been extended and are not yet due.

In total there are 44 actions remaining to be implemented. These are split in age according to when the reports were issued and current status as follows:-



There were ten Low risk actions agreed, one is overdue and the remainder are not yet due. There was one Low risk action which was not agreed within the Town Deal audit. This related to including a declaration of interests register for Board and Sub-Committee members and Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on the website.



This was not agreed as it was considered that the current process was sufficient. All declarations of interest are recorded within the Minutes of meetings which are published on the web-site and the Sub-Committee updates are provided at each Town Deal Board meeting and minuted.

Progress

A report on the outstanding actions was presented to the Committee in March 2025. The changes in the implementation of actions outstanding are detailed below.

There were seven reports, Performance Management, Council Tax, Contract Management, Contract Management Follow up, VAT/Taxation, Risk Management and Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support key control where all of the agreed actions have now been implemented.

Progress made on implementing the remaining actions is summarised below in report date order:-

Audit	Report date	Assurance	No. of Actions		Comp.	Outstanding		Not yet due	Progress
			H	M		Overdue	Extended		
Office 365	May 21	Substantial	0	6	5	0	1	0	↔
IT Disaster Recovery	May 23	Substantial	0	3	2	0	1	0	↔
Creditors	Oct 23	Substantial	0	1	0	0	1	0	↔
Insurance	Feb 24	Substantial	0	4	0	0	3	1	↔
IT Asset Management	May 24	Limited	0	11	3	8	0	0	↓
Cyber Security	Mar 24	Substantial	0	5	2	3	0	0	↑
Governance Health Check	Jul 24	Substantial	0	5	4	1	0	0	↑
Online Services	Aug 24	Substantial	0	3	1	2	0	0	↔
Business Continuity	Dec-24	Substantial	0	7	4	0	0	3	↔
LinCare	Mar-25	Consultancy	2	1	1	0	0	2	New



Audit	Report date	Assurance	No. of Actions		Comp.	Outstanding		Not yet due	Progress
			H	M		Overdue	Extended		
Debtors	Apr-25	Limited	7	3	9	0	0	1	New
Housing Assistance	Apr-25	Substantial	0	6	3	0	0	3	New
Fleet	Apr-25	Limited	9	9	16	0	0	2	New
Town Deal	Apr-25	Substantial	0	3	1	0	0	2	New
		Total	18	67	51	14	6	14	

Full details of those not yet implemented are included in Appendix 2.

There are five new reports which have been added to the table and it is reassuring that there are no overdue actions for these and most of the agreed actions for the new Limited reports have been implemented.

Progress on the older (2023/24 and earlier) reports remains unchanged with a number of actions with extensions. The progress being made is recorded within Appendix 2.

As reported in March, the majority of the overdue actions relate to IT and this remains the case within this report. The Assistant Director Strategic Development provided an update to the Audit Committee in June, stating that most of the actions should be completed by the end of July 2025. A further update has been provided in Appendix 2 and a meeting has been arranged at the end of July to go through the actions and update the progress. CMT are also monitoring these actions, requiring periodic reports to be provided.

The quarterly spot checks have been completed for 2024/25, a report will be produced for management and a summary provided to the Audit Committee as part of the Progress report.

Follow-up Audits – Limited/Low reports

The contract management follow-up was completed as required by the protocol and all actions have been completed for both the original report as well as the additional actions from the follow-up report.

A follow-up has not yet been programmed in for the IT Asset management audit due to most of the actions remaining as outstanding. This will be scheduled in at a later date.

A follow-up for Fleet is included within the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan and is programmed to take place in Quarter 4.

The Debtors follow-up was not included within the 2025/26 plan due to the timing of the draft report so will be considered as either a change to the 2025/26 plan or for inclusion in Quarter 1 of the 2026/27 plan.

External Audit Recommendations

External Audit made seven recommendations following their review of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts. These have all now been completed. The details of these are provided in Appendix 3.



Appendix 1 - Recommendation/Agreed Action Follow Up protocol

The following sets out the protocol to be followed for the approval of changes to the implementation dates and monitoring of implementation of the agreed actions.

1. Internal Audit will:

- 1.1 Record recommendations and actions.
- 1.2 Monitor target dates quarterly and obtain updates where the action is due within 1 month.
- 1.3 Discuss extensions to target dates and obtain approval from Directors.
- 1.4 Undertake detailed follow up work on all agreed actions in Limited / Low assurance audits approx. 12 months from the report date or other agreed date.
- 1.5 Provide a report for Directors of all outstanding actions on at least a 6 monthly basis to be added to the next available DMT meeting agenda.
- 1.6 Liaise with Directorates to ensure that they are aware of the actions outstanding and provide reports as required.
- 1.7 Feedback comments from the Audit Committee in respect of the implementation of audit actions.
- 1.8 Carry out spot checks of any completed actions within the last 12 months and obtain evidence to support implementation.

2. Audit Committee will:

- 2.1 Receive recommendation update reports at alternating meetings, which provide a summary of progress and detail of High priority recommendations.
- 2.2 Receive verbal updates from service managers where there are outstanding agreed actions 12 months from the report issue date.
- 2.3 Receive a 12 months update on Limited / Low assurance audits.
- 2.4 Receive notification where recommendations are not agreed.

3. Directors will:

- 3.1 Consider and approve extensions where the agreed action has not been implemented by the implementation date.
- 3.2 Approve acceptance of risk where recommendations are not agreed.
- 3.3 Include a review of agreed actions on the DMT agenda at least every 6 months.
- 3.4 Ensure Portfolio Holders are made aware of outstanding actions and the reasons for this.

4 Assistant Directors, City Solicitor, Chief Finance Officer will:

- 4.1 Approve the closing of agreed actions where the action is no longer relevant / has been superseded.

Definitions

- *Recommendation* – Action recommended by the Auditor to rectify the weakness/issue identified.

- *Agreed Action* – Action agreed by management to rectify the weakness/issue identified which may differ from the recommendation.

(Approved by Committee 14 June 2022, updated June 2024 to remove reference to Pentana as no longer used)

Appendix 2 – Details of Outstanding Recommendations

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Office 365	May-21	Medium	4.1 Feeds into overarching project plan before migration of files; provided resources available will enable DLP policies for Exchange Online and SharePoint Online content. Will set up and use SharePoint Online data classification policies on data stored in SharePoint Online sites.	Extended and not yet due 2+ years	31/03/2022	31/07/2025	Jun 25 - Classification and data policies are being updated. This included a cleansing exercise which has so far reduced the number of obsolete documents from 10million to 7.5million stored on Council servers. A project team has been set up to continue momentum and an internal spring clean campaign has been promoted for managers and teams to get on board.
IT Disaster Recovery	May-23	Medium	3.1 Working with relevant external partners and colleagues across Council a proposal for a Desktop exercise for the Business Continuity Plan and IT Disaster Recovery will be developed.	Extended and not yet due 2+ years	30/09/2023	30/09/2025	Jun 25 - An upcoming exercise on disaster recovery is being co-ordinated with neighbouring authorities and the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum with support from industry experts provided by the National Cyber Security Centre.
Creditors	Oct-23	Medium	1.1 The Exchequer Officer will coordinate the completion of procedure notes for all key processes and activities as outlined herein.	Extended and not yet due 1-2 years	30/09/2024	31/03/2025	May 25 - Work has started on producing these but have had to prioritise other work following another audit so requested an extension to 30/09/25. Extension Agreed by Chief Executive.



Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Insurance	Feb-24	Medium	1.1 Agreed procedures and operational guidance relating to key Insurance processes and activities will be developed to include a service manual for Officers across the Council. The Insurance Team will also review the current licence with JCAD Lachs over the course of the year to take into account how any possible upgrades/version improvements can be planned to support the IT strategy.	Extended and not yet due 1-2 years	28/02/2025	30/07/2025	Jan 25 - Extension agreed from 28/02 to 30/07. Extension agreed by Chief Executive.
Insurance	Feb-24	Medium	1.2 Although there is some information already on the Hub this will be built upon to make more accessible to all Council Officers	Extended and not yet due 1-2 years	28/02/2025	30/07/2025	Jan 25 - Extension agreed from 28/02 to 30/07. Extension agreed by Chief Executive.
Insurance	Feb-24	Medium	2.1 The insurance system does have capability to do so through diary monitoring and reporting but until now the administrative support has not been available to do so consistently across all claims. This will be improved upon now the team is full established. The development plan for JCAD Lachs as mentioned in 1.1 will be reviewed to ensure this can be achieved across all claim guidelines.	Extended and not yet due 1-2 years	28/02/2025	30/07/2025	Jan 25 - Extension agreed from 28/02 to 30/07. Extension agreed by Chief Executive.

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Insurance	Feb-24	Medium	3.1 Agreed to develop mechanisms and attendance for regular reporting, at least quarterly, via Assistant Director Groups, Service Manager meetings, and/or DMT's, in agreement with Service Areas.	Not due 1-2 years	28/02/2025	30/07/2025	Jan 25 - Extension agreed from 28/02 to 30/07. Extension agreed by Chief Executive.
Cyber Security	May-24	Medium	1.2 - Risks to be reported regularly to the appropriate group	Overdue 1-2 years	31/07/2024	31/12/2024	Feb 25 - Assistant Director now receives invites to the IG Working Group and quarterly updates will be provided. Mechanism is in place, first update is expected by end quarter 4. Extension requested.
Cyber Security	May-24	Medium	2.1 Agreed – Process for managing non-compliant devices in Intune to be reviewed	Overdue 1-2 years	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 - A review of mobile phones has been undertaken across the organisation. A procurement exercise will begin shortly, followed by a roll out of new devices to employees. Devices will then be monitored regularly for non-compliance with policies. Extension requested.
Cyber Security	May-24	Medium	3. 2 – Schedule to test incident response plan to be developed.	Overdue 1-2 years	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 - The anticipated exercise has been rescheduled. A brief desktop exercise of the ICT DR plan has been undertaken. Due to changes and planned upcoming developments in the ICT infrastructure, it has been identified that further work will be undertaken once those changes are in place.

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	2.1 b) Develop a programme for replacement with patchable devices where needed subject to budget being available. Additional investment will be needed and a clear assessment of use and need will be completed.	Overdue 1-2 years	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 - A review of mobile phones has been undertaken across the organisation. A procurement exercise will begin shortly, followed by a roll out of new devices to employees. Devices will then be monitored regularly for non-compliance with policies. Extension requested.
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	2.2 a) Develop a mechanism for annually monitoring all new devices and include this in the ICT Strategy	Overdue 1-2 years	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	Jun 25 -The authority has recently provided funding to replace a significant amount of desktop equipment. This will have significant impact on the current monitoring processes. Once these devices have been rolled out, the process will be reviewed and refined further.
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	2.2 b) Undertake an interim action of asset review across all services	Overdue 1-2 years	31/07/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 – As 2.2a
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	3.1 A final roadmap for decommissioning all unsupported SQL Server databases to be developed and agreed.	Overdue 1-2 years	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 - Some existing legacy systems are still in operation. Whilst there are significant projects underway to replace these, they are not expected to be completed until mid 2026.

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	4.1 The Asset Management Policy content within the IT Security Standard will be considered again at the next scheduled review of the document (scheduled for March 2024) and amended as/where necessary to ensure it reflects current practices.	Overdue 1-2 years	30/09/2024	31/03/2025	Jun 25 - Policies have been reviewed internally. A consultant has been engaged to give further assurance before they are signed off.
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	4.2 For asset verification, processes will be reviewed to determine what improvements can be made. This will include reviewing information can be extracted from the Lansweeper system and additional asset verification checks that could be undertaken during a support visit.	Overdue 1-2 years	30/09/2024	31/03/2025	Jun 25 – As 2.2a.
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	5.1 An annual IT asset verification process will be developed. This links with actions 2.1 and 2.2.	Overdue 1-2 years	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Jun 25 – As 2.2a.
IT Asset Management	May-24	Medium	6.1 Review options for formal contract for the secure disposal of redundant IT hardware.	Overdue 1-2 years	31/07/2024	31/03/2025	Jun 25 - A supplier has been identified and final agreement on the Contract is almost complete.
Governance Health Check	Jul - 24	Medium	1.1 Develop a new internal and external Communications Strategy for the Council in line with the Vision 2030 preparations.	Overdue 1-2 years	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	Jun 25 - the likelihood of LGR taking place in the county has resulted in a delay due to a likely change of focus. Now expected by 30 September, aligned with Vision 2030. Significant progress made already, with fine-tuning required. Extension awaiting approval.

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Online Services (Digital)	Aug-24	Medium	1.1 Accepted. Penetrative testing is being arranged, and we are expecting this to be completed by the end of September 2024. The testing will be done by a third party across all relevant areas that require it.	Overdue 0-1 year	30/09/2024	31/12/2024	May 25 - Whilst LCC carry out weekly vulnerability scans these are not configured to scan lincoln.gov.uk as they are not responsible for it. Meeting with IT later this month to discuss and plan what we do next. Extension requested.
Online Services (Digital)	Aug-24	Medium	2.1 Accepted. As LCC host our corporate website as a 'galaxy' site on their web infrastructure, I am in contact with LCC to clarify their DR arrangements. It is my understanding that these are in place, however LCC procured the contract off a framework and I know DR is an optional extra on that CCS contract type. I'm currently awaiting confirmation from them that this is in place and will forward additional information to Audit as it becomes available.	Overdue 0-1 year	30/12/2024	30/12/2024	May 25 Our contract covers raising tickets/support (first response time is 30 mins access is 24/7) but the upgrades/general maintenance elements are on LCC infrastructure and are planned around them. If there are any down time, Jadu will contact us initially and will contact us every hour with updates if there are issues. Their T&C's cover that they will get us up and running within 12 hours or sooner.
Business Continuity	Dec-24	Medium	1.1. As BCP's are refreshed the location of copies held will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.	Not due 0-1 year	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	Not due.
Business Continuity	Dec-24	Medium	3. To incorporate BCRA, BIA and Combined Assessments review dates into Tracker Spreadsheet (this will be done as part of Year One of new Operational Framework)	Not due 0-1 year	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	Not due.



Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Business Continuity	Dec-24	Medium	6. Extra-ordinary (outside of Operational Framework) training session for Service Managers/Assistant Directors to be provided.	Not due 0-1 year	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	Not due.
LinCare	Mar-25	High	4.1 To investigate is incident reporting and analysis already happening on a corporate level which will supersede this recommendation. If this is not happening on corporate level, to develop this as part of the impending internal LinCare review.	Not due 0-1 year	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	Not due.
LinCare	Mar-25	Medium	6.1 Will develop a procedure/ guidance note for instances of downtime including actions to be taken, recording and analysis. This will be incorporated within the impending internal LinCare review.	Not due 0-1 year	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	Jun 25 - to Mirror CareLink's as our downtime is their downtime to discuss with CareLink at June 2025 meeting.
Debtors	Apr-25	Medium	1.2 A process will be developed, implemented and documented for management checks of new customer accounts and data cleansing.	Not due 0-1 year	30/09/2025	30/09/2025	Not due.
Housing Assistance	Apr-25	Medium	1.2 Dependant on the decision made, a detailed plan and timeline will be developed for implementation ahead of the next 2026/27 policy cycle.	Not due 0-1 year	31/03/2026	31/03/2026	Jun 2025 - The review and update has commenced with dates set for Policy Scrutiny Approval Followed by Executive approval. Completion date is set 01/01/2026.

Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Housing Assistance	Apr-25	Medium	2.2 Available software options for aiding improvements against the highlighted findings will continue to be explored, within the recognised limitations of the CIVICA APP system.	Not due 0-1 year	31/03/2026	31/03/2026	Jun 25 - Review of Civica Templates has taken place and improved. Staff have been informed of the essential need to include all data regarding the grant on APP and all documents to be linked within APP so all can be accessed. Further improvements to APP and case management in line with Policy Review and update.
Housing Assistance	Apr-25	Medium	4.1 Clear documented procedures will be ensured that set out the delegated approval rights and financial limits of officers, and show compatibility with financial procedure rules. Scope for enhancing this content directly within the Private Housing Health Assistance Policy will also be considered as part of the agreed Management Action for Finding 1.	Not due 0-1 year	31/08/2025	31/08/2025	Jun 25 - Review and discussions have occurred with Head of Service, AD and Team Leader. A full documented procedure is being produced in line with the full policy review and update
Fleet	Apr-25	Medium	5.2 Stakeholder approval will be sought.	Not due 0-1 year	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	May 25 - report due to go to JCC on the 03/06/2025
Fleet	Apr-25	High	13.1 A review will be carried out of the requirements for repairs and maintenance of the non-leased vehicles and advice sought from Procurement on the action required to ensure compliance and value for money. The Insurance Officer will be informed of the position.	Not due 0-1 year	30/09/2025	30/09/2025	May 25 - Procurement exercise in progress.



Audit	Report Date	Priority	Agreed Action	Current status	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Resolution Comments
Town Deal	Apr-25	Medium	2.1 Profiles will be added to the Town Deal Website	Not due 0-1 year	30/09/2025	30/09/2025	Not due.
Town Deal	Apr-25	Medium	2.2 A link to the Board's Communications and Engagement Strategy will be included on the website.	Not due 0-1 year	30/09/2025	30/09/2025	Not due.



Appendix 3 – External Audit Recommendations

Recommendation	Management Response	Status	Update
1. Related Party Transactions	Management will review the Declaration of Interest form and process to ensure its fit for purpose ahead of the 2024/25 Statement of Account process.	Complete	For 2024/25 a review of all material suppliers has been added to the process, these suppliers are then checked against companies house to identify any potential declarations of interest in the year.
2. Journals	Management are satisfied that journal entry is limited to only appropriately qualified and/or experienced officers largely mitigating the risk of incorrect journal postings.	Complete	No further action required.
3. Preparation of staff disclosures	Management will ensure a full review of disclosures within the draft accounts are built into the year-end timetable and completed ahead of audit commencement moving forward.	Complete	Reviewing officers have been allocated for all core statements, notes and disclosures as part of the closedown timetable for 2024/25. The timetable will be frequently reviewed to ensure all actions are completed by appropriate officers in a timely manner.
4. Review of Bank reconciliations	Management will ensure monthly bank reconciliations are performed and reviewed prior to the end of the next period i.e. within the following month.	Complete	Bank reconciliations are currently complete and reviewed up to January 2025.
5. Housing Repairs Service (HRS) – authorisation of timesheets	Management will ensure timesheets are checked and approved in a timely manner with no timesheet being submitted to payroll until authorised by a team leader.	Complete	Management has implemented checks to ensure any timesheets unsigned are returned to Team Leaders for sign off prior to processing.
6. Fixed Asset Register	Management believe that whilst system based alternatives are available the spreadsheet currently used, whilst complicated, is fit for purpose. Staff turnover and vacancies over the years had unfortunately led to a lack of understanding around the spreadsheet and an inconsistent treatment of items within it. The Finance Team is now fully established and has started a review of the Fixed	Complete	The fixed asset register is deemed to be fit for purpose, but will be subject to ongoing continuous review. No major changes were required during 2024/25.



Recommendation	Management Response	Status	Update
	Asset Register spreadsheet highlighting issues that were corrected in year. The register will be part of an ongoing review striving for improved practices and efficiencies in a both complicated and material area of the statements.		
7. Impairment review process	Moving forward a documented review process for all assets will be undertaken ensuring all assets are held at an appropriate value.	Complete	An existence and impairment review process has been undertaken as part of the 2024/25 closedown process in conjunction with asset owners. Ongoing, asset reviews will be undertaken within DMT's throughout 2025/26.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2025

SUBJECT:	DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/25
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	LAURA SHIPLEY, FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2025, together with a short summary of the key issues reflected in the statutory financial statements, for scrutiny.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Statement of Accounts (SOA) for 2024/25 provide a comprehensive picture of the Council's financial circumstances and are compiled to demonstrate probity and stewardship of public funds.
- 2.2 The Council is statutorily required to publish its draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 by 30th June 2025 with an audit opinion and certificate by no later than 27th February 2026.
- 2.3 The Audit Committee should note that the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 are still subject to external audit. The audit of the accounts is being undertaken by KPMG, who will commence the audit in July. Should any material changes be necessary as a result of this external audit work, these will be reported to a meeting of this Committee when the audited Statement of Accounts are presented for approval.
- 2.4 The Council must make the Statement of Accounts available for public inspection for 30 working days. Following notification from KPMG, this runs from 27th June until 7th August 2025, and the External Auditor is available to answer questions during this period.
- 2.5 The Council is also required to provide a documented annual review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements (Annual Governance Statement AGS), which sits alongside the Statement of Accounts. The overall level of assurance provided in 2024/25 was substantial (green) and is in line with the Council's Code of Corporate Governance. There were no significant governance issues that were identified for inclusion in the 2024/25 AGS.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 require the Statement of Accounts to be certified by the Council's Chief Finance Officer by the 30th June each year. The Accounts are then released to be audited by the Council's external auditor, KPMG. After completion of the audit the 2024/25 accounts must

be published with the audit opinion and certificate, and before that must have been approved. The provisional timescales (which will depend on the actual completion date of the audit) involved with the approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 are therefore as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| a) Report draft accounts to Audit Committee | 14 th July 2025 |
| b) Report to Audit Committee | 9 th December 2025 |
| c) Approval by Council | 20 th January 2026 |

3.2 In order to ensure that the statutory deadline of 27th February is met KPMG must complete their audit and issue the relevant audit opinion. Should any material changes be necessary as a result of this external audit work, these will be reported to a meeting of this Committee when the audited Statement of Accounts will be presented for approval. The Audit Committee will also receive the Audit Completion report from KPMG at that meeting.

3.3 There is a great deal of technical detail contained in the statutory rigid format of the Accounts that is not always easily understood by the reader unless they are familiar with accounting and audit standards. Training has been provided prior to this meeting to assist members in their understanding of the accounts and a short summary of the accounts will be produced to accompany the Final Statement of Accounts when it is presented to members. The remainder of this report sets out a summary, which highlights the key figures in the financial statements which it is hoped will prompt questions in order for the Council to promote greater accountability and transparency for the significant sums of public money entrusted to the Council.

4. Summary of Key Issues in the Financial Statements

4.1 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

4.1.1 **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** (SOA page 28) – in line with statutory accounting practice the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) shows the Council's actual performance for the year measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the last 12 months. It should not be misinterpreted as the financial outturn position of the Council as this statement contains a number of accounting entries required under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Regulation allows local authorities to reverse these amounts out of the accounts before determining their outturn position. There is a note to the accounts [Expenditure & Funding Analysis (SOA page 59)] that adjusts the expenditure that is chargeable to general fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances (as per the actual outturn position) to the accounting entries in the CIES under IFRS. To further assist members interpretation of the CIES the table below summarises the reconciliation between the net surplus on the Provision of Services of £21.966m in the CIES to the outturn position of an increase in General Fund Balances (including earmarked reserves) of £0.781m and an increase on HRA balances (including earmarked reserves) of £1.119m as reported in the Financial Outturn report (Executive 3rd June 2025).

	£m	£m
Net surplus/(deficit) on the Provision of Services		21.966
<i>Of which:</i>		
General Fund	£m	£m
Net surplus/(deficit) on the Provision of Services		12.616
Adjust for:		
Depreciation, revaluation losses and gains & impairment of non-current assets	2.850	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under Statute	3.582	
Direct Revenue financing of capital expenditure	(4.101)	
Gain/loss on the sale of non-current assets	0	
Contribution to/from the pensions reserve	(1.611)	
Debt repayment and premiums & discounts on debt	(0.970)	
Short-term compensated absences	0.002	
Contribution to Government's Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	
Capital grants & contributions credited to CI&ES	(12.601)	
Adjustment for Collection Fund	1.014	
Adjustment for Financial Instruments	0	
Total Adjustments		(11.835)
(Increase)/decrease in General Fund Balances/Reserves		0.781
<i>Of which:</i>		
HRA	£m	£m
Net surplus/(deficit) on the Provision of Services		9.350
Adjust for:		
Depreciation, revaluation losses and gains & impairment of non-current assets	6.673	
Direct Revenue financing of capital expenditure	0	
Gain/loss on the sale of non-current assets	(0.540)	
Contribution to/from the pensions reserve	(0.940)	
Short-term compensated absences	(0.005)	
Capital grants & contributions credited to CI&ES	(1.155)	
Transfer to/from the MRR	(12.264)	
Total Adjustments		(8.231)
(Increase)/decrease in HRA Balances/Reserves		1.119
Overall (Increase)/decrease in Balances/Reserves		1.900

4.1.2 Clearly the most significant issue for Members to be aware of from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is how the Council performed financially in 2024/25, in comparison to the revised budget for the year. The General Fund is reporting a provisional outturn of an overall budget surplus of £0.147m, in line with the budgeted contribution to reserves, resulting in General Fund balances (including earmarked reserves) of £12.302m as at 31st March 2025.

4.1.3 The Housing Revenue Account is reporting a provisional outturn underspend of £0.052m against a budgeted contribution from reserves of £0.101m, generating

an overall budget surplus of £0.153m, resulting in HRA balances (including earmarked reserves) of £8.913m as at 31st March 2025.

- 4.1.4 Further details on these are provided in the Narrative Report in the Statement of Accounts (SOA *page 3*) and were subject to a separate report to Performance Scrutiny Committee and Executive on the 22nd May 2025 and 3rd June 2025, respectively.

4.2 The Balance Sheet (SOA *page 29*)

- 4.2.1 **The Balance Sheet** is fundamental to understanding the Council's financial position at the year-end. It shows the Council's balances and reserves, long-term indebtedness, and the non-current and current assets employed in the Council's operations. The key information for members to be aware of in the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025 are:

- 4.2.2 **General Balances** – General balances have increased by £0.199m during the year, as analysed below:

Description	Opening Balance £m	Closing Balance £m	Increase/ (Decrease) £m
General Fund balances	2.245	2.392	0.147
HRA balances	1.131	1.183	0.052
Total	3.376	3.575	0.199

- 4.2.3 **Earmarked Reserves** - in total monies carried forward to pay for specific future commitments (including the insurance fund) have increased by £1.701m, as analysed below:

Description	Opening Balance £m	Closing Balance £m	Increase/ (Decrease) £m
Other Specific Reserves	15.939	17,640	1.701

This is due to a number of contributions to and from earmarked reserves as reported as part of the 2024/25 Provisional outturn to the Executive 3rd June 2025 and as detailed in Note 10 (Transfers to/ from Earmarked Reserves) in the Statement of Accounts (SOA *page 67-69*). The most significant movement in reserves relates to a contribution to the Grants and Contributions reserve. The reserve is used to capture grant contributions for use in subsequent years and to match the expenditure profile. In addition, £370k was contributed to the Leisure Services reserve to support the provision of future facilities.

- 4.2.4 **Liquidity** – a reliable indication of liquidity is the ratio of current assets (excluding inventories) to current liabilities. The Council's current assets (excluding inventories) of £39.467m exceed current liabilities of £35.640m by a ratio of 1.1:1, which represents a decrease from the previous year's ratio of 1.2:1. This is due to an increase in short-term investments and a reduction in short-term debtors.

