



**Norfolk** County Council

**Statement of  
Accounts  
2023-24**

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**Narrative Report**

**a) Norfolk County Council**



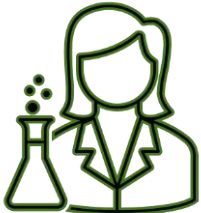
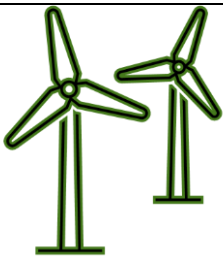


Norfolk County Council is a shire county authority representing the whole of Norfolk. The county covers a large area of around 550,000 hectares and is home to approximately 918,500 residents. With over 100 miles of coastline, historic and cultural assets, rural landscapes, coastal communities, market towns and three urban centres, Norfolk boasts a unique and distinctive identity.

Norfolk contains several diverse economies, contributing £22.36bn to the GDP of UK PLC, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> for jobs and 10<sup>th</sup> for business numbers with six Enterprise Zones. Norfolk has significant assets in the biotechnology, clean energy and creative digital sectors, driving strong innovation and providing a home for thousands of well paid, knowledge-economy jobs. It is also home to two award winning universities: Norwich University of the Arts and the University of East Anglia and a wealth of world class research, with the Norwich Research Park hosting some 3,000 scientists and clinicians working in key areas of research including climate change, food, security and technology. Norfolk is ranked in the top 20 counties for the quality of research outputs.

The mainstay of Norfolk’s economy remains in agriculture and tourism. Norfolk’s farmland is some of the most productive in the UK and supports the food and drink sector nationally. Norfolk is also a popular tourist destination, drawing visitors from the UK and abroad. Norfolk people continue to rate their life satisfaction and happiness above the average for England and life expectancy in Norfolk is also better than the average for England.

**b) The Socio-Economic Context**

2023-24 was the year Norfolk began to truly recover from the COVID pandemic, with unprecedented levels of demand for services driven by local demographics and the increased cost of living. It was also the year when the economy experienced a combination of rising inflation and interest rates coupled with a cost-of-living crisis. Across the globe, the Russian-Ukraine war continued to disrupt the supply of goods and conflicts in the Middle East had a detrimental impact on the cost of fuel. Despite the challenging environment, Norfolk County Council’s aims and ambitions remain unchanged; to secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our residents, businesses and communities. These ambitions were set out in the Council’s strategy Better Together for Norfolk, launched in November 2021, and are summed up in the five strategic priorities as set out below.

	<p>Norfolk is the fifth largest shire county in England, with a population of just over 918,500 projected to grow to over 1m by 2043</p>
	<p>Norfolk is one of the largest county economies, worth £22.36bn and ranking 15<sup>th</sup> for jobs (449,800 employees) and 10<sup>th</sup> for business numbers (39,765 businesses)</p>
	<p>Norfolk is home to a wealth of world class research, working in some of the areas of greatest importance to society</p>
	<p>Together with Suffolk, we generate over half the UK’s offshore wind power capacity – with more planned – and almost a third of its gas</p>
	<p>Norfolk has some of the most productive farmland in the UK. This supports an advanced and nationally significant food and drink sector</p>
	<p>With 563ha of employment land we have space to start up and grow, with lower-than-average operating, property and living costs</p>



**A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

– supporting skills, high value jobs, growth, investment and infrastructure



**BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

– improved outcomes for families, better educational attainment and more employment opportunities for young people



**HEALTHY, FULFILLING AND INDEPENDENT LIVES**

– levelling up health outcomes, living well and better local services



**STRONG, ENGAGED AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

– more participation, capacity building and empowerment of communities



**A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT FUTURE**

– protecting and enhancing the environment, access to quality spaces and community resilience

The Council also developed its core Values representing the beliefs that drive our behaviour at work and acts as guiding principles for the work of the Council and its interactions with customers, employees, stakeholders and communities.



### c) Corporate Delivery Plan 2023-24

In April 2023, the Council reported on its Corporate Delivery Plan for 2022-23 and set out its objectives for 2023-24. The whole-council plan is structured around the five strategic priorities outlined in the corporate strategy. In May 2024 the Annual Report of the Council's Delivery Plan was presented to the Cabinet.

The report focused on NCC's most significant deliverables to support the delivery of the outcomes and objectives in our corporate strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The County Council has progressed towards achieving these strategic objectives through the programmes and services outlined below.



A Vibrant  
and  
Sustainable  
Economy

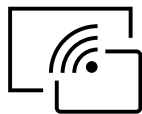


#### Norfolk's Level 3 Devolution Deal

Agreeing the devolution deal in December 23 which will bring additional powers and funding to Norfolk including

- £600m over 30 years, £7m Brownfield regeneration
- £40m for integrated transport work and £12m in Adult Education
- Amending the Council's constitution to allow for a directly elected Leader in May 2025
- Local skills and opportunities to expand the deal in the future

The next stage of the Devolution deal will be subject to the Council voting and adopting a new governance framework in summer 2024.



#### Project Gigabit – Superfast Broadband

- 97.3% of properties in Norfolk are on superfast Broadband
- £114m inward investment secured to connect a further 62000+ properties
- 13 village hall sites provided with high-speed broadband to help rural communities connect better with services



#### Great Yarmouth Operations & Maintenance Campus

**£24.8m** - construction commenced in January 23 on this site which when completed in November 2024 will help support people unable to access national support schemes, boosting the offshore energy sector



#### Innovation Grant Mentoring Programme

supported 36 bids worth £4.8m to Innovate UK and Business Intellectual Property Centres supported 718 aspiring entrepreneurs to start up new businesses. £0.85m grant from Innovate UK was received for a local firm to develop a global friendly shipping solution

**Chances Programme** invested in helping people get back into work and support people who find it difficult to work due to their health

Over 1699 participants have progressed through the stages, with 730 supported back into work or job searches, 243 participants entered training and a new programme to assist 1,100 residents with health conditions into work was established running from October 2023 to March 2025

#### Norfolk Investment Framework

Invested £1.5m in 12 pilot projects that increase employment opportunities, adopt new technologies for public services, support emerging sectors to grow and protect the County's economic and natural assets.

#### SPAR (Skills, Progression, Adaptability and Resilience) Programme

Joint project with Suffolk to enable and incentivise SMEs to access training in Digital Skills, Leadership & Management and Customer Services & Relationship Management.

#### Agri-Tech funding for the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor

Working in partnership with interested stakeholders to £7.5m of innovation launchpad funding for improving food manufacturing and processing.

#### Norfolk and Suffolk Innovation Network

Using the Internet of Things (IOT) technology – 108 Gateways implemented across Norfolk with a focus on creating and increasing the use of sensor technology across the region particularly in Smart Farms, Highways and Social Care – making it the largest network in the country.

Better Opportunities for Children and Young People

Healthy Fulfilling and Independent Lives

## Fostering Hub

Norfolk is hosting the new regional Fostering Hub for the Eastern region building on our successful recruitment and retention campaign for foster carers.



## Family Help Model

Piloting larger multi-disciplinary teams encouraging professionals to work more collaboratively to support families. Joint Agency Group Supervision to share information to promote the wellbeing and protect children



## “Good” rating



In all areas for Children's Services following inspection.



**Healthy Child Programme** – continues its programme with mandated face to face checks for Antenatal, Newborn and 6-8 week stages – ensuring the prioritisation of key groups including teenage parents, migrant and traveller communities, linking in with Just One Norfolk and Just One Number – a single door model for parents and carers, young people, practitioners and fellow professionals to access services

## Local First Inclusion SEND Improvement Programme - Safety Valve

is a 6 year programme securing £70m additional funding of from the Department for Education(DfE) delivering 5 workstreams across 80 projects and 15 zones to support 320 schools and 600 children and young people.



## New schools

A new 170-place Complex Needs school will be built in Great Yarmouth and a 100-place Autistic Spectrum Disorder School will be established in Downham Market.

## Norfolk as Education Investment Area

Includes work by the Norwich Priority Investment Area (PIA) Partnership Board to improve KS2 attainment particularly writing through the Writing Pilot Project and attendance at secondary school



## Apprenticeships – 516

apprentices employed up to January 2024 providing training and skills development opportunities for young people, including a focus on green apprenticeships.

## Norfolk Vulnerability Hub and Norfolk Community Advice Network (NCAN)

Supporting the hospital discharge pathway, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and delivering a standard and consistent approach for referrals to the voluntary care sector.

## Household Support Fund

Included £33m to support vulnerable households, including £3.3m on Client Hardship Services, £7.2m for Free School Meals, £1.3k to support voluntary and community groups supporting the vulnerable groups to access services and also targeted support over winter.



## Independent Living and Supported Living accommodation across Norfolk

£3m invested in a 61 unit Independent Living project in Hunstanton with 39 care-ready bungalows



## Connecting Communities -Social Care Community Engagement (SCCE)

new digital platform identifying individuals with vulnerability risks and offering a wide range of interventions to prevent hospital admissions and reduce the backlog of people awaiting full care following hospital by 93% - supporting 11,000 people home from hospital

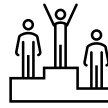
**Working Well Norfolk** £2.7m scheme funded by the Department of Work and Pensions to help residents with long-term health conditions or physical impairments to get into and stay in work. The Council is working with partners Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd to provide free personalised 1:1 support to 1,100 residents

Strong, engaged and inclusive communities

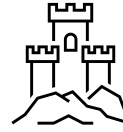
A greener, more resilient future

### Adult Learning Digital Leaders Programme

Continued to deliver and expand the Digifest programme which included 112 events with 719 participants in libraries across the county. The majority of participants reported improved knowledge, skills and attitudes towards digital technology.



**NCC Libraries and Information Service** aims to help residents connect, learn and enjoy knowledge and information. 23-24 saw 1.8m visitors cross the threshold of Norfolk's 47 libraries



### Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Seeks to improve connectivity by addressing any infrastructure deficits through the Local active Travel and Public Transport projects. This includes the Great Yarmouth 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing, Transforming Cities project, West Winch Bypass, Long Stratton Bypass and the Norwich Western Link



### Transport Infrastructure

6200 miles of road and bridges, 2800 miles of footway and cycle paths, 3400 miles of Norfolk Trails and public footpath maintained and enhanced with £56m road maintenance, £1.5m flood prevention initiatives, road safety schemes. The £50m Bus Services Improvement plan has delivered 31 new/enhanced bus services, 49 parishes have received increased Saturday bus services and 18% increase in passenger figures since September 2022.



The Great Yarmouth Herring Bridge opened on 1 February 2024. Further projects are being worked on in West Winch, Long Stratton and the Norwich Western Link.



### Zero Carbon by 2030

Carbon emissions reduced by 15% and new Climate Strategy launched. Cut bus transport emissions by 80,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> through the introduction of 70 new fully electric buses



**Reduce|Reuse|Recycle** 60,000 tonnes of recycling processed through the 19 household recycling centres, 15 reuse shops over 1million visits. 71.8% of recycling has been diverted from the landfill and 91.6% of remaining waste was sent to create energy.



### #connected

Norfolk's use of Starlink satellite-based services to bring highspeed broadband to rural villages won the Access Innovation Award 2023

**Norwich Castle – Royal Palace reborn** – work is approaching completion on the £15m project to transform Norwich Castle's iconic Norman Keep by rebuilding the medieval floors and rooms.



### Local Full Fibre Network

Delivered Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) to 394 public buildings in 2022 and 4000 premises

Project Gigabit £195m to provide 1GBps connection to 119k homes by 2025-26 has been rolled out

### Jubilee Trails & Active Travel

5 new Jubilee Trails opened to encourage walking and cycling across the county. 12 new roadside nature reserves have been identified and will be developed over the next year

8 active travel schemes delivered in 23-24 and 4 more planned for 24-25

### LED Street Lights

Saved 3.6m kWh of energy through updating our streetlighting to LEDs.

**Electric Vehicle charging points** – funding for 150 new EV charging points



### 1m Trees

400k young trees planted on County Farm properties

### Climate Strategy

Sets out the Council's priorities relating to renewable energy, growing the green economy, switching to Active Travel routes and expansion of electric buses and adaptation to Council's buildings to more energy efficient heating and electrical sources.



In addition to the activities that underpin each strategic priority, there is a 6<sup>th</sup> section which focuses on Operational Effectiveness, covering the activities which cut across many areas of the Council's work and which seek to improve efficiency and customer experience within the organisation. Examples include the Council's digital and workforce strategies, preparing for statutory inspections.

The [Council Delivery Plan](#), whilst not an exhaustive guide of everything the Council does, provides a clear sense of how the Council will respond to changes in our operating environment to deliver significant activity successfully.

#### **d) Governance, Political and Operational Structure in 2023-24**

Local Government services in Norfolk are also provided by seven district/borough councils and numerous town and parish councils.

Norfolk County Council has 84 elected members each representing an electoral division of up to 10,000 voters. Every four years the people of each division elect one councillor. The most recent election took place in May 2021 and resulted in a Conservative majority.

The Council is governed through a cabinet model since 2018, with a Chief Executive Officer appointed to replace the Head of Paid Services from May 2023. As well as the Cabinet, there is a Scrutiny Committee, three select committees, and the decision-making process is supported by several specialist committees, panels and working groups.

The Council's operational structure is based on Executive Directors reporting to the Chief Executive Officer. The directors lead the following departments:

- Adult Social Services
- Children's Services
- Communities and Environment Services
- Strategy and Transformation
- Chief Executive's Office
- Finance

#### **e) Financial Performance 2023-24**

##### **Revenue Budget and Outturn**

The net revenue budget agreed by the County Council in February 2023 for 2023-24 was £493.707m, equal to the Council's share of Council Tax receivable during the year and remained unchanged throughout the financial year. This budget included savings of £57.858m, through a combination of financing, transformation, and efficiency initiatives.

The 2023-24 outturn position against the budget was a net underspend of £0.075m which was transferred into the General Fund.

The results are set out below based on the service responsibilities as reported to Cabinet, rather than the total cost of delivering services, (including apportionment of support services and adjustments to show the full cost of offering pensions to employees), which is used in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.



Service	Revised Budget	Net (under)/ over spend	
	£m	£m	%
Adult Social Services	263.877	1.921	0.7%
Children's Services	241.712	10.914	4.5%
Community and Environmental Services	241.243	(0.255)	(0.1%)
Strategy and Transformation	54.931	0.000	0%
Chief Executive's Office	4.421	0.000	0%
Finance	(312.477)	(12.580)	4.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>493.707</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	
Transfers to General Fund within year		0.075	

The operational overspend in Children's Services was partially mitigated by savings delivered in year of £12.4m and the use of business reserves, leaving a net overspend of £10.914m. The outturn reflects the continued increase in demand for services for children with special educational needs, to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and the limitations in supply of suitable placements and specialist school provision to meet these needs. The operational overspend underscores the Council's commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to "Flourish".

Adult Social Services also faced significant service demand cost pressures coupled with inflationary cost pressures due to rising fuel prices and cost of living, prompting increases in the costs of care packages. The service has worked alongside partners in the Integrated Care Board to manage the pressures of hospital discharges and utilizing the additional winter discharge funding received from central government. The service has delivered a net overspend of £1.921m after allowing for savings of £26.54m and the mitigation of overspends with one-off underspends and planned use of reserves.

Within the net underspend there have been significant financial pressures identified across all services due to wage inflation following the local government pay award for 2023-24, rising fuel and construction industry prices and rising interest rates. These financial pressures have been balanced by additional government grants and underspends in other Community and Environmental Services.

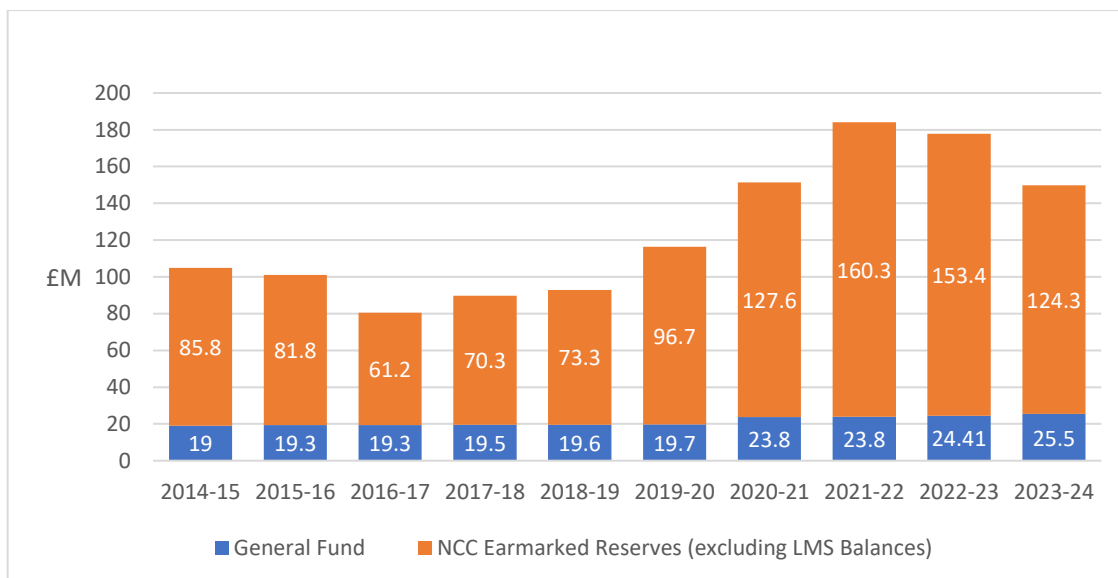
## General Fund

The net outturn underspend for 2023-24 was transferred into the General Fund as follows:

	£m
General Fund Reserve at 31 March 2023	24.410
Transfers during 2023-24	1.075
<b>General Fund Reserve at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>25.485</b>

## Earmarked Reserves

The Council's earmarked reserves are funds, including unspent grants and contributions, set aside for specific purposes for future use by the authority. Excluded from the graph below are the LMS balances as these belong to individual schools.



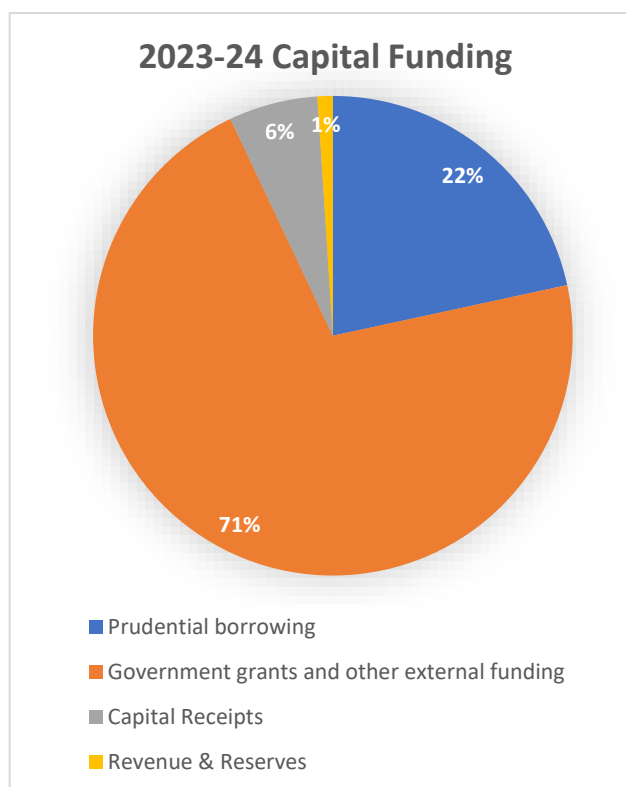
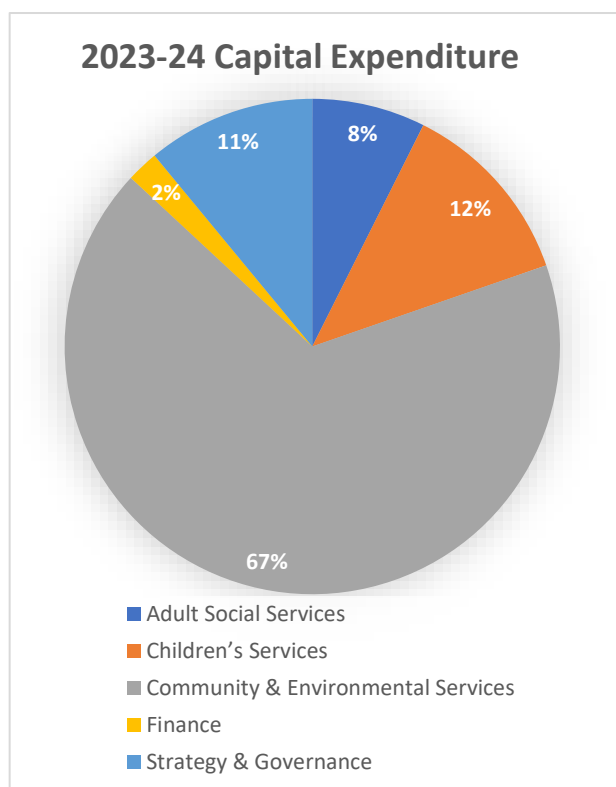
Reserves decreased in 2023-24 in line with national trends, as services utilised the reserves built up over the previous 4 years to offset overspends in 2023-24. The decrease in earmarked reserves at 31 March 2024 is mainly due to the utilisation of business risk reserves in Adult Social Care and Children's Services to mitigate the impact of rising demand and inflationary cost pressures.

### f) Capital Strategy

Norfolk County Council's 5 year Capital Strategy was approved by Council in February 2023 and comprised a diverse portfolio of investment in infrastructure, schools and services totalling £956.971m. This portfolio increased to £1,315.068m over the course of 2023-24 as additional funding was secured through government grants, local developer and other external contributions, re-profiling from 2022-23 and the Council's own financial resources and capital receipts from the disposal of surplus assets.

Capital expenditure for 2023-24 totalled £244.865m, which represents a £27.591m increase compared to 2022-23 expenditure of £217.274m. The increase in expenditure is mainly due to the capital programme catching up on delays experienced in the previous year due to supply shortages and changes in government regulations concerning the development of new sites. The Capital Programme is expected to continue to ramp up in future years to deliver the strategic infrastructure to meet the Council's Delivery Plan objectives.

The following tables and charts show the capital expenditure by service and by funding source.



**2023-24 Capital Programme by Service**

	£m
Adult Social Services	18.137
Children's Services	30.068
Community & Environmental Services	164.626
Finance	5.126
Strategy & Governance	26.908
<b>Total</b>	<b>244.865</b>

**2023-24 Capital Programme Funding**

	£m
Prudential borrowing	52.924
Government grants and other external funding	174.753
Capital Receipts	14.667
Revenue & Reserves	2.521
<b>Total</b>	<b>244.865</b>

The main external sources of finance were government grants (£142.184m) contributions from developers (£5.429m), contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy (£3.547m), the National Lottery Fund (£3.525m) and commercial contributions in respect of the next generation broadband access (£3.980m). Projects nominally funded by prudential borrowing totalled £52.152m however, there was no actual borrowing during the year to fund capital expenditure. The capital funding borrowing requirement was temporarily funded by internal borrowing in 2023-24.

The Council achieved net capital receipts from sales of property totalling £6.362m plus £5.953m from the repayment of loans and dividends treated as capital receipts. Capital receipts in 2023-24 have been used to fund short life assets such as IT and equipment (£8.198m), and used flexibly to fund the transformation costs of savings initiatives (£6.321m).

## Borrowing

The County Council borrows in the long-term to finance capital expenditure and in the short-term, to smooth cash flow requirements of the Council on a daily basis. The principal source of long-term borrowing is the Public Works Loans Board.

At 31 March 2024, the Council's external borrowing totalled £818.794m, and was used to support prior capital expenditure temporarily funded by internal borrowing. To put the level of debt in context, the depreciated balance sheet value of the Council's land, building, infrastructure and other property, plant and equipment is over £1.7bn.

Loan principal amounting to £23.419m was repaid in 2023-24. The Council's treasury management strategy anticipates further borrowing of £50m in 2024-25 to support the investment programme outlined in the Capital Strategy 2024-2029.

## Future capital programme

To replace and develop its assets and infrastructure, the Council needs to support a significant capital programme which includes major on-going capital schemes such as:

- the County's school's estate and development of SEND schools provision
- the transport infrastructure, including Long Stratton Bypass, West Winch Bypass, Norwich Western Link and on-going Highways maintenance and Flood prevention measures
- Project Gigabit – supporting the deployment of superspeed broadband across the County

These schemes will be funded mainly through grants and contributions from third parties, primarily central government, which funds most of the capital expenditure. Other schemes such as the expansion of independent living accommodation for the elderly, the introduction of electric vehicles within the Council's and Fire Service's fleets, office refurbishments, ICT projects and the replacement of a waste recycling centre will rely on a significant amount of prudential borrowing.

<b>2024-29 Capital Programme by Service</b>		<b>2024-29 Capital Programme Funding</b>	
	£m		£m
Adult Social Services	59.201	Prudential borrowing	464.243
Children's Services	246.869	Government grants and other external funding	625.518
Community & Environmental Services	702.617	Capital Receipts	1.001
Finance	29.311	Revenue & Reserves	3.077
Strategy & Transformation	55.841		
Total	<u>1,093.839</u>	Total	<u>1,093.839</u>

### **g) Pensions Deficit**

The accounts reflect the underlying commitment that the Council must pay future retirement benefits for its employees, as needed by IAS 19. As a result, the Council's Balance Sheet includes the estimated pension liability, measured on an actuarial basis, effectively reducing the Net Assets of the Council by £2.5bn.

The pension fund deficit does not represent an immediate call on the Council's reserves but provides a snapshot at 31 March 2024, with the value of assets and liabilities changing daily. The most recent actuarial revaluation as at 31 March 2022 assessed the funding level at 106%. There is a neutral impact on the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement reported for the year as use of the pensions reserve reverses the effect of IAS 19.

### **h) Provisions**

At the end of the financial year, the Council's provisions stood at £33.12m, including self-funded insurance provisions and provisions in respect of potential appeals on Business Rates administered by the District Councils. Provisions for bad debts totalling £4.04m are set off against receivables in the statement of accounts. Of the provisions, £14.97m are not cash backed as they relate to an asset backed landfill provision.

### **i) Outlook for the future**

The Council continues to face a challenging environment with increasing demand for services and shortfalls in public funding coupled with inflationary cost pressures prompted by the increase in the National Living Wage and the cost of living. The population demographics for Norfolk of an ageing population coupled with more people living with poor health for longer means that we will continue to see a rise in demand for services.

In December 2023, the Council voted to endorse the proposed Devolution Deal for Norfolk, including the election for a directly elected leader in May 2025. This unlocks £600m in funding over 30 years, with additional powers and devolved funding for transport, brownfield regeneration, local skills and other opportunities to expand the deal. In July 2024, Councillors will vote on the changes of governance needed for a Level 3 deal and opens the possibility to a new "Level 4" deal announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22 November 2023. The Devolution Deal represents a real opportunity for the County to exercise greater financial independence from central government and enabling the Council to invest in areas such as better transport, skills, job opportunities, housing and regeneration, tailored to the specific needs of local people.

The Council will also be taking a more active role in delivering economic growth and business support in the region as the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is integrated into the Council from 1 April 2024. Placeholder – Economic Strategy for Norfolk is being developed with other local councils and partners in business, education and the voluntary sector.

As we commence the 2024-25 financial year, the Council continues to deal with key cost pressures including inflation, population changes, social, economic and health inequalities, rising demand for services and support, workforce challenges in key sectors such as the care market, government policy changes, funding uncertainty and the impact of continued financial constraints. The Council will be reviewing its focus for the future both in the context of the General Election in July 2024 and the County Council's elections in May 2025

The County Council has set the 2024-25 Budget, to provide a robust platform to address the challenges of the future. The approved 2024-25 Budget sees the Council continuing to make significant investment in maintaining levels of service delivery, whilst balancing the budget. In setting the Budget, the Council agreed a council tax increase of 4.99% (2.99% general and 2.00% for the adult social care precept), which is within the referendum limits defined by Government for the year. Whilst sensitive to the significant cost of living

pressures being faced by Norfolk residents, the Council must balance these considerations against ensuring the Council is financially resilient and has the resources necessary to meet service need whilst mitigating any risks that arise from the cost pressures and challenges outlined above.

As in previous years, the Council's Capital Programme of £1,093.839m for 2024-29+ includes essential investment in the provision of vital infrastructure and supports the delivery of our future budget strategy. The programme is central to the continued development of key services: enabling the transformation of social services to meet growing need, promoting regeneration and sustainable development, generating efficiencies through the use of information technology and making provision for the continuing development of our libraries into local multi-service hubs.

The existing programme includes major projects such as:

- Schools basic need and capital maintenance
- Living Well - Homes for Norfolk: to develop extra care housing in Norfolk
- SEND transformation to create 500 extra specialist school places
- Long Stratton Bypass
- West Winch Bypass
- Norwich Western Link
- Transport capital maintenance
- Better Broadband for Norfolk

New schemes added in the 2024-25 Budget total £81.412m, and include:

- County Farms refurbishment and carbon reduction schemes (£3.25m)
- Adult Social Care Assistive Technology Equipment (£3.3m)
- Capital Loans to subsidiaries (£18.3m)
- Highways improvements and road resurfacing (£22.55m)
- Fire and Rescue services equipment and site improvement (£4.47m)
- Library Services Books and Media (£2.6m)
- Environmental improvement schemes and National Trails (4.2m)
- IFRS 16 Leases (£18.811m)

Recently awarded grants and contributions of £15.432m and reprofiling from 2023-24 of £261.853m have been added to the Capital Programme bringing the total to £1,093.839m for 2024-29+.

Looking ahead, the budget gap for 2025-26 identified in the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy is £46m. The Council's past success in delivering a balanced budget, coupled with a robust budget planning approach, provides a solid platform for financial planning, and it has taken the prudent approach and already begun work on developing budget plans for 2025-26. As part of delivering the 2024-25 Budget, the Council will continue its review of how it operates to deliver its future services and strategy. This includes the on-going review of organisation structures whilst building stability and sustainability of services. The Council remains confident that with clear insight and working collaboratively we can deliver the 2024-25 Budget and continue to secure a resilient, sustainable and robust financial position into the future.

## **j) Explanation of the Financial Statements**

The Statement of Accounts sets out the Council's income and expenditure for the year and its financial position at 31 March 2024. They include the core and supplementary statements, together with disclosure notes. These financial statements for 2023-24 are set out in accordance with the **CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24**, which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

**A Glossary of key financial terms can be found at the end of this document.**

The Core Statements are:

- The **Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement** shows the accounting cost in the year of delivering services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure following regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The Movement in Reserves Statement and in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows the taxation position.
- The **Movement in Reserves Statement** shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be used to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments needed to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.
- The **Balance Sheet** shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) match the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to keep a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves includes those that the Council is not able to use to deliver services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement of Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which taxation and grant income or from service recipients fund the operations of the Council. Investing activities are the extent to which cash outflows have bought resources intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.
- The **Notes to the Accounts** provide supporting information on the figures included in each of the Core Statements, together with details of the Council's accounting policies. It also includes the **Expenditure and Funding Analysis** which shows annual expenditure and funding from resources (government grants, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities following generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows the distribution of this expenditure between the Council's services for decision making purposes. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement presents more fully the income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices.

The Supplementary Statements are:

- The **Group Accounts** sets out the income and expenditure for the year and financial position at 31 March 2024 of the Council and any companies or other organisations, which the Council either controls or significantly influences. The Council has reviewed its interests in companies and other organisations to determine which are to be included in the Group Accounts for 2023-24.

The financial results of three wholly owned companies are consolidated into the Group Accounts - Norse Group, Independence Matters CIC and Repton:

- With turnover of over £300m, Norse Group is itself a large group providing facilities management, property consultancy and care services to both public and private sector clients throughout the UK.
- Independence Matters Group includes Independence Matters CIC, and Home Support Matters. It is a 'spin out' social enterprise launched by Norfolk County Council, with over 600 staff transferring from the Council's Personal and Community Support Services in 2013. Turnover for the year is £18.797m. In March 2023, the Council became the sole shareholder of Independence Matters.
- Repton Property Development Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council whose primary goal is to secure and develop tracts of land within the county to meet the growing housing needs of the residents of Norfolk. Turnover for the year is £29.831m

The introduction to the Group accounts included in these financial statements gives further details of these companies and other subsidiaries which are not material for group accounting purposes.

- The **Norfolk Fire Fighters Pension Fund Accounts** shows the operation of the Norfolk Fire Fighters Pension Fund administered by West Yorkshire Pension Fund for the Council's own fire-fighter employees.
- The **Norfolk Pension Fund Accounts** shows the operation of the Norfolk Pension Fund administered by Norfolk County Council for its own employees and employees of the seven District, City and Borough Councils in Norfolk along with other scheduled and admitted bodies.

The Statement of Accounts for the County Council includes the main financial statements of the pension fund. Consequently, the Statements of Assurance cover both the County Council and the Pension Fund. Details of the Norfolk Pension Fund accounting statements are shown on pages 134 to 200. Copies of the full annual report for the pension fund are available on the Norfolk Pension Fund website (<https://www.norfolkpensionfund.org/governance/publications-and-documents/>).

#### **k) Further information**

As advertised on our website, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is complete. The authority follows the Freedom of Information Act 2005 requirements in responding to queries from the public.

Further information relating to this report can be found in the financial statements which follow, in Norfolk County Council's Budget Book 2024-28 - [About our budget - Norfolk County Council](#)



## **Statement of Responsibilities**

### **The Council's Responsibilities**

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, that officer is the Director of Strategic Finance;
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

### **The Director of Strategic Finance's Responsibilities**

The Director of Strategic Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts including those of the Pension Fund in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director of Strategic Finance has:

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

The Director of Strategic Finance has also:

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

### **Certificate by the Director of Strategic Finance**

I certify that the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and that of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024.



Harvey Bullen  
Director of Strategic Finance  
Date: 31 May 2024

**Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Norfolk County Council**

The opinion on the Council's and Firefighter's Pension Fund financial statements will be added here once the audit is complete.

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## Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

*2022-23				2023-24		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000s	£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s	£000s
			<b>Continuing Services:</b>			
614,379	247,805	366,574	Adult Social Services	662,212	275,669	386,543
716,382	421,828	294,554	Children's Services	764,241	438,274	325,967
287,923	67,296	220,627	Community and Environmental Services	313,291	79,194	234,097
77,278	38,731	38,547	Strategy and Transformation Services	92,940	38,495	54,445
6,751	3,105	3,646	Chief Executive's Directorate	7,454	2,936	4,518
49,467	32,025	17,442	Finance Directorate	35,781	26,184	9,597
(1,706)	0	(1,706)	Non-Distributed Costs	(525)	0	(525)
<b>1,750,474</b>	<b>810,790</b>	<b>939,684</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>1,875,394</b>	<b>860,752</b>	<b>1,014,642</b>
		10,576	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 5)			9,684
		64,954	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 6)			32,520
		(908,230)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Note 7)			(1,025,173)
		<b>106,984</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services</b>			<b>31,673</b>
		(26,175)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets			(48,785)
		(1,104,158)	Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability			3,538
		<b>(1,130,333)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>(45,247)</b>
		<b>(1,023,349)</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>(13,574)</b>

\* In 2022-23 the Council undertook a Strategic Review of Council services to reconfigure the organisation to improve the Council's organisational design and deliver efficiencies. This has resulted in a restructure of services between the departments, with the new Chief Executive's Office replacing the Governance department and the amalgamation of the Finance & Commercial Services with Finance General. As such, the comparatives for 2022-23 have been restated to reflect this new structure.

## Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Balance*	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>205,002</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>115,779</b>	<b>326,070</b>	<b>(459,740)</b>	<b>(133,670)</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves during 2022-23</b>						
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(106,984)	0	0	(106,984)	1,130,333	<b>1,023,349</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 15)	95,806	16,658	(5,075)	107,389	(107,389)	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in Year</b>	<b>(11,178)</b>	<b>16,658</b>	<b>(5,075)</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>1,022,944</b>	<b>1,023,349</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>193,824</b>	<b>21,947</b>	<b>110,704</b>	<b>326,475</b>	<b>563,204</b>	<b>889,679</b>
<b>Movement in Reserves during 2023-24</b>						
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(31,673)	0	0	(31,673)	45,247	<b>13,574</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 15)	2,674	(8,231)	(6,818)	(12,375)	12,375	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in Year</b>	<b>(28,999)</b>	<b>(8,231)</b>	<b>(6,818)</b>	<b>(44,048)</b>	<b>57,622</b>	<b>13,574</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>164,825</b>	<b>13,716</b>	<b>103,886</b>	<b>282,427</b>	<b>620,826</b>	<b>903,253</b>

\* Note that the General Fund forms the Council's General balances together with earmarked reserves. Details of movements in these reserves are shown in Note 27 on page 65.



## Balance Sheet

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
£000s		Note		£000s
1,821,940	Property, Plant & Equipment	17		1,929,493
13,925	Heritage Assets	18		13,925
11,117	Investment Property	19		12,986
18,637	Intangible Assets	20		17,959
20,551	Long Term Investments	21		19,771
64,986	Long Term Debtors	22		62,633
<b>1,951,156</b>	<b>Long Term Assets</b>			<b>2,056,767</b>
167,235	Short Term Investments	21		141,804
348	Inventories			315
197,066	Short Term Debtors	22		210,686
118,981	Cash and Cash Equivalents	23		30,177
4,058	Current Held for Sale Investment Property	19		3,314
3,650	Assets Held for Sale	24		6,535
<b>491,338</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>392,831</b>
(26,404)	Short Term Borrowing	21		(30,716)
(3,378)	Other Short Term Liabilities	21		(3,722)
(282,224)	Short Term Creditors	25		(283,595)
(2,239)	Provisions	26		(4,986)
<b>(314,245)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			<b>(323,019)</b>
(24,176)	Provisions	26		(24,495)
(832,038)	Long Term Borrowing	21		(796,381)
(360,846)	Other Long Term Liabilities	21		(362,808)
(21,510)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	8		(39,642)
<b>(1,238,570)</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>			<b>(1,223,326)</b>
<b>889,679</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>903,253</b>
326,475	Usable Reserves	27		282,427
563,204	Unusable Reserves	28		620,826
<b>889,679</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>			<b>903,253</b>

## Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>106,984</b>	<b>Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services</b>	<b>31,673</b>
(280,532)	Adjust net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 38)	(113,743)
148,865	Adjust for Items in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (Note 38)	180,276
(24,683)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	98,206
(55,732)	Investing Activities (Note 39)	(42,755)
7,691	Financing Activities (Note 40)	33,353
<b>(72,724)</b>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>88,804</b>
46,257	Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	118,981
118,981	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (Note 23)	30,177

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## Supporting the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

### 1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	2023-24		
	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adult Social Services	278,986	107,557	386,543
Children's Services	236,971	88,996	325,967
Community and Environmental Services	139,787	94,310	234,097
Strategy and Transformation Services	25,074	29,371	54,445
Chief Executive's Directorate	4,168	350	4,518
Finance Directorate	(26,379)	35,976	9,597
Non-Distributed Costs	0	(525)	(525)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>658,607</b>	<b>356,035</b>	<b>1,014,642</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(629,608)	(353,361)	(982,969)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>28,999</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>31,673</b>
Opening General Fund Balance at 31 March*	193,824		
Less Deficit on General Fund	(28,999)		
<b>Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March *</b>	<b>164,825</b>		

	2022-23		
	Net Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adult Social Services **	259,511	107,063	366,574
Children's Services	198,064	96,490	294,554
Community and Environmental Services**	130,315	90,312	220,627
Strategy and Transformation Services**	20,382	18,165	38,547
Chief Executive's Directorate**	2,060	1,586	3,646
Finance Directorate**	(15,037)	32,479	17,442
Non-Distributed Costs	0	(1,706)	(1,706)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>595,295</b>	<b>344,389</b>	<b>939,684</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(584,117)	(248,583)	(832,700)
<b>(Surplus) or Deficit</b>	<b>11,178</b>	<b>95,806</b>	<b>106,984</b>
Opening General Fund Balance at 31 March*	205,002		
Plus surplus on General Fund	(11,178)		
<b>Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March *</b>	<b>193,824</b>		

\* The General Fund Balance in the tables above represent the Council's General Balances together with total earmarked reserves as detailed in Note 16 on page 46.

\*\* The comparatives for 2022-23 have been restated to reflect the new organisation structure implemented by the Strategic Review.

## 2. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

	2023-24			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adult Social Services	7,442	3,834	96,281	107,557
Children's Services	19,984	5,221	63,791	88,996
Community and Environmental Services	95,146	(5,306)	4,470	94,310
Strategy and Transformation Services	28,118	1,012	241	29,371
Chief Executive's Directorate	0	186	164	350
Finance Directorate	1,328	(17,562)	52,210	35,976
Non-Distributed Costs	0	(525)	0	(525)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>152,018</b>	<b>(13,140)</b>	<b>217,157</b>	<b>356,035</b>
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(184,333)	15,139	(184,167)	(353,361)
<b>Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and CIES surplus/deficit on provision of services</b>	<b>(32,315)</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>32,990</b>	<b>2,674</b>

	2022-23			
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the pensions adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustments
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adult Social Services	10,648	24,837	71,578	107,063
Children's Services	32,908	47,663	15,919	96,490
Community and Environmental Services	76,215	9,725	4,372	90,312
Strategy and Transformation Services	12,940	4,957	268	18,165
Chief Executive's Directorate	0	968	618	1,586
Finance Directorate	1,843	(12,389)	43,025	32,479
Non-Distributed Costs	0	(1,706)	0	(1,706)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>134,554</b>	<b>74,055</b>	<b>135,780</b>	<b>344,389</b>
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(129,495)	37,667	(156,755)	(248,583)
<b>Difference between General Fund surplus/deficit and CIES surplus/deficit on provision of services</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>111,722</b>	<b>(20,975)</b>	<b>95,806</b>

### **Adjustments for Capital Purposes**

Adjustments for capital purposes adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in service lines:

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

### **Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments**

Net Change for Pensions Adjustments removes the pension contributions and adds the IAS19 employee benefits pension related expenditure and income.

- For services this is the removal of employer pension contributions made by the Council as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

### **Other Differences**

Other Differences between amounts debited/credited to the CIES and amounts payable/receivable recognised under statute:

- For Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.
- Taxation and Non-specific Grant income and expenditure includes the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and business rates that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future surpluses or deficits on the Collection Fund. It also includes adjustments for government grants which are non-ringfenced and therefore moved to this section from services.

### 3. Segmental Income

Income received from external customers (as included in column 1 of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis) analysed on a segmental basis:

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>(Restated)</b>		
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
104,235	Adult Social Services	110,446
27,766	Children's Services	33,374
14,814	Community and Environmental Services	35,594
14,926	Strategy and Transformation Services*	16,376
3,075	Chief Executive's Directorate*	2,936
449	Finance Directorate	(635)
<b>165,265</b>	<b>Total income analysed on a segmental basis</b>	<b>198,091</b>

### 4. Expenditure and Income analysed by Nature

The Council's expenditure and income analysed by type:

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
600,686	Employee benefits expenses	560,489
1,063,835	Other Services expenses	1,230,486
86,709	Support Service recharges	101,422
102,003	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	102,314
72,477	Interest payments	48,912
1,589	Precepts and levies	1,610
8,987	Gain/loss on disposal of assets	8,075
<b>1,936,286</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,053,308</b>
	Fees, charges and other service income	
(165,265)	- Income from Service Recipients	(198,091)
(136,091)	- Income from other sources	(153,138)
(6,550)	Interest and investment income	(12,665)
(618,840)	Income from council tax and business rates	(654,293)
(902,556)	Government Grants and contributions	(1,003,448)
<b>(1,829,302)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,021,635)</b>
<b>106,984</b>	<b>Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>31,673</b>

## 5. Other Operating Expenditure

The Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
950	Environment Agency precept	960
639	Eastern Sea Fisheries precept	649
8,987	(Gains)/losses on disposal of non-current assets	8,075
<b>10,576</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,684</b>

## 6. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

The Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
36,041	Interest payable and similar charges	34,010
36,436	Net interest cost on the net defined benefit liability	14,902
(6,550)	Interest receivable and similar income	(12,665)
(700)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and / or changes in their fair value (Note 19)	(2,192)
(969)	Dividend Income	(1,672)
696	(Gains)/Losses on trading accounts not included in the cost of services	137
<b>64,954</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>32,520</b>

## 7. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
465,763	Council tax income	493,831
153,077	Non-domestic rates	160,461
181,905	Non-ring-fenced government grants	214,724
104,543	Capital grants, contributions	156,035
2,942	Donated Assets Income	122
<b>908,230</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,025,173</b>



## 8. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2023-24. The table shows details of grants credited to Services where the balance is more than £1m in 2023-24.