4.2.5 **Debtors** – debtors have decreased by £1.576m to £18.633m. The decrease is mainly due to reduced outstanding balances relating to the Charterholme development and Housing Subsidy grant balances, offset by an increase in balances on the Central Government and County Council shares of the Council Tax Collection Fund, and Tenant arrears.

4.2.6 **Creditors** – have increased by £4.700m to £32.527m. This is mainly due increased balances (not yet due) in relation to expenditure incurred on the Charterholme development.

4.3 Cross Cutting Key Issues

4.3.1 There are a number of areas that have significant impacts or are of particular interest that sit both within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet. To aid members understanding of the Accounts these are summarised below:

4.3.2 **Non-Current Assets** are shown in the Balance Sheet and represent the Council's land, building, heritage, community, and intangible assets.

- **The value of non-current assets and assets held for sale in the Balance Sheet has increased by £11.5m (4.5%) to £520m between 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2025 (see the Balance Sheet and Notes 14, 15 and 16 for further detail). This net increase is the result of a number of factors:**
- **Revaluations** - The Council's Assets are valued on a rolling programme, which ensures each asset has a full revaluation every 5 years as at the 31st March. In addition to this, all assets are reviewed for any material change in their value at the end of each financial year via a desktop review. The results for 24/25 have seen an **overall increase in value of £4.455m**, which is the net result of valuation gains and losses across a range of assets.
- **Additions - New capital investment in assets belonging to the Council totalled £30.348m.** The main areas of expenditure include £5.751m spent on the Council's new build and acquisition programme, £9.551m improving Council dwellings including re-roofing, kitchens, and landscaping, Charterholme development £13.761m and Town Fund schemes £2.445m. To pay for this investment, the Council has used £13.756m of capital grants and contributions, £0.818m of capital receipts, £13.041m of the Major Repairs Reserve, £2.211m of unsupported borrowing, and £0.522m of Direct Revenue Financing.
- **Depreciation** – a charge is made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account for depreciation to reflect the use of assets in the provision of services during the year. The value of non-current assets in the Balance Sheet is reduced by an equivalent amount. For General Fund services this charge is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves

Statement (MiRS) and replaced with a statutory charge for the repayment of debt. In the HRA under self-financing, depreciation is a real charge to the service however, it is set aside in the Major Repairs Reserve for future investment in the housing stock. **In 2024/25 total depreciation was £11.041m** (£8.455m in relation to HRA dwellings and £2.586m relating to non HRA assets. £8.455m was charged to the HRA which is available in the Major Repairs Reserve for future investment).

- **Disposals – assets valued at £2.093m in the Balance Sheet were disposed** of in 2024/25. This included 37 Right to Buy sales of council dwellings.

4.3.3 **Pensions** – the payments made by the Council to the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund each year as employer contributions to the scheme and any addition costs relating to pension strain, etc are reflected in the financial outturn position of the Council. However, accounting practice requires that in the Statement of Accounts pension costs are shown when the Council is committed to give them, even if the actual giving may be years into the future. This means that:

- The costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are recognised in the accounting period in which the benefits are earned by employees, and the related finance costs and any other changes in value of assets and liabilities are recognised in the accounting periods in which they arise.
- The financial statements reflect the liabilities arising from the Council's retirement obligations.
- The financial statements disclose the cost of providing retirement benefits and related gains, losses, assets, and liabilities.

Full details are provided in Note 42 to the accounts – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (*SOA page 102*). The impact of these accounting requirements in the core financial statements are:

- **Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)** - The cost of retirement benefits in the CIES is shown as an actuarial estimate of £3.109m reflecting the retirement benefits earned during 2024/25 and to be funded in the future. This includes £3.592m current service costs, £0.164m admin expenses, £0.0m past service costs and net expected return on the defined benefit contributions of £0.647m. This net cost is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS) and is replaced by the actual amount charged for pension contributions in the year of £5.658m.
- **Balance Sheet** – The Pension Reserve shows the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long term to pay retirement benefits based on an assessment by the pension schemes actuary. The balance on the Pensions Reserve is the net position of the scheme's liabilities and assets. During 2024/25 the net liability has decreased by £0.815m to £12.173m. The actuarial assumption changes are detailed in note 42 to the accounts

‘Defined benefit pension scheme’. The main driver for the significant reduction in liability being changes in financial assumptions, which take in to account the discount rate (time value of money), linked to high quality bond yields, and the rate of future inflation.

It is important for members to be aware that the statutory arrangements for funding the remaining liability of £12.173m means that this deficit will be made good by the increased level of annual employer contributions payable to the Pension Fund over the remaining estimated average working life of our employees in the Pension Scheme. The financial position of the Council remains healthy.

4.3.4 **Officer Remuneration** – note 33 to the accounts (SOA page 92) details senior staff salaries and the number of employees receiving more than £50k remuneration during the year (this includes receipt of any redundancy payments). Also detailed within the note is the redundancy/pension/payment in lieu costs paid in year, in line with the Council’s redundancy policy.

4.3.5 **Borrowing** – the Council takes borrowing to fund capital expenditure. It also occasionally takes short-term borrowing for cash flow purposes.

- Between 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2025, the Council’s total borrowing reduced to £105.068m (excluding accrued interest which is shown in the Balance Sheet under short-term borrowing as at 31st March 2025).
- The total borrowing can be split between short-term borrowing (payable within 12 months) of £1.578m and long-term borrowing of £103.490m.
- The average rate of interest payable on borrowing during the financial year was 3.28%, a slight increase on the previous year (2023/24 - 3.21%) due to repayment of lower rate loans during the year.
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for 2024/25 includes £3.607m interest payable on borrowing (excluding leases) of which £1.325m relates to the General Fund and £2.282m to the HRA.

The maturity profile of the outstanding borrowing as at 31st March 2025 is as follows:

Within	£m	% of Total Debt
1 year	1.578	2%
1 – 2 years	0.686	1%
2 – 5 years	9.552	9%
5 years +	93.252	89%
Total	105.068	100.00%

4.3.6 **Investments** – in line with its Treasury Management Strategy, the Council invests surplus cash on the money markets, typically for periods less than one year to approved organisations, although core cash balances may be invested for periods over 1 year if interest rates and market conditions are favourable.

- As at 31st March 2025 the council's total investment balance was £20.021m, an increase of £1.406m when compared with the balance at the previous year end (£18.615m).
- Average investment balance during 2024/25 was £25.313m, compared to £36.319m in 2023/24. The reduction in investment balance due repayment of borrowing using internal resources rather the reborrowing while interest rates are at the peak (forecast to reduce 24/25).
- The average interest rate received achieved on investments during 2024/25 was 4.55% (5.11% 23/24), an increase on the prior year due to the increases in the Bank of England base rate). The comparable performance indicator being the SONIA overnight average rate (4.90%).

5. **Strategic Priorities**

5.1 The Council's Statement of Accounts are a financial summary of the Council's activities in support of its Vision 2025 and Strategic Priorities during the financial year 2024/25.

5.2 Communication - The draft Statement of Accounts is available on the Council's website and the period of public inspection has been advertised. The completion of the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts will be published on the Council website by 27th February 2026. The Statement of Accounts will also be made available on the website along with a summary version of the accounts.

6. **Organisational Impacts**

6.1 Finance

The financial implications are contained throughout this report.

6.2 Legal

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 the Statement of Accounts must be approved and published by the Council, together with the audit opinion and certificate, by the 27th February 2026.

6.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

Due to the nature of the report, no specific Equality Impact Analysis is required.

7. Risk Implications

7.1 There are no direct risk implications arising as a result of this report.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Audit Committee are invited to scrutinise and comment upon the draft Statement of Accounts.

Key Decision	No
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Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply	No
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Call in and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?	No
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Does the report contain Appendices?	Yes
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List of Background Papers:	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2030 Financial Performance - Outturn 2024/25
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Lead Officer:	Laura Shipley, Financial Services Manager Laura.shipley@lincoln.gov.uk
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UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



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An introduction to the City of Lincoln's 2024/25 Statement of Accounts by J Gibson, Chief Finance Officer, Section 151 Officer.

The Statement of Accounts

The purpose of the Accounts, which follow, is to give electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, Members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances. The Accounts show the financial performance for 2024/25 and the financial position at 31 March 2025. The Accounts present expenditure and income incurred by the Council in the financial year 2024/25 and highlight changes in the financial position of the Council over the course of the year.

The accounts of the Council are, by their nature, both technical and complex. The information contained within the Accounts for 2024/25 is presented as simply and clearly as possible and the Narrative Report explains some of the statements and provides a summary of the Council's financial performance as at 31st March 2025 and its financial prospects.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK (the Code) published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Statement of Accounts consists of various sections and statements, which are briefly explained below:

A Narrative Report – this provides information on the format of this Statement of Accounts as well as a review of the financial position of the Council for the financial year.

The Statement of Responsibilities – this details the responsibilities of the Council and the Section 151 Officer concerning the Council's financial affairs and the actual Statement of Accounts.

The Audit Opinion and Certificate – this is provided by KPMG following the completion of the annual audit.

The Accounting Policies – this statement explains the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts.

The Core Financial Statements, comprising:

- **The Movements in Reserves Statement** – this statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other unusable reserves.
- **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)** – this statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with accounting standards, rather than the amount funded from taxation. The Council raises taxation to cover the cost of expenditure in accordance with

regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- **The Balance Sheet** – this statement shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets (assets less liabilities) of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council.
- **The Cash Flow Statement** – this statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the year. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

The Notes to the Financial Statements – these provide supporting and explanatory information on the Financial Statements.

The Supplementary Statements, comprising:

- **The Housing Revenue Income and Expenditure Statement** - this statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. The Council charges rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the HRA Statement.
- **The Movement on the HRA Statement** – this statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- **The Collection Fund Statement** - this statement is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities (such as the City of Lincoln Council) to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the Council in relation to the collection from Council Tax and Business Rate payers and distribution to Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (PCCL) and Government of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).

Financial Summary 2024/25

The last few years have been very challenging, both for the Council and for the city, and we are extremely proud of all the Council has achieved during this time.

Like most councils we continue to face substantial funding pressures, with cost-of-living and inflationary challenges alongside new and increasing demands on council services dominating the past couple of years.

Cost pressures arising from; inflation, pay costs, maintenance and construction costs, and reductions in some local income streams all have a significant impact on the Council's net cost base. The Council also continues to see increased demand for services, especially the services delivered to the most vulnerable residents who look to the Council for support and rely on the safety net provided by local government,

driven in part by the cost-of-living crisis and housing shortfall. In addition, new regulatory and statutory requirements add further cost pressures, particularly in relation to housing standards/building safety. Together, these factors create a situation of the Council's cost base increasing at a greater pace than the funding we receive from local taxation and Government funding.

Although our budgets for 2024/25 were reset to reflect our increased cost base, due to the factors set out above, further unforeseen and unavoidable cost pressures arose during the year which impacted on the assumptions that underpinned the budget. However, despite these additional cost pressures, as result of maintaining our strong financial discipline and fortuitous income earned and received, both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account were able to achieve significant budget surpluses for 2024/25. This has resulted in higher than budgeted contributions to general balances and earmarked reserves for both Funds.

Despite the constraints on our finances, we have continued to ensure that resources are directed and used to support of the final year of our Vision 2025 and set aside to support the new Vision 2030. During 2024/25, we have continued to invest in local services and projects to support the City's economy, business and residents both in the short term and for longer term prosperity, and, in addition, we have continued to provide support for those feeling the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Further details of our achievements and performance during 2024/25 are set out below.

Although both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account were able to respond to the emerging pressures during 2024/25, and maintain balanced budget positions, we continue to face significant financial challenges as we move into 2025/26. We will build on our successful financial management to date, maintaining a vigilant watch on expenditure and income. The measures we have in place to manage our finances remain robust and continue to drive strong financial performance. Through constant forecasting and an ever-present view of our service performance we continue to navigate the financial challenges we face, to deliver value for money services for the people of Lincoln.

Performance

The City of Lincoln Council is a high performing and innovative organisation, focussed on providing quality services and delivering outcomes that matter. Our Vision 2025 is an ambitious strategic plan that is helping to transform both the Council and the City through our five strategic priorities.

Vision 2025 was adopted by the Executive on 24th February 2020 and set out a 5-year plan of activity as part of longer-term vision through to 2030. The plan itself came to a natural conclusion in March 2025, and we now move towards the delivery of Vision 2030. Whilst delivery of Vision 2025 was challenging as a result of the financial and resource pressures we have faced, we are still extremely proud of all that we have delivered. A look back on our progress is shown in the Vision 2025 Celebrating our Progress document, available using the [following link](#).

In terms of specific deliverables during 2024/25, listed below are some of the key Vision 2025 projects progressed over the past 12 months:

- Work Based Learning team received the 'Greater Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Employer Champion 2024' award, celebrating the teams' continued efforts and achievements in successfully delivering high-quality information, advice and guidance services that enable people to reach their full potential.

- Sincil Bank Revitalisation Programme' building trusted relationships within the community and engaging residents with various activities, support and events focused on the culturally diverse groups that the Council serve.
- The Council and partners delivered an exciting 'Festival of History' event across the city over the May bank holiday weekend, celebrating the rich history of Lincoln. Local businesses were given the opportunity to 'Get Involved' with the event, which was promoted both on social media and during the festival by 'Events in Lincoln.
- Number of properties meeting the 'Decent Homes Standard' across the City, reporting at 99.76%, meaning COLC is in the top 25% of social housing providers.
- Newly refurbished grade II listed Cornhill Market reopened in May, combining a traditional city marketplace and high-quality food hall, breathing new life into this cherished landmark. The Council won the 'Regeneration Project of the Year Award' at the annual East Midlands property awards, for its redevelopment. The preservation of heritage features, creation of a vibrant public space, and emphasis on environmental sustainability were key considerations commended at the ceremony.
- Western Growth Corridor officially launched as a brand in December 2024 renamed as Charterholme, with the latest chapter in the development project underway, the construction of the first phase of 52 houses on the gateway site. Infrastructure to create the southern access to the site has been completed.
- Teams have supported households across the city through the 'Lincs for Warmer Homes' programme, advising on energy efficiencies and government grants available for various schemes and measures to make homes warmer, and to reduce energy bills.
- Working with external partners in the Lincoln Climate Commission, including Local Motion and the University of Lincoln, the Council were pleased to support the Great Big Green Week, exploring the 2024 theme 'Nature Connection' which celebrates nature as our leader for climate action.
- Collaboration, learning and support has been seen across several teams through attendance, participation and presentations delivered at the Lincolnshire Suicide Prevention Conference, bringing together professionals across the region to address this critical issue.
- Ongoing support has been made available to all residents of the city through the Lincoln Community Grocery. COLC Housing teams have additionally provided vouchers for new tenants to cover a year's membership plus 3 food shops at the grocery, where residents can also access further wraparound support services.
- Refurbishment of Moorland Community Centre, following a remodel to the layout creating an upgraded look and feel, the space now offers users improved facilities, meeting rooms, kitchen space, security provisions and storeroom, enabling local groups and the wider community to access services in the area.
- Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre has seen significant improvement works carried out to modernise and enhance the well-used community space for the benefit of residents across the Ermine estate area and city.
- Judges at the Royal Town Planning Institute named the 'Central Lincolnshire Local Plan' the best in the region, at the 2024 East Midlands Planning Excellence Awards. The plan maps out the shape and scale of development in Central Lincolnshire through to 2040, and informs decisions and infrastructure across City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey.

- The Council's events team hosted Lincoln Live 2024. This was a free 2-day live music event bringing to the stage a vibrant celebration of the county and wider areas budding musical talent.
- Significant progress has been made to support Lincoln's target of net zero carbon by 2030 with refurbishments to buildings in order to achieve decarbonisation of our public buildings, upgrading the energy efficiency of buildings through replacing heating systems with new gas systems or low carbon electric options.
- The Council has been recognised 'Mindful Employer' through the 'Charter for Employers Positive About Mental Health'. The team have worked with colleagues and line managers to understand the range of factors that influence mental wellbeing, while additionally increasing the number of Mental Health First Aiders (MHFAs) and staff who are also Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) trained.
- City of Lincoln Council was successful in assessment for renewal of our status as a Disability Confident Employer.
- The Council has achieved Air Quality Improvement across the city, alongside the opening of the Lincoln Eastern bypass, natural renewal and improved vehicle technology, resulting in the removal of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- A jointly funded redevelopment by the council and Homes England has successfully completed the Hermit Mews Housing development, delivering 11 high quality, energy efficient new family homes, five two-bed and six three-bed homes.
- Council teams have been invited to submit a full application for funding for Nature Towns and Cities, following a successful Expressions of Interest bid in January 2025. This will enable research/management and governance of a range of a range of assets including waterways, SSSI, historic park, flood plain and LNR.
- Throughout the summer the tourism team supported Zest to deliver 'The Zone' an inclusive pop up youth arts space, held at City square, Moorland Community Centre and Pelham Bridge. Zest won 'Best Product Design of the Year' for 'The Zone' and were finalists for 'Best Theatre Company of the Year' at the We Are Creative awards, celebrating the Midlands most innovative organisations and projects.
- Further progressed the re-imaging of Greyfriars using National Heritage Lottery funding.
- Continued to let managed workspaces at Greetwell Place and The Terrace, providing a supportive environment for growth and development for the city's SME businesses.
- Supported the ongoing delivery of a range of regeneration projects using government's £19 million Town Deal funding, including a new cultural hub at the Barbican, a new visitor and educational facility at Greyfriars, a new business Hub at Lincoln Science and Innovation Park and improved public realm environment in the Sincil Bank area.
- Continued to be awarded Green Flag status, year on year, for Boultham and Hartsholme Parks and the Arboretum.
- Reprocurring grounds maintenance, waste collection and street cleansing contracts, reviewing how these vital services in the city are delivered and ensuring the Council is ready for national changes that will overhaul how waste is collected and disposed of.

The Council has also continued to help city residents throughout the cost of living crisis, working hard to ensure support reaches those most in need. This includes:

- Through our Revenues and Benefits Team, distributed Household Support Fund financial support to our most vulnerable households in the city.
- Supported households to access food banks and the Lincoln Community Grocery.
- Provided vital welfare and benefits advice, via our Welfare Support Team.
- Significantly improved our housing voids performance, ensuring that council properties are refurbished and relet quickly and help people on our housing register into accommodation.
- Increased membership of our Social Responsibility Charter, with over 100 businesses now signed up.
- Continued to support local good causes through the Lincoln Community Lottery.
- With the support of external partners, continued to offer Cost of Living Support, delivering vital funds for residents struggling with the ongoing cost of living pressures, together with projects such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership.

All of our achievements during 2024/25 should be set in the context of continuing difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff currently being faced by local government, of which we are no exception. This creates capacity pressures in both operational services and in our support services. Whilst we have been able to continue to deliver against our priorities during 2024/25, some aspects of performance have been undoubtedly affected by our reduced resources. Work continues both on a national and local level to develop a range of responses to encourage both new entrants into the sector as well as retain the existing workforce.



Revenue Income and Expenditure

General Fund

The General Fund covers all net spending by the Council on services other than those accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account. General Fund services are partly paid for by government grants and contributions from Retained Business Rates, with the balance being funded from Council Tax and income from fees and charges.

For 2024/25, the approved net expenditure budget for General Fund services was £15.428m including a planned contribution to reserves of £0.147m.

As highlighted in the Financial Summary, 2024/25 has presented financial challenges for the Council and in particular the escalating cost of and demand for services. These cost pressures have been mitigated through strong financial control, but also through additional income earned and received.

In the main the key variances predominately driven by the impact of external economic factors include:

- Nationally agreed pay inflation - the 2024/25 pay settlement, negotiated between the National Employers for Local Government Services and the Trade Unions, was in excess of the assumptions made in the budget.
- Investment income/borrowing costs – as a result of the higher Bank of England Base Rate the level of interest earned on the Council's cash balances has increased significantly, in the additional the average level of cash balances available for investment was also higher than anticipated. The Council have benefitted from reduced borrowing costs due to the continued strategy to review the reprofiling of loans and maintain adequate resource to reduce the level of budgeted borrowing while interest rates remain high
- Increased fees and charges income – car parking income has continued to remain buoyant, significantly exceeding the budget target. This performance has been driven by increased visitors to the Council's car parks, with a number of improvements made to increase their attractiveness and supported by the Lincoln Events programme scheduled throughout the year.
- Additional rental income – increased rental yield resulting from rent reviews and lower void levels across our property investment assets.

In terms of service delivery, during 2024/25 we have faced growing demands for some of our key services as those more vulnerable in the city look to the council for support, driven in part by cost-of-living pressures and a housing shortfall. Of particular challenge to the General Fund has been the levels of housing benefit claims for supported (exempt) accommodation in non-housing association properties. With these type of properties the Council does not receive 100% of subsidy on the rent paid, meaning that we are left bridging the gap between rent paid and the amount we can recover via the subsidy system.

In addition, during 2024/25 we have experienced significant in year variances in two key operational service areas, the crematorium and the Cornhill Market. At the crematorium a continuation of the reduction of income from cremations, due to increasing competition, has led to an income shortfall, and in addition increased costs have been incurred while the service was being supported by external industry professionals. The newly refurbished Cornhill Market opened in May 2024, which was later than assumed in the business plan resulting in some budget variances. Furthermore other variances have arisen due to actual operational cost being above the initial, pre-opening, estimates and there have also been a number of one-off costs incurred as the new market offering is established.

Despite the increase in General Fund's cost base, as result of the positive impacts of the economy on investment returns, the strong performance on car parking income and additional grant and external funding received, the outturn position for the General Fund for 2024/25 was positive resulting in an underspend of £0.827m. This underspend position provided the capacity to make additional contributions to a number of earmarked reserves in order to provide future resilience against a number of cost pressure risks that we are facing.

The table that follows provides a summary of the final outturn position for the General Fund, against the net budget.

	ACTUAL 2024/25 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2024/25 £'000	VARIANCE 2024/25 £'000
Chief Executive and Town Clerk	7,501	7,239	262
Directorate of Housing & Investment	654	907	(105)
Directorate of Communities & Environment	4,435	4,799	(364)
Directorate of Major Developments	(2,120)	(2,242)	122
Corporate	372	266	106
Net Cost of Services	10,842	10,969	(127)
Drainage Rates	1,093	1,263	(170)
Financing and Investment Inc & Exp	(1,497)	(907)	(590)
Capital Expenditure	5,072	5,042	30
Appropriations	633	(267)	900
Savings Target/Contingencies	0	23	(23)
Total Council Expenditure	16,143	16,123	20
Business Rates Income	(7,421)	(7,440)	19
Non-specific Grant Income	(1,068)	(1,028)	(40)
Council Tax	(7,802)	(7,802)	0
Total Resources	(16,291)	(16,270)	0
(Surplus)/Deficit	147	147	0

The approved budget assumed a contribution to general balances of £0.147m, compared with an actual contribution to balances, after allowing for additional contributions to earmarked reserves, of £0.147m as a result of an in year surplus of £0.01k.

Included within the General Fund Budget was an assumed savings target of £0.125m, which was to be delivered in 2024/25 as part of the Council's Towards Financial Sustainability (TFS) Programme. The provisional outturn performance shows that secured savings total £0.086m, resulting in an under-achievement of £0.039m. While this is an under-achievement against the target, the provisional outturn position for the General Fund remains positive, with additional contributions to general balances and earmarked reserves. The TFS programme continues to be successful, and work continues in developing and delivering new projects as part of the programme to secure the additional savings required in 2025/26 and future years.

Although the General Fund maintained a balanced budget position in 2024/25 this does not mean that the financial issues for the Council are resolved, it simply means that the in-year budget challenges have been addressed.

As at 31 March 2025, the Council held £12.302m General Fund revenue reserves, comprising £9.915m earmarked reserves (to cover specific or potential financial risks and liabilities) and £2.387m non-earmarked general reserves. General Balances are currently above the prudently assessed minimum requirements in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy, providing resilience for the financial challenges we face.



Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account has to be kept as a separate account for all the expenditure and income relating to the landlord functions associated with the provision, management and maintenance of Council owned dwellings.

For 2024/25, the approved net operating budget for the Housing Revenue Account was set at £0.101m drawdown from balances.

In line with the General Fund, some of the key budget variances experienced by the HRA were predominantly driven by external economic factors e.g. pay inflation, investment income and borrowing costs.

However, the HRA has also experienced significant underspends in relation to the overall cost of repairs and maintenance of the council housing stock. These underspends have arisen due to a variety of factors, including, the cyclical nature of some works programmes meaning resources were not required in 2024/25 but will be incurred in future years, a change in the nature of works on undertaken in year with an increase in works eligible to be funded through the capital investment programme, and a switch in the nature of the housing repairs service rechargeable works with a significant increase in demand for responsive repairs, wholly offset by a reduction in the level of voids repairs, aids and adaptations and cleansing works.

The HRA has also benefited from additional rental income and a high level of vacancy savings as a result of the recruitment challenges we have encountered.

Overall, the net impact of these variances resulted in the outturn position for the HRA for 2024/25 being positive with a significant underspend of £1.558m. This underspend position provided the capacity to make additional contributions to a number of earmarked reserves in order to provide future resilience against a number of cost pressure risks that we are facing.

The table that follows provides a summary of the final outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account, against the net budget.

	ACTUAL 2024/25 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2024/25 £'000	VARIANCE 2024/25 £'000
<u>Operational Expenditure</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	10,861	11,730	(869)
Supervision & Management	9,807	9,508	299
Provisions (including Bad Debt)	488	250	238
Rents, Rates and Other Premises	826	861	(35)
Other Expenditure	421	803	(382)
Capital Financing	0	0	0
Sub Total Expenditure	22,403	23,152	(749)
<u>Income</u>			
Rents & Service Charges	(36,290)	(35,946)	(344)
Other Income	(1,104)	(933)	(171)
Sub Total Income	(37,394)	(36,879)	(515)
Net Cost of Service	(14,991)	(13,727)	(1,264)
Financing and Investment Inc & Exp	1,606	1,904	(298)
(Surplus)/Deficit on HRA	(13,385)	(11,823)	(1,562)
Appropriation to/(from) Major Repairs Reserves	12,264	11,621	643
Appropriations to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	1,069	304	765
Net HRA (Surplus)/Deficit	(52)	101	(153)

The approved budget assumed a contribution from balances of £0.101m, compared with an actual contribution to balances, after allowing for additional contributions to earmarked reserves, of £0.052m as a result of an in year surplus of £0.153m.

As at 31 March 2025, the Council held £8.913m HRA revenue reserves, comprising £7.730m earmarked reserves (to cover identified specific, potential financial risks and liabilities) and £1.183m non-earmarked general reserves.

Capital Expenditure (Note 37)

Capital expenditure on the provision of new or enhanced assets is met from capital receipts, government grants, contributions from third parties and revenue contributions, with the balance funded from borrowing.