### Credited to Taxation and non-Specific Grant Income:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
173,277	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	206,004
6,226	Department for Education	6,363
1,180	Department of Health and Social Care	1,177
1,070	Home Office	1,028
152	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	152
<b>181,905</b>	<b>Total General Government Grants</b>	<b>214,724</b>

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
63,340	Department for Transport	116,867
24,230	Department for Education	23,214
6,693	Commercial Contribution / (Refund) from Telecommunications Company	(3,002)
351	National Lottery	4,244
1,293	Other Local Authorities	4,100
3,412	Developer Contributions	3,255
2,828	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	3,400
2,068	Contributions from Schools/Academy Trusts	106
12	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership	1,375
0	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	0
316	Grants and Contributions less than £1m	2,476
<b>104,543</b>	<b>Total Capital Grants and Contributions</b>	<b>156,035</b>

### Credited to Services:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	<u>Adult Social Services:</u>	
73,487	NHS Integrated Care Board	65,740
42,424	Public Health England	47,435
4,660	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	24,662
5,098	Department of Health and Social Care	13,415
6,941	Home Office	2,252
1,472	Big Lottery Fund	1,302
	<u>Children's Services:</u>	
378,488	Department for Education	377,471
6,836	Home Office	12,848
2,612	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	3,338
1,725	Other Local Authorities	1,512
1,302	NHS Integrated Care Board	3,301
1,083	Arts Council /Federation of Music Services	1,083

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	<u>Community and Environmental Services:</u>	
9,425	Department of Health and Social Care	0
7,679	Department for Transport	9,525
6,538	Department for Education	5,925
1,885	Home Office	1,942
1,913	Arts Council	1,874
1,081	Developer Contributions	1,016
925	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	1,009
4,526	Department for Media, Culture & Sport	7
3,889	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	343
3,823	EU Funding	423
2,820	Heritage Lottery Fund	706
1,890	Other Local Authorities	842
2,223	Department for Work and Pensions	0
	<u>Strategy and Transformation Directorate:</u>	
4,239	Commercial Contribution (Telecommunications Company)	4,434
0	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	4,241
11	Other Local Authorities	3,099
0	Department for Work and Pensions	1,793
0	EU funding	1,380
	<u>Finance Directorate:</u>	
13,394	Department for Work and Pensions	13,394
10,741	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	6,487
6,600	Grants and Contributions less than £1m	11,600
<b>609,730</b>	<b>Total Grants and Contributions recognised in Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>624,399</b>

The Council has received several grants, contributions and donations that have conditions attached to them that will demand the return of monies or property to the giver. The grants show as liabilities on the balance sheet until the conditions are satisfied, and the grant recognised as income. The balances at the year end are as follows:

**Included in Current Liabilities:**

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
4,499	Department of Health and Social Care	387
1,930	Department for Education	5,516
352	NHS Integrated Care Board	352
100	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	140
55	Public Health England	45
1,353	Other Revenue Grants & Contributions	1,461
<b>8,289</b>	<b>Total Conditional Revenue Grants &amp; Contributions</b>	<b>7,901</b>

### Included in Long Term Liabilities:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
2,294	Department for Education	20,320
14,697	Developer Contributions	16,151
1,526	Other Local Authorities	1,454
2,810	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership	1,436
0	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	183
135	Contributions from Schools/Academy Trusts	81
2	Department for Transport	2
46	Other Capital Grants & Contributions	16
<b>21,510</b>	<b>Total Capital Grants Receipts in Advance</b>	<b>39,643</b>

### 9. Agency Services

The County Council administers money on behalf of the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board under Section 28 agreements. For 2023-24 the expenditure, which is not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, amounts to £19.877m (£15.425m in 2022-23).

### 10. Joint Arrangements

- **Speech and Language Therapy Service (SaLT)**

From August 2021, Norfolk County Council and Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust entered into an agreement to provide a local and integrated approach to commissioning Educational and Community Clinical Paediatric Speech and Language Services in Norfolk for 0 to 19 year olds, plus a specialist neonatal provision in Norfolk. This included agreement for additional costs to clear the waiting list over three years.

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(3,753)	Gross Income	(3,863)
3,753	Expenditure	3,863
<b>0</b>	<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>
1,374	Council's Contribution	1,302

- **Better Care Fund (BCF)**

Norfolk's Better Care Fund programme is a key mechanism for the delivery of integration between health and social care.

In 2015, the Council entered into Section 75 "Better Care Fund" arrangements with each of the five Clinical Commissioning Groups in Norfolk. The regulations require that one of the partners acts as the host of the pooled budget and Norfolk County Council acts in this capacity.

On 1 April 2020 the five CCGs in Norfolk merged to become NHS Norfolk & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group. However, the BCF is still managed in areas that follow the previous CCG's geographical boundaries. For each service included within the Section 75 agreements either the Council or the CCG is solely responsible for delivery. Entries in the County Council's financial system relate to the Council's controlled share of the pool, with notional entries to reflect the share of the pool controlled by the CCG. These notional entries are excluded from the Council's accounts. The Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board is accountable, overall, for the Norfolk BCF.

During the year 2022-23, the NHS Norfolk & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group became the NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB). Consequently, the BCF is no longer managed in areas in 2023-24, and the table below reflects funding and spend in 2023-24:

2022-23	2023-24	2023-24
		<b>£000s</b>
(36,984)	ICB	(39,078)
(36,047)	Norfolk County Council	(38,088)
(9,158)	Capital Grants	(9,957)
(39,002)	iBCF & Winter Funding Grant Income (Note A)	(39,619)
<b>(121,191)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(126,742)</b>
36,984	ICB	39,078
45,205	Norfolk County Council	48,045
39,002	iBCF & Winter Funding Projects expenditure	39,619
<b>121,191</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>126,742</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>

Note A: This figure reflects the relevant locality share of iBCF & Winter Funding grant income paid by DLUHC for projects undertaken by Adult Social Care on behalf of the Pooled Fund.

- **Equipment Pool**

As part of the Better Care Fund, the Council hosts an Equipment Service arrangement and decisions made jointly with the ICB. The fund supplies equipment to people who are eligible for equipment either from the NHS or the County Council. It is accounted for as joint operations with each organisation accounting for its share of income and expenditure as set out in the table below, and over and underspend risks borne by the partner responsible.

<b>2023-24</b>			
	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Net (surplus) / deficit</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>(8,777)</b>	<b>8,777</b>	<b>0</b>
Norfolk County Council	(4,520)	4,520	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(13,297)</b>	<b>13,297</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>2022-23</b>			
	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Net (surplus) / deficit</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>(9,427)</b>	<b>9,427</b>	<b>0</b>
Norfolk County Council	(2,951)	2,951	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>(12,378)</b>	<b>12,378</b>	<b>0</b>

- **Infrastructure Investment Fund**

The 2013 Greater Norwich City Deal allows, amongst other things, access to £60m of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing at a favourable rate to fund strategic infrastructure. The agreement included a commitment from Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council to pool CIL income, and in October 2015 an agreement including Norfolk County Council was signed to pool CIL income to create a substantial local growth fund to support local infrastructure projects. Norfolk County Council acts as the accountable body.

Under a related agreement Norfolk County Council has borrowed £40m in 2017-18 to part fund the construction costs of the Broadland Northway road, with the annual repayments of principal and interest to the PWLB to be drawn from the pooled fund. The financial statements carry the PWLB debt within Long Term Borrowing, with the commitment by the local growth fund to re-pay the borrowing reflected as a Long Term Debtor.

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
15,207	Balance brought forward	24,843
14,202	Gross Income	11,863
(5,100)	Expenditure	(5,343)
534	Interest on daily cash balances	1,519
<b>24,843</b>	<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>32,882</b>

## 11. Members Allowances

The total amount of members allowances paid in the year was £1.456m (£1.406m in 2022-23).

## 12. External Audit Costs

The Council has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and non-audit services provided by the Council's external auditors.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
125	Fees payable to external auditors for external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	357
100	Fees payable (adjustment) to external auditors for external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for previous years	(35)
8	Fees payable to external auditors for the certification of grant claims and returns for the year	9
<b>233</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>

Fees are prescribed by the Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) and any increase in published scale fees needs to be agreed by them. The additional fee for 2023-24 has been accrued, and it will be adjusted in the subsequent year once agreed upon by PSAA.

## 13. Officers Remuneration

(i) Council's senior employees:

The following tables set out the remuneration disclosures for senior officers.

Remuneration includes:

- Salaries & allowances: This encompasses salary, market supplements, and payments for selling back of annual leave. These figures represent gross pay before the deduction of employees' pension contributions.
- Expenses: This include expenses which are chargeable to tax and other benefits (e.g. as declared on HM Revenue & Customs form P11D, if applicable).
- Compensation for loss of office: Any payments receivable on termination of employment.

For interim chief officers, Salaries & allowances also include fees paid to secure the services of these officers, if applicable.

Figures in the tables are rounded to the nearest hundred pounds.

2023-24							
Position & Postholder	Note	Salaries & allowances	Expenses	Compensation for loss of office	Sub Total	Employer Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive: <i>T McCabe</i>	A	201,800	0	0	<b>201,800</b>	24,000	<b>225,800</b>
Executive Director of Children's Services: <i>S Tough</i>		173,500	0	0	<b>173,500</b>	26,400	<b>199,900</b>
Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation: <i>P Cracknell</i>		160,200	0	0	<b>160,200</b>	24,800	<b>185,000</b>
Executive Director of Adult Social Services	B	28,300	0	0	<b>28,300</b>	4,400	<b>32,700</b>
Interim Executive Director of Adult Social Services	B	115,700	0	0	<b>115,700</b>	17,900	<b>133,600</b>
Interim Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services	C	108,500	0	0	<b>108,500</b>	16,800	<b>125,300</b>
Director of Public Health		130,000	0	0	<b>130,000</b>	17,600	<b>147,600</b>
Director of Strategic Finance	D	122,000	0	0	<b>122,000</b>	18,900	<b>140,900</b>
Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer		115,500	0	0	<b>115,500</b>	17,900	<b>133,400</b>
Director of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service: <i>C Sumner</i>	E	150,900	0	0	<b>150,900</b>	22,700	<b>173,600</b>

**Note A:** The Chief Executive was appointed on 12 June 2023. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services and Head of Paid Service in the Council.

**Note B:** The Executive Director of Adult Social Services was appointed as the Interim Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care and Integrated Care at the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on a secondment basis starting from 6 June 2023. During the secondment, from this date to 31 March 2024, the remuneration is fully recharged to CQC. The remuneration borne by the Council for the period from 1 April to 5 June 2023 is included in the table above.

During the secondment of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services, the role is filled by the Interim Executive Director of Adult Social Services. The remuneration of the Interim Executive Director for the period from 6 June 2023 to 31 March 2024 is included in the table above.

**Note C:** The Interim Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services was appointed on 26 June 2023. Before this appointment, the officer served as the Director of Highways, Transport, and Waste. Remuneration for the period from 26 June 2023 to 31 March 2024 is included in the table above.

**Note D:** The Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services was responsible, under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the proper financial administration of the Norfolk Pension Fund and held the role of Fund Administrator. As of April 15, 2023, this role was replaced by the Director of Strategic Finance as part of the Strategic Review. The remuneration of the Director of Strategic Finance for the period from 15 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is included in the table above.

**Note E:** The salary shown for the Director of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service includes both a current and retrospective market supplement.

2022-23							
Position & Postholder	Note	Salaries & allowances	Expenses	Compensation for loss of office	Sub Total	Employer Pension contributions	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (Head of Paid Service): <i>T McCabe</i>		207,100	0	0	<b>207,100</b>	0	<b>207,100</b>
Executive Director of Adult Social Services: <i>J Bullion</i>		156,700	0	0	<b>156,700</b>	24,300	<b>181,000</b>
Executive Director of Children's Services: <i>S Tough</i>		164,400	0	0	<b>164,400</b>	25,500	<b>189,900</b>
Executive Director Finance & Commercial Services: <i>S George</i>	A	156,700	0	0	<b>156,700</b>	24,300	<b>181,000</b>
Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation: <i>P Cracknell</i>		143,600	0	0	<b>143,600</b>	22,300	<b>165,900</b>
Director of Governance	B	119,700	0	0	<b>119,700</b>	14,400	<b>134,100</b>
Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	B	23,000	0	0	<b>23,000</b>	2,800	<b>25,800</b>
Director of Public Health: <i>L Smith</i>	C	133,700	0	0	<b>133,700</b>	19,500	<b>153,200</b>
Director of Public Health	C	7,700	0	0	<b>7,700</b>	1,000	<b>8,700</b>
Chief Fire Officer: <i>T Edwards</i>	D	61,200	0	0	<b>61,200</b>	11,200	<b>72,400</b>
Director of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	D	98,000	0	0	<b>98,000</b>	10,500	<b>108,500</b>

**Note A:** The Executive Director Finance & Commercial Services has responsibility under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the proper financial administration of the Norfolk Pension Fund and holds the role of Fund Administrator. For 2022-23 the remuneration amount incurred by the Fund was £9,000 and forms part of the remuneration figure shown in the table above. From 15 April 2023 this role was replaced by the Director of Strategic Finance as part of the Strategic Review.

**Note B:** The Director of Governance left Norfolk County Council on 8 January 2023. As part of the Strategic Review, the post was not replaced on a like for like basis. The role of Chief Legal Officer is now fulfilled by the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer and their remuneration for the period from 9 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 is included in the table above.

**Note C:** The Director of Public Health left Norfolk County Council on 22 March 2023. The new Director of Public Health started on 13 March 2023. Their remuneration for the period 13 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 is shown in the table above.

**Note D:** The Chief Fire Officer retired on 31 August 2022. His remuneration for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 August 2022 is shown in the table above. The Director of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service started in post on 5 September 2022.



(ii) The number of other employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) are in the table below:

2022-23			Remuneration Band	2023-24		
School Staff	Other Staff	Total Employees		School Staff	Other Staff	Total Employees
83	168	251	£50,000 - £54,999	127	402	529
51	192	243	£55,000 - £59,999	51	171	222
41	61	102	£60,000 - £64,999	48	104	152
18	50	68	£65,000 - £69,999	34	101	135
16	18	34	£70,000 - £74,999	18	31	49
18	25	43	£75,000 - £79,999	12	25	37
6	7	13	£80,000 - £84,999	12	20	32
7	4	11	£85,000 - £89,999	8	10	18
1	4	5	£90,000 - £94,999	4	4	8
1	5	6	£95,000 - £99,999	1	2	3
0	2	2	£100,000 - £104,999	3	7	10
3	6	9	£105,000 - £109,999	1	3	4
1	0	1	£110,000 - £114,999	1	2	3
0	5	5	£115,000 - £119,999	1	2	3
0	1	1	£120,000 - £124,999	1	4	5
1	1	2	£125,000 - £129,999	1	1	2
0	1	1	£130,000 - £134,999	0	0	0
0	1	1	£135,000 - £139,999	0	2	2
0	0	0	£140,000 - £144,999	0	1	1

(iii) The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

2022-23				Exit Package cost band	2023-24			
Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total cost of exit packages in each band		Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band	Total cost of exit packages in each band
			£000s				£000s	
17	46	63	210	£0 - £10,000	9	80	89	265
1	18	19	290	£10,001 - £20,000	0	21	21	305
4	6	10	273	£20,001 - £40,000	2	20	22	642
1	0	1	48	£40,001 - £60,000	1	3	4	212
0	3	3	198	£60,001 - £80,000	0	4	4	291
0	0	0	0	£80,001 - £100,000	0	1	1	88
0	0	0	0	£100,001 - £150,000	1	5	6	701
0	0	0	0	Over £150,000	0	2	2	387
<b>23</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>2,891</b>

#### 14. Dedicated Schools Grant

The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the schools budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2021. The schools budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the individual schools budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG are as follows:

2022-23				2023-24		
Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total		Central Expenditure	Individual Schools Budget	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s	£000s
		<b>(737,777)</b>	Final DSG for the financial year (before recoupment)			<b>(786,830)</b>
		<b>420,355</b>	Academy figure recouped			<b>453,309</b>
		<b>(317,422)</b>	Total DSG (after recoupment)			<b>(333,521)</b>
		<b>0</b>	Plus: Brought forward from the previous year			<b>0</b>
		<b>0</b>	Less: Carry forward agreed in advance			<b>0</b>
(105,370)	(212,052)	<b>(317,422)</b>	Agreed initial budgeted distribution in the year	(120,645)	(212,876)	<b>(333,521)</b>
(28,000)	634	<b>(27,366)</b>	In year adjustments	(2,000)	1,640	<b>(360)</b>
(133,370)	(211,418)	<b>(344,788)</b>	Final budget distribution for the year	(122,645)	(211,236)	<b>(333,881)</b>
127,034	0	<b>127,034</b>	Plus: Actual central expenditure	164,267	0	<b>164,267</b>
0	209,655	<b>209,655</b>	Plus: Actual ISB deployed to schools	0	210,750	<b>210,750</b>
0	0	<b>0</b>	Less: Council contribution for the year	(5,500)	0	<b>(5,500)</b>
<b>(6,336)</b>	<b>(1,763)</b>	<b>(8,099)</b>	<b>In Year carry forward to next financial year</b>	<b>36,122</b>	<b>(486)</b>	<b>35,636</b>
		<b>0</b>	Plus: Carry forward agreed in advance	0	0	<b>0</b>
		<b>(8,099)</b>	<b>Carry forward to next financial year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>53,976</b>	DSG Unusable Reserve at 1 April			<b>45,877</b>
		<b>0</b>	Addition to DSG Unusable reserve			<b>35,636</b>
		<b>53,976</b>	DSG Unusable Reserve at 31 March			<b>81,513</b>
		<b>45,877</b>	<b>Net DSG position at 31 March</b>			<b>81,513</b>

The deficit position is due to pressure on the high needs block.

## Supporting the Movement in Reserves Statement

### 15. Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

This note details the adjustments made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Council in the year following proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources 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 adjustments are made against:

#### General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an authority must be paid and out of which all liabilities of the authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might otherwise authorise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should affect the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily following proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Council can spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Council must recover) at the end of the financial year.

#### Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which can only 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 used for these purposes at the year end.

#### Capital Grants Unapplied Account

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 demand repayment of the monies, but which have yet to be used to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be used and/or the financial year in which this can take place.

<b>2023-24 Usable Reserves</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Capital Receipts Reserve</b>	<b>Capital Grants Unapplied Account</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Adjustments to Revenue Resources:			
Pension Costs (transferred to/from the Pension Reserve)	1,999	0	0
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	(1,010)	0	0
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to and from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(1,672)	0	0
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	37	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant in-year deficit (transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account)	35,636	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (charged to the Capital Adjustment Account):	17,319	0	0
<b>Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>52,309</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(12,463)	12,463	0
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	74	(74)	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	(34,724)	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(2,522)	0	0
<b>Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>	<b>(49,635)</b>	<b>12,389</b>	<b>0</b>
Adjustments to Capital Resources:			
Use of the Capital Receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(14,667)	0
Long term debtor repayments in year	0	(5,953)	0
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(6,818)
<b>Total Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(20,620)</b>	<b>(6,818)</b>
<b>Total Adjustments in 2023-24</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>(8,231)</b>	<b>(6,818)</b>

<b>2022-23 Usable Reserves</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Capital Receipts Reserve</b>	<b>Capital Grants Unapplied Account</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Adjustments to Revenue Resources:			
Pension Costs (transferred to/from the Pension Reserve)	111,724	0	0
Financial Instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	(47)	0	0
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to and from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(9,252)	0	0
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Reserve)	(3,576)	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant in-year deficit (transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account)	(8,099)	0	0
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (charged to the Capital Adjustment Account):	67,943	0	59,991
<b>Total Adjustment to Revenue Resources</b>	<b>158,693</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,991</b>
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:			
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(28,874)	28,874	0
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	260	(260)	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	(32,424)	0	0
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(1,849)	0	0
<b>Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources</b>	<b>(62,887)</b>	<b>28,614</b>	<b>0</b>
Adjustments to Capital Resources:			
Use of the Capital Receipts reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	(29,093)	0
Long term debtor repayments in year	0	17,137	0
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(65,066)
<b>Total Adjustments to Capital Resources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(11,956)</b>	<b>(65,066)</b>
<b>Total Adjustments in 2022-23</b>	<b>95,806</b>	<b>16,658</b>	<b>(5,075)</b>

## 16. Transfers to/from earmarked reserves

The table shows each of the Council's earmarked reserve accounts where the balance is more than £1m either on 31 March 2023 or 31 March 2024. Descriptions of each of these earmarked reserves follow the table.