Capital spending in the year was £35.3m compared to the revised approved programme budget of £39.4m, representing an underspend of £4.1m against the

profiled budget. The variance in 2024/25 is largely due to the re-profiling of externally managed schemes and construction delays within the general fund and housing capital programmes. The 2024/25 capital spending and funding position is summarised as follows:

	ACTUAL 2024/25 £'000	REVISED BUDGET 2024/25 £'000	VARIANCE 2024/25 £'000
Capital Expenditure			
General Fund	18,966	22,024	(3,058)
Housing Revenue	16,308	17,411	(1,103)
Total Expenditure	35,274	39,435	(4,161)
Financed by:			
Borrowing	3,555	5,160	(1,605)
Capital Receipts	818	1,209	(391)
Capital Grants and Contributions	17,325	18,846	(1,520)
Major Repairs Reserve	9,240	9,117	123
Revenue Contributions	4,336	5,104	(767)
Total Financing	35,274	39,435	(4,161)

Major Capital works carried out during 2024/25 are set out in the following table:

	£'000
Housing	
Housing Stock Improvement	9,551
IT infrastructure	290
Other current developments	715
New builds and acquisitions	5,751
General Fund	
Greyfriars	553
Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	1,102
Charterholme	13,761
Towns Fund Schemes	2,445
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	480
Other Schemes	625
Total	35,274

Capital Financing

The Council's capital programme is funded by a number of sources including the application of capital receipts, capital grants, contributions from the revenue account and long-term borrowing. A summary of significant transactions in capital funding in 2024/2025 is provided below:

Capital Receipts (Note 9)

The Council utilised £0.818m of capital receipts and received £2.633m of capital receipts in the year. The majority of these will be used to support the new build

programme within the Housing Investment Programme and investment in the housing stock.

Major Repairs Reserve (Note 9)

The Council is required to maintain a Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.



Long Term Borrowing (Note 18)

The Council undertakes long term borrowing, for periods in excess of one year, in order to finance capital expenditure. An assessment of the use of borrowing to fund capital expenditure is made through the application of the CIPFA Prudential Code in the Council's annual Treasury Management Strategy. This approach provides a framework for decision making highlighting the level of capital expenditure, the impact on borrowing and investment levels and the overall controls in place to ensure activity remains affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Council satisfies its long-term borrowing requirement by securing external loans.

Although the Council requires long-term borrowing in order to finance capital expenditure, it can temporarily defer the need to borrow externally by using cash set aside for longer term purposes (in line with its Treasury Management Strategy); this practice means that there is no immediate link between the need to borrow to pay for capital spend and the level of external borrowing. The effect of using the cash set aside is to reduce the level of cash that the Council has available for investment.

The Council's level of total principal debt outstanding (long and short-term), as at 31 March 2025 was £105.1m.

Total Borrowing Outstanding			
31/03/24			31/03/25
£'000	Source of loan		£'000
95,743	Public Works Loan Board		95,067
12,000	Market and Other Long-Term Loans		10,000
107,743	Total		105,067

No additional borrowing was taken out during 2024/25; a Local Authority loan of £2.0m was repaid upon maturity and was not replaced. In addition, principal repayments of £0.675m were paid as planned relating the Council's EIP and annuity loans.

The Council remains under borrowed by £46.877m (i.e. the Council's actual borrowing is £46.877m less than its borrowing requirement at 31 March 2025).

This means that the borrowing need (CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is considered prudent whilst internal balances allow for this.

Pension Costs

(Note 42)

The Council accounts for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future. This means that:

- The financial statements reflect the liabilities arising from the Council's retirement obligations.
- The costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are recognised in the accounting period in which the benefits are earned by employees, and the related finance costs and any other changes in value of assets and liabilities are recognised in the accounting periods in which they arise.
- The financial statements disclose the cost of providing retirement benefits and related gains, losses, assets and liabilities.

The Balance Sheet shows a decreased Pension Fund Reserve / net liability position when compared to the start of the year - decreasing from £12.998m at 1 April 2024 to £12.173m as at 31 March 2025. This decrease in the net liability is mainly a result of changes in financial assumptions following the latest actuarial report. This is recognised as re-measurements on defined benefit obligation, which is shown in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The statutory arrangements for funding the remaining liability of £12.173m means that this deficit will be made good by the increased level of annual employer contributions payable to the Pension Fund over the remaining estimated average working life of our employees in the Pension Scheme. The latest triennial revaluation of the Council's Pension Fund took place on 31 March 2022, with the next revaluation to take place on 31 March 2025.



Future Plans

The Council's current Vision 2025, and its supporting delivery plans came to a natural conclusion in March 2025, while we are proud of all we have achieved with Vision 2025 there is much more to do to make Lincoln achieve its potential, while improving the lives of our residents, businesses and communities and progressing the our long-term vision. Our new Vision 2030 builds upon the progress of Vision 2020 and 2025 and forms phase three of our overall vision for the City. It presents a roadmap to address today's most pressing issues while embracing opportunities for the future, progressing a vision for both the City and Council through to 2030.

The Council's vision for 2030 remains as;

"Together, let's deliver Lincoln's ambitious future"

Underpinning this vision are five strategic priorities, each with a number of supporting aspirations. The aspirations are in turn supported by groups of projects that have been delivered by the Council and our partners. Our five strategic priorities are:

- Let's drive inclusive and sustainable, economic growth
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

The delivery of the five strategic priorities is underpinned by the 'One Council' approach, which covers:

- Organisational development
- Best use of assets
- Technology
- Creating value processes

One Council aims to put the customer at the heart of everything the Council does and strives to make sure that when they access council services, they receive the support they need and have a good experience.

The Vision 2030 document can be accessed using the following link – [Vision 2030 as approved by Council March 2025](#).

Recognising the potential impacts of national policy changes in a number of areas, alongside devolution and potential local government reorganisation, the action plans

supporting Vision 2030 prioritise the first 12 to 18 months, ensuring adaptability to legislative, policy and economic changes.

In developing Vision 2030 it has been acknowledged that the Council still has a significant financial savings target to realise over the period of the MTFS so there does have to be a careful balance between delivering a range of new projects that will make a real difference for the City and the need to keep tight control of our financial position and also provide the capacity to deliver against both. This balance will be achieved by creating a mix of exciting, high-profile projects that will shape the future of the City, with a range of other projects in keeping with the financial and officer capacity available for delivery.

Some of our key projects are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
 - Support and expansion of the offer at Cornhill Market and City Square, with the creation of a new events package and further investment
 - Delivery of the first 52 market homes on Charterholme Phase 1a, delivery of the Tritton Road all-purpose bridge, secure funding to deliver the spine road and associated infrastructure and finalise design and planning process for the site wide infrastructure to enable delivery from 2026 (subject to funding).
 - Completion of the new City Centre Masterplan, including preferred delivery for Tentercroft Street and preferred scheme for Wigford Way- subject to funding to facilitate and directly deliver as appropriate Council schemes within the Masterplan.
 - Working with partners to become a Digital City, implementing a digital network to ensure access for all across the city.
 - Modernise operations in Lincoln Central Carpark by replacing end of life payment infrastructure and investment in improvements to pedestrian access and additional safety measures.
 - Development of an Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy and action plan setting out how we will address economic inequalities in the city and support residents through a range of interventions.
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
 - Development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy and action plan and delivery of agreed interventions and continued delivery of a range of cost-of-living support activities.
 - Supporting the local ward councillor's role with the development of a community engagement toolkit.
 - Undertaking neighbourhood working, currently focusing on the Sincil Bank revitalisation but with a managed transition ready for future neighbourhoods, working in partnership and with the communities to make them a better place to live and work, with a dedicated team and community chest funding of £0.218m per year.
 - Working with the Government and other relevant agencies with regard to National Asylum Dispersal Scheme and other Asylum Schemes – closely monitor external funding or initiatives provided by other agencies.
 - To try to eradicate the need for rough sleeping in the City - delivery of actions and interventions as set out in the Lincoln Homelessness Strategy 2024-2029.

- Let's deliver quality housing
 - Seek to secure a development partner to deliver a housing pipeline including council housing and other tenures and continue to develop new homes across the City and add, net additional, numbers to our stock.
 - Review options and agree proposals to address temporary accommodation challenges, reviewing smaller sites, considering modular temporary units for emergency accommodation and review options for tackling even more empty homes in the private sector.
 - Progress delivery of the Housing Revenue Account 30-Year Business Plan including estate and neighbourhood regeneration, delivery of new homes, and decarbonisation of our housing stock.
 - Continue to increase net council house numbers – retain and develop a new pipeline, including Rookery Lane and Queen Elizabeth Road.
 - Implementation of the Renters Right Bill and new investigatory powers for Councils.

- Let's enhance our remarkable place
 - Work with partners to assess opportunities to introduce further greenery into the City Centre and improve the physical environment.
 - Review of progress against the Heritage Asset Programme, and review priorities and opportunities should further grant funding be available, commission bespoke stock condition surveys our ancient monuments and to complete the renovation of Greyfriars.
 - Continue tree planting, with Hope Wood being a particular focus and further develop areas covered by wildflower planting.
 - Develop investment opportunities to take leisure facilities beyond current operational life and building on work in Central Lincolnshire on a Built Facility Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.

- Let's address the challenge of climate change
 - Delivery of a Carbon Literacy Campaigns and pilot a programme to support businesses in their carbon reduction journey.
 - Maximising carbon reduction in shaping, designing and delivering new developments – minimising carbon footprint on Charterholme development, energy efficient homes with sustainable materials and measures e.g. Jasmin Green.
 - Delivery of energy efficiency improvements to c200 homes delivering insulation and low carbon heating works, through the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund

- One Council
 - Investment in core ICT infrastructure to sustain service delivery, reviewing core infrastructure platform, desktop equipment and provision of applications.
 - Undertake a full stock condition survey of all corporate assets and develop new planned maintenance programme.

Despite the challenges posed to the Council's financial and organisational position we remain committed to seeking to deliver against our strategic priorities and longer-term vision.



General Fund

The General Fund continues to face a number of financial challenges over the medium term, arising from cost and demand pressures, along with pressures on income streams and new statutory requirements. These challenges come after a decade of austerity measures, and a shift to the reliance on local taxation as the primary funding source for all councils (which creates a particular problem for places like Lincoln, with a predominantly low council tax base).

Furthermore, there remains uncertainty around the level of funding for local government beyond the current Spending Review period. Significant changes to public sector departmental spending through Phase II of the Spending Review, the allocation of this funding to individual authorities through reforms to the distribution methodologies, and the implementation of a full Business Rates Reset, are as yet all unknown but all of which have the potential to fundamentally affect the Council's funding trajectory and MTFS.

Despite this significant level of uncertainty, based on what is currently known, or can be reasonably assumed, the General Fund continues to face a significant and widening gap between its spending requirements and the level of resources it estimates to receive, with the underlying need to reduce the net cost base by £1.750m by 2027/28 if we are to remain sustainable in the medium term.

The ability to deliver these further, significant, reductions in the net cost base must be set in the context of us having already delivered, over the last decade, annual revenue savings of nearly £10.5m. This has already involved us having to take difficult decisions in terms of which services we can continue to provide, whilst minimising the impact on services most needed by local residents and businesses, and with each year the challenge gets much harder.

We will though continue to build on our successful financial planning, driving down the net cost of services by implementing changes in the way in which it operates and delivers services, minimising where possible the impact on service delivery. Fundamentally though, the Council still believes that the longer-term approach to closing the funding gap is through economic growth and investment. Through our new Vision 2030, we will continue to seek ways to maximise our tax bases by creating the right conditions for the economy to recover and grow, to increase Business Rates income, and to encourage housebuilding to meet growing demand, generating additional Council Tax. As well as continuing to support this we will also seek, through direct interventions, such as; the Additional Affordable Homes Programme; Charterholme SUE etc, to enhance the economic prosperity of the City.

While we will focus on the above range of measures and there is sufficient 'lead in time' to the need to deliver these savings, given the scale of savings required we cannot rule out the need to face further difficult decisions about the services we continue to provide. The impacts of the changes to local government funding and any implications for the Council as a result of local government reorganisation are likely to influence the future savings programme and the size and scope of services we can continue to provide in the future.

Closing a projected budget gap of this size is a challenge for the Council, but we have confidence in our track record of delivering strong financial discipline and that we can continue to rise to the challenge. Our successful financial planning has enabled the protection of core services for the people of Lincoln, whilst at the same time allowing for significant investment in the City, and its economy, and delivery of our Vision. We will continue to adopt this approach, carefully balancing the allocation of resources to Vision 2030, whilst ensuring we maintain a sustainable financial position and delivers the required reductions in the net cost base.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The current HRA Self-financing system has been in place since 2012 and incentivises social housing landlords to manage their assets well and yield efficiency savings. As part of this system, it was anticipated that there would be greater certainty about future income as councils were no longer subject to annual funding decisions by Central Government, enabling them to develop long-term plans, and to retain income for reinvestment. Council landlords were to have greater flexibility to manage their stock in the way that best suits local need with more opportunity for tenants to have a real say in setting priorities looking to the longer term.

A key element of the self-financing regime is the Council's 30-year Business Plan, which sets out our ambitions for our housing stock for the next 30 years. The latest Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-2054 was approved in November 2023, following a fundamental review of resources, investment requirements and priorities.

The Business Plan is our strategic plan for managing and maintaining Lincoln's council housing properties and estates. It also sets out how we will provide housing services to support our tenants, and their families, to live in well maintained and sustainable homes, which will be safe, secure, and of a high quality. It sets out short to medium term plans and priorities for the housing service. The strategic objectives set out within the plan, will influence the longer-term (30 year) plans for financial planning and investment into existing council housing and for the provision of new homes.

The Business plan describes our long-term commitment to deliver real improvements in our housing stock and surrounding neighbourhoods, based on four main objectives:

- Core Housing Services – Tenants consistently place core housing services such as repairs, caretaking and landscaping as their number one priority and we will work to ensure that Lincoln is ranked amongst the top performing social landlords.
- New Homes – We plan to build, acquire and enable the development of 1,700 additional homes over 30 years, which will reduce homelessness and provide a greater choice of places for people to live.

- Estate Regeneration – Plans to regenerate estates means that we will tackle problems like parking, crime and antisocial behaviour by improving the urban landscapes (the look and feel) of streets and neighbourhoods.
- Decarbonisation – We plan to achieve an energy performance rating of C for all of our housing properties by 2030, which means that we will protect the environment by reducing our carbon footprint and making homes cheaper to run for residents.

The Business Plans acts as guide to the development of the Housing Revenue Account budgets, with a focus on growing surplus in the revenue account to enable sustainable investment homes and neighbourhoods. Although there is no specific savings target in the HRA we will continue to pursue the strands of its Towards Financial Sustainability Programme, where there are financial benefits for the HRA, releasing further resources for re-investment. We will also continue to ensure our costs are contained so that expenditure levels do not put pressure on the required revenue contributions to the capital programme.

Capital Expenditure

Despite the pressures our revenue budgets face, investment in our assets; to maintain income generation; provide new income generating assets; support service delivery and to act as a catalyst in the local economy, is still critical. Our capital strategy plans to deliver projects to the value of £105m over the next five years, with £44m estimated to be spent in 2025/26. This includes significant investment in the Council's key strategic projects notably the Charterholme development, the Lincoln Town Deal Programme, and the Greyfriars development, all in addition to further investment on Council dwellings and Council buildings, including the construction of new council housing.



Capital resources for the next five years include capital receipts, government grants, contributions from third parties and revenue contributions.

The Housing element of the capital programme represents the largest element of capital expenditure over the next 5 years and is funded through a combination of borrowing and revenue contributions from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) through both depreciation charges and direct revenue contributions. The HRA Business Plan includes the release of capital resource to fund significant capital investment in new housing stock over the medium term. It is critical that there continues robust budget management of the HRA to continue to allow the required investment.

Cash flows

The future cash flows will be dependent on the outcome of a number of key assumptions in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and HRA Business Plan, of which the Council has varying degrees of influence over the outcomes. Some of the key determinants will be:

- Actual Business Rates base in year compared to the assumed levels in the budget, and the ongoing risk of funding the backdated costs of any successful valuation office appeals by businesses within the city as well as potential reductions arising from the current economic conditions.
- Collection rates for Council Tax, Business Rates and Rents, of which Council Tax in particular continues to be detrimentally impacted by the current cost of living crisis.
- Income received compared to income targets (e.g. car parking, planning and building control), while income is buoyant in some areas, current economic factors are impacting on demand in other areas.
- Interest rates achieved on investments and secured on new borrowing.
- Timescale for payment of invoices and collection of debts.
- Profile of capital spending and funding over the MTFS.

Summary

Although both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account have maintained balanced budget positions in 2024/25 this does not mean that the financial issues for the Council are resolved, it simply means that the in-year budget challenges have been addressed. Beyond 2024/25 we are set to face ongoing reductions in resources, increased service costs, increased service demands and the ongoing impact of the current economic conditions and cost-of-living issues. This will require ongoing reductions in the net cost base in order to live within a significantly reduced resource envelope. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-2030, approved by Full Council in March 2025, sets out the detail of the financial challenge the Council faces.

Whilst addressing the financial challenges we face in the forthcoming years we will also continue to maintain the correct balance between these challenges and ensuring that our limited resources are directed towards our current Vision 2030.

In adopting this approach so far, we have built more than 250 new affordable homes in the city and supported the delivery of many more. We have also attracted more than £42m of Town Deal, Levelling Up and UKSPF funding to regenerate the city, including leading on the delivery of a significant new highway infrastructure asset; worked closely with our partners and the development industry to revitalise parts of the city centre; seen regeneration in Sincil Bank go from strength to strength; and provided support and accommodation to people dealing with homelessness in our city on a scale not seen before and supported many of the City's vulnerable residents by provided a range of cost of living an anti-poverty initiatives. We have also reinforced our commitment to addressing the challenge of climate change in our city, investing in energy saving measures and charging infrastructure.

As we commence delivery Vision 2030, we remain committed to being financially sustainable and delivering our One Council approach, implementing a range of transformational changes in the way in which we operate and delivers services, making them as efficient and effective as they can be.

We continue to evolve and to innovate, so we can continue to deliver Lincoln's ambitious future.



Group Accounts

The increasing scope and scale of local authorities moving away from traditional ways of providing services makes it increasingly difficult for the Council's own financial statements to present fairly all the aspects of control over service provision and accountability for all resources and exposure to risks that the Council has taken on. A consolidated set of group accounts can make a vital contribution towards giving users a full picture of the Council's sphere of control and influence.

The Council has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils to provide the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit. This arrangement is hosted by North Kesteven District Council. The Council contributed £0.099m to the service which is contained within the Communities and Environment line of the CIES.

The Council also has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven to provide a shared Revenues and Benefits Service. This shared service is hosted by the City of Lincoln Council. The Council contributed £1.659m to the service which is contained within the Chief Executive's Directorate line of the CIES.

Both of these arrangements are governed through a Joint Committee representing each of the partner authorities. Under these arrangements the ventures use their own resources to undertake an activity subject to joint control, and as such do not require consolidation into the Council's accounts. The Council's proportion of activity is accounted for separately within the Core Financial Statements.

Further Information

Further information about the accounts is available on request from the Chief Finance Officer, City Hall, Beaumont Fee Lincoln LN1 1DB. In addition, local electors have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the Council's website.

J Gibson FCCA
Chief Finance Officer
(Section 151 Officer)

COUNCIL APPROVAL

The Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 has been prepared and I confirm that these Accounts were approved by the City of Lincoln Council, at the meeting held on xxxxx.

Councillor Bill Mara
Chair of Council

Date: xxxx

THE STATEMENT 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 Chief Finance Officer.
- to manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK ('the Code').

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

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

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

The Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at 31 March 2025 and its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.



J Gibson FCCA
Chief Finance Officer
Date: 25th June 2025

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repair Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 31 March 2023	10,925	6,754	22,632	6,947	1,707	48,964	332,015	380,979
Movement in reserves during 2023/24								
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	3,845	12,025	0	0	0	15,870	0	15,870
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	(9,943)	(9,943)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	3,845	12,025	0	0	0	15,870	(9,943)	5,927
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 9)	(3,245)	(10,986)	1,106	1,055	(1,432)	(13,502)	12,070	(1,432)
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	600	1,039	1,106	1,055	(1,432)	2,368	2,127	4,495
Balance at 31 March 2024 carried forward	11,525	7,793	23,738	8,002	275	51,333	334,142	385,475

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repair Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Council Reserves £'000
Balance at 31 March 2024	11,525	7,793	23,738	8,002	275	51,333	334,142	385,475
Movement in reserves during 2024/25								
Surplus or (deficit) on provision of services	12,612	9,351	0	0	0	21,963	0	21,963
Other Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,106	1,106
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	12,612	9,351	0	0	0	21,963	1,106	23,069
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 9)	(11,835)	(8,231)	1,815	(778)	0	(19,029)	19,029	0
Net Increase/Decrease in Year	777	1,120	1,815	(778)	0	2,934	20,135	23,069
Balance at 31 March 2025 carried forward	12,302	8,913	25,553	7,224	275	54,267	354,277	408,544

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2024/25

2023/24			Note	2024/25		
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
38,177	(28,915)	9,262	Chief Executive's Directorate	38,546	(28,442)	10,104
4,273	(3,149)	1,124	Housing and Investment	4,177	(3,207)	970
19,470	(34,455)	(14,985)	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	24,595	(37,013)	(12,418)
22,294	(14,784)	7,510	Communities and Environment	23,400	(15,728)	7,672
4,606	(4,081)	525	Major Developments	6,749	(6,278)	471
1,262	(22)	1,240	Corporate Services	254	0	254
90,082	(85,406)	4,676	Cost of Services	97,721	(90,668)	7,053
	572		Other Operating Expenditure			553
	(198)		Financing and Investment			(537)
	(20,920)		Income and Expenditure			
			Taxation and Non-Specific			(29,032)
			Grant Income			
	(15,870)		(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(21,963)
	3,122		(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			(2,794)
	0		Impairment Losses on Non-Current Assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			0
	40		(Surplus) or deficit from investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	26c		(48)
	6,781		Total re-measurements on defined benefit obligation	42		1,736
	9,943		Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(1,106)
	(5,927)		Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(23,069)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

31 March 2024 £'000		Notes	31 March 2025 £'000
455,163	Property, Plant & Equipment	14	477,560
2,768	Heritage Assets	15	2,768
38,338	Investment Property	14,16	38,392
49	Intangible Assets	14,17	33
784	Long Term Investments	18	832
498	Long Term Debtors		202
497,600	Long Term Assets		519,787
380	Assets Held for Sale	22	395
17,831	Short Term Investments	18,45	19,189
154	Inventories	19	3,193
130	Cash at Bank	21	1,250
20,209	Short Term Debtors	20	18,633
38,704	Current Assets		42,660
0	Cash and Cash Equivalents	21	0
(4,216)	Short Term Borrowing	18,45	(3,113)
(27,827)	Short Term Creditors	23	(32,199)
0	Short Term Lease Liabilities	23,38	(328)
(32,043)	Current Liabilities		(35,640)
0	Long Term Creditors	18,44	0
0	Long Term Lease Liabilities	38	(1,890)
(730)	Provisions	24	(712)
(105,068)	Long Term Borrowing	18,45	(103,489)
(12,988)	Pension Liability	42	(12,173)
(118,786)	Long Term Liabilities		(118,264)
385,475	Net Assets		408,543
51,333	Usable reserves	10,25	54,267
334,142	Unusable Reserves	26	354,276
385,475	Total Reserves		408,543

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2023/24		Notes	2024/25
£'000			£'000
15,870	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services		21,963
(159)	Adjustments to net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	28	11,586
(9,835)	Adjustments for items included in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	29	(16,389)
5,876	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		17,160
11,013	Investing Activities	30	(11,848)
(17,268)	Financing Activities	31	(4,192)
(379)	Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,120
509	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		130
130	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	1,250

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The values held within the proceeding Notes to the Accounts may vary slightly when compared to the main Statements or other Notes, which may also include casting variances. This is due to amounts being rounded. It is not expected that a difference would be in excess of £2,000 in any single case.

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The authority is required to prepare an annual statement of accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under section 21 of the 2003 Act primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of 2003 Act.

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

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature within three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

4. 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 prior period adjustment.

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

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

5. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are charged an accounting estimate of the cost of holding non-current assets during the year. This comprises:

- 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 losses can be written off
- amortisation of intangible assets used by the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. This is referred to as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP). The Council's policy on MRP is approved by Council in March each year as part of the Treasury Management Strategy. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are replaced by the MRP and VRP, by way of an adjusting transaction between the

Capital Adjustment Account and the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement, for the differences between the two.

6. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

The Council (as the billing authority) acts as an agent, collecting council tax and non-domestic rates (NDR) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Police (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 (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, all share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of council tax and NDR collected could be less or more than predicted.

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the Council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the Council's share of the end of year balances in respect of council tax and NDR relating to arrears, impairment allowances for doubtful debts, overpayments and prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payment due under the statutory arrangements will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

7. Employee Benefits

Benefits payable during employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements or time off in lieu, earned by employees but not taken before the year-end, which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which employees take the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date, or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy, and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment for non-distributed costs in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs of restructuring.

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

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Lincolnshire County Council. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

The liabilities of the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the protected 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 forecasts of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate determined by the pension scheme actuary (based on the yield of UK Government Bonds plus a 'credit spread' allowance to reflect the extra risk involved in using AA corporate bond yields).

The assets of the Lincolnshire County Council pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- Quoted securities – current bid price
- Unquoted securities – professional estimate
- Unlisted securities – current bid price
- Property – market value.

The change in the net pension's liability is analysed into the following components:

- Current service cost – the increase in the 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 Non-Distributed Costs
- Net interest cost on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the 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 Local Government Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to 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 Pension Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result

of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

8. Events After the reporting period

Events after the Balance Sheet reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date 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.

9. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cash flow characteristics. The Council holds financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- fair value through other comprehensive income

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

However, occasionally the Council may make loans to other parties (e.g. voluntary organisations) at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in the Reserves Statement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost [or where relevant FVOCI], either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Authority.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The Council has a number of loans to local organisations. It does not have reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort to support the measurement of lifetime expected losses on an individual instrument basis. It has therefore assessed losses for the portfolio on a collective basis.

The Council has grouped the loans into four groups for assessing loss allowances:

- Group 1 – Commercial investments in line with treasury management policy including counterparties that have external credit ratings of A or better. Loss allowances will be assessed on a group basis using the simplified approach of collective assessment.
- Group 2 – Loans to related parties. Loss allowances for these loans are assessed on an individual basis and / or an individual borrower basis.
- Group 3 – Money Market funds. Loss allowance will be assessed on market value of the investment in the fund.

Financial Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arise in other comprehensive income.