	<b>Balance at 31 March 2022 £000s</b>	<b>Transfers in 2022-23 £000s</b>	<b>Transfers out 2022-23 £000s</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023 £000s</b>	<b>Transfers in 2023-24 £000s</b>	<b>Transfers out 2023-24 £000s</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024 £000s</b>
LMS Balances	<b>17,838</b>	17,670	(19,467)	<b>16,041</b>	17,607	(18,581)	<b>15,067</b>
Adult Social Care Residential Review	<b>16,730</b>	12,728	(18,853)	<b>10,605</b>	9,916	(16,612)	<b>3,909</b>
Building Maintenance	<b>2,628</b>	401	(550)	<b>2,479</b>	349	(1,765)	<b>1,063</b>
Business Rates Pilot	<b>7,752</b>	6,220	0	<b>13,972</b>	0	0	<b>13,972</b>
Business Risk Reserve (Adults)	<b>13,076</b>	20,826	(22,919)	<b>10,983</b>	70	(11,001)	<b>52</b>
Business Risk Reserve (Children's)	<b>1,825</b>	1,030	(1,482)	<b>1,373</b>	304	(1,164)	<b>513</b>
Business Risk Reserve (CES)	<b>1,625</b>	1,846	(226)	<b>3,245</b>	1,860	(3,202)	<b>1,903</b>
Business Risk Reserve (General)	<b>28,812</b>	56	(18,001)	<b>10,867</b>	1,885	(1,590)	<b>11,162</b>
Economic Development and Tourism	<b>7,212</b>	7,493	(7,149)	<b>7,556</b>	2,427	(2,684)	<b>7,299</b>
Education Equalisation	<b>2,872</b>	2,872	(5,144)	<b>600</b>	0	(235)	<b>365</b>
Highways Maintenance	<b>10,712</b>	4,131	(5,836)	<b>9,007</b>	8,845	(4,182)	<b>13,670</b>
Income Reserve	<b>3,688</b>	1,093	(1,161)	<b>3,620</b>	715	(1,185)	<b>3,150</b>
Information Technology	<b>3,069</b>	240	(1,078)	<b>2,231</b>	335	(1,016)	<b>1,550</b>
Norwich PFI Sink Fund	<b>2,101</b>	102	0	<b>2,203</b>	0	(553)	<b>1,650</b>
Organisational Change and Redundancy Reserve	<b>7,829</b>	728	(2,872)	<b>5,685</b>	1,527	(1,101)	<b>6,111</b>
Prevention Fund	<b>672</b>	649	(97)	<b>1,224</b>	96	(634)	<b>686</b>
Repairs and Renewals Fund	<b>4,380</b>	281	(690)	<b>3,971</b>	1,446	(1,025)	<b>4,392</b>
Street Lighting PFI Sinking Fund	<b>5,013</b>	3,653	(3,247)	<b>5,419</b>	3,313	(3,101)	<b>5,631</b>

	<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>Transfers in 2022-23</b>	<b>Transfers out 2022-23</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>Transfers in 2023-24</b>	<b>Transfers out 2023-24</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Unspent Grants and Contributions	<b>40,500</b>	36,113	(22,557)	<b>54,056</b>	11,564	(26,091)	<b>39,529</b>
Waste Management Partnership	<b>425</b>	600	0	<b>1,025</b>	1,960	(300)	<b>2,685</b>
Elections Reserve	<b>534</b>	300	0	<b>834</b>	325	0	<b>1,159</b>
Park & Ride Refurbishment Reserve	<b>12</b>	200	0	<b>212</b>	892	(9)	<b>1,095</b>
Other earmarked reserves	<b>1,857</b>	558	(209)	<b>2,206</b>	1,271	(750)	<b>2,727</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,162</b>	<b>119,790</b>	<b>(131,538)</b>	<b>169,414</b>	<b>66,707</b>	<b>(96,781)</b>	<b>139,340</b>

Details of earmarked reserves:

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>LMS Balances</b>	This reserve is surpluses and deficits against delegated budgets for locally managed schools (LMS). These funds are kept for schools following the LMS arrangements approved by the Department for Education and are not available to the Council for general use.
<b>Adult Social Care Residential Review</b>	This reserve was the result of savings arising from the new conditions of services and is to develop homes for the elderly.
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	This reserve is to uphold the capital value of the Council's building stock and helps the rolling programme of building maintenance. It also allows the Council to respond to emergencies by carrying out repairs from day to day and as the need arises.
<b>Business Rates Pilot</b>	This reserve holds additional business rates income received through the business rates retention system in previous years including from the 2019-20 Norfolk Business Rates Pilot.
<b>Business Risk Reserve (General, Adults, Children's &amp; CES)</b>	This reserve is to provide flexibility with managing budget risks and to ease the level of savings needed in future years. Part of the reserve is earmarked for managing key budget risks within the specific departments.
<b>Economic Development and Tourism</b>	This is set aside monies for specific schemes and for the promotion of tourism. Provision is made annually in the Revenue Budget for contributions to this fund and any under or over spending on the fund is carried forward to the next financial year.

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Education Equalisation</b>	To fund the variance in the number of Home to School/College Transport and School Catering days in a financial year as a result of the varying dates of Easter holidays.
<b>Highways Maintenance</b>	This reserve supports the undertaking of a wide range of maintenance schemes. The reserve smooths the peaks and troughs of expenditure on highway maintenance which is highly dependent on the severity of the winter. The balance mainly relates to commuted sums paid by developers to cover the added maintenance work arising from their developments. The reserve also reflects monies from decriminalised car parking arrangements and charging utility companies for use in future years.
<b>Income Reserve</b>	This reserve is used in services to support unexpected income shortfalls in future years, such as bad weather or partial closure of museums during refurbishment.
<b>Information Technology</b>	Monies set aside for specific IT projects.
<b>Norwich PFI Sink Fund</b>	This reserve has been created as a result of the Norwich Schools PFI scheme and reflects receipt of government PFI grant and contributions from schools and academies which will be needed in future financial years to meet contract payments.
<b>Organisational Change and Redundancy Reserve</b>	This reserve is to support and invest in transformational change e.g. shared services, and to fund redundancy costs.
<b>Prevention Fund</b>	This reserve is intended to be used to fund projects and activities that support people to remain independent for as long as possible and improve quality of life and outcomes.
<b>Repairs and Renewals Fund</b>	This fund is to meet the cost of buying and repairing specific equipment.
<b>Street Lighting PFI Sinking Fund</b>	This reserve reflects receipt of government PFI grant needed to meet contract payments for the Street Lighting PFI scheme.
<b>Unspent Grants and Contributions Reserve</b>	This reserve holds the balances on the Council's unconditional grants and contributions.
<b>Waste Management Partnership</b>	This reserve is for waste management initiatives.
<b>Elections Reserves</b>	This reserve is built up over a four-year period to cover the cost of the councillor elections that take place every fourth year.



Reserve	Description
<b>Park &amp; Ride Refurbishment Reserves</b>	This reserve is to uphold the capital value of the Park & Ride sites and to support variability in income streams in the service.
<b>Other Earmarked Reserves</b>	These mainly include various reserves held in respect of initiatives begun in previous years for which outstanding planned financial provision will be utilised in 2024-25 or future years as initiatives finish. All balances on each of these reserves as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 are below £1m.

## Supporting the Balance Sheet

### 17. Property, Plant and Equipment

The Property, Plant and Equipment held at gross cost and accumulated depreciation are set out below:

<b>2023-24</b>	Land and buildings £000s	Vehicles, plant, and equipment £000s	Assets under construction £000s	Surplus assets £000s	<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s</b>	PFI Assets included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000s
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>						
At 1 April 2023	694,295	82,131	148,787	30,695	<b>955,908</b>	7,396
Additions	13,561	7,271	77,457	2,265	<b>100,554</b>	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases):						
- to Revaluation reserve	13,042	0	0	1,334	<b>14,376</b>	0
- to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,595)	0	0	(405)	<b>(6,000)</b>	0
Derecognition - disposals	(9,239)	(5,489)	0	(299)	<b>(15,027)</b>	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0	(6,949)	<b>(6,949)</b>	0
Reclassifications and transfers	3,584	4,709	(132,132)	6,171	<b>(117,668)</b>	0
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>709,648</b>	<b>88,622</b>	<b>94,112</b>	<b>32,812</b>	<b>925,194</b>	<b>7,396</b>
<u>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</u>						
At 1 April 2023	130,436	44,454	0	12,983	<b>187,873</b>	88
Depreciation charge	15,183	10,998	0	92	<b>26,273</b>	212
Depreciation written out to Revaluation reserve	(9,874)	0	0	(188)	<b>(10,062)</b>	0
Depreciation written out on revaluation to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(7,707)	0	0	(48)	<b>(7,755)</b>	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in:						
- the Revaluation reserve	(6,081)	0	0	(109)	<b>(6,190)</b>	0
- the surplus or deficit on provision of services	12,100	86	0	2,466	<b>14,652</b>	0
Derecognition - disposals	(1,160)	(5,068)	0	(25)	<b>(6,253)</b>	0
Reclassifications and transfers	0	0	0	177	<b>177</b>	0
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>132,897</b>	<b>50,470</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,348</b>	<b>198,715</b>	<b>300</b>
<u>Net Book Value:</u>						
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>576,751</b>	<b>38,152</b>	<b>94,112</b>	<b>17,464</b>	<b>726,479</b>	<b>7,096</b>
At 31 March 2023	563,859	37,677	148,787	17,712	768,035	7,308

<b>2022-23</b>	Land and buildings £000s	Vehicles, plant, and equipment £000s	Assets under construction £000s	Surplus assets £000s	<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s</b>	PFI Assets included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000s
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>						
At 1 April 2022	664,159	75,225	114,729	31,343	<b>885,456</b>	6,723
Additions	16,367	11,425	65,209	0	<b>93,001</b>	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases):						
- to Revaluation reserve	16,176	0	0	473	<b>16,649</b>	446
- to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,149)	0	0	(708)	<b>(5,857)</b>	227
Derecognition - disposals	(11,148)	(4,751)	0	(20)	<b>(15,919)</b>	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	250	0	0	(2,417)	<b>(2,167)</b>	0
Reclassifications and transfers	13,640	232	(31,151)	2,024	<b>(15,255)</b>	0
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>694,295</b>	<b>82,131</b>	<b>148,787</b>	<b>30,695</b>	<b>955,908</b>	<b>7,396</b>
<u>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</u>						
At 1 April 2022	115,070	39,158	0	13,091	<b>167,319</b>	65
Depreciation charge	14,694	9,980	0	57	<b>24,731</b>	203
Depreciation written out to Revaluation reserve	(8,423)	0	0	(88)	<b>(8,511)</b>	(74)
Depreciation written out on revaluation to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,810)	0	0	(6)	<b>(5,816)</b>	(106)
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in:						
- the Revaluation reserve	(328)	0	0	55	<b>(273)</b>	0
- the surplus or deficit on provision of services	16,845	0	0	0	<b>16,845</b>	0
Derecognition - disposals	(164)	(4,686)	0	0	<b>(4,850)</b>	0
Reclassifications and transfers	(1,448)	2	0	(126)	<b>(1,572)</b>	0
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>130,436</b>	<b>44,454</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>187,873</b>	<b>88</b>
<u>Net Book Value:</u>						
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>563,859</b>	<b>37,677</b>	<b>148,787</b>	<b>17,712</b>	<b>768,035</b>	<b>7,308</b>
At 31 March 2022	549,089	36,067	114,729	18,252	718,137	6,658

### Infrastructure Assets

In accordance with the Temporary Relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

2022-23			2023-24	
Infrastructure Assets £000s	PFI Assets included in Infrastructure Assets £000s		Infrastructure Assets £000s	PFI Assets included in Infrastructure Assets £000s
<b>1,049,224</b>	<b>30,405</b>	<b>Net Book Value at 1 April</b>	<b>1,053,905</b>	<b>30,701</b>
63,497	4,542	Additions	74,901	2,677
0	0	Revaluation	21,063	0
(247)	0	Derecognition	(24)	0
(42,023)	(916)	Depreciation	(51,643)	(913)
(16,755)	(3,330)	Impairment Losses	(12,528)	(1,242)
209	0	Reclassifications and Transfers	117,340	0
<b>1,053,905</b>	<b>30,701</b>	<b>Net Book Value at 31 March</b>	<b>1,203,014</b>	<b>31,223</b>

The authority has determined, in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, that when there is replacement expenditure the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets is nil.

The Property, Plant & Equipment Balance in the Balance Sheet consists of:

2022-23			2023-24	
Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s	PFI Assets included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000s		Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s	PFI Assets included in Property, Plant and Equipment £000s
1,053,905	30,701	Infrastructure Assets	1,203,014	31,223
768,035	7,308	Other Property, Plant & Equipment assets (page 50-51)	726,479	7,096
<b>1,821,940</b>	<b>38,009</b>	<b>Net Book Value at 31 March</b>	<b>1,929,493</b>	<b>38,319</b>

### Depreciation

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

Buildings	1 - 60 years
Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	1 - 20 years
Infrastructure	1-80 years

### Impairment Losses

During 2023-24 the Council recognised an impairment loss of £15.183m (£18.094m in 2022-23) in relation to capital expenditure incurred which does not result in a change to the value of the assets. Impairment reversals on revaluations total £2.795m (£1.249m in 2022-23).

### Disposals and Derecognition

During 2023-24, 7 schools transferred to Academy status. The Council's balance sheet no longer includes the assets relating to these schools, the total value written off amounts to £5.027m (£10.984m Academies and schools in 22-23).

### Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024, the Council has entered into several significant contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2023-24 and future years on schemes listed in the table below. Similar commitments at 31 March 2023 were £135.201m.

<b>Service/Scheme</b>	<b>Contract Completion</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<u>Adult Social Care Projects</u>		
ICES Equipment	Ongoing	7,802
<u>Children's Services</u>		
Cringleford New Academy	24/25	2,263
Blofield Primary	24/25	8,155
Hethersett High	24/25	9,450
<u>Community and Environmental Services</u>		
Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing	24/25	12,348
Great Yarmouth Operations & Maintenance Campus	24/25	12,262
Fire Vehicle Replacement Programme	24/25	19,411
Multi Use Community Hub - Kings Lynn Library	24/25	11,094
Countywide Streetlight LED Replacement Programme	24/25	5,977
Ringland A47-A1067 Western Link Road	2029	226,854
Norwich - Transforming Cities bid	25/26	16,936
Countywide BSIP Programme Resources	24/25	23,614
<u>Finance and Commercial Services</u>		
Technology Improvement	Ongoing	18,305
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>374,471</u></b>

In addition to the above, the Council has three major on-going contract arrangements for integrated highways services, highways works, and traffic signals maintenance and improvement. The Council also uses a number of contract frameworks for the delivery of highways schemes. The total Highways Capital budget for 2024-27 at 31 March 2024 was £593.492m, including the £285.728m in respect of the Western Link and Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and other Highways projects listed above.

## Revaluations

The following table shows the progress of the Council's rolling programme for the revaluation of fixed assets.

	Land and Buildings £000s	Vehicles, plant and equipment £000s	Surplus assets £000s	Infrastructure Assets £000s
Carried at Historical Cost	0	38,152	0	1,203,014
Valued at current value in:				
2023-24	256,937	0	4,774	0
2022-23	201,959	0	1,121	0
2021-22	70,304	0	3,085	0
2020-21	19,473	0	6,139	0
2019-20	28,078	0	2,345	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>576,751</b>	<b>38,152</b>	<b>17,464</b>	<b>1,203,014</b>

In addition to the five-year rolling programme of revaluations, the Council's valuers undertake an annual review of the current property valuations to ensure that they are materially correct for inclusion in the statement of accounts.

## Surplus Assets

Of the Council's Surplus Assets at 31 March 2024 assets valued at £14.958m have been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes, with the rest assessed as Level 2. The valuation levels are as set out for Investment Properties as described in note 19 below.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements (using Significant Unobservable Inputs) categorised within level 3 of Fair Value Hierarchy:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
15,050	Opening balance	14,267
(903)	Transfers to Assets held for Sale	(1,650)
(23)	Transfers to Property, Plant & Equipment	(61)
1,834	Transfers into Level 3	3,729
(917)	Transfers out of Level 3	(1,166)
(65)	Revaluation gains/(losses) - revaluation reserve	396
0	Disposal	(300)
(709)	Total gains/(losses) for the period included in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	(257)
<b>14,267</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>14,958</b>

## 18. Heritage Assets

Reconciliation of the carrying value of heritage assets held by the Council.

	Windmills and Windpumps £000s	Other Heritage Assets £000s	Total Assets £000s
Cost or valuation:			
1 April 2023	6,992	6,933	13,925
Additions	0	0	0
Revaluations	0	0	0
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>13,925</b>

	Windmills and Windpumps £000s	Other Heritage Assets £000s	Total Assets £000s
Cost or valuation:			
1 April 2022	6,660	6,634	13,294
Additions	0	299	299
Revaluations	332	0	332
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>13,925</b>

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

### Windmills and Windpumps

The majority of the Council's significant Heritage Assets, by value, are windmills, watermills and drainage mills of historic interest. The Norfolk Windmills Trust, (registered as the Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust), manages the mills and works as a registered charity for the preservation of mills and their associated sites, ruins, machinery and ancillary buildings.

Due to the unique nature of the windmills and windpumps, valuations for the purposes of the statement of accounts are based on insurance schedules for the assets. Annual reviews of the carrying amounts against the insurance schedules for these items show where there is a movement in the valuation. The treatment of this revaluation follows the general policies on revaluation and impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment.

### Other Heritage Assets

Other heritage assets are valued at cost or valuation. Acquisitions are initially recognised at cost or, if bequeathed or donated at nil consideration, at valuation. If a Heritage Asset has no valuation, the Council believes that the cost of obtaining valuations for these items would be disproportionate to the benefits to users of the financial statements.

- Museums' Collections

Through a Joint Committee set up under delegated powers by the County and District Councils in Norfolk, the Norfolk Museums Service runs museums throughout the County. The relevant district councils own most of the collections and related buildings. The only collections owned by the Council are at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, and a small number of artworks at County Hall, Norwich.

- Document and Archive Collections

The Norfolk Record Office (NRO) is a joint service of the County and District Councils of Norfolk and is based in a purpose-built Archive Centre in Norwich. Other documents of historic interest are preserved in the

authority's libraries. A small number of items obtained since 1 April 2010 have a recorded value and included on the Balance Sheet.

- Sundry Other Heritage Assets

In addition to the items noted above, the Council owns a variety of other heritage assets. These assets include structures of historic interest and artefacts of community and historic significance.

## 19. Investment Properties

The Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes the following:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
(160)	Rental income from investment property	0
0	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	0
(540)	(Gains)/Losses on changes in fair value	(2,192)
<b>(700)</b>	<b>Net (gain)/loss</b>	<b>(2,192)</b>

Investment properties are agricultural land with development potential, and the residual Norwich Airport Industrial Estate. There are no inherent restrictions on the sale of the land, but its ownership is related to long term aims of, over time, generating income for the County Council at a time when public funding is scarce, whether recurring or as a capital receipt. Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council jointly own the industrial estate.

The Council incurs no direct costs in respect of the industrial estate, where income received is net of direct operating expenses, nor the other investment properties due to its nature as agricultural land.

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

2022-23		2023-24
Long Term	Short Term	Long Term
£000s	£000s	£000s
14,635	21,021	11,117
(3,840)	3,840	72
0	(21,021)	0
322	218	1,797
<b>11,117</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>12,986</b>
		<b>3,314</b>

The Reclassifications and Transfers figure of £0.072m in 2023-24 relates to a former railway siding acquired in 2010 for regeneration / transportation purposes associated with the construction of the outer harbour. The land is no longer used by the Council and is currently leased to a rail services company. Consequently, it has been reclassified as an investment property from Property, Plant, and Equipment.



### Fair Value Hierarchy

All the Council's investment property portfolio has been assessed as Level 2 and Level 3 for valuation purposes (see Note 41 Section vii) for explanation of fair value levels).

	<b>Significant observable inputs (level 2)</b>	<b>Significant unobservable inputs (level 3)</b>	<b>Fair value 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Current Held for Sale Investment Property	3,314	0	3,314
Commercial Estate	1,097	449	1,546
Land with development potential	11,440	0	11,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,851</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>16,300</b>

Of the net gains/(losses) from fair value investments in 2023-24, £0.050m relates to fair value measurements categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy (£0.218m in 2022-23).

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements (using Significant Unobservable Inputs) categorised within level 3 of Fair Value Hierarchy.

	<b>Land with development potential £000s</b>
<b>Opening balance 1 April 2023</b>	<b>275</b>
Transfers into Level 3 from level 2	449
Transfers out of Level 3	(225)
Total gains/(losses) for the period included in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	(50)
<b>Closing Balance 31 March 2024</b>	<b>449</b>

### Valuation techniques used to determine Level 2 fair values for Investment Properties

The fair value of investment property is measured using a market approach, which considers the active local industrial rented property market, with yields chosen by comparison to similar transactions adjusted to allow for factors such as lease terms, strength of covenant, rent review periods and other lease clauses, voids, etc.

There are significant observable inputs, including physical inspection of location, size, facilities etc., general repair and condition together with yield evidence from comparable transactions.

### Valuation techniques used to determine Level 3 fair values for Investment Properties

For land with development potential, valuations have been based on comparable transactions to calculate a gross development costs and gross development values to arrive at a residual land value. The following factors have also been considered: location and topography, title and legal constraints, and ground conditions.

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 Authority's investment properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

## Valuers

NPS Property Consultants Limited value the investment property portfolio by following the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors.

### 20. Intangible Assets

The movement on the balances during the year:

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	Balance at the start of the year:	
3,829	Gross carrying amounts	21,793
(2,610)	Accumulated amortisation	(3,156)
<b>1,219</b>	<b>Net carrying amount at 1 April</b>	<b>18,637</b>
6,885	Additions (purchases)	2,377
(32)	Disposals	(67)
(2,146)	Amortisation for the period	(3,209)
12,711	Reclassifications and transfers	221
<b>18,637</b>	<b>Net carrying amount at 31 March</b>	<b>17,959</b>
	Comprising:	
21,793	Gross carrying amounts	24,324
(3,156)	Accumulated amortisation	(6,365)
<b>18,637</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,959</b>

Intangible assets include computer software which is being written off over a period of 3 to 10 years.

## 21. Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instruments are in the Council's Balance Sheet:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s		Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s
		Investments:		
15,454	167,235	Amortised Cost	15,465	141,804
5,097	0	Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income	4,306	0
<b>20,551</b>	<b>167,235</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>19,771</b>	<b>141,804</b>
0	0	Non-financial assets	0	0
<b>20,551</b>	<b>167,235</b>	<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>19,771</b>	<b>141,804</b>
		Debtors:		
64,986	82,709	Amortised Cost	62,633	108,536
<b>64,986</b>	<b>82,709</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>62,633</b>	<b>108,536</b>
0	114,357	Non-financial assets	0	102,150
<b>64,986</b>	<b>197,066</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>62,633</b>	<b>210,686</b>
		Cash and Cash equivalents:		
0	118,981	Amortised Cost	0	30,177
<b>0</b>	<b>118,981</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,177</b>
0	0	Non-financial assets	0	0
<b>0</b>	<b>118,981</b>	<b>Total Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,177</b>
		Borrowings:		
832,038	26,404	Amortised Cost	796,381	30,716
<b>832,038</b>	<b>26,404</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>796,381</b>	<b>30,716</b>
0	0	Non-financial Liabilities	0	0
<b>832,038</b>	<b>26,404</b>	<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>796,381</b>	<b>30,716</b>
		Other short/long term liabilities:		
41,103	3,378	Amortised Cost	37,528	3,722
<b>41,103</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>37,528</b>	<b>3,722</b>
319,743	0	Non-financial Liabilities	325,280	0
<b>360,846</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>Total Other Short / Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>362,808</b>	<b>3,722</b>
		Creditors:		
0	186,750	Amortised Cost	0	198,849
<b>0</b>	<b>186,750</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198,849</b>
0	95,474	Non-financial Liabilities	0	84,746
<b>0</b>	<b>282,224</b>	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>283,595</b>

Interest due to be paid or received within the next 12 months in respect of both long and short term loans and investments is shown within the Short Term columns in the table above.

### Soft Loans made by the Council

The Council have deferred payment agreements made prior to 1 April 2015 where residential care clients exercised their choice to defer payment for services received by agreeing to a legal charge on property they own. No interest is charged against these deferred payments. The fair value includes an interest element based on the average rate of interest payable on the Council's debt for the year (5.43%). From 1 April 2015 the Council created a Deferred Payments Scheme as required by the Care Act 2014. This scheme includes an interest charge at market rate, therefore any new agreements are not soft loans.

The Council provided loans for car purchase to 28 employees in the authority who are in posts that need them to drive regularly on the Council's business. Interest is charged on the loans at 1% plus Bank of England Base Rate, but the Council assesses that an unsubsidised rate for such loans would have been 2.5% plus Bank of England Base Rate.

### Investments in Equity Instruments designated at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

The Council holds shares in a group of companies associated with the Airport, namely Legislator 1656 Ltd which holds a wholly own subsidiary named Legislator 1657 Ltd. The group companies were originated through a policy initiative with other authorities to promote economic generation and tourism. As the asset is not held for trading or income generation, rather a longer-term policy initiative, the equity has been designated as fair value through other comprehensive income.

The Council's investment of £11.964m in Norse Group Ltd stays at amortised cost as the company is included in the Council's group accounts.

None of the companies are quoted on the stock exchange.

2022-23					2023-24			
Nominal Value at 31 March £000s	Fair Value at 31 March £000s	Increase/ (Decrease) in Fair Value £000s	Dividends Paid £000s		Nominal Value at 31 March £000s	Fair Value at 31 March £000s	Increase/ (Decrease) in Fair Value £000s	Dividends Paid £000s
1	5,097	411	0	Non-listed securities: Legislator 1656	1	4,307	790	0

### Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are as follows. All entries are within Financing and Investment income within the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

2022-23 £000s		2023-24 £000s
(6,550)	Interest revenue: Financial assets measured at amortised cost	(12,665)
<b>(6,550)</b>	<b>Total interest revenue</b>	<b>(12,665)</b>
36,041	Interest expense: Financial assets measured at amortised cost	34,010
<b>36,041</b>	<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>34,010</b>
<b>29,491</b>	<b>Net (gain)/loss for the year</b>	<b>21,345</b>

### Fair Values of Financial Assets

Some of the Council'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.

#### **Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income:**

31 March 2023					31 March 2024
£000s	Recurring fair value measurements	Input level in fair value hierarchy	Valuation technique used to measure fair value	£000s	
5,097	Legislator 1656	Level 3	Adjusted Net Assets Valuation	4,307	
<b>5,097</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>4,307</b>	

The Council's shareholding in Legislator companies are not traded in an active market. The fair value of £4.307m has been based on valuation techniques that are not based on observable current market transactions or available market data. The fair value of Legislator 1656 has been based on NPS Property Consultants Limited valuation of land that the company owns, both companies have no other significant assets or liabilities.

There have been no transfers between levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy.

### Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (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 Council are shown in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value equals the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments. These valuations are all classified as Level 2, where market prices are not available, with valuation techniques using inputs based significantly on observable market data. The following assumptions should be noted:

- For loans from the PWLB payable, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to supply the fair value under PWLB debt redemption procedures;
- The fair value for non-PWLB debt has also been calculated using the same procedures and interest rates and this supplies a sound approximation for fair value for these instruments;
- for loans receivable prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to supply the fair value;
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value;
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Carrying amount	Fair value		Carrying amount	Fair value
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s
		<u>Financial Liabilities</u>		
813,582	780,298	PWLB debt	794,497	702,804
44,860	49,633	Non PWLB debt	32,600	35,432
44,481	57,113	PFI and finance lease liabilities	41,250	50,971
186,750	186,750	Short term creditors	197,133	197,133
<b>1,089,673</b>	<b>1,073,794</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,065,480</b>	<b>986,340</b>

The fair value of the financial liabilities is lesser than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes several 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.

The fair value of PWLB loans of £702.804m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with the 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 added interest that the Council 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.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Carrying amount	Fair value		Carrying amount	Fair value
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s
		<u>Financial Assets</u>		
167,235	167,235	Investments	141,804	141,804
118,981	118,981	Cash and cash equivalents	30,177	30,177
64,986	64,986	Long term debtors	62,633	62,633
82,709	82,709	Short term debtors	106,624	106,624
<b>433,911</b>	<b>433,911</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>341,238</b>	<b>341,238</b>

The fair value of the assets does not differ from the carrying amount as the investments, cash and debtors are shown at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The long term investment classified as Amortised Cost is not included in the table above. This is because as the Council has no immediate plans to sell its subsidiaries, the Council believes that the cost of obtaining valuations for these investments would be disproportionate to the benefits to users of the financial statements.

## 22. Debtors

These are people and organisations that owe money to the Council at the end of the year. Short term debt is money expected to be paid within 12 months of the balance sheet date. Money due after this period is accounted for as long term. The trade customer total includes the adjustment for the Council's share of collection fund arrears and bad debt provision, as informed by the District Councils, in relation to the collection of council tax and business rates. The total for other receivables includes employee car loans.

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s		Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s
		Trade Customers		
1,743	62,685	- Service Recipients	2,911	84,262
0	106,612	- Other Trade Customers	0	100,678
21,640	2,432	Subsidiaries	9,281	1,464
41,603	2,324	Other Receivables	50,441	1,857
0	23,013	Prepayments	0	22,425
<b>64,986</b>	<b>197,066</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>62,633</b>	<b>210,686</b>

## 23. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents consists of the following elements:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
£000s			£000s
(8,868)	Cash and Bank balances		(9,377)
127,849	Short term deposits with the Money Market		39,554
<b>118,981</b>	<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>30,177</b>

## 24. Assets Held for Sale

2022-23			2023-24
£000s			£000s
6,290	Balance outstanding at start of year		3,650
	Assets newly classified as held for sale:		
2,167	- Property plant and equipment		6,949
(4,803)	Assets sold		(4,062)
(4)	Other Movements		(2)
<b>3,650</b>	<b>Balance outstanding at year end</b>		<b>6,535</b>

### Fair value hierarchy

Of the Council's assets held for sale at 31 March 2024, seven assets, valued at £2.423m, have been assessed as Level 3 for valuation purposes. All other assets held for sale have been assessed as Level 2. The valuation levels are as set out for Investment Properties as described in note 19.

## 25. Creditors

The table shows details of creditors included in current liabilities on the balance sheet. The trade payables figure includes the Council's share of the creditor balances, as informed by the District Councils, in relation to the collection of council tax and business rates.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
183,887	Trade Payables	190,306
1,624	Subsidiaries	7,224
48,999	Other Payables	54,540
	Receipts in advance	
1,322	- Contract Liabilities	2,160
46,392	- Other receipts in advance	29,365
<b>282,224</b>	<b>Total Short Term Creditors</b>	<b>283,595</b>

Significant changes in the contract liabilities balances during the period are as follows:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
4,186	Balance at the beginning of the year	1,322
1,269	Increases due to cash received	1,732
(4,133)	Transfers from contract liabilities recognised at the beginning of the period to payables	(894)
<b>1,322</b>	<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,160</b>

All contract liabilities that relate to performance obligations that are unsatisfied (or partially unsatisfied) at the end of the year are expected to be recognised within one year.

## 26. Provisions

The County Council has made several provisions to set aside sums to meet liabilities that are likely or certain to happen but where the amount or timing of the payments is not known. Details of these provisions are as follows:

	Insurance	Landfill Provision	Redundancy	Other Provisions	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Opening balance 1 April 2023</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>12,817</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>26,415</b>
Additional provisions made in 2023-24	2,165	2,896	112	1,566	6,739
Amounts used in 2023-24	(1,730)	(743)	(199)	(997)	(3,669)
Amounts reversed to revenue	0	0	(4)	0	(4)
<b>Closing Balance 31 March 2024</b>	<b>12,143</b>	<b>14,970</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>29,481</b>
<u>Consists of:</u>					
Current Provisions	2,618	0	112	2,256	4,986
Long Term Provisions	9,525	14,970	0	0	24,495
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,143</b>	<b>14,970</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>29,481</b>



Details of provisions:

Provision	Description
<b>Insurance</b>	This provision meets insurance claims funded by the Council. The County Council self-funds the first £250,000 of every employers and public liabilities insurance claim, motor and property claim and is currently funded to meet all known claims that are due to be paid by the Council beneath this level. The provision includes claims that have happened but not reported to the Council.
<b>Landfill</b>	This provision is the discounted cost of making adequate provision for the monitoring and maintenance of closed landfill sites following guidance issued by the Environment Agency for fulfilling obligations under the Landfill Directive. The provision was first recognised in the financial statements in 2012-13, balanced by an addition to Surplus Assets within Property, Plant and Equipment.
<b>Redundancy</b>	This is to meet the costs for individuals who have been made redundant prior to the end of the financial year but will not leave the Council until the following financial year.
<b>Other Provisions</b>	These include a provision relating to EU regulations in respect of Retained Firefighters; and a provision in respect of potential appeals on Business Rates administered by the District Councils.

## 27. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement with additional detail given in notes 15 and 16.

The General Fund Balance consists of:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
24,410	General Fund Reserve	25,485
169,414	Earmarked Reserves (Note 16 on page 46)	139,340
<b>193,824</b>	<b>Total General Fund Balance</b>	<b>164,825</b>

## 28. Unusable Reserves

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
230,544	Revaluation Reserve	264,736
5,095	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve	4,306
696,171	Capital Adjustment Account	758,917
(2,611)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(1,600)
(319,743)	Pensions Reserve	(325,280)
4,955	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	6,627
(5,330)	Accumulated Absences Account	(5,367)
(45,877)	Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account	(81,513)
<b>563,204</b>	<b>Total Unusable Reserves</b>	<b>620,826</b>

## Revaluation Reserve

This reserve holds the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The balance reduces 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 used through depreciation; or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve holds only revaluation gains accumulated since April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are included in the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>215,307</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>230,544</b>
37,513	Upward revaluation of assets	61,950
(11,747)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(12,378)
<b>25,766</b>	<b>Surplus or (deficit) on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>49,572</b>
(5,580)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(6,600)
(4,949)	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(7,961)
0	Utilization upon derecognition of capital assets	(819)
<b>(10,529)</b>	<b>Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account</b>	<b>(15,380)</b>
<b>230,544</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>264,736</b>

## Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve holds the gains made by the authority arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through comprehensive income. The balance reduces when investments with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>4,684</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>5,095</b>
411	Upward revaluation of investments	(789)
<b>5,095</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>4,306</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 holds accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be used by the Council. It also holds 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 15 shows details of the source of all transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>702,283</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>696,171</b>
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(100,355)	- Charges for depreciation and impairment non-current assets	(102,985)
(42)	- Revaluation gains/(losses) on property, plant and equipment	1,755
540	- Movement in the fair value of investment properties	2,192
(2,146)	- Amortisation of intangible assets	(3,276)
(51,705)	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(62,700)
(37,168)	- 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 (Note 5)	(14,287)
<b>(190,876)</b>		<b>(179,301)</b>
10,529	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	15,380
<b>(180,347)</b>	<b>Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year</b>	<b>(163,921)</b>
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
29,093	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	14,667
2,942	- Donated Asset income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	122
60,000	- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been used to capital financing	123,577
65,066	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	51,054
32,424	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	34,724
1,849	- Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	2,521
<b>191,374</b>		<b>226,665</b>
(17,137)	Write down of Long Term Debtor	0
(2)	Other Adjustments	2
<b>696,171</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>758,917</b>

### Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

This account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s (2,658)	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	£000s (2,611)
0	Discounts incurred in the year and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0
47	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year following statutory requirements	1,011
<b>(2,611)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(1,600)</b>

### Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits following statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements demand benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is responsible. The balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements are designed to ensure adequate funding is available by the time the benefits are due.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s (1,312,177)	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	£000s (319,743)
1,104,158	Net remeasurements of the defined benefit liabilities and assets	(3,538)
(191,997)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(86,831)
80,273	Employers' pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	84,832
<b>(319,743)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(325,280)</b>

### Collection Fund Adjustment Account

This account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from council tax and business rate payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the District Councils' Collection Funds.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s (4,297)	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	£000s 4,955
9,252	Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year following statutory requirements	1,672
<b>4,955</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>6,627</b>

### Accumulated Absences Account

This account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account. The amount charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the difference between remuneration on an accruals basis and following statutory requirements.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s (8,906)	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	£000s (5,330)
8,906	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	5,330
(5,330)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(5,367)
3,576	Amount charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(37)
<b>(5,330)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(5,367)</b>

### Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

The Dedicated Schools Grant adjustment account holds accumulated deficits relating to the schools budget. Where the authority has incurred a deficit on its schools budget in years beginning 1 April 2020, 1 April 2021 or 1 April 2022, the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations do not allow for such amounts to be included in the General Fund and instead must be held in this adjustment account.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s (53,976)	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	£000s (45,877)
8,099	Current year Deficit (Note 14 on page 42)	(35,636)
<b>(45,877)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>(81,513)</b>

## 29. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>970,757</b>	<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>996,457</b>
	Capital Investment	
143,789	- Property, plant and equipment	175,313
299	- Heritage Assets	0
19,596	- Intangible Assets	2,598
50,939	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	62,700
2,559	- Loans / share capital	4,362
	Sources of Finance	
(29,093)	- Capital receipts	(20,620)
(2,942)	- Donated asset income	(122)
(125,068)	- Government grants and other contributions	(174,632)
	Sums set aside from revenue:	
(1,849)	- Direct revenue contributions	(2,521)
(32,530)	- Minimum revenue provision	(34,830)
<b>996,457</b>	<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>1,008,705</b>
	<u>Explanation of Movements in Year</u>	
(32,530)	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (supported by Government financial assistance)	(34,830)
58,230	Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	47,077
<b>25,700</b>	<b>Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>12,247</b>

### 30. Leases

#### Council as Lessee:

##### i) Finance Leases

The Council has obtained the following assets under finance leases:

- Land and Buildings – The Council has several finance leases of land and buildings which are at a peppercorn rent.
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment – The Council has obtained vehicles and equipment for the Fire service and Library service.

The assets obtained under these leases are shown as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
11,788	Land and buildings	12,174
759	Vehicles, plant and equipment	659
2,387	Heritage Assets	2,387
<b>14,934</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,220</b>

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases including settlement of the long term liability for the interest in the property obtained by the Council and finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability is outstanding. The minimum lease payments include the following amounts:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
234	- Current	213
408	- Non-current	326
22	Finance costs payable in future years	50
<b>664</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>589</b>

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

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Minimum Lease Payments	Finance Lease Liabilities		Minimum Lease Payments	Finance Lease Liabilities
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s
246	234	Not later than one year	228	213
418	408	Later than one year and not later than five years	361	326
0	0	Later than five years	0	0
<b>664</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>539</b>

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

ii) Operating Leases

The Council uses leased vehicles and communication equipment financed under the terms of an operating lease. The amount paid under these arrangements in 2023-24 was £0.771m (£0.662m in 2022-23).

The Council leases several properties on short term leases which are treated as operating leases. The rentals payable in 2023-24 were £1.603m (£1.913m in 2022-23).

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to all operating leases was £2.374m (£2.575m in 2022-23).

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
1,638	Not later than one year	2,399
5,587	Later than one year and not later than five years	8,424
8,356	Later than five years	9,287
<b>15,581</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,110</b>

**Council as Lessor:**

i) Finance leases

The Council has leased out school buildings to Academy schools on 125-year finance lease agreements according to provisions of the Academies Act 2010. The Council has also leased out the Council's interest in the Forum complex to the Forum Trust for 125 years from September 2001. The rentals for all these leases are peppercorn rentals.

The Council also owns several other properties, including heritage assets, which are leased out on finance leases for peppercorn rents.

ii) Operating leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for several services, including Economic Development and the County Farms estate.

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
4,032	Leases expiring within 1 year	3,962
13,514	Leases expiring within 2 to 5 years	14,742
19,116	Leases expiring after 5 years	18,584
<b>36,662</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,288</b>

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



### 31. PFI and similar contracts

At 31 March 2024, the Council had two PFI contracts with private sector contractors:

#### Norwich Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

On 20 March 2006, the Council contracted with Academy Services (Norwich) Limited to provide, under the PFI, four new build replacement primary schools, one new build junior school and one extended and refurbished secondary school.

The 5 newly constructed schools were completed by August 2008 and included in the Council's non-current assets total along with the value of the enhancement to Taverham High school. All the schools are revalued in line with the accounting policy for land and buildings. Since 2008 four of the schools, Taverham High, Heartsease Primary, Lionwood Junior and Bluebell Primary, have converted to Academy status and Lakenham Primary has converted to Foundation status. The Council's balance sheet no longer includes the associated non-current assets.

#### Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

On 3 November 2007, the Council contracted with Amey Street Lighting (Norfolk) Ltd. The contract began on 4 February 2008, when Amey took over the provision of a street lighting service using the existing equipment. The contract resulted in the renewal of 50% of streetlights, signs and bollards over a 5-year period. The contract expects the contractor to keep 100% of the lighting points (approximately 60,000) up to a specified standard and to upgrade all those not renewed in the first 5 years to modern lighting standards by year 15 of the contract.

The renewal of the columns took place over a 5-year period, the core improvement programme. The value of the replacement columns is included within the Council's assets as Highways Infrastructure assets at historic cost.

#### Property, Plant and Equipment

Subject to adjustments for schools which have transferred to academy status, the assets used to deliver services in these schemes are included on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are shown in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in note 17.

#### Payments

The Council makes payments each year which increase each year by inflation and can be reduced if the contractor does not meet availability and performance standards in any year. Residual payments to be made under the PFI contracts at 31 March 2024 (excluding any estimation of future inflation and availability/performance deductions) are as follows:

<b>Total at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>Reimbursement of capital expenditure</b>	<b>Payment for services</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total at 31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
13,141	Payable within 1 year	3,509	7,389	3,636	14,534
52,508	Payable within 2-5 years	17,173	30,187	11,089	58,449
61,233	Payable within 6-10 years	19,924	29,323	4,280	53,527
0	Payable within 11-15 years	0	0	0	0
<b>126,882</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>40,606</b>	<b>66,899</b>	<b>19,005</b>	<b>126,510</b>

Although the payments made to the contractors are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure continues to be reimbursed.

The balance outstanding to pay the liability to the contractor for capital expenditure incurred is as follows:

<b>2023-24</b>			
	<b>Norwich Schools</b>	<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<b>Balance outstanding at start of the year</b>	<b>17,730</b>	<b>26,019</b>	<b>43,749</b>
Payments during the year	(3,162)	(3,902)	(7,064)
Finance lease cost	1,786	2,135	3,921
<b>Balance outstanding at year end</b>	<b>16,354</b>	<b>24,252</b>	<b>40,606</b>

<b>2022-23</b>			
	<b>Norwich Schools</b>	<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<b>Balance outstanding at start of the year</b>	<b>19,221</b>	<b>26,533</b>	<b>45,754</b>
Payments during the year	(3,426)	(2,691)	(6,117)
Finance lease cost	1,935	2,177	4,112
<b>Balance outstanding at year end</b>	<b>17,730</b>	<b>26,019</b>	<b>43,749</b>

## **32. Pension Schemes accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes**

### Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The Scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the scheme is unfunded, and Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to extract its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with enough reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts it is therefore treated on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2023-24, the County Council paid £19.890m (£19.370m in 2022-23) to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, being 23.68% (23.68% in 2022-23) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions outstanding at the year end. The County Council expects contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme for the next financial year are approximately £20.9m.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the Teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and detailed in note 33.

### NHS Pension Scheme

Under the new arrangements for Public Health, staff performing public health functions who were compulsorily transferred from the PCTs to local authorities and who had access to the NHS Pension Scheme on 31 March 2013 retained access to that scheme on transfer at 1 April 2013. The NHS scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme, but is accounted for in the NHS as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Council is not

able to extract its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2023-24, the County Council paid £0.143m (£0.193m in 2022-23) to the NHS Pension Scheme in respect of Public Health and Mental Health staff's retirement benefits, representing 20.6% (14.38% in 2022-23) of pensionable pay. There were no contributions outstanding at the year end. The County Council expects contributions to the NHS Pension Scheme for the next financial year are approximately £0.1m.