Financial Assets measured at fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

Fair value measurements of financial assets

Fair value of an asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets – the market price

- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments in active markets for identical assets – discounted cash flow analysis

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

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

Any gains and losses that arise on de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

10. Foreign Currency Translation

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

11. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District (BID) scheme applies across the whole of the Council. The scheme is funded by BID levy paid by non-domestic ratepayers. The Council acts as a principal under the scheme, and accounts for income received and expenditure incurred (including contributions to the BID project) within the relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable development for the Authority) with appropriate planning consent. The Council 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 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, however a proportion of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure

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

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

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only re-valued where the fair value of the assets can be determined by reference to an active market. In

practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment loss. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

13. Interests in Companies and other Entities

Councils are required to produce Group Accounts to include services offered to Council Tax payers by organisations other than the Council itself but in which the Council has an interest. There are a number of criteria set out by which the Council must determine whether the value of the company and the Council's interest is significant enough for Group Accounts to be produced. The Council has complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, and while it has identified a company over which it has joint control, it has concluded that the company does not meet the criteria that would require consolidation into the Council's accounts on materiality grounds.

14. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

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

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

15. Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are re-valued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

16. Joint Operations

Joint Operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. The activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Council as a joint operator recognises:

- Its assets, including its share of any assets held jointly.
- Its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly.
- Its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation.
- Its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation.
- Its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

17. Leases

The Council as Lessee

The authority classifies contracts as leases based on their substance. Contracts and parts of contracts, including those described as contracts for services, are analysed to determine whether they convey the right to control the use of an asset, through rights to obtain substantially all the economic benefits or service potential from that asset and to direct its use. The Code expands the scope of IFRS 16 Leases to include arrangements with nil consideration, peppercorn or nominal payments.

Initial measurement

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets with a corresponding liability at the date from which the leased asset is available to use (or the IFRS 16 transition date, if later). The leases are typically for fixed periods in excess of one year but may have extension options.

The Council initially recognises lease liabilities measured at present value of lease payments, discounting by applying the authority's incremental borrowing rate wherever the interest rate implicit in the lease cannot be determined. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability include:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the prevailing index or rate as at the adoption date
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee

- the exercise price under a purchase option that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise
- lease payments in an optional renewal period if the authority is reasonably certain to exercise and extension option
- penalties for early termination of a lease, unless the authority is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The right-of-use asset is measured at the amount of the lease liability, adjusted for any prepayments made, plus any direct costs incurred to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or restore the underlying asset on the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

However, for peppercorn, nominal payments or nil consideration leases, the asset is measured at fair value.

Subsequent measurement

The right-of-use asset is subsequently measured using the fair value model. The authority considers the cost model to be a reasonable proxy except for:

- assets held under non-commercial leases
- leases where rent reviews do not necessarily reflect market conditions
- leases with terms of more than five years that do not have any provision for rent reviews
- leases where rent reviews will be at periods of more than five years

For these leases, the asset is carried at a revalued amount. In the financial statements, right-of-use assets held under index-linked leases have been adjusted for changes in the relevant index, while assets held under peppercorn or nil consideration leases have been valued using market prices or rentals for equivalent land and properties.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated straight-line over the shorter period of remaining lease term and useful life of the underlying asset as at the date of adoption.

The lease liability is subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method. The liability is remeasured when:

- there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in index or rate
- there is a change in the group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- the authority changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option, or

- there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When such a remeasurement occurs, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, with any further adjustment required from remeasurement being recorded in the income statement.

Low value and short lease exemption

As permitted by the Code, the authority excludes leases:

- for low-value items that cost less than £10,000 when new, provided they are not highly dependent on or integrated with other items, and
- with a term shorter than 12 months (comprising the non-cancellable period plus any extension options that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise and any termination options that the authority is reasonably certain not to exercise).

Lease expenditure

Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes interest, straight-line depreciation, any asset impairments and changes in variable lease payments not included in the measurement of the liability during the period in which the triggering event occurred. Lease payments are debited against the liability. Rentals for leases of low-value items or shorter than 12 months are expensed.

Depreciation and impairments are not charges 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.

The authority as lessor

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.

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipt Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the leased 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 Reserve Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

18. Overheads and Support Services

The cost of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance.

19. Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant or Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains

but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. Repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. However, in exceptional circumstances, gains may be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to services.

When 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 lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

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

- Where there is a balance in the 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 in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and Other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the Valuer

- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of each class of asset

Where an item of property, plant or equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

In relation to Council Dwellings, depreciation is based on the Existing Use Social Housing Value (EU-SHV) on the components, deemed to be land and buildings.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between the current value depreciation charge on assets and the depreciation that would have been charged 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 re-valued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus and Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from the disposal (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside

to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow. Receipts are transferred 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 assets is fully provided under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account in the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

20. Heritage Assets

The Council holds a number of Heritage Assets, which can be grouped into the following categories:

- Civic Insignia
- Art and Sculptures
- Musical Instruments
- Vehicles
- Ancient Monuments and War Memorials
- Miscellaneous

These are not held in a single collection but in a number of appropriate locations, where they are considered to contribute to increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Council's history and local area.

Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below.

- **Civic Insignia**

The collection of civic insignia includes the Mayor's and Sheriff's badges and chains of office, mace and ceremonial swords. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These insurance valuations are subject to periodic reviews by a specialist valuer. The civic insignia are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Art and Sculptures**

This category includes paintings and a number of public art works such as statues and sculptures. Where a valuation is available e.g. an insurance valuation, the asset is reported in the balance sheet at this valuation. However, for a number of public art sculptures and statues, no cost or valuation information is available and consequently, these assets are not recognised in the balance sheet. Where artworks are recognised, they are deemed to have indeterminate lives and the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Musical Instruments**

The Council holds a Steinway grand piano on loan to Lincoln College and a Stradivarius violin, which is on loan to the Halle orchestra. These items are not held on our balance sheet as they are deemed to be controlled by the loanee.

- **Vehicles**

The Council holds one diesel locomotive as a heritage asset. This is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. The insurance valuations are subject to periodic reviews by a specialist valuer. The vehicle is deemed to have indeterminate life as it is not in operation but is on display; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

- **Ancient Monuments and War Memorials**

This category includes various roman ruins and ancient structures and four war memorials. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the items in this category. This is because of the nature of the assets held and the lack of market values. Consequently, these assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet.

- **Miscellaneous**

This category includes any other assets which are being held for their contribution to knowledge and culture but do not readily fall into the above categories. One example is the collection of Books of Remembrance held at the City crematorium. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at either cost or insurance valuation where material. No depreciation is charged on these assets.

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on impairment. The Council may occasionally dispose of heritage assets which are unsuitable for public display or to an appropriate body which will ensure the asset is maintained and displayed within a suitable collection e.g. to a museum or historical trust. The proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the Council's accounting policy on disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts.

21. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date:

- that gives the Council a present obligation

- that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and
- where a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

If it is not clear whether an event had taken place on or before the Balance Sheet date, it is deemed to give rise to a present obligation if, taking account of all available evidence, it is more likely than not that a present obligation exists at the Balance Sheet date. The present obligation can be legal or constructive.

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

Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will not now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that the reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits.

22. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that

year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

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

23. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

24. VAT

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

25. Fair Value

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

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability on the same basis that market participants would use when pricing an asset or liability (assuming they were acting in their economic best interest).

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Council takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Council uses appropriate valuation techniques, which takes into account the three levels of inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

- Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can assess at the measurement date.

- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 2 – Accounting Standards Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted

The Code of Practice requires that the Authority discloses information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted.

The standards introduced by the 2025/26 Code where disclosures are required in the 2024/25 financial statements in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code are:

- a) IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rate (Lack of Exchangeability) issued in August 2023. The amendments to IAS 21 clarify how an entity should assess whether a currency is exchangeable and how it should determine a spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking, as well as require the disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to understand the impact of a currency not being exchangeable.
- b) IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts issued in May 2017. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts.
- c) The changes to the measurement of non-investment assets within the 2025/26 Code include adaptations and interpretations of IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets. These include setting out three revaluation processes for operational property, plant and equipment requiring indexation for tangible non-investment assets and a requirement to value intangible assets using the historical cost approach. These have the same effect as requiring a change in accounting policy due to an amendment to standards, which would normally be disclosed under IAS 8. However, the adaptations also include a relief from the requirements of IAS 8 following a change in accounting policy as confirmed in paragraph 3.3.1.4.

Note 3 – Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

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

going concern requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate.

- **Pension IAS19 and IFRIC14** – Defined Pension Obligations the Council relies on valuations supplied by qualified actuaries to prepare Note 41 to reflect the net pension obligation. The initial valuation provided by the actuary was a net asset position for the funded pension scheme totalling £32.937 million. In accordance with International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee Standard 14 (IFRIC14) – "The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction", the Council has had to make a judgement as to whether an asset ceiling should apply to the pension valuation recognised in the Council's Balance Sheet. The Council has concluded that, as there is a statutory requirement to participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme, it does not have an unconditional right to a refund from the Pension Fund and therefore no economic benefit can be recognised. An asset ceiling calculation has been produced by the actuary on the Council's behalf based on this assumption and has had an impact of £43.639 million on the net defined liability position.

Note 4 – Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Business Rates (Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 – Provision for Business Rate Appeals £0.571m)	Since the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme effective from April 2013, local authorities are liable for successful appeals against business rates charges to businesses in 2024/25 and earlier financial years in their proportionate share. Therefore, a provision has been recognised for the best estimate of the amount that businesses have been overcharged up to the 31 st March 2025. A third-party independent specialist has been used to estimate the required provision using the latest Valuation Office ratings list of appeals and an analysis of successful appeals to date.	The Council's share (40%) of the balance of business rates appeals as at 31 March 2024 amounted to £0.571m, a decrease of £0.055m (4%) from the previous year following the settlement of appeals in year. An increase or reduction of 10% of the estimated provision would increase/decrease the Council's share of NNDR appeals provision by £0.057m.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) (Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 – PPE £478m)	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the levels of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to the assets.</p> <p>Operational property assets are valued at the Balance Sheet date in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors valuation standards and guidance. This involves the use of a number of estimation techniques including various property indices. These estimates can fluctuate as property market values and prices change in response to events.</p>	<p>If the useful lives of the assets reduce, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.124m and for council dwellings £0.272m for every year that the useful lives had to be reduced.</p> <p>The Gross Book Value (GBV) of the Council's operational property assets is £447m at 31 March 2025. A 1% change in these asset valuations would result in a £4.47m change in their GBV.</p>
Assets held for sale and investment properties (Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 - assets held for sale £0.4m - Investment properties £38.4m)	<p>Assets classified as Held for Sale or as Investment Property are carried at fair value based on a recently observed market price. Market prices can fluctuate considerably due to global events. The value of these assets was current at the Balance Sheet date, but it cannot be determined for how long this value will be correct.</p>	<p>A 1% increase / decrease in the value of investment properties and assets held for sale would result in a gain / charge to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement of £0.388m.</p>
Arrears Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 - Debtors total of £22.457m includes £3.824m debtors (subject to arrears)	<p>As at 31 March 2025, the Council had a balance on current debtors of £22.457m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of £3.824m was required.</p>	<p>If collection rates were to deteriorate by 5% the amount of the impairment of doubtful debts would require an additional £0.191m to be set aside as an allowance.</p>
Pension Liability (Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 - pensions liability £12.173m)	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and the expected return on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries (Barnett Waddingham) is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. For more information on the Defined</p>	<p>The effects on the net pensions' liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £11.358m.</p>

	Benefit Pension Scheme please refer to note 42.	
Investments (Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 Short Term - £19.159m Long Term - £0.832m)	At 31 March 2025, the Council held £19.159m of short-term investments. These include £16.127m invested in AAA-rated instant access Money Market Funds and £3m invested in A-rated UK institutions, all for periods of up to 1 year.	As most of the investments are either in AAA-rated MMF's or short-term deposits in A-rated UK banks, the risk of impairment is considered to be minimal.
Pension Fund Property Investment Assets Balance Sheet 31 March 2025 – Property Investment Assets £13.000m	The Council's net pension liability disclosed at note 42 includes an estimate of the total value of the Council's share of the Lincolnshire Pension Fund investment assets.	Less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the Council's share of these pension fund assets. The Council's actuary has estimated that the value of the Council's share of property investment assets as at 31 March 2025 was £13.000m.

Note 5 – Prior Period Adjustment

None

Note 6 – Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on 25 June 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31st March 2025, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Note 7 – Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2023/24

2024/25

Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund and HRA Balances	Adjustments Between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
7,437	1,825	9,262	Chief Executive's Directorate	7,501	2,603	10,104
785	339	1,124	Housing and Investment	654	316	970
(13,035)	(1,950)	(14,985)	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(14,991)	2,573	(12,418)
4,383	3,127	7,510	Communities and Environment	4,438	3,234	7,672
(1,580)	2,105	525	Major Developments	(2,120)	2,591	471
123	1,117	1,240	Corporate Services	372	(118)	254
(1,887)	6,563	4,676	Net Cost of Services	(4,146)	11,199	7,053
248	(20,794)	(20,546)	Other Income and Expenditure	2,249	(31,265)	(29,016)
(1,639)	(14,231)	(15,870)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(1,897)	(20,066)	(21,963)
		Total				
		(17,679)	Opening Balance GF & HRA			(19,318)
		(1,639)	Less/ Plus (Surplus) or Deficit in Year			(1,897)
		(19,318)	Closing Balance at 31 March GF & HRA			(21,215)

This analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, council tax and business rates) by Councils in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by Councils in accordance with generally accepted practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's different categories of expenditure and income. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Further analysis can be found in Note 8.

Note 7A – Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS						
	2023/24					
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Total Statutory Adjustments	Other (Non-statutory) Adjustments	Total Adjustments
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Chief Executive's Directorate	384	(303)	27	108	1,717	1,825
Housing and Investment	0	(77)	22	(55)	394	339
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	1,461	(724)	(9)	728	(2,678)	(1,950)
Communities and Environment	3,284	(223)	(24)	3,037	90	3,127
Major Developments	2,067	(26)	12	2,053	52	2,105
Corporate	1,180	(488)	0	692	425	1,117
Net Cost of Services	8,376	(1,841)	28	6,563	0	6,563
Other Income & Expenditure from the Funding Analysis	(10,853)	252	(10,193)	(20,794)	0	(20,794)
Difference between General Fund Surplus/ Deficit and CIES Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus/ Deficit	(2,477)	(1,589)	(10,165)	(14,231)	0	(14,231)

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS						
	2024/25					
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Total Statutory Adjustments	Other (Non-statutory) Adjustments	Total Adjustments
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Chief Executive's Directorate	572	(270)	(2)	300	2,303	2,603
Housing and Investment	0	(68)	(5)	(73)	389	316
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	6,673	(750)	(5)	5,918	(3,345)	2,573
Communities and Environment	3,357	(209)	0	3,148	86	3,234
Major Developments	2,554	(26)	6	2,534	57	2,591
Corporate	(51)	(580)	3	(628)	510	(118)
Net Cost of Services	13,105	(1,903)	(3)	11,199	0	11,199
Other Income & Expenditure from the Funding Analysis	(19,368)	(647)	(11,250)	(31,265)	0	(31,265)
Difference between General Fund Surplus/ Deficit and CIES Income & Expenditure Statement Surplus/ Deficit	(6,263)	(2,550)	(11,253)	(20,066)	0	(20,066)

Note 7B – Segmental Income Analysis

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

	Income from Services	Income from Services
Services	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000s	£'000s
Chief Executive's Directorate	(5,630)	(6,333)
Housing & Investment	(1,490)	(1,462)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	(33,987)	(36,604)
Communities & Environment	(13,092)	(13,826)
Major Developments	(652)	(814)
Corporate	0	0
Total Income analysed on a Segmental Basis	(54,851)	(59,038)

Note 8 – Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'000s	£'000s
Expenditure		
Employee Benefit Expenses	25,355	26,533
Other Service Expenses	70,794	59,740
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	4,569	9,523
REFCUS	3,807	3,582
Interest Payments	3,892	2,961
Precepts and Levies	1,082	1,266
Total Expenditure	109,499	103,605
Income		
Fees, Charges and other Service Income	(71,110)	(61,583)
Interest and Investment Income	(1,811)	(1,139)
Income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates	(10,119)	(10,376)
Government Grants and Contributions	(41,961)	(51,930)
Gain/Loss on Disposal	(368)	(540)
Total Income	(125,369)	(125,568)
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(15,870)	(21,963)

* The impact of a change in accounting treatment in relation to the HRS recharge model for 24/25 can be seen in 'Other Service Expenses' and 'Fees, charges and other service income'.

Note 9 – Adjustment between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Council in year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council is required to recover) at the end of the financial year (the balance is not available to be applied to funding HRA services).

Housing Revenue Account Balance

The Housing Revenue Account Balance reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It contains the balance of income and expenditure as defined by the 1989 Act that is available to fund future expenditure in connection with the Council's landlord function or (where in deficit) that is required to be recovered from tenants in future years.

Major Repairs Reserve

The Authority is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year-end.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

The Capital Grants Unapplied Account (Reserve) holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies, but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

2024/25	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(1,610)	(940)	0	0	0	2,550
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax and NNDR transfers to (or from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	1,014	0	0	0	0	(1,014)
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	2	(5)	0	0	0	3
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	6,431	8,766	0	0	0	(15,197)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	5,837	7,821	0	0	0	(13,658)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	0	(2,681)	2,681	0	0	0
Transfer of capital grants and contributions to capital grants unapplied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Admin costs of RTB	0	48	(48)	0	0	0
Payments to the Government Housing Receipts Pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Posting of HRA resources to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	(12,264)	0	12,264	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(970)	0	0	0	0	970

2024/25	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(4,101)	0	0	0	0	4,101
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(5,071)	(14,897)	2,633	12,264	0	5,071
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(818)	0	0	818
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(13,042)	0	13,042
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(12,601)	(1,155)	0	0	0	13,756
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(12,601)	(1,155)	(818)	(13,042)	0	27,616
Total Adjustments	(11,835)	(8,231)	1,815	(778)	0	19,029

2023/24	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to (or from) the Pensions Reserve)	(938)	(651)	0	0	0	1,589
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustments Account)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax and NNDR transfers to (or from) the Collection Fund Adjustment Account	558	0	0	0	0	(558)
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	37	(9)	0	0	0	(28)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account)	8,415	3,204	0	0	0	(11,619)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	8,072	2,544	0	0	0	(10,616)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(1,650)	(2,005)	3,655	0	0	0
Payments to the Government Housing Receipts Pool (funded by a transfer from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer of capital grants and contributions to capital grants unapplied	0	43	(43)	0	0	0
Admin Costs of RTB	0	0	0	0	0	0
Posting of HRA resources to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	(10,751)	0	10,751	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the Capital Adjustment Account)	(867)	0	0	0	0	867
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances (transfer to the Capital Adjustment Account)	(3,394)	0	0	0	0	3,394

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2023/24	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Movement In Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(5,911)	(12,713)	3,612	10,751	0	4,261
<i>Adjustments to Capital Resources</i>						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(2,557)	0	0	2,557
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(9,645)	0	9,645
Application of Capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(5,406)	(817)	0	0	(1,432)	6,223
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(5,406)	(817)	(2,557)	(9,645)	(1,432)	18,425
Total Adjustments	(3,245)	(10,986)	1,055	1,106	(1,432)	12,070

Note 10 – Movements in Earmarked Reserves

These amounts are held to meet expenditure in future financial years. The movements on these Revenue Reserve Accounts during the year have been as follows:

	Balance @ 31.03.23 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @ 31.03.24 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @31.03.25 £'000
			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	
General Fund									
Budget Carry Forwards	518	0	226	(140)	569	(16)	20	(194)	379
Grants & Contributions	1,446	0	247	(188)	1,505	(88)	821	(478)	1,761
Contract Bond Reserve	180	0	0	0	180	(80)	0	0	100
AGP Sinking Fund	52	0	50	0	102	0	50	0	152
Air Quality Initiatives	22	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Leisure Centre Maintenance	86	0	20	0	106	0	20	0	126
Business Rates Volatility	434	0	1,163	(481)	916	0	203	0	1,119
Christmas Decorations	14	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	14
City Centre Masterplan	0	0	75	0	75	0	0	0	75
Climate Change/Greening the City & Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	88	0	0	88
City Hall Improvement	50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50
City Hall Sinking Fund	60	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	60
Commons Parking	13	0	15	0	28	0	13	0	41
Corporate Maintenance	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
Corporate Training	60	0	21	(10)	71	0	0	(13)	58
Council Tax Hardship Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Covid Recovery Reserve	1,048	0	0	0	1,048	0	0	(200)	848
Covid Response	354	0	0	0	354	0	0	0	354
CX Capacity Reserve	100	0	0	(44)	56	0	0	(23)	33
LGR/Devolution	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	16
Electric Van Replacement	27	0	4	0	31	0	4	0	35
HiMO CPN Appeals	169	0	0	(58)	111	0	3	0	114
Income Volatility Reserve	320	0	200	0	520	0	100	(50)	570
Inflation Volatility Reserve	466	0	0	0	466	0	85	(184)	367
Invest to Save	37	0	200	(88)	349	0	16	(87)	278

	Balance @ 31.03.23 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @ 31.03.24 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @31.03.25 £'000
			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	
IT Reserve	284	0	109	0	393	0	86	0	479
Insurance Reserve	1,470	0	100	(524)	1,046	0	115	(17)	1,144
Leisure Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	0	370
Lincoln Lottery Reserve	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Mayoral Car	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
MSCP & Bus Station	149	0	46	0	195	0	47	0	242
Private Sector Stock Survey	51	0	48	(48)	51	0	12	(52)	11
Professional Trainee Scheme	90	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	90
Revenues & Benefits	25	0	29	0	54	0	0	0	54
Residents Parking Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Section 106 Interest	32	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	32
Staff Wellbeing	28	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	28
Tank Memorial	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Tree Risk Assessment	102	0	31	(47)	86	0	0	(44)	41
Unused DRF	164	0	141	(179)	161	80	497	(525)	213
Vision 2025/2030	533	0	150	(298)	385	0	338	(304)	419
Total General Fund	8,510	0	2,875	(2,105)	9,280	0	2,805	(2,171)	9,915
Earmarked Reserves									
HRA									
Capital Fees Equalisation	110	0	0	0	110	0	0	0	110
Cyclical Smoke/CO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	134	0	134
Detector Testing									
De Wint Court	73	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	73
De Wint Court Sinking Fund	10	0	103	0	113	0	74	0	187
Disrepair Management	300	0	0	(13)	287	0	0	(32)	255
Housing Repairs Service	137	0	0	0	76	0	0	(69)	7
HRA Business Plan	177	0	800	(134)	843	0	200	(153)	890
HRA Electrical Testing	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	0	202
HRA IT Reserve	135	0	35	0	170	0	336	0	506
HRA Repairs Account	1,351	0	0	0	1,351	0	0	(55)	1,296
HRA Strategic Priority Reserve	764	0	0	0	764	0	0	0	764
HRA Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	0	118

	Balance @ 31.03.23 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @ 31.03.24 £'000	Movements	Appropriations		Balance @31.03.25 £'000
			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000			Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	
HRS Social Value Reserve	0	0	50	0	111	0	48	0	159
Invest to Save	416	0	0	(41)	375	0	101	(21)	455
Insurance Reserve	2,053	0	400	(302)	2,151	0	400	(412)	2,139
NSAP/RSAP Sinking Fund	9	0	9	0	18	0	9	0	27
Regulator of Social Housing	0	0	180	0	180	0	200	(16)	364
Strategic Growth Reserve	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Tenant Satisfaction Survey	22	0	9	0	31	0	18	(10)	39
Total HRA Earmarked Reserves	5,562	0	1,586	(490)	6,658	0	1,840	(786)	7,730
Total Earmarked Reserves	14,072	0	4,461	(2,595)	15,938	0	4,641	(2,939)	17,641

Note 11 – Other Operating Expenditure

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
940	Levies	1,093
0	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0
(368)	(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	(540)
572	Total	553

Note 12 – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
3,638	Interest payable and similar charges	3,608
253	Net interest on the net defined liability	(647)
(4,089)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3,498)
(198)	Total	(537)

Note 13 – Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(7,501)	Council Tax income	(7,824)
(6,278)	Retained Business Rates income and expenditure	(6,384)
(743)	Non-service related government grants	(881)
(175)	Revenue Support Grant	(187)
(6,223)	Capital grants and contributions	(13,756)
(20,920)	Total	(29,032)

Note 14 – Non-Current Assets including Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Properties and Intangible Assets

The movement in the Council's Assets during the year was as follows:

	Movements in 2024/25										
	Council Dwellings	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equip	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Right of Use Assets	Property Plant & Equip Subtotal	Intangible Assets	Investment Properties	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Cost or Valuation										
At 1 April 2024	331,830	84,017	11,650	7,762	11,743	15,849	2,001	464,852	2,074	38,338	505,264
Additions	14,521	919	210	568	0	13,644	486	30,348	0	0	30,348
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	12	696	0	0	79	0	0	787	0	0	787
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,423)	(104)	0	0	1	0	0	(6,526)	0	54	(6,472)
De-recognition and disposals	(2,057)	0	(2,656)	0	0	0	0	(2,103)	0	0	(2,103)
Reclassifications	1,361	(526)	0	0	526	(2,440)	0	(1,079)		2,940	(1,079)
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	339,244	85,002	9,204	8,330	12,349	27,053	2,487	486,279	2,074	38,392	526,745
Depreciation											
At 1 April 2024	0	(279)	(7,292)	(119)	0	0	0	(7,689)	(2,025)	0	(9,715)
Depreciation/amortisation for year	(8,038)	(2,089)	(674)	0	0	0	(224)	(11,025)	(16)	0	(11,041)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	18	2,081	0	0	6	0	0	2,105	0	0	2,105

Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	8,020	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,020	0	0	8,020
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	(102)	0	0	0	0	0	(102)	0	0	(102)
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services	0	(40)	0	0	0	0	0	(40)	0	0	(40)
De-recognition – disposals	0	0	2620	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10
De-recognition – other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	6	0	0	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	0	(423)	(5,346)	(119)	0	0	(224)	(8,721)	(2,041)	0	(10,763)
Net book value of assets at 31.03.25	339,244	84,579	3,858	8,211	12,349	27,053	2,263	477,558	33	38,392	515,982
Net book value of assets at 31.03.24	331,830	83,738	4,358	7,643	11,743	15,849	0	457,163	49	38,338	495,549

- The reclassification balance of £1.079m relates to the treatment of property acquired or constructed for sale and can be seen in the inventories note

		Movements in 2023/24									
	Council Dwellings	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equip	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Right of Use Assets	Property Plant & Equip Subtotal	Intangible Assets	Investment Properties	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
		Cost or Valuation									
At 1 April 2023	322,627	80,789	11,479	7,500	21,149	10,553	0	454,098	2,074	36,578	492,750
Additions	10,490	114	238	187	0	11,529	0	22,558	0	0	22,558
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	109	1,664	0	0	(4,893)	0	0	(3,120)	0	0	(3,120)
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,424)	(4,254)	0	0	63	0	0	(5,615)	0	(1,179)	(6,794)
De-recognition and disposals	(1,684)	0	(67)	0	0	0	0	(1,751)	0	0	(1,751)
Reclassifications	1,712	5,704	0	75	(4,576)	(6,233)	0	(3,318)	0	2,940	(378)
At 31 March 2024	331,830	84,017	11,650	7,762	11,743	15,849	0	462,852	2,074	38,338	503,264
		Depreciation									
At 1 April 2023	(20)	(3,276)	(6,542)	(119)	0	0	0	(9,956)	(1,986)	0	(11,943)
Depreciation/amortisation for year	(7,977)	(1,703)	(757)	0	0	0	0	(10,437)	(39)	0	(10,476)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,997	4,975	0	0	0	0	0	12,972	0	0	12,972
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services	0	(275)	0	0	0	0	0	(275)	0	0	(275)
De-recognition – disposals	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
De-recognition – other	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2024	0	(279)	(7,292)	(119)	0	0	0	(7,689)	(2,025)	0	(9,715)
Net book value of assets at 31.03.24	331,830	83,738	4,358	7,643	11,743	15,849	0	455,163	49	38,338	493,550
Net book value of assets at 31.03.23	322,607	77,513	4,937	7,381	21,149	10,553	0	444,142	88	36,578	480,807
Owned	331,830	83,738	4,358	7,643	11,743	15,849	0	455,163	49	38,338	493,550

Valuation

The Council operates a rolling valuation programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment have a full valuation at least every five years. Those assets which do not receive a full valuation in year are subject to a desktop review / lighter touch revaluation.

The valuation of the Council's freehold and leasehold properties have been carried out in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. All valuations are either undertaken by Council Officers, by external valuers commissioned to value specific assets or by the District Valuer.

Principal Property Surveyor

Mr P Clifton

MRICS

Depreciation

Tangible Assets

Depreciation, as stated in the Accounting Policies, is calculated on a straight-line basis. The following useful lives and depreciation rates have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

<u>Category Of Asset</u>	<u>Useful Economic Life</u>
Council Dwellings	60 years for new properties 30 years for properties over 30 years old
Other Land & Buildings	
- Council Buildings	50 years
- Car Parks	60 years
- Cemeteries	50 years
- Crematorium	21 years
- Community Centres	50 years
- Offices	50 years
- Depots & Workshops	50 years
- Public Conveniences	50 years
- Recreation Grounds	50 years
- Sports Centres	50 years
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	
- Computers	5 years
- Equipment	10 years
- Fixtures and Fittings	5 years
- Plant	7/10 years
- Vehicles	5/7 years

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are amortised to service headings within cost of services as part of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis, as stated in the Accounting Policies. The standard useful life, used for amortisation purposes is:

Category Of Asset
Intangible Asset
 - Software

Useful Economic Life
 5 years

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2025 the authority had capital commitments of £17.896m in relation to the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment. Similar commitments at 31 March 2024 were £3.279m.

Note 15 – Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets Held by the Council

	Heritage Vehicles £'000	Musical Instruments £'000	Civic Insignia £'000	Other £'000	Total Assets £'000
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2023	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognitions	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2024	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 April 2024	0	0	2,359	409	2,768
Additions	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognitions	0	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2025	0	0	2,359	409	2,768

Civic Insignia

The collection of civic insignia includes the Mayor's and Sheriff's badges and chains of office and mace. All items are on display at the Guildhall, Lincoln. It also includes four ceremonial and fighting swords of considerable historical significance, which together are valued at £2.359m. The Council's collection of civic insignia is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These insurance valuations are reviewed annually and revalued during every ten-year period by an appropriately qualified external valuer. These were revalued at 31st March 2017 by external valuers Bamfords.

Other Heritage Assets

This category includes artwork and paintings and miscellaneous assets recognised in the Balance Sheet, such as the Books of Remembrance kept on display at the City Crematorium. These are reported at insurance valuation which is based on market values and are subject to periodic revaluation by an appropriately external qualified valuer. These were revalued at 31st March 2017 by external valuers Bamfords.

Heritage Assets not recognised in the Balance Sheet

In addition to the assets recognised in the Balance Sheet and disclosed in the above table, the Council holds a number of assets which are by their nature heritage assets but are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for these assets due to the nature of the assets and the lack of market values. Examples of this type of asset are ancient structures and ruins, War memorials and public art. These are listed below.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

St Paul in the Bail	Walls & Well
Saltergate Roman Wall and Posterngate	Wall & Gate
Mint Wall, West Bight	Wall
Pottergate	Arch
Lower West Gate & Wall, City Hall	Gate & Wall
St Marys Conduit	Conduit
Temple Gardens, Close Wall	Wall
Roman Wall, Mary Sookias House, Cecil Street	Wall

Memorials

High Street	War memorial
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Memorials

Dixon Street	War memorial
Birchwood Avenue	War memorial
Newark Road/Maple Street	War memorial

Public Art

The Chimes, Brayford Wharf North	Artwork
Empowerment, Waterside	Artwork
Exotic Cone I and II	Artwork
Lilies, Altham Terrace	Artwork
Lion, Arboretum	Artwork
Love Seat, The Lawn	Artwork
Dr Charlesworth Statue, The Lawn	Artwork
Mother and Child, The Lawn	Artwork
St Marks Obelisk	Artwork
Light Sculpture, Wigford Bridge	Artwork

Note 16 – Investment Properties and Surplus Assets

Movements in the value of Investment Properties are shown in note 14. The current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
2,336	Rental income from investment property	2,420
(88)	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(90)
(1,179)	Fair value gains/(losses) on investment properties	54
0	Gains/(losses) on disposal of investment properties	0
1,069	Net gain/(loss)	2,384

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

The movements in the value of investment properties are analysed below:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
36,578	Balance at 1 April	38,338
0	Additions	0
0	Disposals	0
(1,179)	Net gain/loss from Fair Value Adjustment	54
2,939	Transfers (to)/from Other Land and Buildings	0
38,338	Balance at 31 March	38,392

Fair Value Hierarchy

The Council's Investment Properties have been assessed as being Level 2 on the Fair Value Hierarchy (See Note 1 Accounting Policies, point 26 for an explanation of fair value levels).

Valuation Techniques Used to Determine Level 2 Fair Values for Investment Properties

An income-investment approach has been used to determine the fair value of Investment Properties. This technique involves an assessment of potential future net incomes flowing from the property. In the case of the majority of properties that are currently let, this reflects terms of the existing lease including passing rents and any scheduled rent reviews and, if later, ultimate reversion to full market rental value. In the case of properties that are currently vacant, it is assumed that a letting is

immediately sought at full market rental value and otherwise on optimum letting terms from the perspective of a market participant. Potential future net income flows are then capitalised using market all-risks term and reversionary yields to derive a present value, thus representing Market Value.

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Investment Properties.

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties

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

Valuers

The Investment Properties that were valued at 31 March 2025 were valued in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Surplus Assets

Movements in the value of Surplus Assets are shown in note 14.

The current value measurement base for surplus assets is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective. There have been no transfers between the levels of the hierarchy during the year. A transfer would occur when more detailed market information becomes available.

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

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

The Council's surplus assets are all valued using level three inputs due to their latent value or specialist nature.

Note 17 – Intangible Assets

Movements in the value of Intangible Assets are shown in note 14. No internally generated intangible assets are recognised in the Balance Sheet. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. Amortisation of £16k (£39k in 23/24) was charged to service headings in the Cost of Services.

Note 18 – Financial Instruments

The Council has the following investments at 31 March 2025:

Investments in Equity Instruments Designated at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

Fair Value of Equity Instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income include the following:

	31/03/2024	31/03/2025
	£000	£000
Non-listed securities	504	504
Total	504	504

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

Summary of Financial Instruments		31/03/24	31/03/25
		£000s	£000s
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost			
Long Term Borrowing	Level 1	(105,068)	(103,490)
Short Term Borrowing	Level 1	(4,216)	(3,113)
Long Term Creditors	Level 1	0	0
Short Term Creditors	Level 1	(11,670)	(11,239)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Level 1	0	0
Total Financial Liabilities		(120,954)	(117,842)
Financial Assets at amortised cost			
Short Term Investments	Level 1	17,831	19,189
Long Term Debtors	Level 1	498	202
Short Term Debtors	Level 1	8,270	5,009
Cash and Cash Equivalents	Level 1	129	1,250
Total Financial Assets		26,729	25,650
Financial Assets at FVOCI*			
Long Term Investments	Level 2	784	832
Total Assets at FVOCI		784	832

*Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

** See table below for detail

Under accounting requirements, the carrying value of the financial instrument value is shown in the balance sheet which includes the principal amount borrowed or lent and further adjustments for breakage costs or stepped interest loans (measured by an effective interest rate calculation) including accrued interest. Accrued interest is shown separately in short term debtors/creditors where the payments/receipts are due within one year. The effective interest rate is effectively accrued interest receivable under the instrument, adjusted for the amortisation of any premiums or discounts reflected in the purchase price.

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

2024/25	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		Total
	Amortised Cost		FVOCI	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense	3,607	0	0	3,607
Interest Income credited to services	0	(1,169)	0	(1,169)
Dividend Income	0	0	(30)	(30)
Surplus or deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets	0	0	(48)	(48)
Net (gain)/loss for the year	3,607	(1,169)	(78)	2,360

2023/24	Financial Liabilities	Financial Assets		Total
	Amortised Cost		FVOCI	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense	3,639	0	0	3,639
Interest Income credited to services	0	(1,781)	0	(1,781)
Dividend Income	0	0	(46)	(46)
Surplus or deficit arising on revaluation of financial assets	0	0	40	40
Net (gain)/loss for the year	3,639	(1,781)	(6)	1,852

Fair Value of Financial Assets

Some of the Authority's financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are described in the following table, including the valuation techniques used to measure them. Assets measured at Fair value through other comprehensive income are classified in this way due to the business model under which they are being held and that they have features which are not usually found in a basic lending agreement.

Financial assets measured at fair value				
Recurring fair value measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy**	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	As at 31/3/25	As at 31/3/24
			£'000	£'000
Fair Value OCI				

Equity shareholding in Dunham Bridge Company	Level 2	Average price obtained during the last three share sales	504	504
Equity shareholding in Investors in Lincoln	Level 2	Share of Net Assets	328	280
Total			832	784

* The Authority's shareholding in Investors in Lincoln – the shares in this company are not traded in an active market and fair value of £327,289 has been based on the authorities share of net assets of the company.

**See Glossary for the definition of Fair Value Input Levels

Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value Disclosures are Required)

Except for the financial assets carried at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial liabilities and financial assets held by the authority are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost:

- For loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and other loans payable, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- For loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide the fair value.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months, or is a trade or other receivable, the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount outstanding or the billed amount.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Financial Liabilities

31/03/2024				31/03/2025	
Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000	Financial Liabilities	Fair Value hierarchy**	Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
97,164	71,894	PWLB Debt	Level 2	96,489	66,958
10,115	8,792	Money Market Debt	Level 2	10,114	7,959
0	0	Bonds/Charity	Level 2	0	0
2,005	2,010	Other	Level 2/3	0	0
109,284	82,696	Total Debt		106,603	74,917

The fair value of most loans is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans in the market at the Balance Sheet date. This is to be expected given that the current rates of interest are at a the highest we have seen for over a decade.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £66.958m 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.

**See Glossary for the Definition of Fair Value Input Levels.

Financial Assets

31/03/2024			31/03/2025	
Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000		Carrying Amount £'000	Fair Value £'000
17,831	17,831	Money Market Investments <1 year	19,189	19,189
0	0	Money Market Investments >1 year	0	0
498	498	Long Term Debtors	202	202
18,329	18,329	Total Investments	19,391	19,391

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

Note 19 – Inventories

In undertaking it's work the Council holds reserves of inventories together with amounts of uncompleted work (work in progress).

	Consumable stores		Maintenance materials		Property acquired or constructed for sale		Total	
	23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	150	154	0	0	0	0	150	145
Reclassification of assets	0	0	0	0	0	1,079	0	1,079
Purchases	335	447	0	1,486	0	1,828	335	3,771
Recognised as an expense in the year	(348)	(457)	0	(1,344)	0	0	(348)	(1,801)

Written off balances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance outstanding at the year-end	154	144	0	142	0	2,907	154	3,193

For asset reclassification see Note 14.

Note 20 – Debtors

Debtors listed under current assets are monies due which the Council expects to collect within one year of the Balance Sheet date and are analysed as follows:

31/03/24		31/03/25
£'000		£'000
4,169	Central Government Bodies	3,241
7,456	Other Local Authorities	7,097
18	NHS Bodies	0
12,058	Other Entities and Individuals	12,119
23,700	Total Short-Term Debtors	22,457
(3,491)	Less Impairment Loss Allowance	(3,824)
20,209	Net Short-Term Debtors as per Balance Sheet	18,633

Debtors for Local Taxation

The past due but not impaired amount for local taxation (council tax and non-domestic rates) can be analysed by age as follows:

31/03/24		31/03/25
£'000		£'000
674	Less than three months	113
210	Three to six months	290
4,393	Six months to one year	531
8,175	More than one year	13,887
13,452	Total	14,821

Note 21 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

31/03/24		31/03/25
£'000		£'000
0	Cash held by the Council	0
130	Bank Current accounts	1,250
130		1,250

The balance at 31/03/2025 shows the financial position which includes creditor payments awaiting clearance through the bank account.

Note 22 – Assets Held for Sale

The Authority had a piece of development land classified as an asset held for sale at the end of the year. The sale of the asset has been approved but was not completed as at 31st March 2025.

Current 2023/24 £000		Current 2024/25 £000
1,500	Balance at start of the year	380
0	Additions	0
	Newly classified:	
380	- Property Plant & Equipment	0
0	Revaluation gain/(loss)	15
0	Transfers from AHFS	0
(1,500)	Disposals	0
380	Closing Balance	395

Note 23 – Creditors

Creditors shown as current liabilities are amounts payable by the Council within one year of the Balance Sheet date and are analysed as follows:

31/03/24 £'000		31/03/25 £'000
(12,407)	Central Government Bodies	(15,908)
(3,010)	Other Local Authorities	(676)
(12,411)	Other Entities and Individuals	(15,943)
(27,827)	Total	(32,527)

Note 24 – Provisions

These amounts are set aside to provide for potential liabilities relating to specific occurrences and comprise the following balances:

	Business Rates RV Reduction - Think Tank £'000	Compulsory Purchase Order £'000	Business Rates Appeals £'000
Balance at 1 April 2024	(37)	(100)	(593)
Additional Provisions made in 2024/25	0	0	(490)

	Business Rates RV Reduction - Think Tank £'000	Compulsory Purchase Order £'000	Business Rates Appeals £'000
Amounts used in 2024/25	0	0	260
Unused Amounts Reversed in 2024/25	0	0	252
Unwinding of Discounting in 2024/25	0	0	0
Interest Applied in 2024/25	0	(4)	0
Balance at 31 March 2025	(37)	(104)	(571)

The provision for business rate appeals represents the Council's share (40% of £1.428m) of the total provision for appeals against the rateable valuation set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) not settled as at 31 March 2025. The total provision is accounted for in the Collection Fund. The amount and timing of outflows against the Business Rates Appeals provision is dependent on the processing and determination of business rates appeals by the Valuation Office.

Note 25 – Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Note 10.

Note 26 – Unusable Reserves

The Council keeps a number of unusable reserves in the Balance Sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons; some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice.

Balance 31/03/24 £'000	Reserve Summary	Balance 31/03/25 £'000
28,493	Revaluation Reserve	30,805
(12,988)	Pensions Reserve	(12,173)
318,427	Capital Adjustment Account	336,399
57	Deferred Capital Receipts	57
(47)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(48)
769	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	817
(41)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account – Council Tax	(19)
78	Collection Fund Adjustment Account – NNDR	(958)
(606)	Accumulated Absences Account	(603)
334,142		354,277

a) Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council 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 in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created.

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
32,227	Balance 1 April	28,493
23,555	Upward Revaluation of assets	3,723
(19,317)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(929)
4,238	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	2,794
(612)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(482)
(7,360)	Amounts written out to the Capital Adjustment Account	0
28,493	Balance 31 March	30,805

b) Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties, *gains and losses on Assets held for Sale* and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
306,749	Balance 1 April	318,427
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(10,476)	Charges for depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	(11,041)
0	Other movements of depreciation	0
7,085	Revaluation (gains)/losses and impairments on Property, Plant and Equipment	1,464
(1,179)	Fair value movements on Investment Properties	55
(3,807)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,582)
(3,244)	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	(2,093)
(11,621)		(15,197)
613	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	482
(11,009)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(14,715)
	Capital Financing applied in year:	
2,557	Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure	818
0	Use of Capital Receipts to reduce capital financing requirement	0
9,645	Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	13,042
3,394	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	4,101
6,223	Application of Capital Grants to finance new capital expenditure	13,756
867	Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances (MRP/VRP)	970
22,686		32,687
318,427	Balance 31 March	336,399

c) Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the authority arising from increases on the value of its investments measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are either revalued downwards or impaired and the gains lost or disposed of and the gains are realised.

2023/24	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	2024/25
£'000		£'000
809	Balance 1 April	769
0	Transfer from Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	0
(40)	(Gain)/Loss on FVOCI revaluations in year	48
769	Balance 31 March	817

d) Collection Fund Adjustment Account – Council Tax

The Council Tax Adjustment Account was introduced on 1 April 2009 to comply with the new accounting requirements for the Collection Fund contained within the Statement of Recommended Practice 2009/10 (SORP 2009). The difference between accrued income for the year as shown in the Income and Expenditure Account and the amount required to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account. The balance on the account represents the Council's share of the accumulated surpluses and deficits on the Collection Fund at the Balance Sheet date.

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(123)	Balance 1 April	(41)
82	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	22
(41)	Balance 31 March	19

e) Collection Fund Adjustment Account – NNDR

The NNDR Adjustment Account was introduced on 1 April 2013 to comply with the new regime for the collection of Business Rates and the resulting accounting requirements. The difference between accrued income for the year as shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account. The balance on the account represents the Council's share of the accumulated surpluses and deficits on the Collection Fund at the Balance Sheet date.

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
717	Balance 1 April	78
	Amount by which council non-domestic rates credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(1,036)
(639)		
<u>78</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>958</u>

f) Accumulated Absences Account

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

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(578)	Balance 1 April	(606)
	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	606
578		
	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(603)
(610)		
	Amount by which officer remuneration charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	3
(28)		
<u>(606)</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>(603)</u>

Note 27 – Cash Flow Statement - Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
1,754	Interest received	1,434
(3,774)	Interest paid	(3,507)
46	Dividends Received	46
<u>(1,974)</u>		<u>(2,027)</u>

Note 28 – Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment to surplus or deficit on provision of services for non-cash movements

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
10,437	Depreciation	11,028
(5,906)	Impairment and downward valuations	(1,463)
39	Amortisation	13
(2,702)	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,088
(2,429)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	1,415
2	(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(1,967)
(1,589)	Movement in pension liability	(2,550)
3,244	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	2,093
(1,255)	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(71)
(159)		11,586

Note 29 – Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for items that are investing & financing activities

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(3,612)	Proceeds from sale of PPE, investment property and intangible assets	(2,633)
(6,223)	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	(13,756)
(9,835)		(16,389)

Note 30 – Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(22,362)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(28,705)
(185,147)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(155,806)
0	Other payments for investing activities	0
3,612	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	2,633
204,248	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	154,222
10,662	Other receipts from investing activities	15,808
11,013	Net cash flows from investing activities	(11,848)

Note 31 – Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
0	Cash payments for the reduction of outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases	(268)
4,500	Cash receipts of short & long-term borrowing	0
0	Other receipts from financing activities	0
(18,720)	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(2,675)
(3,048)	Other payments for financing activities	(1,249)
(17,268)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(4,192)

Note 32 – Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires local authorities to publish the amounts paid to members under the members' allowance scheme.

The payments made to the City of Lincoln Council members during 2024/25 totalled £260,593 (£260,498 in 2023/24).

Payments are defined as:

- i. Basic Allowance
- ii. Special Responsibility Allowance
- iii. Other allowances

Note 33 – Officers' Remuneration

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to disclose remuneration paid to senior employees.

For the purposes of the regulation senior employees are persons whose salary is in excess of £150,000 per year or whose salary is £50,000 or more and are deemed to have responsibility for the management of the Council to the extent that they have the power to direct or control the major activities. The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

Officers' Emoluments – Senior Employees

2024/25:

Post Title	Salary, fees and allowances	Bonuses	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions 2023/24	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions 2023/24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive ¹	145,296	0	0	0	145,296	31,349	176,645
Director of Housing & Investment	107,045	0	0	0	107,045	25,049	132,094
Director of Communities & Environment	108,852	0	42	0	108,894	25,049	133,943
Director for Major Developments	108,333	0	0	0	108,333	25,049	132,381
	469,526	0	42	0	469,568	106,495	576,063

1. The salary costs for the Chief Executive include £18.7k relating to election expenses in 2024/25

2023/24:

Post Title	Salary	Bonuses	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Total Remuneration excluding Pension Contributions 2023/24	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration including Pension Contributions 2022/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive ¹	135,380	0	0	0	135,380	31,679	167,059
Director of Housing & Investment	104,803	0	0	0	104,803	24,438	129,241
Director of Communities & Environment	104,435	0	0	0	104,435	24,438	128,873
Director for Major Developments	104,435	0	102	0	104,537	24,438	128,975
	449,053	0	0	0	449,155	104,992	554,147

1. The salary costs for the Chief Executive include £3.2k relating to election expenses in 2023/24

The numbers of other Council employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were paid as follows:

Remuneration Band	Number of Employees	
£	2024/25	2023/24
50,000 - 54,999	14	17
55,000 - 59,999	17	9
60,000 - 64,999	3	1
65,000 – 69,999	4	3

Remuneration Band £	Number of Employees	
	2024/25	2023/24
70,000 – 74,999	3	4
75,000 – 79,999	4	0
80,000 – 84,999	0	2
85,000 – 89,999	0	0
90,000 – 94,999	2	1
95,000 – 99,999	0	1

For employees receiving remuneration of £100,000 or more for the year see previous table 'Officers' Emoluments – Senior Employees'.

The figure above for 2024/25 does not include any employees for whom an exit package was agreed.

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the 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 [b + c]		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
							£	£
£0 - £20,000	0	1	2	0	2	1	3,961	5,215
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	28,817
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	68,424	0
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	1	0	1	0	87,597	0
£100,000 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost included in bandings	0	1	4	1	4	2	159,983	34,032
Add: Amounts provided for in CIES not included in bandings							0	0
Total cost included in CIES							159,983	34,032

None of the exit packages shown in the table above related to senior employees.

Note 34 – External Audit Costs

In 2024/25 the following fees relating to External Audit and Inspection were incurred and paid to KPMG, the Council's external auditors:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	<u>Fees payable for statutory audit services</u>	
140	Fees Payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	154
140		154
	<u>Fees payable for other audit services</u>	
30	Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns	31
170	Total fee payable to external auditors	185

Note 35 – Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2024/25:

2023/24 £'000	Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	2024/25 £'000
(175)	Revenue Support Grant	(187)
(224)	New Homes Bonus	(380)
(8)	Transparency Code Setup Grant	(8)
(476)	Services Grant	(461)
(32)	Business rates levy surplus distribution	(32)
(14)	Other	0
(929)	Total Non-Ring-fenced Grants shown on CIES	(1,068)
(0)	Section 106 agreement	0
(2,567)	Levelling Up Fund	(10,822)
0	Heritage Lottery Fund	0
(2)	Historic England	0
(144)	Department of Transport	0
(1,232)	Homes England	(1,155)
(1,961)	Towns Fund	(361)
0	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(448)
0	Sport England	(278)
(317)	Other Capital Grants and Contributions	(692)
(6,223)	Total Capital Grants and Contributions shown on CIES	(13,756)

	(3,660)	S31 Grants included in Non-Domestic Rates Income on CIES	(3,833)
	(10,812)	Total Non-Ringfenced Grants included in CIES	(18,657)
Credited to Services			
2023/24			2024/25
£'000			£'000
	(1,128)	Disabled Facilities Grants	(1,102)
	(12,487)	Rent Allowances	(13,220)
	(10,560)	Rent Rebates	(10,047)
	(132)	Discretionary Housing Payments	(132)
	(330)	Housing Benefit Administration	(315)
	(266)	New Burdens Funding	(146)
	(180)	Historic England	0
	0	Home Office	(12)
	(343)	Towns Fund	0
	(1,534)	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	(1,680)
	(71)	Homes England	(369)
	(347)	Other Grants	(405)
	(1,310)	Towns Deal	(2,941)
	(779)	Household Support Schemes	(540)
	(581)	BEIS	0
	(86)	Levelling Up Fund	(60)
	(683)	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(1,656)
	(142)	Internal Drainage Board	(173)
	(190)	Council Tax Support Scheme	(14)
	0	Weekly Food Waste Collections	(186)
	0	Planning Capacity and Capability	(275)
	(31,149)	Total Grants and Contributions credited to Services	(33,273)
	(41,961)	Total Grants, Contributions and Donated Assets	(51,930)

Note 36 – Related Parties

It is a requirement for the Council to disclose any transactions with a related party, including non-financial transactions. A 'related party' is defined as being an organisation with which the Council has dealings and where Officers or Members of the Council have a controlling interest or influence in the activities of that organisation. The code requires local authorities to disclose material transactions with 'related parties'. The disclosure is required in order that the true and fairness of the

accounts can be understood by the reader of the accounts having knowledge of any 'related parties' of the Council.

Members/Officers - For 2024/25 the Council sent a letter, dated 27th March 2025, to all Members, Chief Officers and Assistant Directors, requesting disclosure of any 'related party transactions'.

The table below details both Member and Officer representation on the boards of levying bodies, assisted organisations with which the Council makes material financial assistance and Joint Ventures.

Name of Organisation	Member Representative	Officer Representative
Upper Witham – Drainage Board	Councillor D Armiger Councillor B Bushell Councillor L Bushell Councillor G Hewson Councillor R Longbottom Councillor D Nannestad Councillor A Pritchard Councillor P Vaugan Councillor J Wells	Communities and Environment
Witham First – Drainage Board	Councillor G Hewson Councillor P Vaughan	Communities and Environment
Witham Third – Drainage Board	Councillor B Bushell Councillor G Hewson Councillor R Longbottom Councillor D Nannestad Councillor P Vaughan	Communities and Environment
Lincoln Dial-a-Ride	Councillor G Hewson	Chief Executive
Investors in Lincoln	Councillor J Wells Councillor N Tweddle	Chief Executive/ Major Developments
Lincoln Business Improvement Group	Councillor A Pritchard Councillor N Tweddle	Communities and Environment
Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Partnership	Councillor N Tweddle Councillor D Nannestad Councillor C Burke Councillor J Wells (sub)	Communities & Environment

None of the above Members or Officers took part in the decision making of any financial assistance awarded to any of the organisations.

UK Central Government - has significant influence over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and

prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits).

Details of transactions with government departments are set out in note 35.