### **33. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes**

#### Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make future payments and thus these need to be shown as a future entitlement.

The Council contributes in two post employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme (the Norfolk Pension Fund) for civilian employees, administered by the County Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- The Fire Pension Scheme for Firefighters – this is an unfunded defined benefit final salary scheme administered by West Yorkshire Pension Fund, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash must be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due. Details of the scheme are shown in the supplementary statement on page 132.

The Norfolk Pension Fund is managed under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the pensions committee of the Council. Policy is determined following 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 (i.e. large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge to the General Fund the amounts determined by statute as described in the accounting policies note.

#### Transactions relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when employees earn them, rather than when the benefits are paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is expected to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the full cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2022-23			2023-24	
Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s		Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s
		Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
		Cost of Services:		
150,967	6,300	- Current service cost	70,054	2,400
499	0	- Past service costs/(gains)	2,115	0
(1,405)	(800)	- (Gain)/loss from settlements	(1,840)	(800)
		Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
25,736	10,700	- Net interest expense	1,702	13,200
<b>175,797</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>Total post employment benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>72,031</b>	<b>14,800</b>
		Other post-employment benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
		Remeasurement of the net defined pension liability including:		
104,754	0	- Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(104,986)	0
(20,287)	(4,600)	- Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(14,447)	(100)
(1,258,780)	(134,400)	- Actuarial (gains) and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(142,124)	(13,900)
0	0	- Amounts not recognised due to effect of asset ceiling	191,600	0
192,555	16,600	- Other (if applicable)	80,595	6,900
<b>(805,961)</b>	<b>(106,200)</b>	<b>Total post employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>82,669</b>	<b>7,700</b>
		Movement in Reserves Statement:		
(175,797)	(16,200)	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits following the Code	(72,031)	(14,800)
		Actual amount charged against the General Fund balance for pensions for the year:		
69,973		Employers contributions payable to the scheme*	74,932	
	10,300	Retirement benefits payable to pensioners		9,900

\*(includes contributions in respect of unfunded benefits)

### Pensions assets and liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

2022-23			2023-24	
Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Unfunded liabilities: Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s		Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Unfunded liabilities: Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s
(2,442,271)	(281,400)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(2,471,269)	(279,200)
2,403,928	0	Fair value of plan assets	2,616,789	0
<b>(38,343)</b>	<b>(281,400)</b>	<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation before consideration of asset ceiling</b>	<b>145,520</b>	<b>(279,200)</b>
0	0	Amounts not recognised due to effect of asset ceiling	(191,600)	0
<b>(38,343)</b>	<b>(281,400)</b>	<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(46,080)</b>	<b>(279,200)</b>

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

2022-23			2023-24	
Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Unfunded liabilities: Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s		Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme £000s	Unfunded liabilities: Firefighters Pension Scheme £000s
<b>3,352,289</b>	<b>397,900</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>2,442,271</b>	<b>281,400</b>
150,967	6,300	Current service cost	70,054	2,400
91,575	10,700	Interest cost	115,728	13,200
18,172	1,700	Contributions by scheme participants	19,765	2,000
		Remeasurement (gains) and losses:		
(20,287)	(4,600)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(14,447)	(100)
(1,258,780)	(134,400)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(142,124)	(13,900)
192,555	16,600	- Other (if applicable)	80,595	6,900
499	0	Past service costs/(gains)	2,115	0
(2,577)	(800)	Losses/(gains) on curtailments	(4,300)	(800)
0	0	Business Combinations and Disposals	0	0
(82,142)	0	Benefits paid	(98,388)	(11,900)
0	(12,000)	Pension and lump sum expenditure	0	0
<b>2,442,271</b>	<b>281,400</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>2,471,269</b>	<b>279,200</b>

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

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>		<b>Local Government Pension Scheme</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>2,438,012</b>	<b>Opening fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>2,403,928</b>
65,839	Interest income	114,026
(104,754)	Remeasurement (gain)/loss:	
	- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	104,986
0	- Other	0
69,973	Employer contributions	74,932
18,172	Contributions from employees into the scheme	19,765
(82,142)	Benefits paid	(98,388)
0	Business Combinations and Disposals	0
(1,172)	Other (gain/loss from settlements)	(2,460)
<b>2,403,928</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>2,616,789</b>

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets included:

31 March 2023					31 March 2024			
Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	Percentage of Total Assets	Asset Category	Quoted prices in active markets	Quoted prices not in active markets	Total	Percentage of Total Assets
£000s	£000s	£000s	%		£000s	£000s	£000s	%
				<u>Debt Securities:</u>				
20,661	0	20,661	1%	UK Government	65,390	0	65,390	2%
				<u>Private Equity:</u>				
0	229,676	229,676	9%	All	0	329,481	329,481	13%
				<u>Real Estate:</u>				
0	208,038	208,038	9%	UK Property	0	195,787	195,787	7%
0	35,730	<u>35,730</u>	1%	Overseas Property	0	29,547	29,547	1%
				<u>Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:</u>				
1,143,236	0	1,143,236	48%	Equities	1,112,956	0	1,112,956	43%
463,697	0	463,697	19%	Bonds	498,850	0	498,850	19%
0	270,042	270,042	11%	Infrastructure	0	298,396	298,396	11%
				<u>Derivatives:</u>				
(7,290)	0	(7,290)	0%	Foreign Exchange	46,579	0	46,579	2%
				<u>Cash and Cash equivalents:</u>				
40,138	0	40,138	2%	All	39,803	0	39,803	2%
<b>1,660,442</b>	<b>743,486</b>	<b>2,403,928</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,763,578</b>	<b>853,211</b>	<b>2,616,789</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

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

Both the Firefighters' scheme and the County Council Fund liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council fund being based on the most recent actuarial valuation of the scheme.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2022-23			2023-24	
Local Government Pension Scheme	Firefighters Pension Scheme		Local Government Pension Scheme	Firefighters Pension Scheme
		Mortality assumptions:		
		Longevity at 65 (60 for firefighters' scheme) for current pensioners:		
21.6 years	25.9 years	- Men	21.5 years	25.8 years
24.3 years	28.5 years	- Women	24.3 years	28.7 years
		Longevity at 65 (60 for firefighters' scheme) for future pensioners:		
22.6 years	27.3 years	- Men	22.4 years	27.2 years
25.9 years	29.8 years	- Women	25.7 years	30.0 years
N/A	3.20%	Rate of inflation	N/A	3.10%
3.65%	3.20%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.45%	3.10%
2.95%	2.95%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.75%	2.75%
4.75%	4.75%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.85%	4.85%

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 the other assumptions stay 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.

### Local Government Pension Scheme:

2023-24 Change in assumptions	Approximate % increase to employer liability	Approximate monetary amount £000s
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	2%	45,844
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	98,851
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	0%	1,653
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	2%	45,042

The Council's actuaries estimate that a one-year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation) by around 3%-5% (approximate monetary amount £74.138m - £123.563m).

#### Firefighters Pension Scheme

<b>2023-24 Change in assumptions</b>	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount £000s</b>
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	9%	25,780
1 year increase in member life expectancy	3%	8,380
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	<1%	970
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	8%	21,850

#### Impact on the Council's cash flows

The aims 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 checked on an annual basis. The last valuation took place as at 31 March 2022.

The scheme will need to take account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and the other main existing public service schemes may not offer benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to set up new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits to certain public servants.

The Council predicts to account for £71.612m employer contributions to the scheme in 2024-25.

### **34. Nature and Extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments**

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

- 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 because of changes in such measures as interest rates movements.

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

Risk management is undertaken out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the council in the annual treasury management strategy. The council specifies 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.

#### 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 managed through the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2023-24 and



the Capital Strategy and Programme 2023-24 as approved by full Council on 21 February 2023, available on the Council's website. The debt recovery policy and framework are part of the council's financial regulations.

### Credit Risk Management Practices

For the purposes of assessing credit risk, financial assets are analysed into 3 categories;

- Treasury Investments, including Cash and Cash equivalents
- Capital Loans to third parties
- Other non-statutory Debtors

For Treasury Investments the authority's credit risk management practices are set out in the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy. The council uses the following when determining whether the credit risk of financial instruments has increased significantly since first recognition:

- For deposits made with banks and financial institutions the Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, and other market information to give early warning of likely changes in creditworthiness.
- Where a loan has been given to a third party, the annual financial statements and credit reference agency ratings are used to assess continuing creditworthiness in the context of general economic forecasts. Contractual repayment dates are checked to ensure prompt receipts of principal and interest, to show delays which might be a sign of liquidity problems.

The Council does not generally allow extended credit for customers for goods and services. The Council introduces a legal charge on property where, for instance, clients need the help of Social Services but cannot afford to pay straightaway. The total secured debt held at 31 March 2024 is £3.57m (£4.08m at 31 March 2023) and the collateral held against this debt is £15.89m (£12.38m at 31 March 2023).

The Credit Control Team under delegated authority from the Director of Strategic Finance will instigate a process to recover all debts which have been outstanding for more than 30 days. The Council's Debt Recovery Policy and Framework sets out the process for recovering unpaid debts and for writing off irrecoverable debt. Once a debt has been outstanding for 61 days with no repayment plan it is referred to the Chief Legal Officer to determine if legal action should be pursued. Any irrecoverable debts over £10,000 are referred to the Council's Cabinet for write off authorisation.

The following significant inputs, assumptions and estimation techniques have been used in calculating impairment loss allowances:

- For all amortised cost financial instruments, other than non-statutory debtors, suitable credit reference metrics are used to calculate expected credit loss on a case by case basis. If there are any specific factors showing business risk, then the best available information will be used to calculate expected credit loss.
- Debt collection data is presented to elected members regularly in finance monitoring reports. These reports include the percentage of invoiced income collected within 30 days, areas of high unpaid debts, outstanding secured and unsecured debt, and the value of debts written off. These factors, a long term analysis and projection of debts written off, including trends over time, have been used as the basis for calculating the expected credit loss for short term debtors.

### Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses

The changes in the loss allowance for financial assets measured at amortised cost during the year are as follows:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
4,614	Opening Balance at 1 April	5,851
1,170	New financial assets originated or bought	2,085
(306)	Financial assets that have been derecognised	(3,900)
373	Other Changes	0
<b>5,851</b>	<b>Balance as at 31 March</b>	<b>4,036</b>

The loss allowance is calculated using the lifetime expected credit losses (simplified approach). During the year the Council wrote off no financial assets that are still subject to enforcement activity.

### Credit Risk Exposure

The authority has the following exposure to credit risk at 31 March 2024:

2023-24	Credit Risk Rating (as used by the Council)	Gross Carrying Amount £000s
12-month expected credit losses	AAA	33,842
	AA	60,000
	A	61,275
	Rated Not Strong	5,000
	Not Rated	74,497
Simplified approach	Not Rated	106,624

### Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that looks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loan Board. There is therefore no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a considerable proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowings during specified periods. The strategy through 2023-24 ensured that no more than 15% of loans are due to mature within any rolling two-year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>	<b>Maturity Structure</b>	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>£000s</b>
26,404	Less than one year	15%	30,716
20,750	Between one and two years	15%	20,750
56,900	Between two and five years	45%	57,150
84,500	Between five and ten years	75%	85,000
669,888	More than ten years	100%	633,481
<b>858,442</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>827,097</b>

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

## Market Risk

### a) Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- 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 shown at fair value on the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not change the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments are included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council has several strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy draws together the Council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this strategy a prudential indicator is set which supplies maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team will check 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 variables held constant) the financial effect would be:

	<b>£000s</b>
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	N/A
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	562
<b>Impact on surplus or deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>1,057</b>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	N/A
<b>Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the surplus or deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	87,243

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

### b) Price Risk

The Council, excluding the pension fund, does not generally invest in equity shares or marketable bonds.

The Council does have shares in seven wholly owned companies (including the Norse Group), two other controlled companies and in a local authority purchasing consortium operated by a joint committee. The

Council is not exposed to movements in the price of the shares as these are not being traded but would be subject to any change in fair value upon disposal.

c) Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has minimal financial assets denominated in foreign currencies. It therefore has little exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

**35. Foundation Schools**

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 changed the status of Grant Maintained Schools to Foundation Schools supported by the local authority. The change for funding purposes took effect from 1 April 1999. This change has resulted in the inclusion of opening and closing balances for current assets and liabilities controlled by Foundation Schools in the balance sheet. Fixed assets and long term liabilities are entrusted to the Governing Bodies of individual Foundation Schools and are not included in the balance sheet.

During 2023-24 one school converted to from Foundation status, giving a total in this authority area of 26 Foundation Schools (27 in 2022-23).

**36. Funds Administered for Third Parties**

The Council has an arrangement to administer and invest funds on behalf of the bodies listed in the table below. These funds, following the Code, are excluded from the County Council’s balance sheet.

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
7,981	Norfolk Pension Fund	13,593
2,631	Independence Matters CIC	3,566
<b>10,612</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,159</b>

**37. Trust Funds**

During 2017-18 the administration of several trust funds transferred to the Norfolk Community Foundation, which is an independent grant making charity serving Norfolk. The Council is still sole or custodian trustee for six trust funds and as one of several trustees for a further two trust funds and manages a bequest. Only one of these funds (the bequest) has asset values over £10,000. None of these funds are assets of the Council, and they have not been included in the Balance Sheet.

## Supporting the Cash Flow Statement

### 38. Cash Flows from Operating Activities

The deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(66,755)	Depreciation	(77,916)
(33,642)	Impairment and downward valuations	(23,314)
(51,032)	(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(13,414)
17,137	Increase/(decrease) in debtors	20,025
(111,724)	Movement in Pension Liability	(1,999)
(37,168)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	(14,287)
2,652	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(2,838)
<b>(280,532)</b>		<b>(113,743)</b>

The net cash flows from operating activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(5,475)	Interest received	(9,596)
36,220	Interest paid	35,233
(969)	Dividends received	(1,672)

The deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
119,991	Capital grants credited to the deficit on the provision of services	167,813
28,874	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	12,463
<b>148,865</b>		<b>180,276</b>

### 39. Cash Flows from Investing Activities

The net cash flows from the investing activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
133,129	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	189,833
285,000	Purchase of short term and long term investments	291,905
2,631	Other payments for investing activities	4,000
(28,874)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(12,463)
(310,000)	Proceed from short term and long term investments	(320,396)
(137,618)	Other receipts from investing activities	(195,634)
<b>(55,732)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(42,755)</b>

#### 40. Cash Flows from Financing Activities

The net cash flows from the financing activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(10,000)	Cash receipts of short term and long term borrowing	0
2,365	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	3,231
15,326	Repayments of short term and long term borrowing	30,122
<b>7,691</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>33,353</b>

Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities:

2023-24	Balance as at 1 April £000s	Financing Cash Flows £000s	Non-Cash Changes £000s	Balance as at 31 March £000s
Long term borrowings	(832,038)	11,250	24,407	(796,381)
Short term borrowings	(26,404)	18,872	(23,184)	(30,716)
Lease liabilities	(732)	88	0	(644)
On balance sheet PFI liabilities	(43,749)	3,143	0	(40,606)
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>(902,923)</b>	<b>33,353</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>(868,347)</b>

2022-23	Balance as at 1 April £000s	Financing Cash Flows £000s	Non-Cash Changes £000s	Balance as at 31 March £000s
Long term borrowings	(840,958)	(10,000)	18,920	(832,038)
Short term borrowings	(22,989)	15,326	(18,741)	(26,404)
Lease liabilities	(1,092)	360	0	(732)
On balance sheet PFI liabilities	(45,754)	2,005	0	(43,749)
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>(910,793)</b>	<b>7,691</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>(902,923)</b>

## Other Notes

### 41. Accounting Policies

#### i) General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2023-24 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2024. The Council must prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which need to be prepared following proper accounting practices. These practices primarily form the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The Statement of Accounts have been produced on a going concern basis.

#### ii) 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 by including it in surplus or deficit in the period of the change if the change affects the period only; or the period of the change and future periods, if the change affects both. A change in accounting estimate does not relate to prior periods and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

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

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by restating comparative amounts for prior periods presented in which the error occurred; or if the error occurred before the earliest prior period presented, restating the opening balances of assets, liabilities and net worth for the earliest prior period presented.

#### iii) Recognition of Income and Expenditure

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

Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services transfer to the service recipient following the performance obligations in the contract. Any performance obligations not satisfied will remain on the balance sheet as either a Contract Asset or Contract Liability.

Government grants and third party contributions are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that the Council will fulfil the conditions attached to the payments, and the grants or contributions will be received. If the conditions have not been satisfied, the grants or contributions are shown in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are fully satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where capital grants (including Community Infrastructure Levy contributions) 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.

Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been used to fund capital expenditure.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are used. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are shown 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 based on 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.

#### **iv) 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 in 7 days 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.

#### **v) Council Tax Income and Business Rates**

The council tax income and business rates included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the accrued income for the year. The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount expected to be credited to the General Fund under statute is taken to the Collection fund Adjustment Account included as a reconciling item through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the adjustment. The Council's share of council tax debtors and creditors and business ratepayers' arrears, overpayments and prepayments and appeals are included in the debtor and creditor totals in the Balance Sheet.

#### **vi) Employee Benefits**

##### Benefits payable during employment

Short term employee benefits such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave, sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees give service to the Council.

##### Termination Benefits

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



## Post-Employment Benefits

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

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE);
- The NHS Pension Scheme administered by NHS Pensions;
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme administered by Norfolk County Council; and
- The Firefighters' Pension Scheme administered by West Yorkshire Fire Service.

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

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme and the NHS Pension Scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The Children's Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year. The employer contributions in the NHS Pension Scheme are charged to Public Health, within Community and Environmental Services.

## The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions including mortality rates, employee turnover rates, and projected earnings.
- The assets of the Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

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

- Service Cost including:
  - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities because of years of service earned this year – distributed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
  - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities because of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non-Distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the defined benefit liability 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 at the beginning of the period – considering any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period because of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
  - The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in the net interest on the defined benefit liability – charges to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
  - Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pension liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries

have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Contributions paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities, not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions expect 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 Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being expected to account for retirement benefits based on cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

### Firefighters Pension Scheme

This scheme is also accounted for as a defined benefit scheme. The scheme is run on a ‘pay as you go’ basis and as such has no net assets. Transfer values included in the Scheme have been accounted for on a cash basis. Other than this the treatment of the scheme in the accounts is the same as for the Local Government Pension Scheme above.

### Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits for early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise because of an award to any member of staff (including teachers and injury awards to Firefighters) are added in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Council makes payments to Firefighters in relation to injury awards and the expected injury awards for active members are valued and accounted for.

### **vii) Fair Value Measurement**

The Council measures the following assets and financial instruments at the appropriate fair value at each reporting date:

- surplus assets,
- investment properties,
- equity shareholdings,
- borrowings,
- PFI and finance lease liabilities.

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:

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

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, if market participants act in their economic best interest.

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Council considers 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 valuation techniques that are suitable in the circumstances and for which enough data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or shown in the Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

## **viii) Financial Instruments**

### Financial Liabilities

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

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

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 outstanding 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 expected 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 cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The Council's business model is to hold investments, except equity instruments, to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those equity instruments which are not consolidated into the group accounts. The council has elected to designate these equity instruments as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income.

### 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 then 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 less any expected credit loss) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Where the Council is party to a loan which is given at less than market rate, this is classified as a soft loan. In this instance, the Code of Practice expects the Council to calculate the reduction in cash flows over the length of the loan due to the reduced interest rate. The carrying value of the loan must be adjusted if this results in a material difference from its fair value. The Council's soft loans are primarily social care debts secured against property which do not attract interest. These loans are reviewed on an annual basis to determine whether the carrying value is materially different from the fair value. At present, there is not believed to be a material difference and the carrying amount has therefore not been adjusted.

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

Expected credit 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 still is low, losses are assessed based on 12-month expected losses. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivable and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council.

### Equity Instruments Designated as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

The council holds several equity instruments for which it has elected to measure at FVOCI. Financial assets measure at FVOCI are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instruments and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are only recognised when the instrument is sold.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis

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

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

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset as credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### **ix) Heritage Assets**

Assets will be recognised in the Balance Sheet as Heritage Assets where they are held principally to increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the local area and its history. Heritage Assets obtained before 1 April 2010 have not been capitalised, since reliable estimates of cost or value are not available on a cost-effective basis.

Heritage Assets will be recognised, measured, revalued, impaired and disposed of following the Council's accounting policy on Property, Plant and Equipment. However, some of the measurement rules will be relaxed in relation to Heritage Assets with valuation or historic cost replacing fair value where suitable.

Due to the nature of the items, it is not appropriate to charge depreciation on Heritage Assets.

### **x) Highways Infrastructure Assets**

Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures (e.g. bridges), street lighting, street furniture (e.g. illuminated traffic signals, bollards), traffic management systems and land which together form a single integrated network.

#### Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition or replacement of components of the network is capitalised on an accrual basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

#### Measurement

Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994, which was deemed at that time to be historical cost.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by the carrying amount of the asset being written down to the recoverable amount.

[Note that where local authorities have balances of assets transferred at local government reorganisation or other similar transactions, they are likely to want to include relevant accounting policies describing the transaction here.]

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the parts of the highways network infrastructure assets that are subject to deterioration or depletion and by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis.

Annual depreciation is the depreciation amount allocated each year.

Useful lives of the various parts of the highways network are assessed by the Chief Highways Engineer using industry standards where applicable as follows:

Highways Network	Useful Life
Carriageways	30 years
Footways and Cycle Tracks	30 years
Structures (Bridges, Tunnels and Underpasses)	80 years
Street Lighting	44 years
Street Furniture	28 years
Traffic Management Systems	25 years
Not Highways Network Asset	37 years

#### Disposals and derecognition

When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet is written off to the 'Other operating expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal).

The written-off amounts of disposals are 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 transferred to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

#### **xi) Intangible Assets**

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

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically possible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset.

Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised).