Other Bodies - transactions with other bodies levying demands on the Council Tax - Levying bodies in 2024/25 were as follows:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
567	Upper Witham Drainage Board	664
191	Witham 1 st Drainage Board	229
324	Witham 3 rd Drainage Board	373
1,082	Total	1,266

Assisted Organisations - the Council made material financial assistance to the following organisations during the year: -

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
57	Lincoln Dial-a-Ride	42
25	Brayford Trust	32

Collaborative Agreements – The Council holds 6.7% (£14,000) of the ordinary share capital of £210,000 of Investors in Lincoln Ltd (ILL).

The principal activity of the company is the promotion of economic regeneration and the development and expansion of industry, commerce and enterprise of all forms for the benefit of the community in and around the City of Lincoln.

The company's accounting year-end is 31st March and the latest (audited) accounts are for the year ended 31st March 2024, showing net assets of £4.909m and a profit of £434,705. The accounts of the company may be obtained from The Company Secretary, c/o The Managed Workspace, Greetwell Place, 2 Lime Kiln Way, Lincoln LN2 4US.

The previous funding and management agreement that existed between ILL and the Council ended in January 2022 and a new agreement is now in operation until 2036 with break clauses within it. The lease continues the operation of Greetwell Place as a managed office workspace with the Council's staff operating the facility in the same way as previously, so there are no material changes to the businesses or operational approach. The annual rent payable to ILL is 50% of the rents collected, which is paid at £9,000 per month with an end of year reconciliation with payments or repayments made accordingly. The Council use the remaining 50% of the rent to cover operational and maintenance costs retaining any surpluses or funding any deficit accordingly.

Collaborative Agreements - The Council has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils to provide the Central Lincolnshire Joint

Planning Unit. This arrangement is hosted by North Kesteven District Council. The Council also has a collaborative arrangement with North Kesteven to provide a shared Revenues and Benefits Service. This shared service is hosted by the City of Lincoln Council. Both of these arrangements are governed through a Joint Committee representing each of the partner authorities. These arrangements are considered as Jointly Controlled Operations, where ventures use their own resources to undertake an activity subject to joint control, and as such do not require consolidation into the Council's accounts. The Council's proportion of activity is accounted for separately within the Core Financial Statements.

Note 37 – Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

Total Capital expenditure and financing during the year:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	Capital investment	
22,557	Property, Plant and Equipment	30,347
0	Investment Properties	0
0	Intangible Assets	0
3,807	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	3,582
26,364		33,929
2023/24 £'000	Sources of finance	2024/25 £'000
(2,557)	Capital Receipts	(818)
(6,223)	Government grants and other contributions	(13,756)
(3,394)	Revenue Contributions	(4,101)
(9,645)	Major Repairs Reserve	(13,042)
(21,819)	Total sources of financing	(31,717)
4,545	Capital Financing Requirement	2,213
	Capital Financing Requirement - Funded by:	
(4,545)	Unsupported Borrowing	(2,212)
(4,545)		(2,212)

146,104	Opening CFR	149,781
(1)	Opening CFR Rounding adjustment	0
0	IFRS16 Leases on transition	2,000
4,545	Unsupported borrowing	2,212
(867)	Minimum Revenue Provision/Voluntary Revenue Provision	(970)
0	Application of capital receipts to reduce CFR	0
0	Other Adjustments	(1,079)
149,781	Closing CFR	151,944

Note 38 – Leases

Council as Lessee

Right-of-use assets

This table shows the change in the value of right-of-use assets held under leases by the Council.

	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 24	1,210	791	2,001
Additions	0	486	486
Revaluations	0		
Depreciation and amortisation	(41)	(183)	(224)
Disposals	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 25	1,169	1,094	2,263

Transactions Under Leases

The authority incurred the following expenses and cash flows in relation to leases

Comprehensive income and expenditure statement	2024/25 £'000
Interest expense on lease liabilities	105
Expense relating to short-term leases	0
Expense relating to exempt lease of low-value items	31
Variable lease payments not included in the measure of lease liabilities	0
Income from subletting right-of-use assets	(658)
Gains or losses arising from sale and leaseback transactions	0
Cash flow Statement	
Minimum lease payments	393

Maturity analysis of lease liabilities

The lease liabilities are due to be settled over the following time bands (measured at the undiscounted amounts of expected cash payments).

	2024/25
Less than one year	427
One to five years	1,091
More than five years	3,754
Total undiscounted liabilities	5,272

Council as Lessor

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

- 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.

Transactions under leases

The authority made the following gains and losses as a lessor during the year.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Operating Leases		
Total lease income	3,619	3,818
Share of lease income relating to variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate	0	0

Maturity analysis of lease receivables

The lease receivables are due to be collected over the following time bands (measured at the undiscounted amounts of expected cash receipts)

	Operating leases	
	31st March 2024	31st March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Less than one year	2,825	2,909
One to two years	2,664	2,439
Two to three years	2,344	2,182
Three to four years	2,149	2,124
Four to five years	2,108	1,924
More than five years	17,342	15,897
Total undiscounted receivables	29,432	27,475

Note 39 – Impairment Losses

There was a valuation impairment of £142k charged between the Revaluation Reserve and CIES in relation to Victoria Street Car Park which was closed as at 31st March 2025 due to repair needs.

Note 40 – Capitalisation of Borrowing Costs

As permitted by the code, the Council has adopted a policy of accounting for borrowing costs in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they arise. No borrowing costs are capitalised.

Note 41 – Termination Benefits

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2024/25, incurring liabilities of £0.034m (£0.160m in 2023/24) – see note 33 for the number of exit packages and total cost per band. These costs exclude any ill health retirements or departures as they are not termination benefits in accordance with the requirements of the code.

Note 42 – Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Council makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments (for those benefits) and to disclose them at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Lincolnshire County Council. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liability with investment assets.

The pension scheme is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee of Lincolnshire County Council. Policy is determined in accordance with the Pensions Fund Regulations.

The principal risks to the Council of the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme, changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

Transactions Relating to Retirement Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required to go against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	<u>Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement</u>	
	Net Cost of Services:	
3,156	Current Service Cost	3,176
138	Administration Expenses	164
0	Past Service Costs (including curtailments)	416
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	
253	Net Interest Expense	(647)
3,547	Total Post-Employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,109
2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
(8,594)	Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	2,091
(2,490)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(460)
(1,472)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(24,242)
0	Other Actuarial gains / losses on assets	0
18,825	Changes in effect of asset ceiling	24,815
512	Other	(468)
6,781	Total re-measurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,736
10,328	Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,845

2023/24
£'000

2024/25
£'000

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or	
(3,547)	Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(3,109)
5,136	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	5,659

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(174,357)	Present value of the defined obligations	(154,246)
180,194	Fair value of plan assets	185,712
(18,825)	Impact of asset ceiling	(43,639)
(12,988)	Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	(12,173)

Under IFRIC14 where the Council has an accounting surplus or asset, it should only be recognised to the extent that the Council is able to recover the surplus through either reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds. The present value of such economic benefits is referred to as the "Asset Ceiling". The Council's actuary has calculated the asset ceiling as £11.275 million in 2023/24, which has an impact of £18.825 million on the net defined liability position.

Reconciliation of Movements in the fair value of the scheme assets:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
166,468	Opening fair value of scheme assets	180,194
7,927	Interest Income	9,059
8,594	The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	(2,091)
0	Other actuarial gains / (losses)	0
5,136	Contributions from employer	5,659
1,157	Contributions from employees into the scheme	1,261
(8,950)	Benefits Paid	(8,206)
(138)	Administration Expenses	(164)
0	Settlement Prices received/(paid)	0
180,194	Closing Fair value of scheme assets	185,712

Reconciliation of Present Value of the scheme liabilities:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
174,264	Opening balance at 1 April	174,357
3,156	Current Service Cost	3,176
8,180	Interest Cost	8,412
1,157	Contributions from scheme participants	1,261
	Re-measurement (gains) and losses:	
(2,490)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(460)
(1,472)	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(24,242)
512	Other	(468)
0	Past Service Cost	416
0	Liabilities assumed/(extinguished) on settlements	0
(8,749)	Benefits Paid	(7,998)
(201)	Unfunded pensions Payments	(208)
174,357	Closing Balance at 31 March	154,246

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:

Quoted in Active Markets	Unquoted in Active Markets	Total		Quoted in Active Markets	Unquoted in Active Markets	Total
2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2024/25 £'000
			Fixed Interest Government Securities:			
0	0	0	UK	0	0	0
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
0	0	0	Sub-total Fixed Interest Government Securities	0	0	0
			Index Linked Government Securities:			
0	0	0	UK	0	0	0
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
0	0	0	Sub-total Index Linked Government Securities	0	0	0
			Corporate Bonds:			
21,623	0	21,623	UK	24,143	0	24,143
0	0	0	Overseas	0	0	0
21,623	0	21,623	Sub-total corporate bonds	24,143	0	24,143
			Equities:			
14,416	0	14,416	UK	14,857	0	14,857
75,681	0	75,681	Overseas	74,285	0	74,285

90,097	0	90,097	Sub-Total equities	89,142	0	89,142
9,010	3,604	12,614	Property:	9,286	3,714	13,000
			All			
9,010	3,604	12,614	Sub-Total Property	9,286	3,714	13,000
			Others:			
0	10,812	10,812	Hedge Fund	0	11,143	11,143
0	12,614	12,614	Private Equity	0	13,000	13,000
0	7,208	7,208	Infrastructure	0	9,286	9,286
0	0	0	Commodities	0	0	0
0	0	0	Bonds	0	0	0
18,019	0	18,019	Credit – Diversified Income	18,571	0	18,571
0	1,802	1,802	Private Debt	0	3,714	3,714
0	0	0	Other Diversified Alternatives	0	0	0
0	0	0	Forward Current Contracts	0	0	0
5,405	0	5,405	Cash/Temporary Investments	3,714	0	3,714
23,424	32,436	55,860	Sub-Total Others	22,285	37,142	59,428
			Net Current Assets:			
0	0	0	Debtors	0	0	0
0	0	0	Creditors	0	0	0
0	0	0	Sub-Total Net Current Assets	0	0	0
144,154	36,040	180,194	Total assets	144,855	40,857	185,712

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc.

The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Barnett Waddington, an independent firm of actuaries; estimates for the Lincolnshire Pension Fund are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2023/24		2024/25
	Mortality assumptions:	
	<u>Longevity (in years) at 65 for current pensioners:</u>	
19.5	Men	19.5
22.7	Women	22.7
	<u>Longevity (in years) at 65 for future pensioners:</u>	
20.8	Men	20.8
24.1	Women	24.1

3.95%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%
2.95%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.90%
4.90%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	5.80%

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

Sensitivity Analysis:	Increase in Assumptions £'000s	Decrease in Assumptions £'000s
Adjustment to Discount Rate (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	(2,112)	2,164
Projected Service Cost	(85)	89
Adjustment to Long Term Salary (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	201	(199)
Projected Service Cost	0	0
Adjustment to Pension/Revaluation (increase or decrease by 1%)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	2,023	(1,974)
Projected Service Cost	92	(89)
Adjustment to Life Expectancy (increase or decrease by 1 year)		
Present Value of Total Obligation	6,110	(5,841)
Projected Service Cost	89	(87)

Impact on the Council's Cash Flow

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The County Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 20 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2025.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014. The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career

average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

Employer contributions payable to the scheme in 2025/26 are estimated to be £5.473m

Virgin Media Legal Case

The Government Actuaries Department is reviewing historic amendments to the LGPS, following a Court case in June 2023 and a Court of Appeal ruling in July 2024 which decided that certain rule amendments were invalid in absence of the actuarial certification (potentially including cases where such a confirmation cannot now be located). The view of HM Treasury is that the relevant amendments in the LGPS would have been made by legislation – and therefore would remain valid until revoked or repealed by subsequent legislation, or declared void by a court. At this point in time there is insufficient information to assess the potential impact, so it is not included in these accounts.

Note 43 – Contingent Liabilities

The Council recognises the following Contingent Liabilities as at 31st March 2025:

- 1) Indemnities - The Council has provided an indemnity to Network Railway to provide protection of the railway asset. This exposes the Council to potential future costs if the bridge requires modification to accommodate future changes to the railway, even though the bridge has been designed to comply with current NR standards. This indemnity will remain in force until 12 months after completion of works on the bridge, at which point the bridge and indemnity will transfer to Lincolnshire County Council as the Highway Authority, this is estimated to be in March 2027.
- 2) Pensions - There are two organisations, Active Nation and Lincolnshire Road Car Company Ltd. (Stagecoach), who have admitted body status with Lincolnshire Pension Fund for which the Council has guaranteed payments under the Local Government Superannuation Regulations 1995. This admitted body status is given, usually under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) regulations, where the new employer of the staff transferred from the Council is not a Local Government Organisation and therefore not eligible to become an employing organisation within LPA. It is not possible to estimate the extent of the Council's liability under these agreements. The indemnity is in place in case of unforeseen events happening whereby the new employing organisation cannot meet its obligation to the fund.
- 3) Accountable Body Status - The council also acts as the Accountable Body for a range of grant funding that is or has been paid for the benefit of third parties. In the role of Accountable Body, the council has to agree to the repayment of grant should there be a breach of the terms and conditions of the grant. Whilst every effort is taken to administer the grants to minimise any

risk of financial loss to the council, this risk cannot be eliminated. However, it is not possible to make a reliable forecast of any grant claw back arising from Accountable Body status.

Note 44 – Contingent Assets

The Council has no Contingent Assets as at 31 March 2025.

Note 45 – Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

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

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall, these procedures require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- ✓ by formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- ✓ by the adoption of a Treasury Management Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its standing orders;
- ✓ by approving, annually in advance, prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - The Council's overall borrowing.
 - Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates.
 - Its maximum and minimum limits on the maturity structure of its debt.
 - Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
- ✓ by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Council's annual Council Tax setting budget. These items are reported with the annual Treasury Management Strategy, which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported semi-annually to Members.

The annual Treasury Management Strategy, which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by Council on 27th February 2024. The strategy is updated at the mid-year point and revised estimates calculated as below. It is available on the Council's website (www.lincoln.gov.uk). The key issues during 2024/25 were:

- The Authorised Limit for 2024/25 was forecast to be £130m (the mid year forecast remained at £130m). This is the maximum limit of external borrowings or other long-term liabilities during the year.
- The original Operational Boundary was expected to be £124m (the mid year forecast remained at £124m). This is the expected level of debt and other long-term liabilities during the year.
- The maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of debt are shown within this note.

These policies are implemented by the Treasury team in Financial Services. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed regularly.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. Details of the Investment Strategy are contained within the Treasury Management Strategy and can be found on the Council's website (www.lincoln.gov.uk).

The Investment Strategy is based on the creditworthiness service provided by MUFG Corporate Markets (treasury management advisors to the Council). This uses a wide range of market information to produce a list of investment counterparties with recommended maximum investment durations. Link uses credit ratings, support ratings and credit default swap prices to arrive at a recommended counterparty list.

The criteria used as a minimum within the Capita methodology are as follows:

- Short Term credit ratings of F1, Long Term A, Support 3 and viability rating BBB (Fitch or equivalent rating), using the lowest common denominator principle.
- Inclusion of part Government owned UK banks based on support assumptions.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default assessed by the Fitch credit rating agency and the Council's experience of its customer collection levels over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions:

	Carrying Values at 31/03/25	Historical Risk of Default	Estimated maximum exposure to credit loss
	£'000	%	£'000
	a	b	(a * b)
Deposits with banks and financial institutions			
AAA* rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	16,127	0.000%	0
A- rated counterparties (investments up to 1 year)	3,000	0.003%	0
Debtors	5,009	7.170%	359
Total	24,136		359

*See Glossary for a definition of ratings

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

The Council maintains strict credit criteria for investment counterparties to maximise security and minimize risk of loss, which are demonstrated by the low historic risk of default percentages seen in the table above.

Analysis of Investments by country of origin

		Short term		Long term	
	Principal invested £'000	Fixed rate £'000	Variable rate £'000	Fixed rate £'000	Variable rate £'000
<u>UK Local Authorities</u>					
<u>UK Banks & Building Societies</u>					
SMBC	3,000	3,000	0	0	0
<u>UK Money Market Funds</u>					
BNP Paribas	2,127	0	2,127	0	0
Federated (Prime Rate)	7,000	0	7,000	0	0
	7,000	0	7,000		
Total Investments	19,127	3,000	16,127	0	0

The Council allows credit for its trade debtors, such that £1.323m of the £5.629m balance is not past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

31/03/24 £'000		31/03/25 £'000
159	Less than three months	1,066
139	Three to six months	683
226	Six months to one year	885
1,950	More than one year	1,673
2,474	Total	4,307

Collateral – During the reporting period the Council held no collateral as security.

Liquidity risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when it is needed.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the Money Markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and whilst the PWLB provides access to longer term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to councils (although it will not provide funding to a council whose actions are unlawful). The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows: -

31/03/2024 £'000	Maturity Analysis of Financial Liabilities	31/03/2025 £'000
4,216	Less than one year	3,113
1,578	Between one and two years	686
7,073	Between two and five years	9,552
96,416	More than five years	93,252
109,283	Total	106,603

Market risk

Interest rate risk - The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

- ✓ borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- ✓ borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall;

- ✓ investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise; and
- ✓ investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value in the Balance Sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund Balance, subject to influences from government grants. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, unless the investments have been designated as Fair Value through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, in which case gains and losses will be posted to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy a prudential indicator is set which provides maximum and minimum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The treasury team will monitor market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance, during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long-term returns, similarly the drawing of longer term fixed rate borrowing would be postponed.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant the financial effect would be:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(154)	Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(168)
(154)	Impact on Income and Expenditure Account	(168)
(92)	Share of overall impact credited to the HRA	(100)
(62)	Share of overall impact credited to the General Fund	(68)
(154)	Total	(168)

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed. These assumptions are based on the same methodology as used for Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost.

Price risk - The Council does not generally invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £0.831m in a number of joint ventures and in local industry. Whilst these holdings are generally liquid, the Council is exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of the shares.

As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Council is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. The majority of the shareholdings are in the Dunham Bridge Company (£0.504m) and Investors in Lincoln (£0.327m). A representative of the Council sits on the Investors in Lincoln Board, enabling the Council to monitor factors that might cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings.

The shares are all held at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income, meaning that all movements in price will impact on gains and losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Foreign exchange risk - The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

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HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

2023/24	Notes	2024/25	2024/25
£'000		£'000	£'000
	Expenditure		
(11,202)	Repairs and Maintenance 5	(10,254)	
(5,822)	Supervision and Management	(5,805)	
(1,059)	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	(1,366)	
(1,461)	Depreciation, impairment and other adjustments for non-current assets	(6,673)	
(9)	Debt management costs	(9)	
83	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	(488)	
(19,470)	Total Expenditure		(24,595)
	Income		
32,514	Dwelling rents	34,953	
423	Non-dwelling rents	472	
868	Other Income	889	
650	Charges for services and facilities	699	
34,455	Total Income		37,013
14,985	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		12,418
(374)	HRA Services' share of Corporate and Democratic Core		(439)
(2,304)	HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority Net Cost of Services but not allocated to specific services		(2,906)
0	Transfer from HRS		0
12,307	Net Cost for HRA Services		9,073
	HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
218	Gain or (loss) on the sale of HRA assets		540
(2,317)	Interest payable and similar charges		(2,282)
1,073	Interest and investment income		675
(73)	Pensions interest income on plan assets and interest cost on defined benefit obligation 9		190
817	Capital grants and contributions receivable		1,155
12,025	Surplus or (deficit) for the year on HRA services		9,351

MOVEMENT ON THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
1,189	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	1,132
12,025	Surplus or (deficit) for year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	9,351
(10,986)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	(8,231)
1,044	Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to or from reserves	1,120
(1,096)	Transfers (to) or from reserves	(1,069)
(57)	Increase or (decrease) in year on the HRA	51
1,132	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	1,183

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NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Note 1 – Assets

The number of dwellings in the Council's housing stock, as at 31 March 2025, totalled 7,771 properties. The type of properties and the period in which they were built, were as follows:

Property Type	<1945 No.	1945-64 No.	1965-74 No.	>1974 No.	TOTAL No.
Low Rise Flats (Blocks up to 2 Storeys)					
1 Bed	43	887	561	539	2,030
2 Bed	4	118	82	105	309
3 Bed	0	0	12	1	13
Sub-Total	47	1,005	655	646	2,352
Medium Rise Flats (Blocks of 3 up to 5 Storeys)					
1 Bed	0	50	236	269	554
2 Bed	0	219	109	148	476
3 Bed	0	15	4	1	20
4 Bed	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	0	284	349	417	1,050
High Rise Flats (Blocks of 6 Storeys or more)					
1 Bed	0	54	137	0	191
2 Bed	0	30	71	0	101
Sub-Total	0	84	208	0	292
Houses / Bungalows					
1 Bed	155	141	32	25	353
2 Bed	703	745	97	349	1,894
3 Bed	766	523	69	314	1,671
4 or more Beds	100	26	1	32	159
Sub-Total	1,724	1,435	198	720	4,077
Total Dwellings 31 March 2025	1,771	2,808	1,410	1,782	7,771

Note 2 – Housing Revenue Account Assets Valuation

The Council's in-house Valuation Officers, and the District Valuer, have valued the HRA dwellings, land, and other property in accordance with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyor guidelines.

The Balance Sheet value of council dwellings is calculated by applying a Social Housing discount factor. This represents the market value for the Council's total housing stock adjusted to reflect the fact that the property is socially rented (this

adjustment is currently 42%). The discount factor is then applied to the open market or vacant possession value as determined by the District Valuer, as shown below:

	£ 000
Vacant possession value of council dwellings at 31 March 2024	806,398
Balance sheet valuation applying the Social Housing discount factor	338,687

The Balance Sheet value of HRA Assets is as follows:

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
331,285	Council Dwellings	338,687
4,625	Land & Buildings	5,080
9,800	Surplus Assets	9,850
7,198	Assets Under Construction	7,492
0	Right of Use	1,042
323	Other Assets	384
353,231	Total at 31 March	362,535

Note 3 – Depreciation

The Depreciation of HRA Assets is as follows:

Depreciation:		
2023/24	Operational Assets:	2024/25
£'000		£'000
7,957	Council Dwellings	8,020
241	Other Operational Assets	435
8,199	Total at 31 March	8,455

Note 4 – Major Repairs Reserve

The Major Repairs Reserve is an earmarked reserve to which the Council transfers an amount annually to finance capital expenditure on council dwellings. This amount includes annual depreciation, which is charged to the Housing Revenue Account and then transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve. This may be supplemented by additional revenue contributions from the HRA to support the HRA capital programme. The balance on the Major Repairs Reserve shows the amounts that have yet to be applied to financing.

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(22,631)	Balance on 1 April	(23,737)
	Amount transferred from the HRA	
	- Depreciation	
(7,957)	Dwellings	(8,020)
(241)	Other Assets	(435)
(2,552)	- Other revenue contributions	(3,809)
(33,382)		(36,001)

	Used in Financing	
9,645	- HRA Capital Expenditure	13,042
0	-DRF	0
(23,737)		(22,959)

Note 5 – Housing Repairs Account

The Housing Repairs Account was set up on 1 April 2001 in order to assist with the longer-term planning of repairs and maintenance expenditure. The following analysis details the movement on the Housing Repairs Account during the year.

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
(1,351)	Balance on 1 April	(1,351)
	Expenditure in year	
4,806	Tenant Notified Repairs	5,338
2,110	Void Repairs	1,796
1,978	Servicing Contracts	1,973
688	Painting Programme	705
152	Asbestos Removal/Surveys	196
3	Specialist Property Surveys	9
984	Aids & adaptations	496
26	Aids & adaptations (Non HRS)	37
91	Cleansing	78
0	Minor Works	0
54	Decoration Grants	26
2	Tenants Compensation	4
0	COVID Charges	0
133	Skip Recharges	197
34	Control Centre Recharge	28
0	Estate Shops	
170	Other Expenditure	361
11,231		11,244
	Income in year	
(11,098)	Contribution from HRA	(11,076)
0	Contribution to HRA	0
(133)	Repairs Account Income	(168)
0	Contribution from Leaseholders	0
0	Interest Received in year	0
(11,231)		(11,189)
(1,351)	Surplus Balance on 31 March	(1,296)

Note 6 – Capital Expenditure in the year

The Housing Revenue Account capital expenditure and sources of funding during the financial year are detailed in the following table:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	Capital investment	
14,732	Property, Plant and Equipment – HRA	16,308
0	Property, Plant and equipment – GF used as council housing	0
0	Non-Current Assets held for sale	0
0	Intangible Assets	0
0	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	0
14,732		16,308
	Sources of funding	
(2,557)	Capital Receipts	(804)
0	Revenue Contributions	0
(9,645)	Major Repairs Reserve	(13,042)
(1,713)	Prudential Borrowing	(1,307)
(817)	Government grants and other contributions	(1,155)
(14,732)		(16,308)
0	Balance unfunded at 31 March	0

* REFCUS is created when expenditure has been incurred on items that are not capitalised as assets but have been financed from capital resources. It is written down to the Housing Revenue Account over an appropriate period, usually in the same year in which the expenditure has been incurred. The total amount of REFCUS is £0.000m for 2024/25 (£0.000m in 2023/24).

Prior to the implementation of HRA Self-financing on 1 April 2012, supported borrowing levels had been issued annually by Central Government, authorising the Council to borrow monies, which were funded by Central Government to cover capital expenditure. Additionally, the Council was able to take out unsupported or prudential borrowing, which must be financed from its own resources. Post self-financing implementation and the end of the housing subsidy system, all borrowing will be prudential borrowing.

Note 7 - Capital Receipts

The cash receipts from the disposal of land, houses and other property within the HRA in the year are summarised as follows:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	Council dwellings	
(1,861)	- Right to Buy	(2,596)
(36)	- Discounts repaid	(11)
(66)	Other Receipts	(22)
0	- Land Sales reimbursements	(4)

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
0	- Reimbursement of expenditure on	0
0	General Fund property on sale	0
	Land receipts	
(1,963)		(2,633)
0	Less Pooled (Paid to Central Government)	0
(1,963)	Total	(2,633)

Note 8 - Rent Arrears

During the year 2024/25 total rent arrears decreased by £671k equal to 32.15%, to £2.758m. A summary of rent arrears and prepayments is shown in the following table:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
1,212	Current Tenant Arrears @ 31 March	1,637
875	Former Tenant Arrears @ 31 March	1,121
2,087	Total Rent Arrears	2,758
(726)	Prepayments @ 31 March	(902)
1,361	Net Rent Arrears	1,856

A charge from the Balance Sheet of £488,496.11 has been made in this year's accounts in respect of potentially non-collectable rent arrears, as detailed above, and associated miscellaneous debts. The value of provision held on the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025 is £1,881,290 (£1,584m at 31 March 2024).

Note 9 - Pension Costs

In line with the full adoption of IAS 19 'Employee Benefits' the Net Cost of Services includes the cost of retirement benefits when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is required when determining the movement on the HRA Balance for the year is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the HRA in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement. The following transactions have been made in the HRA during the year:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
	HRA Income & Expenditure Statement	
952	Current Service Cost	1,100
0	Past Service Costs	0
73	Net interest expense	(189)
1,025	Total	
(1,676)	Amount to be met from HRA	(1,851)
(651)	Movement on Pension Reserve	(940)

THE COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2023/24 £'000 Total		2024/25 £'000 Council Tax	2024/25 £'000 NNDR	2024/25 £'000 Total	Note
INCOME					
(52,971)	Council Tax Payers	(56,131)	-	(56,131)	2
(124)	Income from Ministry of Defence	(100)	-	(100)	
(33,466)	Income from Business Ratepayers	-	(39,068)	(39,068)	3
(1,533)	Transitional Relief Income	-	(93)	(93)	
(88,094)		(56,231)	(39,161)	(95,392)	
EXPENDITURE					
Precepts:					
7,556	- City of Lincoln Council	7,906	-	7,906	
37,966	- Lincolnshire County Council	40,524	-	40,524	
7,354	- Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	7,809	-	7,809	
Business Rates:					
18,818	- Payments to Government	-	20,126	20,126	3
15,054	- Payments to City of Lincoln Council	-	16,101	16,101	3
3,763	- Payments to Lincs County Council	-	4,025	4,025	3
139	- Cost of Collection	-	139	139	
-	- Transitional Relief Payments	-	-	-	
Bad and Doubtful Debts					
527	- Provisions	404	160	564	
342	- Write Offs	170	87	257	
(3,147)	- Provision for appeals	-	(55)	(55)	
778	Transfer of Collection Fund Surplus	(730)	1,170	440	4
89,150		56,084	41,753	97,837	
1,056	Deficit / (Surplus) for the year	(147)	2,592	2,445	
COLLECTION FUND BALANCE					
(970)	Balance brought forward at 1 st April	281	(195)	86	
1,056	Deficit/(Surplus) for the year (as above)	(147)	2,592	2,445	
86	Balance carried forward at 31st March	134	2,397	2,531	
Allocated to:					
(37)	- City of Lincoln Council	19	959	978	
181	- Lincolnshire County Council	96	240	336	
39	- Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	18	-	18	
(97)	- Government	-	1,199	1,199	
86		134	2,397	2,531	

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

Note 1 - General

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and its distribution to local government bodies and the Government.

The Council has a statutory requirement to operate a Collection Fund as a separate account to the General Fund. The purpose of the Collection Fund therefore, is to isolate the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Business Rates. The administrative costs associated with the collection process are charged to the General Fund.

Collection Fund surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to Council Tax are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year. For the City of Lincoln, the Council Tax precepting bodies are Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (PCCL).

In 2013/14, the local government finance regime was revised with the introduction of the retained business rates scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses in the City. It does, however, also increase the financial risk due to non-collection and the volatility of the NNDR tax base.

The scheme allows the Council to retain a proportion of the total NNDR received. For 2024/25, the City of Lincoln's proportionate share remained consistent with that of 2023/24, as follows:

	2024/25 'Pool'
City of Lincoln	40%
Lincolnshire County Council	10%
Central Government	50%

NNDR surpluses declared by the billing authority in relation to the Collection Fund are apportioned to the relevant precepting bodies in the subsequent financial year in their respective proportions. Deficits likewise are proportionately charged to the relevant precepting bodies in the following year.

The national code of practice followed by local authorities in England stipulates that a Collection Fund Income and Expenditure account is included in the Council's accounts. The Collection Fund Balance Sheet meanwhile is incorporated into the Council's Balance Sheet.

Note 2 - Council Tax Base

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into 9 valuation bands (A-H) for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by the Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base (i.e. the equivalent numbers of Band D dwellings).

The Council Tax base for 2024/25 was 25,669.23 (25,249.48 in 2023/24). The increase between financial years is as a result of a combination of additional properties and a reduction in the level of Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions. The tax base for 2024/25 was approved at the Executive on 19th February 2024 and was calculated as follows:

Band	Ratio	Dwellings	Equivalent Dwellings after discounts, exemptions and reliefs	Equivalent Band D Dwellings
A Reduced	5/9	51	20	11
A	6/9	26,323	18,164	12,109
B	7/9	8,579	7,377	5,738
C	8/9	4,693	4,220	3,751
D	9/9	2,435	2,267	2,267
E	11/9	1,110	1,044	1,276
F	13/9	391	373	539
G	15/9	134	130	216
H	18/9	17	12	24
Total		43,733	33,607	25,931
Deduction for Non-Collection				(324)
Crown Properties Adjustment				62
Tax Base for the Calculation of Council Tax				25,669

Dwellings for residents entitled to 'disabled relief reduction' are reduced to the next lowest band for the calculation of Council Tax. As band 'A' is the lowest band, 'A reduced' has been introduced to give effect to this reduction for those who reside in Band 'A' properties.

Income received from Council Taxpayers in 2024/25 was £56,131m (£52,971m in 2023/24).

Note 3 - Income from Business Ratepayers

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by Central Government. Historically the total amount due, less certain allowances, was paid to a central pool (the NNDR pool) administered by Central Government, which, in turn, paid to local authorities their

share of the pool, such shares being based on a standard amount per head of the local adult population.

In 2013/14, the administration of NNDR changed following the introduction of a business rates retention scheme which aims to give councils a greater incentive to grow businesses but also increases the financial risk due to volatility and non-collection of rates. Instead of paying NNDR to the central pool, local authorities retain a proportion of the total collectable rates due. For 2024/25, the City of Lincoln's retained share remained consistent with that of the previous year as follows:

	2023/24 'Pool'	2024/25 'Pool'
City of Lincoln	40%	40%
Lincolnshire County Council	10%	10%
Central Government	50%	50%

The business rates shares payable for 2024/25 were estimated before the start of the financial year as £20,126m (£18.818m in 2023/24) to Central Government, £4.025m (£3.764m in 2023/24) to LCC and £16,101m (£15.054m in 2023/24) to the City of Lincoln Council. These sums have been paid in 2024/25 and charged to the Collection Fund in year.

When the scheme was introduced, Central Government set a baseline level for each authority identifying the expected level of retained business rates and a top up or tariff amount to ensure that all authorities receive their baseline amount. Tariffs due from authorities payable to Central Government or to Top-up authorities within an NNDR Pooling arrangement are used to finance the top ups to those authorities who do not achieve their targeted baseline funding. In 2024/25 the City of Lincoln made a tariff payment from the General Fund to the County Council to the value of £12.609m (£12.209m in 2023/24).

The total income from business rate payers collected in 2024/25 was £39,068m (£33.466m in 2023/24).

In addition to the top up/tariff, a 'safety net' figure is calculated at 92.5% of baseline amount which ensures that authorities are protected to this level of Business Rates income (either through support from Central Government if they are not in a NNDR Pool/Pilot or as first call on gains from pooling/pilot if authorities are members of an NNDR Pool/Pilot). For the City of Lincoln the value of the safety net figure (net of tariff) is £3.825m in 2024/25 (£3.660m in 2023/24). The comparison of business rate income to the safety net uses the total income collected from business rate payers and adjusts for losses in collection, losses on appeal, transitional protection payments, the cost of collection and the revision to Small Business Rate Relief and other reliefs not allowed for when the safety net was set. The Council does not qualify for a safety net payment for 2024/25.

In addition to the local management of business rates, authorities are expected to finance appeals made in respect of rateable values as defined by VOA and hence business rates outstanding as at 31st March 2025. As such, authorities are required to make a provision for these amounts. Appeals are charged and provided for in

proportion of the precepting shares. The total provision withdrawn from the collection fund for 2024/25 has been calculated at £0.055m (£3.147m was withdrawn in 2023/24).

For 2024/25, the total non-domestic rateable value at the year-end is £109.4m (£108.7m in 2023/24). The national multipliers for 2024/25 were 49.9p for qualifying Small Businesses, and the standard multiplier being 54.6p for all other businesses (49.9p and 51.2p respectively in 2022/23).

Note 4 - Contributions to Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits

The Council has a statutory requirement to prepare an estimate each January of the surplus or deficit expected to arise at the end of the financial year. In January 2024 it was estimated that the Collection Fund would have a Council Tax deficit of £0.730m (£0.927m deficit in January 2023) and a Business Rates surplus of £1.170m (£1.705m surplus in January 2023), a combined Collection Fund surplus of £0.440m (£0.778m surplus in January 2023) and so the following amounts were due to or from the preceptors in 2024/25:

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
(546)	City of Lincoln Council	(364)
493	Lincolnshire County Council	407
127	Police & Crime Comm. Lincolnshire	102
(852)	Central Government	(585)
(778)	Total	(440)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO MEMBERS OF CITY OF LINCOLN
COUNCIL**

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Annual Governance Statement



2024/25

We want to make Lincoln the best place to live, raise a family, work and do business.

Our vision to deliver Lincoln's ambitious future is underpinned by five strategic priorities →

Delivering these priorities requires good governance, for all our residents, businesses, visitors, employees and Councillors. 'Good governance' is about how we ensure we are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, and that we do this in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It means that we conduct ourselves in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that we safeguard public money by using it economically, efficiently and effectively.

We must, to ensure we provide good governance, put in place proper governance arrangements to manage our affairs. We must ensure there is a sound system of governance, including effective internal controls, and that this is based on the principles of CIPFA's "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016". We also have a duty, under the Local Government Act 1999, to secure continuous improvement in the way we carry out our functions.

The last few years have been very challenging, both for the Council and for the city, and we are extremely proud of all the Council has achieved during this time. Like most councils we continue to face substantial funding pressures, with cost-of-living and inflationary challenges alongside new and increasing demands on council services dominating the past couple of years. As we move towards the end of Vision 2025 and prepare to deliver Vision 2030, we remain committed to being financially sustainable and delivering our One Council approach, transforming and protecting access to our services by investing in technology, and making them as efficient and effective as they can be.

This Annual Governance Statement looks honestly, and transparently, at how effective our governance has been during 2024/25 and sets out the ways we can further improve. By ensuring good governance, we can continue to evolve and innovate and deliver Lincoln's ambitious future.

This AGS comprises three Parts. Part 1 summarises the overall effectiveness of our governance framework in 2024/25, and Part 2 reviews how we have met the requirements of our 'Code of Corporate Governance' as it was applied in the last 12 months, what's working well, and what we can do to further improve our governance. Part 3 is an action plan for the steps we take over the next 12 months to further enhance our governance.





Statement of Opinion

The Council's governance arrangements are under continual review, and we are pleased to confirm our opinion that these arrangements in 2024/25 were sound and provided an effective means of achieving our priorities. The Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its governance arrangements to enable the identification of new and emerging issues throughout the coming year.



Cllr Naomi Tweddle, Leader:

Date: 19/06/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naomi Tweddle'.



Angela Andrews, Chief Executive:

Date: 19/06/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Andrews'.

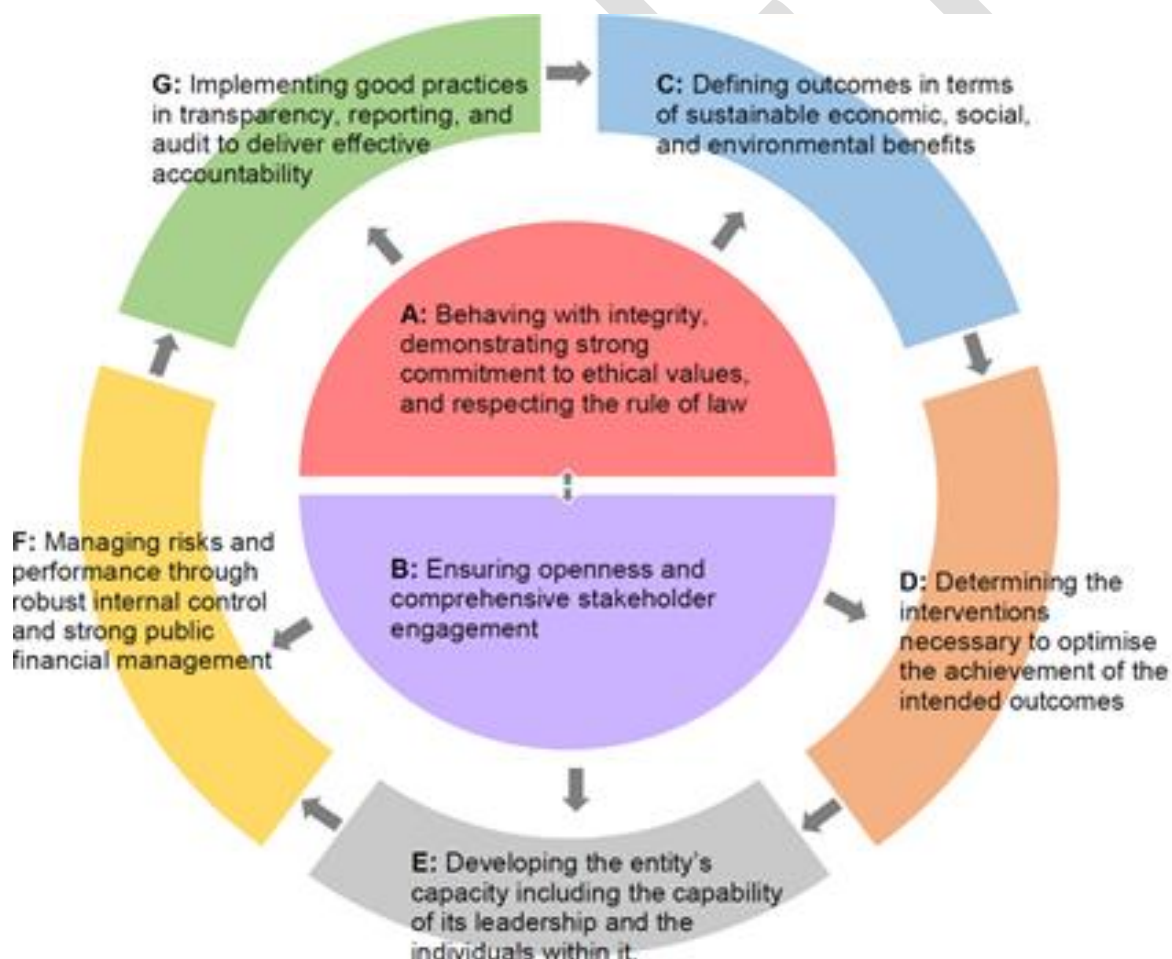


Part 1: Our Governance Framework

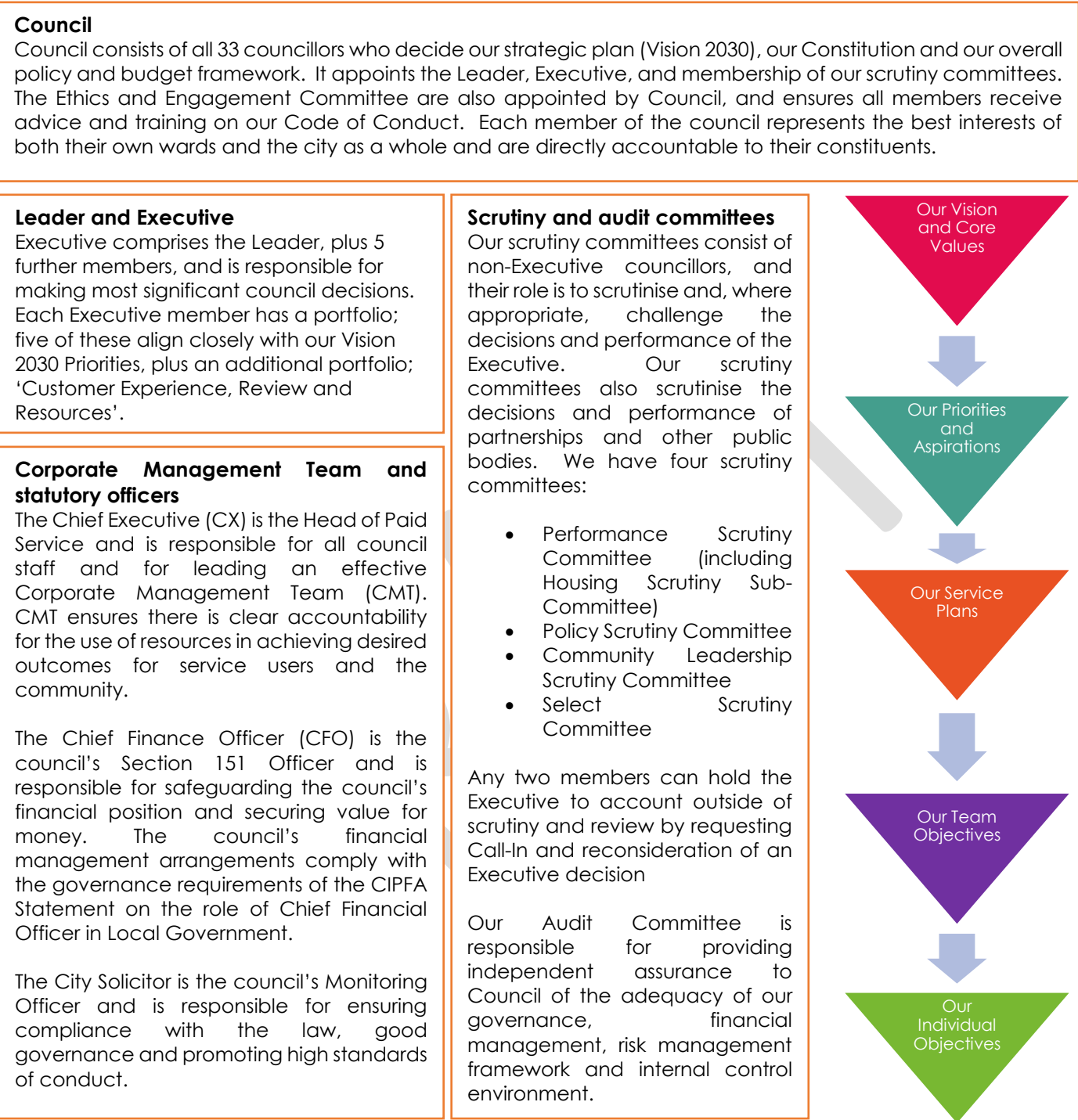
How we meet our governance responsibilities is defined in our Code of Corporate Governance. Our Code is updated annually and is based on the principles of CIPFA's "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016".

Our Code sets out the strategies, policies, systems and processes we use to control how we operate and defines our cultures and values. It enables us to effectively monitor achievement of our strategic objectives, and to measure how we deliver value for money in our services.

Our Code is based on seven core principles:



Responsibility for governance rests with a range of bodies and structures, summarised below:



Our Constitution updated regularly and is available [here](#).

Internal and External Assurance

Head of Internal Audit

The Head of Internal Audit is required annually to provide an opinion on the overall effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk and control framework and the extent to which these can be relied upon. In 2024/25 the Council was provided with the following levels of assurance:-

Performing Well	Performing Adequately
Governance Risk Financial Control	Internal Control

There were no significant governance issues raised within the audits completed. There were two limited reports issued.

Internal Control has been given a slightly lower level of assurance due to the results of the audits undertaken and the results of the combined assurance work. There has been no change from the opinions given in 2023/24.

The internal audit team has now been fully staffed since July 2024 and continues to be supplemented with specialist IT auditors through a contract arrangement. During 2024/25 an external provider was also used to provide additional support to cover the time lost through the vacancy at the beginning of the year.

Internal audits completed in 2024/25 include:

- IT Asset Management
- Debtors/Recovery
- VAT/Tax
- Treasury Management
- Council Tax
- Contract Management
- Governance Health Check
- Digital
- HB Subsidy
- Business Continuity
- Risk Management
- 2023/24 Follow-ups
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support – Key controls
- Contract Management Follow-up
- Fleet
- Housing Assistance
- Towns Fund
- LinCare

The findings from these audits have been reported to the Audit Committee during the year. Progress on implementing the actions arising from the reports are also reported to the Audit Committee throughout the year.

External Audit Annual Opinion

Our most recent External Audit Annual Opinion was published in February 2025, and relates to the financial year 2023/24.

A copy of this Annual Opinion encompasses our Statement of Accounts for 2023/24, our Value for Money arrangements and our wider reporting responsibilities. The Annual Opinion states that:

- The Council's Statement of Accounts was legally compliant;
- No indicators were identified of any significant weaknesses in the Council's Value for Money arrangements; and
- No indicators were identified of any significant weaknesses in the Council's Governance arrangements

The CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 (FM Code)

In December 2019, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) published its Financial Management code (the FM Code), providing guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities. The FM Code aims to assist local authorities to demonstrate their financial sustainability through a set of seventeen financial management standards.

CIPFA guidance issued in February 2021 requires Annual Governance Statements to now include an overall conclusion of the assessment of the organisation's compliance with these standards. An assessment against the FM Code was most recently undertaken and reported to the Audit Committee in March 2025, confirming an overall substantial level of compliance (76%) with the underlying principles of the FM Code, this is an increase from the 2023/24 assessment which was a 65% compliance rate. There are areas of improvement in 4 (24%) of the standards, the actions of which are set out in the table below.

Ref	Standard/description	RAG	Action
B	The authority complies with the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in Local Government.		To continue to support professional development – ongoing. To recruit to remaining Finance role to ensure fully resourced – Apr 25
E	The financial management style of the authority supports financial sustainability		Further implementation of business partnering approach – as capacity allows
F	The authority has carried out a credible and transparent financial resilience assessment.		Consider options for an independent financial resilience assessment – Mar 26
L	The authority has engaged where appropriate with key stakeholders in		To revise the Communication and Consultation Strategies –

	developing its long-term financial strategy, medium term financial plan and annual budget.		Mar 26
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No areas were identified as having minimum compliance.

It is not expected that there will be full compliance across all standards in the FM Code as continual improvement, routine revisions to policies and procedures, and assessment against best practice necessitate a need for new actions to be implemented following each annual assessment. The Council can be assured that it has achieved this level of substantial and reasonable assurance and that there are no areas of minimum compliance and no significant areas for improvement.

Our full assessment against the FM Code is available [here](#).

Significant governance issues monitored in 2024/25

There were no ongoing significant governance issues to monitor during 2024/25.

New significant governance issues identified in this AGS

Significant governance issues are those that present high financial, reputational or political risks to the Council. There are no significant governance issues identified in the AGS.

New governance issues that require monitoring, but do not meet the 'significant' governance issue' threshold

We have identified the following issues for monitoring over the next 12 months:

- Internal Audit have issued limited assurance reports for Housing Fleet. Monitoring of the completion of actions and follow-up audits to be completed during 2025/26.
- Internal Audit have issued limited assurance report for Debtors/Recovery. Monitoring of the completion of actions and follow-up audits to be completed during 2025/26.
- There is an ongoing need for all directorates to ensure financial, procurement and legal advice is sought for projects in a timely manner. This will continue to be monitored by the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.
- There remains limited additional capacity within internal professional support services to provide the advice and oversight necessary to ensure effective governance of significant and complex projects. Frontline services are also continuing to encounter capacity and recruitment challenges.
- The consequences and impacts on services (projects and day to day service delivery) working directly or relying heavily on those professional support services with limited capacity (This links to those identified above).

- The Lincoln Performance Management Framework (LPMM) is included above as an area of development, but should still be noted as an area of concern.

Conclusion

We can provide a high level of assurance that the governance arrangements operating at City of Lincoln Council, in line with our Code of Corporate Governance, are appropriate, fit for purpose and working well in practice.

No significant governance issues were identified in 2024/25. The Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its governance arrangements throughout the coming year, to enable the identification of new and emerging issues.




A detailed assessment of how we applied our Code in 2024/25 is provided in Part 2 of this document.

DRAFT




Part 2: Assessment of our Core Principles


What our definitions mean:

Assurance rating	Interpretation
 Acceptable	There are sound policies and processes in place that are working effectively across services, which provide for good governance arrangements and support both compliance with requirements of the CIPFA principle and the achievement of the council's aims and objectives. There may be minor areas for continuous improvement, but these do not represent a significant or material risk to the council's overall governance framework.
 Some development or areas for improvement	Whilst there are policies and processes in place, there are some areas that remain a challenge for the council or require further improvement which may impact the effectiveness of elements of the council's governance arrangements, compliance with the CIPFA principle and the achievement of the council's aims and objectives. The council has an action plan in place to address these matters.
 Key development or many areas for improvement	Significant challenges have been identified which may impact the effectiveness of elements of the our governance arrangements, compliance with the CIPFA principle and achievement of our aims and objectives. We have implemented plans for corrective actions to manage these risks.