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

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

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not allowed 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 revenues greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

## **xii) Interests in Companies and Other Entities**

The Council has material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures and require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at amortised cost for subsidiaries and fair value for all others.

## **xiii) Inventories**

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

## **xiv) Investment Property**

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and then 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 revalued annually according to market conditions at the year end. Those assets which may experience significant volatility in fair value are revalued every year, all other assets are revalued on a 5-year rolling basis. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not allowed 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 revenues greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

## **xv) Joint Operations**

Joint operations are arrangements where contractual agreements are in place under which two or more parties share control. However, rather than rights to the net assets of the arrangement, the joint operators have rights to assets and obligations in relation to liabilities. Joint operations, including the elements of pooled funds which are classified as joint arrangements, are recognised in the single entity statements by bringing in the Council's share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the arrangement.

## **xvi) Leases**

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately.

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

## **The Council as Lessee**

### Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's start (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

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

### Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services using the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease; even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

## **The Council as Lessor**

### Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal and replaced by a lease (long term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet. The long term debtor is valued on the future income due under the finance lease.

### Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is kept in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease).

## **xvii) Overheads and Support Services**

Central departments work within predetermined budgets and generally their costs are not distributed to departments.

## **xviii) Property, Plant and Equipment**

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



## Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, if 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 supports 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. The de minimis level for property, plant and equipment is £40,000.

## Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, including:

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

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

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

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

- community assets, infrastructure assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- school buildings – current value, but because of their specialist nature, are measured at depreciated replacement cost which is used as an estimate of current value
- surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value. Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

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

Where decreases in value are found, they are accounted for by:

- 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, net of any accumulated gains written off from the Revaluation Reserve, is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

### Componentisation

Where an asset has a part with a significant cost in relation to the overall asset and a different useful life, the Council is expected under the Code to recognise the part separately. Where components are recognised they are depreciated over their own useful lives when calculating the depreciation chargeable for the year.

Where capital expenditure results in an acquisition which replaces a part of an asset, the original part is derecognised to ensure that the Council does not overstate its assets.

The de-minimis level for componentising assets is £1.7m on the gross book value of buildings only.

### Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year end as to whether there is any sign 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.

### Depreciation

Depreciation is charged 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 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 – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as recommended by a suitably qualified officer
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 12 to 40 years.

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

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

### Disposals and non-current assets held for sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, and the asset is being actively marketed, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued directly before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a later 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 or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

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

Amounts received for a disposal more than £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts must be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for the following:

- new capital investment
- set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)
- used to help fund the revenue costs of transformation projects and release savings, as directed by the Secretary of State in December 2017 exercising his powers under sections 16(2)(b) and 20 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

#### **xix) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Schemes**

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

The Council was involved in two PFI schemes throughout 2023-24– Norwich Schools and Street Lighting. The Salt Barns contract came an end in April 2020, with the assets transferring to the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- **fair value of the services received during the year** – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- **finance cost** – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Norwich Schools PFI 10.07% and Street Lighting PFI 8.20%).
- **contingent rent** – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- **payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease).
- **lifecycle replacement costs** – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

## **xx) Provisions**

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the 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 needed to settle the obligation, considering relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

## **xxi) 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. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the 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, local taxation, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

## **xxii) Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)**

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

## **xxiii) Schools**

In line with the Code of Practice and IFRS10, the single entity financial statements include the income, expenditure, current assets, current liabilities, reserves and cash flows of the Council's maintained schools.

Based on an assessment of the control of the economic benefits and service potential of schools' non-current assets, the Council recognises Community and Voluntary Controlled schools' non-current assets, along with playing fields for VA schools, on the Balance Sheet. Voluntary aided schools (except playing fields), Foundation schools and Academies are believed to be outside of the Council's control and therefore remain off Balance Sheet.

#### **xxiv) Value Added Tax (VAT)**

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

#### **42. Accounting Standards issued, not adopted**

Under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24 (the Code), the Council must disclose information setting out the impact of an accounting change needed by a new accounting standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the Code.

- The following accounting standards have changes next year, but are either not relevant to the Council or the changes are expected to be minor and are not expected to materially impact the reported information in the accounts
  - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020.
  - Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022.
  - Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022.
  - International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023.
  - Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023.

#### **IFRS 16 (Leases) effective from 1 April 2024**

IFRS 16 has been effective since 1 January 2019 for the private sector. However, CIPFA/LASAAC have deferred implementation of IFRS16 for local government to 1 April 2024. From 1 April 2024 the Council adopts IFRS16 and ensure that the Council's accounts and group accounts will converge as both will be subject to IFRS16. When the Council adopts IFRS16, it will also refer to the guidance issued by CIPFA/LASAAC on the accounting for assets owned by religious bodies and used by schools – (CIPFA Bulletin 11).

The new standard amends the accounting for lessees, removing the distinction between recognising an operating lease (off balance sheet) and a finance lease (on balance sheet). The new standard requires recognition of all qualifying leases on balance sheet. This will result in a number of vehicle and property leases currently classified as operating leases to be brought onto the balance sheet.

Upon transition, the Council shall recognise the cumulative effects of initially applying IFRS 16 recognised at the date of initial application as an adjustment to the opening balances of reserves.

IFRS 16 defines a lease as a contract that 'conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.' This definition applies both to lessees and lessors.

Therefore, in order to contain a lease, a contract must:

- Depend on the use of an identified asset and
- Provide the lessee with the right to control the use of that identified asset

The Council defines the lease term as the non-cancellable period for which a lessee has the right to use an underlying asset, together with both i) periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and ii) periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option.

The Council will apply the following for leases previously classified as operating leases:

- No adjustments for leases for which the underlying asset is of low value (less than £10,000)
- No adjustment for leases for which the lease term ends within 12 months of initial application

Our expectation is that around 92 of the Council's operating leases will meet the definition of a lease under IFRS 16, resulting in recognition from 1 April 2024 of assets with a value of £18.811m, along with a lease liability of a similar amount. As a result of recognising these assets on the balance sheet, the Council expects that the impact on the CIES from associated depreciation and finance costs will amount to approximately £1.735 million in 2024-25.

The Norse Group have adopted IFRS16, resulting in £10.350m of operating lease liabilities at the 31 March 2019 being reclassified as finance leases. These are reflected in the Group Accounts at 31 March 2020 along with a corresponding finance liability of £12.116m. The Council has taken the decision to depart from the CIPFA Code and not to adjust the Group Accounts to reverse the impact of IFRS16 adoption. The information required to reverse the impact of IFRS16 in the 2023-24 accounts will not be available from Norse and as the recognised right-of-use assets in the balance sheet are less than 1% of the total consolidated property, plant and equipment. Hence, it is considered the non-adjustment will not materially impact the users understanding of the accounts.

#### **43. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies**

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 41, 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:

- The Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve is a negative reserve. The Department for Education (DfE) regulations (The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020) make clear the requirement for any DSG deficit balance to be held within the Council's overall DSG, meaning authorities cannot fund a deficit from the general fund without the Secretary of State's approval. The accumulated DSG deficit is disclosed as an unusable reserve within the accounts.
- The Council is considered to control the services provided under the two operational PFI agreements (Norwich Schools and Street Lighting) and to control the residual value of the assets at the end of the agreements. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangement and the operational assets (valued at £38.319m) are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Council's Balance Sheet.

#### **44. Assumptions made about the future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements needs management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The key judgements and uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on several complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Hymans Robertson LLP is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>The effect on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of Local Government Pension Scheme by £45.844m. Similarly, a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of Firefighters Pension Scheme by £25.780m.</p> <p>However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2023-24, the Council's actuaries notified that the net pension liability had decreased by £26.798m.</p>
Property, Plant and Equipment	<p>Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate 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 assets.</p>	<p>If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the assets fall.</p> <p>It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for the buildings would increase by £7.021m for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Fair value measurements	<p>When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g. quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or the discounted cash flow (DCF) model). Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is needed in determining fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities.</p> <p>Where Level 1 inputs are not available, the Council employs relevant experts to find the most suitable valuation techniques to determine fair value (for example for investment properties, valuations are undertaken by NPS Property Consultants Limited).</p> <p>Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the authority's assets and liabilities is disclosed in notes 17 and 21.</p>	<p>To measure the fair value of some of its investment properties, surplus asset and assets held for sale, the Council uses a model based on yields chosen by comparison to comparable transactions adjusted to allow for factors such title constraints, known ground conditions, location, topography and physical constraints.</p> <p>The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions about planning potential, or untested ground conditions.</p> <p>Significant changes in the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets.</p>

#### 45. Related Party Transactions

The Council must show material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to function independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council. These include:

##### Central Government

Central Government has considerable influence over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council functions, provides most of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties. Details of grants received from Government Departments are set out in notes 7 and 8. Grant receipts not yet recognised due to conditions attached to them at 31 March 2024 are included in current liabilities and are shown in note 25



### Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members allowances paid in 2023-24 is shown in note 11. The Council wrote to all members requesting details of any related party transactions. There are no disclosures other than the following: The Council has given £0.032m (£0.199m in 2022-23) of funding to several charities for which several members are Trustees. Further details are available in the Register of Member's Interests.

### Officers

During the year the Council wrote to all Chief Officers requesting details of any related party transactions. There are no disclosures.

### Other Public Bodies:

- (i) Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) – There are three councillors that represent the council on the EIFCA.
- (ii) The Council has pooled fund arrangements with Clinical Commissioning Groups and other health bodies. Transactions and balances outstanding are detailed in note 10.
- (iii) As part of the day-to-day activities of the Council, joint committees are set up with other organisations including district councils and health bodies. The accounts include all of the Council's revenue transactions, assets and liabilities relating to the joint committees.
- (iv) The council is a member, along with six other local authorities, of ESPO. The council has no control over the day to day operations of ESPO, but as a member of the consortium has a share of the company. Further information on ESPO can be found in their own Statement of Accounts.

### Pension Fund

During the financial year, the pension fund had an average daily balance of £14.360m of surplus cash deposited with the Council (£15.256m in 2022-23). The Council paid the fund £0.713m interest on these deposits (£0.360m in 2022-23). The Council charged the fund £0.007m (£0.007m in 2022-23) for expenses incurred in administering these balances.

### Companies and Joint Ventures

The Council has seven active subsidiary companies, the largest of which is Norse Group Ltd. The Council has 1 member and 1 Chief Officer serving as Norse Group Directors in 2023-24. During the year the total values of payments made to and received from Norse Group Ltd, were £134.312m and £3.700m respectively (£126.409m and £2.852m respectively in 2022-23).

Independence Matters is a Community Interest Company. The total value of payments made to and received from Independence Matters were £15.540m and £0.245m respectively (£15.511m and £0.240m respectively in 2022-23).

The total value of payments made to and received from Repton Property Developments Ltd were £nil and £2.137m respectively. (£2.247m and £1.551m respectively in 2022-23).

Hethel Innovations Ltd (HIL) and Norfolk Safety CIC, are 100% owned by the Council, LCIF2 Limited is 50% owned by the Council. All these companies were active throughout 2023-24. NCC Nurseries Limited which is 100% owned by the Council ceased trading in April 2022.

All these companies have Council member or officer representation on their boards of directors. The Council has supplied short term working capital and long term capital loans to its subsidiaries at suitable rates of interest and repayable on terms relating to the nature or the loan and the expected life of underlying assets.

Further details are included in the Group Accounts on page 108.

## 46. Contingent Liabilities

### Financial Guarantees

The Council applies for funding from several diverse sources. In some cases, the funding agreement includes a clause needing the Council to supply a financial guarantee to secure the funding. The guarantees given are not specific and generally relate to agreements to supply revenue and/or capital support for the service for which the funding is given for a specific period.

The Council has given several financial guarantees for project funding, e.g. a restoration and development project at Norwich Castle secured funding in return for guarantees that it would keep staff levels, opening times and a joint programme with East Anglian Film Archive for 25 years after the completion of the project.

Guarantees given prior to 1 April 2006 and not previously recognised on the Balance Sheet do not need to be recognised as financial instruments but can continue to be accounted for as a contingent liability. Regulations made by Government under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, further state that any guarantees given before 8 November 2007 can be accounted for under the previous SORP and can also continue to be accounted for as a contingent liability.

### Great Yarmouth Port Company Pension Guarantee

On 25 May 2007, the employees of Great Yarmouth Port Authority, who had transferred into the employment of the new Great Yarmouth Port Company (GYPC), were admitted into the Norfolk Pension Scheme. Norfolk County Council is underwriting any potential liability for these employees to the Pension Scheme. GYPC was required to provide land to the County Council as collateral to cover the liability, the value of which is reviewed every five years. At the time of the most recent valuation (December 2019), attributable pension fund assets exceeded liabilities. The value of collateral property exceeded the total indemnity required by several multiples, and also exceed the gross scheme liabilities plus indemnity required and therefore is considered adequate to meet any obligation that may arise for the Fund.

## 47. Going Concern

The CIPFA Code confirms that local authority accounts must be prepared on a going concern basis.

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic across the UK continued into the current year for many businesses and residents. During 2021-22 the Council incurred significant additional expenditure on infection control measures and experienced loss of income as some paid-for services were not able to operate. The central government continued to provide some support for lost income and for the additional costs borne by authorities resulting from the pandemic and the Council has secured £79.612m in this regard.

The council's most recent year end balances, are as follows.

Date	General Fund	Earmarked reserves
31 March 2024	£25.485m	£139.340m
31 March 2025 *	£26.660m	£114.475m
31 March 2026*	£27.910m	£109.428m

\*forecasted balance

The General Fund and Earmarked Reserve position has a predicted balance of £26.660m and £114.475m at 31 March 2025. This remains above our minimum level of General Fund balances as set by the Director of Strategic Finance of £26.660m.

The cash flow forecasting and assessment of the adequacy of the liquidity position up until March 2025 demonstrates positive cash balances, in excess of £170.8m. The cash balance as at the end of May 2024 was £184.6m.

The MTFs 2024-28 acknowledges the on-going uncertainties caused by the longer term funding allocations, the impact of Social Care Reform, and the impact of geo-political unrest resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war and hostilities in the Middle East, alongside the on-going increase in demand for services within an aging demographic and the long-term impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The 2023-24 and 2024-25 balanced Budgets were developed to take into account multiple impacts of rising cost pressures, challenges to savings and uncertainties over income streams including Government funding. The proposed 2025-26 budget will include a general council tax increase of 2.99%, resulting in a £545.535m overall County Council Net Revenue Budget for 2025-26, and includes a savings target of £12.059m and a budget gap of £42.9m in 2025-26. The 2025-26 budget proposals for a balanced budget will be considered by Cabinet and submitted to the Council for approval in early 2025.

For future years, the Council has a well-established process for annual budget setting, and a report to Cabinet has set out proposals for how this will be maintained in relation to 2025-26 to deliver a prudent and transparent approach to budgeting. The Section 151 Officer recommends that early planning should be undertaken in respect of 2025-26 and that the scope to address pressures within the constraints of the overall budget should be reviewed in the round when further specific details of the longer term funding allocations are known, particularly around the County Deal. It will be essential that the Council is able to produce a realistic plan for reducing the budget requirement in future years through the early identification of saving proposals for 2025-26, or the mitigation of currently identified pressures, and that all proposals are considered in the context of the significant budget gap identified for the year.

On this basis, the Council has concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern over the period to 31 March 2025. For this reason, alongside the statutory guidance, the Council continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

#### **48. Events after the Reporting Period**

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Strategic Finance on 31 May 2024. Events that occur after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date supplied information about conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

There have been no events since 31 March 2024, and up to the date when these accounts were authorised, which require any adjustments to these accounts.

## **Group Accounts**

### **Introduction**

The Code of Practice requires local authorities with interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures to prepare group accounts in addition to their own single entity financial statements, unless their interest is not considered material.

The Council is involved with several companies and organisations whose assets and liabilities are not included in the Council's single entity statements. In these cases, the Council's interest does not extend to a relationship that could be classified as a subsidiary, associate or joint venture. None of these companies are included in the group accounts.

The Council has interests in several companies that are classified as a subsidiary, associate or joint venture, all of which have been considered for consolidation. Three of these, Norse Group Ltd, Independence Matters CIC and Repton Property Developments Ltd are material to the financial statements. Details of the companies considered for consolidation are shown below.

The Group Accounts include core statements similar in presentation to the Council's single entity accounts but consolidating the figures of the Council with Norse Group Ltd, Independence Matters CIC and Repton Property Developments Ltd.

The following pages include:

- Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Group Balance Sheet
- Group Movement in Reserves Statement
- Group Cash Flow Statement
- Notes to the Group Accounts

### **Basis of Identification of the Group Boundary**

In its preparation of these Group Accounts, the Council has considered its relationship with entities that fall into the following categories:

- Subsidiaries – where the Council exercises control and gains benefits or has exposures to risks arising from this control. These entities are included in the group.
- Associates – where the Council exercises a significant influence and has a participating interest. Where these are material they are included in the group.
- Jointly Controlled Entities – where the Council exercises joint control with one or more organisations. Where these are material they are included in the group.
- No group relationship – where the body is not an entity in its own right or the Council has an insufficient interest in the entity to justify inclusion in the group financial statements. These entities are not included in the group.

Following this requirement, the Council has determined its Group relationships as follows:

Entity	Relationship	Consolidated
Norse Group Ltd	Subsidiary	Consolidated
Independence Matters CIC	Subsidiary	Consolidated
Repton Property Developments Ltd	Subsidiary	Consolidated
Hethel Innovation Ltd	Subsidiary	Not material
Norfolk Safety CIC	Subsidiary	Not material
LCIF2 Limited	Subsidiary	Not material
NPLaw Limited (formerly Public Law East Ltd)	Subsidiary	Dormant
St Edmund's Park Estate Management Limited	Subsidiary	Dormant
Bowlers Green Estate Management Limited	Subsidiary	Dormant
NCC Nurseries Ltd	Subsidiary	Dissolved
Legislator companies	No group relationship	Not consolidated

## Subsidiaries

### Norse Group Ltd

The company was formed on 1 February 2006 and its principal activity is that of a holding company. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the County Council and is included in the Group Accounts.

Norse Group Ltd includes Facilities and Waste Management provider Norse Commercial Services Limited (NCS), NPS Property Consultants Limited (NPS) and Norse Care Limited (NCL).

Facilities Management services include cleaning, printing, building maintenance, waste collection, transport, environmental services and security, as well as support services such as human resources and payroll. Waste management includes operating and maintaining landfill sites, waste transfer stations, and recycling facilities, as well as waste collection and composting services.

Property consultancy services include architectural services, CDM and project management, building surveying, valuation and estate management, land agency, quantity surveying, graphic design and archaeological services.

Care services includes the management and staffing of 21 residential homes and 15 housing with care schemes across Norfolk.

The group delivers a comprehensive range of professional services to both public and private sector clients throughout the UK. The group continued to expand and strengthen its position throughout the UK within its core markets, despite pressures caused by the general economic climate and significant reductions in public expenditure.

The group's client list includes many local authorities and housing associations, government departments, health authorities and emergency services.

Norfolk County Council holds 100% of the allotted ordinary shares in Norse Group Ltd amounting to a shareholding of £11.964m. There is no parent indebtedness in the County Council for Norse Group Ltd. The Council has supplied several loans to the Norse Group and its subsidiaries for capital investment purposes, including £6.25m to support the development of the International Aviation Academy Norwich in 2016-17 and £4m for the implementation of a new HR and Financial system – Project One in 2023-24. The total balance outstanding on all Norse Group capital loans at 31 March 2024 was £13.090m.

The company's accounting period for 2023-24 is from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Copies of the final accounts of the company for the period ended 31 March 2024 may be obtained from Companies House or by request to the County Council.

Based on its turnover, the Norse Group Ltd is material to the Group financial statements. The results for the Norse Group Ltd to 31 March 2024 are shown in the table below.

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
74,863	Current Assets	91,106
98,980	Non-current assets	100,337
(85,136)	Current Liabilities	(103,913)
(47,054)	Non-current liabilities.	(44,187)
<b>41,653</b>	<b>Net Assets for the accounting period</b>	<b>43,343</b>
358,623	Revenue	362,696
(6,454)	Profit/(Loss) from continuing operations	(9,763)
(5,815)	Profit/(Loss) for the accounting period (after Tax)	(7,296)
20,571	Other comprehensive (expense) / income	8,272
<b>14,756</b>	<b>Total comprehensive (expense) / income</b>	<b>(976)</b>
	<u>Extent of non-controlling interests:</u>	
1,115	Non-controlling equity interest	1,831
2,210	Non-controlling interest in the Profit/(Loss) for the accounting period before intra-group eliminations	716

The non-controlling interests result from several joint ventures entered into by the Norse Group Ltd.

#### Independence Matters CIC

Independence Matters is a Community Interest Company (CIC) which started trading 1 November 2013. Norfolk County Council owned 49% of the shares with the remaining shares held by an Employee Benefit Trust. On 28 March 2023, Norfolk County Council purchased the remaining 51% of shares resulting in Independence Matters being 100% owned by the council. Independence Matters CIC is the first 'spin out' social enterprise to be launched by the Council, with over 600 staff transferring from Norfolk County Council's Personal and Community Support Services. From 10 December 2018, Home Support Matters, a Social Enterprise wholly owned by Independence Matters CIC undertook the continuity of care for all former customers of Allied Healthcare.

The main activities of the company are the provision of the following services under contract with Norfolk County Council:

- Day services at community hubs
- Personal Assistants Services
- Supported Living - for people in their own homes
- Respite Care – personalised short break respite care
- Norfolk Industries – a stand-alone enterprise manufactures pet bedding with a workforce of employees with disabilities

#### Repton Property Developments Limited

Repton Property Developments Ltd, incorporated on 27 July 2017, is wholly owned by the Council. The company has been set up to develop the Council's surplus properties and other suitable land. The aim of the company is to deliver quality homes to the residents of Norfolk whilst supporting the twin aims of local job creation and economic growth. The company utilises the extensive local knowledge and in-house expertise to select suitable sites for development with strong infrastructure and transport links. The company also supports the development of local communities and amenities across the sites developed.