Core Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We undertook a scheduled annual update of our Code of Corporate Governance We continued to monitor our compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 as projects commence We continued to review our compliance with the Elections Act 2022 as the commencement orders came into place Provided training to members of the Audit Committee on the new internal audit standards and specifically changes to the requirements for them. Successful recruitment to key corporate support functions such as legal, finance and internal audit. Updated Procurement guidance and processes with training to relevant officers now the Procurement Act now in force. Reviewed Equality Impact Assessment internal guidance and EIA template. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical values, standards and formal codes of conduct are defined in our Constitution and form the basis for developing our policies, procedures, and the behaviour of our Members and employees. We have appropriate processes in place to ensure that Members and employees are not influenced by prejudice, bias or conflicts of interest when engaging and making decisions with stakeholders, as well as effective systems to protect the rights of employees. All Council decisions consider legal and equality implications with support from our Legal Services team. Our Constitution is regularly updated to ensure it remains fit for purpose and meets the needs of the city and its residents. Our Audit Committee includes two independent Members, and provides assurance on the adequacy of our internal control environment by ensuring high standards of conduct are embedded within the Council's culture. The Committee also monitors all governance issues raised, and oversees our internal and external audit arrangements. We have, after a protracted period of recruitment difficulties, successfully appointed to the remaining audit post that supports the Audit Manager in their role. Additional capacity was sourced via external consultants, to ensure we were able to meet our internal audit demands and monitor combined assurance. We have a robust approach to information governance. Our Data Protection Officer is highly visible within the Council, and ICO guidance is shared with all service areas to ensure staff at all levels receive appropriate training and feedback if data breaches occur. Counter Fraud Policy/Procedures in place. Fraud awareness training provided for Elected Members, CLT and Service Managers. Audit Committee strengthened with the inclusion of a second Independent Member. 	<p>Roll out and deliver training on the revised Equality Impact Assessment internal guidance and EIA template and monitor impact.</p> <p>Continuation of embedding those actions arising from contract management internal audit and subsequent secondary audit undertaken.</p> <p>Continue to revise processes, procedures and documents to ensure that the revised Internal Audit Standards are complied with.</p>	


Core Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation and Engagement staff guidance and ways of engaging through community workshops on Vision 2030 and Budget consultation have been trialled. Engagement at a local level within communities and neighbourhoods have been included as key actions within the first 12 months of Vision 2030. Continue to review of the Citizens Panel, and recruit new Panel members in a way that reflects the current makeup of the City. Continued to develop more permanent and usable feedback systems for services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council makes sure our partners in the private, public and voluntary sector, as well individual citizens and service users, are engaged in and have full access to information relating to decision making. We expect reports to decision makers to be open, to provide all the necessary material to ensure informed decisions are made that are in the best interests of the city and communities, and to have engaged stakeholders and service users in arriving at proposals under consideration. We have improved our Citizens' Panel processes to include feedback loops so respondents can find out how their feedback has influenced/changed how we operate. Consultation and Engagement staff guidance - alternative engagement activities have been piloted in preparation for this work were completed during 2024/25 for both Vision 2030 and budget consultation. Different engagement methods have been trialled, recognising that some customers find it difficult to complete paper/online surveys and how this is influenced by digital exclusion in some parts of the city. Bespoke face to face engagement sessions with members of the community have taken place. Improved approach to stakeholder consultation – Citizens' Panel surveys now include a feedback loop so respondents can find out how their feedback has been used. Community Development Toolkit' for local Ward Councillors to provide additional help and support within their community. Increased focus on improving knowledge of how demographic profiles for consultations compares with the city's makeup. 	<p>Further enhancements can still be made to demonstrate greater incorporation of LCP feedback, such as incorporating survey results into reports to Scrutiny/Executive. This can be further supported by our renewed efforts to collect E&D data from survey respondents, so decision takers can compare the diversity/demographics of respondents against the city's makeup (source – Lincoln City Profile).</p> <p>A focus on the feedback loop and 'you said, we did' from all sources of feedback, from surveys to complaints.</p>	

Core Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of their sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits


Vision 2025 is the Council's vision for the five years to 2025 and through to Vision 2030. As with previous strategic plans, Vision 2025 was developed using a robust evidence base including information gained through consultation with local residents and businesses, and evidence from the Lincoln City Profile. The current priorities in Vision 2025 are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's address the challenge of climate change
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's enhance our remarkable place

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further progressed implementation of Phases 1a and development of 1b of Western Growth Corridor. • Progressed further the implementation of the place strategy for Park Ward/Sincil Bank • Finalised our 30-year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for the period 2023 – 2053 • Lincoln City Profile - information from the Lincoln City Profile supported the development of Vision 2030. • Development and approval of Vision 2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have good internal controls for implementing programmes/projects, monitoring progress against major developments, and competing for funding streams in a way that best benefits the city including Western Growth Corridor, regeneration of Lincoln Central Market, new council homes on Hermit Street, UKSPF projects and preparatory stages of the redevelopment of Greyfriars. • We have good controls relating to large contracts such as waste which provides a good case study of resource allocation and the amount of time/effort now required to let large and embed large contracts. • Our 'Vision Boards' regularly review progress of objectives derived from our strategic priorities, ensuring our corporate Vision stays relevant and on track. • All Executive Members provide an annual report to Performance Scrutiny Committee and Council on progress against their portfolios. 	<p>There are tools and methodologies that can be investigated to better understand and demonstrate social value which will be reviewed in 2025/26 and this action has been included in the Vision 2030 action plan.</p>	


What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our annual Lincoln City Profile helps us to demonstrate we understand our city's demographics. • Town Deal Board and associated programmes/projects demonstrate how the council's approach to regeneration and major development is strategic and outcome focused, identifying how projects will benefit communities and closely aligned with its corporate priorities. • Analysis of 2021 Census data/Lincoln City Profile continues. • Agreed the Housing Revenue Account 30-year Housing Business Plan for the period 2023 – 2053. • Significant progress implementation of Phases 1a and 1b of Western Growth Corridor. 		

Core Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes


What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two business continuity desktop exercises were undertaken during 2024/25. Provided risk management refresher training to Members and officers. Updated our Business Continuity Policy and Strategy. Refreshed our Business Continuity Plans for critical services. An ICT Strategy is currently in draft. Work has taken place to identify opportunities for service transformation across directorates. The Council's Productivity Plan was completed in 2024. Website improvements are continuing to progress to ensure the council's website contains accurate information and development of microsites has progressed. <p><i>* the approach to applications and new technologies is being considered in light of Local Government Reorganisation as this has implications on a longer term strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council clearly defines its priorities and plans to ensure delivery of their intended outcomes. Service plans are now in development to cover the period ending March 2026. Work has continued to ensure robust management of the Council's services, and most projects continue to utilise the Lincoln Project Management Model (LPMM), through which we continuously assess the risks of not fully delivering plans and ensure that there are mitigating actions in place to support the achievement of intended outcomes. The Council's financial management arrangements ensure that there is adequate resource available to deliver our plans. The Council reviews progress against delivering those outcomes through its performance management framework. As the only urban conurbation in a predominantly rural county, Lincoln is disproportionately affected by homelessness compared to its district neighbours. The Council's financial plans are significantly impacted by arranging temporary accommodation for those to whom we owe a legal duty, and shortages of temporary accommodation in the city mean that our costs exceed the local housing allowance we receive from government. We have been, and are continuing to explore all options to manage this strategic issue, both to make the most effective use of our finite resources and to ensure the best outcomes for our most vulnerable people. Brought together key roles responsible for business intelligence, business analysis, online services, and policy and performance management into a new Corporate Policy and Transformation Team. Business Continuity Policy & Strategy updated. Testing of business continuity systems through desktop exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress an Emergency Plan Review. Review the application of the updated LPMM documentation to ensure compliance in project delivery. Complete ICT Strategy. 	

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
	<p>have been undertaken in 2024. Internal audit undertaken which provided substantial assurance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal adoption of a new IT Disaster Recovery Plan. • Risk Management refresher training to Members and officers undertaken, with strategy for renewal in 2025 (in light of Vision 2030). • A comprehensive review, in partnership with key stakeholders has taken place during 2024/25 to understand the complexities of poverty in Lincoln. A series of topics have been heard at Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee to support the anti-poverty work. • Vision 2030 and a supporting action plan for the first 12-18 months has been developed and approved. • The Lincoln Project Management Model has been thoroughly reviewed with rollout in June 2025. 		

Core Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it


What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workforce skills audit has been completed and an action plan drawn up. Continued to build on employee retention and professional training opportunities for our employees. Reviewed the Council's Our People Strategy. Continued implementing our Organisational Development Action Plan, including a needs and skills gap analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council ensures a management structure that provides leadership and creates the opportunity for staff to work effectively and efficiently to achieve our objectives. Under our One Council approach, we have in place an organisational development pillar that aims to ensure our workforce has the necessary skills and behaviours to deliver our Vision for the city, and is effectively engaged to champion the Council's corporate priorities. Partnership working extends capacity for key projects to be delivered beyond the Council's own resources and is embedded within our Vision 2025/2030 objectives. Local government continues to be a very competitive labour market, and we are exploring a range of avenues to improve recruitment, retention and succession planning, and skills. Scheduling of work activities/new projects as part of Vision 2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement actions will be considered alongside LGR proposals. 	

Core Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of our Contract Procedure Rules upon enactment of the Procurement Act completed. Productivity Plan published and Value for Money Statement refreshed. Training to all officers with budget responsibility on revised Financial Procedure Rules and continue to develop a business partnering approach to financial management. Skills and knowledge assessment of Audit Committee selected and independent members undertaken with training plan developed in response. Implemented the majority of actions within our agreed action plan to ensure compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code. Updated the Lincoln Performance Management Framework, to reflect current LGA best practice. Progress to make greater use of PIMS to manage both performance measures and progress updates for service plan actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council recognises the need to implement an effective performance management system that will allow us to deliver services effectively and efficiently. We understand that risk management, internal control and strong financial management are essential for us to achieve our objectives and we have put appropriate arrangements in place. Robust and thorough performance management system in place, which is high profile among Members and officers. Both annual performance target setting and quarterly performance reporting are well scrutinised, and officers across the council are actively engaged in the performance process. Performance data is used to identify opportunities for service improvements. Recent restructuring of performance management functions has helped deliver consistency of approach when reporting performance. This will continue to be strengthened over the coming year. Recent inclusion of DMD performance measures in quarterly performance reporting, to assess delivery of growth objectives and track progress of major developments/regeneration. Quarterly reporting of our treasury management activities Robust and thorough performance management system in place, which is high profile among Members and officers. Both annual performance target setting and quarterly performance reporting are well scrutinised, and officers across the council are actively engaged in the performance process. Performance data is used to identify opportunities for service improvements. The strategic risk register is updated, scrutinised and reported quarterly, and directorate risk registers are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance over internal controls – Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 has been reviewed to include different audit types to expand breadth of areas covered. Risk Management Strategy to be refreshed in 2025, to reflect Vision 2030. Terms of Reference for Audit Committee to provide for an Independent Chair to supplement the knowledge and skills of Elected Members and help achieve a non-political focus on the Council's arrangements for audit, risk management, governance and control. Bi-annual review of effectiveness of Audit Committee. 	

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI Policy in draft to enhance performance management corporate wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts have been externally audited, providing external assurance of the council's financial position and confirmation that internal controls are effective. Internal controls are in place to ensure all corporate strategies, policies and other key documents are reviewed regularly. 'Towards Financial Sustainability' programme in place, to ensure the council's ongoing resilience. This is closely monitored, and reported quarterly to Members through financial performance reporting and via the strategic risk register. Regular monitoring of Internal audit agreed actions to ensure implemented and a sample checked to ensure the control environment has been strengthened. Results reported to the Audit Committee. Updated LPMF in line with LGA best practice including data quality. Productivity Plan completed and VFM Statement refreshed. Skills and knowledge assessments undertaken for Audit Committee members the results of which have fed into the training plan. This process will be repeated periodically ensuring that the training needs are addressed. 		

Core Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

What we achieved in 2024/25	What's currently working well	Where we can improve	Overall assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a review of the Lincoln Performance management Framework. Continue to develop performance management tools via the Council's PIMS system including monitoring of service plans. Audit Committee Terms of Reference updated in light of latest CIPFA Guidance, with the inclusion of a second Independent Member. Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Strategy updated ahead of 2025/26 to reflect new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise that effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the Council plans and carries out its activities in an open, transparent and proportionate manner. Performance is managed under the principles of our Performance Management Framework (LPMF). Actions arising from the AGS are monitored by the Audit Committee, and progress reported. Forward plans for key committee meetings, including Audit Committee, are published well in advance and routinely updated. This includes regular reporting on both internal and external audit activity. Annual review and reporting of assurances linked to key partnerships for which the council is a member, and active participation in partnerships to ensure the city is appropriately represented. Good internal mechanisms for capturing and reporting information required to be published by the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. Effective management and oversight of all aspects of the Lincoln Community Lottery, including auditing of registered good causes. Positive and proactive approach to the scrutiny, with strong Member engagement in the process. This includes quarterly scrutiny of financial and treasury management. Robust approach to assurance mapping, led by the Head of Internal Audit. Regular reporting of corporate complaints data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We now have LPMF in place and LPMM however need to include tools that support agile methodology. There are some final amendments to make before final approval in early 25/26. Implementation of new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and other actions included within the QAIP to ensure full compliance and quality audit service. 	



Part 3: Action Plan

This section lists the actions required to address the governance issues highlighted in Part 1 of this AGS, where no actions currently exist within the Council's governance framework to address them.

There are no significant governance issues identified in this AGS. One of the five governance issues are to be monitored over the coming year already have actions associated with them either through the internal audit and review process, or within existing plans and strategies.

The action plan for this AGS therefore contains only one action:

Ref.	Action	By Whom	By When	Core Principle
AGS/25/01	Complete a review of the Lincoln Project Management Model (LPMM) to ensure corporate oversight and project compliance.	Business Manager – Corporate Policy and Transformation	June 2025	D

GLOSSARY

AAA FITCH RATING

Highest credit quality - 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA FITCH RATING

Very high credit quality - 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events. The modifier "+" or "-", may be appended to the rating to denote relative status within the category.

A FITCH RATING

High credit quality - 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings. The modifier "+" or "-", may be appended to the rating to denote relative status within the category.

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

ACCRUALS

Sums included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditure earned or incurred in the financial year, but for which actual payment had not been received or made as at 31 March.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial surpluses or deficits that arise because:

- Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses); or
- The actuarial assumptions have changed

ASSET

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms. Assets are categorised as either current or fixed:

- A current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g. cash and stock);
- A fixed asset provides benefits to the Council and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year and may be tangible e.g. a community centre, or intangible, e.g. computer software licences.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs.

BALANCE SHEET

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

BORROWING

Government support for capital investment is described as either Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) known as SCE(R) or Supported Capital Expenditure (Capital Grant) known as SCE(C). SCE can be further classified as either Single Capital Pot (SCP) or ring-fenced.

BUDGET

The forecast of net revenue and capital expenditure over the accounting period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL FINANCING

Funds raised to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital schemes the Council intends to carry out over a specific period of time.

CAPITAL RECEIPT

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the Government but they cannot be used to finance revenue expenditure.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

CLAW-BACK

Where average council house rents are set higher than the Government's prescribed average limit rent, used in the calculation of rent rebates, the percentage difference reduces the amount of rent rebate subsidy due to the Council, i.e. it is "clawed-back" by the Government.

COLLECTION FUND

A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and non-domestic rates.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

CONSISTENCY

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next are the same.

CONTINGENT ASSET

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

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability is either:

- A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control; or
- A present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC CORE

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

CREDITOR

Amount owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefits pension scheme's liabilities, expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

DEBTOR

Amount owed to the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

DEFERRED CHARGES

Expenditure which can be properly deferred (i.e. treated as capital in nature), but which does not result in, or remain matched with, a tangible asset. Examples of deferred charges are grants of a capital nature to voluntary organisations.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the cost of wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the Council's assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS (PENSIONS)

Retirement benefits, which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Council's discretionary powers such as the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.

EQUITY

The Council's value of total assets less total liabilities.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

EXPECTED RETURN ON PENSION ASSETS

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

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Material items, possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the Council and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items, nor do they include prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

FAIR VALUE INPUT LEVELS

Basis for recurring fair value measurements:

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

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

GOING CONCERN

The concept that the Statement of Accounts is prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants made by the Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council. These grants may be specific to a particular scheme or may support the revenue spend of the Council in general.

HOUSING BENEFITS

A system of financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs administered by authorities and subsidised by Central Government.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

A separate account to the General Fund, which includes the income and expenditure arising from the provision of housing accommodation by the Council.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset to below its carrying amount in the Balance Sheet.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The revenue account of the Council that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from precepts, grants and other income.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

An intangible (non-physical) item may be defined as an asset when access to the future economic benefits it represents is controlled by the reporting entity. This Council's intangible assets comprise computer software licences.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period of the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

INVESTMENTS (PENSION FUND)

The investments of the Pension Fund will be accounted for in the statements of that fund. However, authorities are also required to disclose, as part of the disclosure requirements relating to retirement benefits, the attributable share of the pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

LIABILITY

A liability is where the Council owes payment to an individual or another organisation.

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

LIQUID RESOURCES

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the Council without disrupting its business and are either:

- Readily convertible to known amounts of cash at or close to the carrying amount; or
- Traded in an active market

LONG-TERM CONTRACT

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or the provision of a service (or a combination of assets or services which together constitute a single project), where the time taken to substantially complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into more than one accounting period.

MATERIALITY

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should include all amounts which, if omitted or mis-stated, could be expected to lead to a distortion of the financial statements and ultimately mislead a user of the accounts.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the revenue account each year in order to provide for the repayment of loans and other amounts borrowed by the Council.

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

The National Non-Domestic Rate is a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the Government and multiplied by the assessed rateable value of the premises they occupy. It is collected by the Council on behalf of Central Government and then redistributed back to support the cost of services.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical costs or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET DEBT

The Council's borrowings less cash and liquid resources.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and as such are not apportioned to services

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties, assets under construction or assets surplus to requirements pending sale or redevelopment.

OPERATING LEASE

A lease where the ownership of the fixed asset remains with the lessor.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Council in the pursuit of its strategy and in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

PAST SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit pension 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.

PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES

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

PRECEPT

The levy made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council Tax on their behalf.

PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

PROVISION

An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLb)

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

RATEABLE VALUE

The annual assumed rental of a hereditament, which is used for NNDR purposes.

RELATED PARTIES

There is a detailed definition of related parties in FRS 8. For the Council's purposes related parties are deemed to include the Council's members, the Chief Executive, its Directors and their close family and household members.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Code requires the disclosure of any material transactions between the Council and related parties to ensure that stakeholders are aware when these transactions occur and the amount and implications of such.

REMUNERATION

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. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

RESERVES

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

RESIDUAL VALUE

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The day-to-day expenses of providing services.

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

A grant paid by Central Government to authorities, contributing towards the general cost of their services.

STOCKS

Items of raw materials and stores a Council has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and products and services in intermediate stages of completion.

TEMPORARY BORROWING

Money borrowed for a period of less than one year.

TRUST FUNDS

Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes, charities, specific projects and on behalf of minors.

USEFUL ECONOMIC LIFE (UEL)

The period over which the Council will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP)

The cost of work performed on an uncompleted project at the Balance Sheet date, which should be accounted for.

SUBJECT: AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

REPORT AUTHOR: JACLYN GIBSON, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide details of the Audit Committee work programme for 2025/26.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) identifies the purpose of an Audit Committee, in its Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022 Edition, as providing an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. The committee's role in ensuring that there is sufficient assurance over governance risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance that those arrangements are effective.
- 2.2 In local authorities, audit committees are necessary to satisfy the wider requirements for sound financial and internal control. Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state 'the relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which; facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective; and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk'.
- 2.3 With a known work plan, and appropriate and timely learning and development for Members, the committee will be well prepared, and members will gain the knowledge and experience needed to carry out their role effectively.
- 2.4 The Audit Committee approves a work programme each year and monitors progress against it. Any changes to the work programme are reported to the Committee.
- 2.5 A copy of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix A, these were last approved by Full Council on 13th May 2025.

3. 2025/26 Work Programme

- 3.1 The proposed work programme for 2025/26 based on the Committee's Terms of Reference and cyclical reporting, is attached at Appendix B.
- 3.2 Since last reporting to this Committee, the following change have been made to the work programme (as shown in red/*italics* in Appendix B):
- External Audit: Progress Report – this has been removed from the July 2025 meeting.

- Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit – this has been moved from the December 2025 meeting until February 2026.
- Counter Fraud Strategy and Policy – this has been added to the December 2025 meeting.

4. Learning and Development

- 4.1 CIPFA identify a key characteristic of an effective Audit Committee as having a membership that is balanced, objective, independent of mind, knowledgeable and properly trained to fulfil their role. There is a range of knowledge and experience that audit committee members can bring to the committee which will enable it to perform effectively. No one committee member is expected to be an expert in all areas. There are however some core areas of knowledge which committee members need to acquire in addition to the need for regular briefings and training.
- 4.2 All Members and substitute Members of the Audit Committee have previously been sent a questionnaire/survey to assess their individual skills and knowledge in relation to the functions of the Committee. The results of this self-assessment informed the latest training a development plan which was presented to this Committee in June 2025.
- 4.3 Specific briefing sessions for the Audit Committee are shown included on the Work Programme at Appendix B, although there is also an emphasis on independently led training i.e. the LGA E-learning modules, LGA publications, CIPFA Audit Committee Updates. The CIPFA Audit Committee Updates are usually included in the Internal Audit Progress Reports as and when CIPFA publish them, the latest issue, no 42, was included in the June 2025 Progress Report.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications arising as a result of this report.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 By identifying the key topics to be considered at the Audit Committee meetings and receiving appropriate learning and development sessions in respect of their roles and responsibilities, Audit Committee Members can undertake their duties effectively and deliver them to a high standard, thereby adding to:

- the robustness of the risk management framework;
- the adequacy of the internal control environment and
- the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance of the Council.

7. Recommendation

7.1 Audit Committee are asked to note the revised work programme for 2025/26.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? Two

List of Background Papers: None

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Audit Committee Terms of Reference (Section 9 Constitution)

1 Audit Committee

- 1.1 The Audit Committee is directly accountable to Full Council. It is independent of both the executive and the scrutiny functions and is a key advisory Committee providing independent oversight, recommendations, opinions and influence on the matters for which it is responsible. To assist the Audit Committee in fulfilling its role, it has a right of access to and is expected to engage constructively with other committees and functions, and has the right to request reports and seek assurances from relevant officers.
- 1.2 The Audit Committee must conduct its proceedings in accordance with Rules 6-8, 12.3 to 12.7, 14 -17 and 18-28 (but not Rule 23.1 or 26) of the Council Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 1.3 The Council will appoint an Audit Committee as follows:-
- a. Seven Members in accordance with the political proportionality rules, who may be represented by designated substitutes in their absence, provided they have met the training requirements.
 - b. None of the Members should be Executive Portfolio Holders or the Mayor.
 - c. The committee membership will also comprise of at least one suitably (maximum of two) experienced or knowledgeable independent member(s), appointed by Council.
 - d. An independent member will also fulfil the role of Chair of the Committee. The independent member(s) will be required to sign a Declaration of Interest and have regard to the Council's Code of Conduct, have a tenure of 2 years, extendable up to a maximum of 8 years, and will not participate in voting. In the event of a tied vote, the independent member serving as Chair will not have the right to a casting vote.
 - e. The Council will also appoint a Vice Chair from the committee's membership. In the absence of the independent Chair, the Vice Chair will act in the Chair for the duration of the meeting. In such circumstances, the Vice Chair in the Chair will retain their voting rights by virtue of being a Councillor.
 - f. The quorum for a meeting of the Committee will be three Councillors.
 - g. The number of ordinary meetings per year will be at least four.

2 Statement of purpose

- 2.1 The Audit Committee is a key component of the City of Lincoln's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Council members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the City of Lincoln's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.
- 2.3 To decide upon and authorise allowances to the Committee's Independent Member. The special responsibility allowance of the Chair of the Committee is determined by Council.

3 Governance, risk and control

- 3.1 To review the Council's arrangements for corporate governance, including the local Code of Corporate Governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice (the good governance framework, including the ethical framework).
- 3.2 To monitor the effectiveness of the Authority's risk management arrangements (development and operation).
- 3.3 To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the Committee.
- 3.4 To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- 3.5 To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
- 3.6 To consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- 3.7 To monitor the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements (including an assessment of fraud risks and potential harm from fraud and corruption).
- 3.8 To monitor the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.
- 3.9 To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.

- 3.10 To consider reports on customer complaints against service provision and monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements for managing these complaints.
- 3.11 To monitor and oversee Information Governance practices within the Council.
- 3.12 To maintain an overview of the Council's constitution in respect of contract procedure rules and financial procedure rules.
- 3.13 To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive, a Strategic Director, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer or any Council body as the Chair considers appropriate within the general Terms of Reference of the Committee.
- 3.14 To consider the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.
- 3.15 To report and make recommendations to Executive or Council on major issues and contraventions.
- 3.16 To support ethical values and reviewing arrangements to achieve those values as appropriate.

4 Financial Reporting

Governance Reporting

- 4.1 To review the Authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval, ensuring it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances (including internal audit's annual opinion on governance, risk and control).
- 4.2 To consider whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the authority's objectives.
- 4.3 To consider whether any non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the AGS.

Financial Reporting

- 4.4 To monitor the arrangements and preparations for financial reporting to ensure that statutory requirements and professional standards can be met.
- 4.5 The Audit Committee, as the Committee "Charged with Governance" should consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

- 4.6 To review the annual statement of accounts. The Committee should consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are any concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.
- 4.7 To receive on an annual basis a report on the Treasury Management Strategy before approval by the Executive and Full Council.
- 4.8 To be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

5 Arrangements for audit and assurance

- 5.1 To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.

External Audit

- 5.2 To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments) or the authority's auditor panel as appropriate.
- 5.3 To consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies, including the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- 5.4 To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- 5.5 To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- 5.6 To commission work from internal and external audit, as required, and as resources allow.
- 5.7 To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- 5.8 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the auditors, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee.
- 5.9 Monitor management action in response to any issues raised by external audit.

Internal Audit

- 5.10 To approve the Internal Audit Charter.

- 5.11 To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
- 5.12 To approve (but not direct) internal audit's risk-based annual audit plan including resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those sources.
- 5.13 To approve significant interim changes to the risk based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
- 5.14 To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of internal audit (Audit Manager) to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- 5.15 To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Head of internal audit. To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.
- 5.16 Consider reports from the Head of internal audit concerning internal audit activity including internal audit reports on the effectiveness of internal controls (key findings and issues of concern) and seeking assurance that action has been taken where necessary on the implementation of agreed actions.
- 5.17 To monitor audit performance, including QAIP (Quality Assurance and Improvement Program) results and any non-conformance with PSIAS (Public Sector Internal Audit Standards) and LGAN (Local Government Application Notes).
- 5.18 Receive and consider the annual report and opinion of the Head of internal audit including conformance with PSIAS.
- 5.19 To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested by the Audit Committee.
- 5.20 To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Head of internal audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
- 5.21 To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
- 5.22 Consider the regular review of effectiveness of internal audit to support the AGS, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 5.23 To provide free and unfettered access to the Audit Committee Chair for the Head of internal audit, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee.
- 5.24 To have the right to call any Officers or Members of the Council as required to offer explanation in the management of internal controls and risks.

6 Accountability arrangements

- 6.1 To report to Full Council on an annual basis the Committee's performance in relation to meeting their Terms of reference and the effectiveness of meeting their purpose. The report to include findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements and internal and external audit functions.
- 6.2 To publish an annual report on the work of the Committee, including a conclusion on the compliance with the CIPFA position Statement.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
AUDIT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2025/26**

Meeting dates	Audit Items – Revised Agenda	Training
2 nd June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report • Annual Internal Audit Report • Annual Fraud & Error Report • Information Governance Update • Annual Governance Statement (Draft) • Audit Committee Training Programme • External Audit – Progress Report • Risk Management Annual Update • Audit Committee Work Programme 	
14 th July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Recommendations Follow Up Report • Statement of Accounts 2024/25 (Draft) • External Audit – Progress Report • Audit Committee Work Programme 	Local Government Financial Statements
22 nd Sept 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report • Internal Audit Revised Audit Plan • Review of Effectiveness Committee Progress Report • External Audit – Progress Report • Annual Complaints Report • Audit Committee Work Programme 	Risk Management TBC (potentially to be held on a separate date)
9 th Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit – Annual Auditor's Report 2024/25 • External Audit – Audit Completion Report (IAS260) 2024/25 • Statement of Accounts 2024/25 (Final) • Audit Recommendations Follow Up Report • Six Month Fraud & Error Report 	

APPENDIX B

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Governance update • Annual Governance Statement – Progress Report • Financial Procedure Rules • Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit • Counter Fraud Strategy and Policy • Review of Effectiveness of Audit Committee • Audit Committee Work Programme 	
3 rd Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury management Policy and Strategy • Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit • Internal Audit progress Report • Anti-Bribery Policy • Audit Committee Work Programme 	Treasury Management
24 th Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Charter • Audit Recommendations Follow Up Report • Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 26/27 • External Audit – Audit Strategy Memorandum 25/26 • Statement on Accounting Policies • IAS19 – Assumptions • External Audit Inquiries • Partnership Governance • CIPFA Financial Management Code • Audit Committee Work Programme 	

A private meeting between the Audit Committee and internal and external audit managers can be arranged outside of the meeting agenda times.