#### Hethel Innovation Limited (HIL)

HIL is wholly owned by the Council. The company was set up as a special purpose vehicle to build 'grow on' space for businesses, maximising the use of EU funding. The company owns and runs the Hethel Engineering Centre, manages Scottow Enterprise Park on behalf of the Council, and promotes a variety of networks and events to promote enterprise in Norfolk.

#### Norfolk Safety Community Interest Company (CIC)

Norfolk Safety CIC runs in partnership with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, and supplies a range of risk management, training and development and other services to public bodies, third sector organisations and businesses.

#### LCIF2 Limited

LCIF2 Limited was incorporated on 29 August 2019 and is jointly owned with the University of East Anglia. The company is limited by guarantee and has been established to manage the Low Carbon Innovation Fund, providing finance to a number of early and growth stage businesses in a variety of sectors.

#### NPLaw Limited (formerly Public Law East Limited)

NPLaw Limited, is a wholly owned company incorporated on 13 February 2017. It is currently dormant.

#### St Edmund's Park Estate Management Limited

St Edmund's Park Estate Management Limited is a company limited by guarantee which has been set up as a management company for a site being developed by Repton Property Developments in Acle, Norfolk.

#### Bowlers Green Estate Management Limited

Bowlers Green Estate Management Limited is a company limited by guarantee which has been set up as a management company for a site being developed by Repton Property Developments in Hopton, Norfolk.

#### NCC Nurseries Limited

NCC Nurseries Limited, incorporated on 27 November 2019, was established to replace the Norfolk nursery places which were lost as a result of the Great Yarmouth Community Trust going into liquidation 10 December 2019. The company ceased trading in April 2022 and dissolved in September 2023.

## **Relationships with Other Entities**

### Legislator companies

A jointly owned local authority company, Legislator 1657 (a wholly owned subsidiary of Legislator 1656), holds some land associated with the airport which was excluded from the sale to Omniport in 2004. The County Council holds 59.5% of Legislator 1656 with the City Council holding the remaining 40.5%. Further details are included in the note on Financial Instruments on page 59.

The accounts for 2023-24 are not yet available. Copies of the accounts will be available from Companies House or by request to the County Council.

## **Basis of Consolidation – Group Accounts**

The Group Accounts have been prepared using the group accounts requirements of the Code. Companies or other reporting entities that are under the ultimate control of the Council have been included in the Council's group accounts to the extent that they are material to users of the financial statements in relation to their ability to see the complete economic activities of the Council and its exposure to risk through interests in other entities and participation in their activities.

Subsidiaries have been consolidated on a line by line basis, subject to the elimination of intra-group transactions from the statements, following the Code.



## Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2022-23				2023-24		
Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s		Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s
627,325	255,465	371,860	Adult Social Services	694,481	302,833	391,648
746,283	451,898	294,385	Children's Services	789,625	462,453	327,172
365,115	143,649	221,466	Community and Environmental Services	367,417	128,074	239,343
77,226	38,687	38,539	Strategy and Transformation Services*	92,794	38,443	54,351
6,717	3,063	3,654	Chief Executive's Directorate	6,900	2,288	4,612
36,210	18,824	17,386	Finance Directorate	34,301	24,668	9,633
178,552	176,267	2,285	Other Services	175,807	178,108	(2,301)
(1,706)	0	(1,706)	Non-Distributed Costs	(525)	0	(525)
0	1,231	(1,231)	Other Operating Income	0	1,267	(1,267)
<b>2,035,722</b>	<b>1,089,084</b>	<b>946,638</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>2,160,800</b>	<b>1,138,134</b>	<b>1,022,666</b>
		9,357	Other Operating Expenditure			8,905
		67,008	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 1)			33,856
		(908,230)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			(1,025,173)
		<b>114,773</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services</b>			<b>40,254</b>
		0	Share of (surplus) or deficit of associates			32
		993	Tax Expenses (Note 2)			937
		<b>115,766</b>	<b>Group (Surplus) / Deficit</b>			<b>41,223</b>
		(35,483)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets			(48,785)
		(1,119,175)	Actuarial (Gains) / Losses on Pension Assets / Liabilities			(8,446)
		<b>(1,154,658)</b>	<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>(57,231)</b>
		<b>(1,038,892)</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>			<b>(16,008)</b>
		2,210	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure attributable to Non-Controlling Interests in Subsidiaries			716

## Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	Council's Usable Reserves £000s	Subsidiary Usable Reserves (Note 10) £000s	Total Group Usable Reserves £000s	Council's Unusable Reserves £000s	Subsidiary Unusable Reserves (Note 10) £000s	Total Group Unusable Reserves £000s	Total Group Reserves £000s
<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>326,070</b>	<b>5,990</b>	<b>332,060</b>	<b>(459,740)</b>	<b>16,667</b>	<b>(443,073)</b>	<b>(111,013)</b>
Movement in Reserves during 2022-23							
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	11,790	(114,749)	<b>(102,959)</b>	1,130,333	9,308	<b>1,139,641</b>	<b>1,036,682</b>
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts**	(118,774)	118,774	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Net increase or decrease before transfers	(106,984)	4,025	<b>(102,959)</b>	1,130,333	9,308	<b>1,139,641</b>	<b>1,036,682</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	107,389	0	<b>107,389</b>	(107,389)	0	<b>(107,389)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in Year</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>1,022,944</b>	<b>9,308</b>	<b>1,032,252</b>	<b>1,036,682</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>326,475</b>	<b>10,015</b>	<b>336,490</b>	<b>563,204</b>	<b>25,975</b>	<b>589,179</b>	<b>925,669</b>
Movement in Reserves during 2023-24							
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	91,386	(121,341)	<b>(29,955)</b>	45,247	0	<b>45,247</b>	<b>15,292</b>
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Council Accounts**	(123,794)	119,474	<b>(4,320)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4,320)</b>
Net increase or decrease before transfers	(32,408)	(1,867)	<b>(34,275)</b>	45,247	0	<b>45,247</b>	<b>10,972</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	(12,375)	0	<b>(12,375)</b>	12,375	0	<b>12,375</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in Year</b>	<b>(44,783)</b>	<b>(1,867)</b>	<b>(46,650)</b>	<b>57,622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57,622</b>	<b>10,972</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>281,692</b>	<b>8,148</b>	<b>289,840</b>	<b>620,826</b>	<b>25,975</b>	<b>646,801</b>	<b>936,641</b>
Minority Interest share of subsidiary reserves	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	1,831	<b>1,831</b>	<b>1,831</b>
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>281,692</b>	<b>8,148</b>	<b>289,840</b>	<b>620,826</b>	<b>27,806</b>	<b>648,632</b>	<b>938,472</b>

\*\* These adjustments relate to the purchase of goods and services from the Council's subsidiary companies

## Group Balance Sheet

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
£000s		Group Note		£000s
1,904,709	Property, Plant & Equipment	3		2,015,157
13,925	Heritage Assets			13,925
11,117	Investment Property			12,986
18,926	Intangible Assets	4		18,179
5,097	Long Term Investments	6		4,307
256	Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures			224
56,714	Long Term Debtors	7		55,246
4,484	Deferred Tax Asset			2,822
<b>2,015,228</b>	<b>Long Term Assets</b>			<b>2,122,846</b>
157,235	Short Term Investments	6		130,304
17,706	Inventories	5		13,983
262,474	Short Term Debtors	7		280,273
129,594	Cash and Cash Equivalents	8		42,611
4,058	Current Held for Sale Investment Property			3,314
3,800	Assets Held for Sale			6,573
54	Current Recoverable Tax			4,167
<b>574,921</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>481,225</b>
(41,654)	Short Term Borrowing	6		(42,269)
(8,232)	Other Short Term Liabilities	6		(5,973)
(332,762)	Short Term Creditors	9		(354,267)
(4,155)	Provisions			(6,356)
0	Current Tax Liability			(641)
<b>(386,803)</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			<b>(409,506)</b>
(14,599)	Long Term Creditors	9		(14,463)
(24,293)	Provisions			(24,495)
(832,424)	Long Term Borrowing	6		(800,414)
(383,736)	Other Long Term Liabilities	6		(377,079)
(21,510)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance			(39,642)
<b>(1,276,562)</b>	<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>			<b>(1,256,093)</b>
<b>926,784</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>938,472</b>
336,490	Usable Reserves	10		289,840
590,294	Unusable Reserves	10		648,632
<b>926,784</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>			<b>938,472</b>

## Group Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
114,773	<b>Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services</b>	40,254
(292,754)	Adjust net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (note 13)	(143,021)
150,282	Adjust for Items in the net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities (note 13)	181,435
<b>(27,699)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>78,668</b>
(51,961)	Investing Activities (note 14)	(31,463)
18,780	Financing Activities (note 15)	39,778
<b>(60,880)</b>	<b>Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>86,983</b>
68,714	Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	129,594
129,594	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (note 8)	42,611

## Notes to the Group Accounts

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## Supporting the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

### 1. Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Group CIES)

The income and expenses of the Council's subsidiary companies are consolidated in the Statement on a line by line basis.

The consolidation adjustment in the total for Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure is due to:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
1,677	Interest payable and similar charges	1,670
654	Net interest cost and on the net defined benefit liability	(643)
(277)	Interest receivable and similar income	(426)
<b>2,054</b>	<b>Total for Norse Group Ltd and Independence Matters</b>	<b>601</b>

### 2. Tax Expenses of Group Entities

The taxation figure included in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	<b>Current Tax:</b>	
(1,441)	Tax in respect of the current year	(1,979)
(2,058)	Adjustments in respect of prior years	0
(4)	Accelerated Tax Allowances	(12)
0	Change in Tax Rates	0
	<b>Deferred Tax:</b>	
3,754	Deferred tax on actuarial loss for the year	2,996
(18)	In respect of Tax Losses and Provisions	(68)
(193)	Origination and reversal of timing differences	0
953	Adjustments in respect of prior years	0
<b>993</b>	<b>Total Taxation Expenses</b>	<b>937</b>

## Supporting the Group Balance Sheet

### 3. Property, Plant and Equipment

<b>2023-24</b>	Land and buildings £000s	Vehicles, plant, and equipment £000s	Assets under construction £000s	Surplus assets £000s	<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s</b>
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>					
At 1 April 2023	769,363	168,420	148,801	30,693	<b>1,117,277</b>
Additions	17,551	17,502	77,458	2,267	<b>114,778</b>
Revaluation increases/(decreases):					
- to Revaluation reserve	13,048	0	0	1,334	<b>14,382</b>
- to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,595)	0	0	(405)	<b>(6,000)</b>
Derecognition - disposals	(10,802)	(13,341)	0	(299)	<b>(24,442)</b>
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(82)	0	0	(6,949)	<b>(7,031)</b>
Reclassifications and transfers	3,584	4,709	(132,132)	6,171	<b>(117,668)</b>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>787,067</b>	<b>177,290</b>	<b>94,127</b>	<b>32,812</b>	<b>1,091,296</b>
<u>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</u>					
At 1 April 2023	154,459	99,032	0	12,982	<b>266,473</b>
Depreciation charge	16,711	19,424	0	92	<b>36,227</b>
Depreciation written out to Revaluation reserve	(9,874)	0	0	(188)	<b>(10,062)</b>
Depreciation written out on revaluation to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(7,701)	0	0	(48)	<b>(7,749)</b>
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in:					
- the Revaluation reserve	(6,081)	0	0	(109)	<b>(6,190)</b>
- the surplus or deficit on provision of services	12,100	86	0	2,466	<b>14,652</b>
Derecognition - disposals	(2,246)	(12,061)	0	(24)	<b>(14,331)</b>
Depreciation eliminated on reclassification (to)/from Held for Sale	(44)	0	0	0	<b>(44)</b>
Reclassifications and transfers	0	0	0	177	<b>177</b>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>157,324</b>	<b>106,481</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,348</b>	<b>279,153</b>
Net Book Value:					
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>629,743</b>	<b>70,809</b>	<b>94,127</b>	<b>17,464</b>	<b>812,143</b>
At 31 March 2023	614,904	69,388	148,801	17,711	<b>850,804</b>

<b>2022-23</b>	Land and buildings £000s	Vehicles, plant, and equipment £000s	Assets under construction £000s	Surplus assets £000s	<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000s</b>
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>					
At 1 April 2022	734,196	163,129	114,766	31,343	<b>1,043,434</b>
Additions	18,108	17,675	65,209	0	<b>100,992</b>
Revaluation increases/(decreases):	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
- to Revaluation reserve	22,677	0	0	473	<b>23,150</b>
- to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,149)	0	0	(708)	<b>(5,857)</b>
Derecognition - disposals	(14,262)	(12,664)	0	(20)	<b>(26,946)</b>
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	100	0	0	(2,417)	<b>(2,317)</b>
Reclassifications and transfers	13,693	280	(31,174)	2,022	<b>(15,179)</b>
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>769,363</b>	<b>168,420</b>	<b>148,801</b>	<b>30,693</b>	<b>1,117,277</b>
<u>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</u>					
At 1 April 2022	141,634	86,665	0	13,091	<b>241,390</b>
Depreciation charge	16,387	19,265	0	57	<b>35,709</b>
Depreciation written out to Revaluation reserve	(11,230)	0	0	(88)	<b>(11,318)</b>
Depreciation written out on revaluation to surplus or deficit on provision of services	(5,810)	0	0	(6)	<b>(5,816)</b>
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in:					
- the Revaluation reserve	(328)	0	0	55	<b>(273)</b>
- the surplus or deficit on provision of services	16,845	4,594	0	0	<b>21,439</b>
Derecognition - disposals	(1,735)	(11,437)	0	0	<b>(13,172)</b>
Reclassifications and transfers	(1,304)	(55)	0	(127)	<b>(1,486)</b>
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>154,459</b>	<b>99,032</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,982</b>	<b>266,473</b>
Net Book Value:					
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>614,904</b>	<b>69,388</b>	<b>148,801</b>	<b>17,711</b>	<b>850,804</b>
At 31 March 2022	592,562	76,464	114,766	18,252	<b>802,044</b>

The Property, Plant & Equipment Balance in the Balance Sheet consists of:

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
1,053,905	Infrastructure Assets	1,203,014
850,804	Other Property, Plant & Equipment assets (page 119)	812,143
<b>1,904,709</b>	<b>Net Book Value at 31 March</b>	<b>2,015,157</b>



## Capital Commitments

The Norse Group Ltd has capital expenditure commitments of £4.955m as at 31 March 2024.

Details of the Council's capital commitments are shown in Note 17 to the Single Entity accounts.

## 4. Intangible Assets

The movement on the Group balances during the year:

2022-23				2023-24		
Other Intangible Assets £000s	Goodwill £000s	Total £000s		Other Intangible Assets £000s	Goodwill £000s	Total £000s
			Balance at the start of the year:			
6,908	0	6,908	Gross carrying amounts	24,836	0	24,836
(5,442)	0	(5,442)	Accumulated amortisation	(5,910)	0	(5,910)
<b>1,466</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>Net carrying amount at 1 April</b>	<b>18,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,926</b>
7,035	0	7,035	Additions (purchases)	2,401	0	2,401
(38)	0	(38)	Disposals	(6)	0	(6)
0	0	0	Impairment losses	0	0	0
(2,248)	0	(2,248)	Amortisation for the period	(3,363)	0	(3,363)
12,711	0	12,711	Other Changes	221	0	221
<b>18,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,926</b>	<b>Net carrying amount at 31 March</b>	<b>18,179</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,179</b>
			Comprising:			
24,836	0	24,836	Gross carrying amounts	27,111	0	27,111
(5,910)	0	(5,910)	Accumulated amortisation	(8,932)	0	(8,932)
<b>18,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,926</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,179</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,179</b>

Other intangible assets include computer software and other intangible assets in the Norse Group Ltd accounts, which are being written off over a period of 3 to 10 years.

## 5. Inventories

2022-23 £000s		2023-24 £000s
<b>20,830</b>	<b>Balance outstanding at start of year</b>	<b>17,706</b>
52,898	Purchases	53,079
(55,994)	Recognised as an expense in year	(56,590)
0	Revaluation	(1)
(28)	Amounts written off	(211)
<b>17,706</b>	<b>Balance outstanding at year end</b>	<b>13,983</b>

## 6. Financial Instruments

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

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s		Long Term £000s	Short Term £000s
		Investments:		
0	157,235	Amortised Cost	0	130,304
5,097	0	Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income	4,307	0
<b>5,097</b>	<b>157,235</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>4,307</b>	<b>130,304</b>
0	0	Non-financial assets	0	0
<b>5,097</b>	<b>157,235</b>	<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>4,307</b>	<b>130,304</b>
		Debtors:		
43,346	127,274	Amortised Cost	55,246	176,211
<b>43,346</b>	<b>127,274</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>55,246</b>	<b>176,211</b>
13,368	135,200	Non-financial assets	0	104,062
<b>56,714</b>	<b>262,474</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>55,246</b>	<b>280,273</b>
		Cash and Cash equivalents:		
0	129,594	Amortised Cost	0	42,611
<b>0</b>	<b>129,594</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,611</b>
0	0	Non-financial assets	0	0
<b>0</b>	<b>129,594</b>	<b>Total Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,611</b>
		Borrowings:		
832,424	41,654	Amortised Cost	800,414	42,269
<b>832,424</b>	<b>41,654</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>800,414</b>	<b>42,269</b>
0	0	Non-financial Liabilities	0	0
<b>832,424</b>	<b>41,654</b>	<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>800,414</b>	<b>42,269</b>
		Other short/long term liabilities:		
49,945	8,232	Amortised Cost	46,153	5,973
<b>49,945</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>46,153</b>	<b>5,973</b>
333,791	0	Non-financial Liabilities	330,926	0
<b>383,736</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>Total Other Short/Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>377,079</b>	<b>5,973</b>
		Creditors:		
14,599	215,576	Amortised Cost	14,463	267,805
<b>14,599</b>	<b>215,576</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>14,463</b>	<b>267,805</b>
0	117,186	Non-financial Liabilities	0	86,462
<b>14,599</b>	<b>332,762</b>	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>14,463</b>	<b>354,267</b>

Interest due to be paid or received within the next 12 months in respect of both long and short term loans and investments is shown within the Short Term columns in the table above

- (i) The Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income Investments are the Council's investments in a group of companies associated with the Airport - Legislator 1656 Ltd and Legislator 1657 Ltd.

- (ii) The debtors and creditors total in the table above excludes non-contractual items (e.g. council tax) as these are not financial instruments.
- (iii) The Council has deferred payment agreements made prior to 1 April 2015 where residential care clients exercised their choice to defer payment for services received by agreeing to a legal charge on property they own. No interest is charged against these deferred payments. The fair value includes an interest element based on the average rate of interest payable on the Council's debt for the year (5.43%). From 1 April 2015 the Council created a Deferred Payments Scheme as required by the Care Act 2014. This scheme includes an interest charge at market rate, therefore any new agreements are not soft loans.

## 7. Debtors

These are people and organisations that owe money to the Group at the end of the year. The total for other entities and individuals includes employee car loans and an adjustment for impairment (allowance for bad/doubtful debts).

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Long Term	Short Term		Long Term	Short Term
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s
3,011	211,352	Trade Debtors	4,047	237,256
53,703	24,205	Other receivables	51,199	17,289
0	26,917	Prepayments	0	25,728
<b>56,714</b>	<b>262,474</b>	<b>Group Total</b>	<b>55,246</b>	<b>280,273</b>

## 8. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

2022-23			2023-24
£000s			£000s
(8,868)	Single Entity Cash and Bank balances		(9,377)
10,613	Subsidiary cash and bank balances		12,434
127,849	Short term deposits with the Money Market		39,554
<b>129,594</b>	<b>Total Group Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>42,611</b>

## 9. Creditors

The table shows details of creditors included in current liabilities on the balance sheet. The long term creditor total in the balance sheet includes £3.916m deferred grant income towards two capital projects in the Norse accounts.

2022-23			2023-24
£000s			£000s
178,258	Trade creditors		220,095
91,479	Other payables		91,277
63,025	Receipts in advance		42,895
<b>332,762</b>	<b>Total Group Short Term Creditors</b>		<b>354,267</b>

## 10. Reserves

Movements on the Group reserves are detailed in the Group Movement in Reserve Statement on page 114.

The reserves of the subsidiaries include:

	Usable Reserves			Unusable Reserves			Minority Interest share of subsidiary reserves £000s
	Retained Earnings £000s	Share Capital £000s	Total Usable Reserves £000s	Capital Contribution Reserve £000s	Revaluation Reserve £000s	Total Unusable Reserves £000s	
<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>10,005</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10,015</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>9,775</b>	<b>25,975</b>	<b>1,115</b>
Profit/(Loss) for the year	(6,537)	0	(6,537)	0	0	0	716
Actuarial (gain)/loss in respect of defined benefit pension schemes	11,984	0	11,984	0	0	0	0
Deferred tax in respect of defined benefit pension schemes	(2,996)	0	(2,996)	0	0	0	0
Other reserves movements	(4,308)	(10)	(4,318)	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance at 31</b>	<b>8,148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,148</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>9,775</b>	<b>25,975</b>	<b>1,831</b>

## 11. Leasing

In accordance with accounting standards, Norse Group Ltd adopted IFRS 16 Leasing on 1 April 2019. This has resulted in £10.350m of operating lease liabilities being reclassified as finance leases from that date, increasing the value of both lease liabilities and Property Plant and Equipment in this balance sheet. These leases are reflected in the group accounts at 31 March 2020 as finance liabilities of £12.116m. As this has not had a material impact on these group accounts, no adjustment has been made to reverse the impact of this change. The Council will adopt IFRS 16 on 1 April 2024 and from 2024-25 the group accounts will be prepared on a consistent basis when accounting for leases.

### i) Finance Leases

The Group total includes the Council's assets together with the vehicles, plant and equipment obtained under finance leases by the Council's subsidiary company Norse Group Ltd.

The assets obtained under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
34,829	Land and buildings	37,746
12,421	Vehicles, plant and equipment	9,611
2,387	Heritage Assets	2,387
<b>49,637</b>	<b>Group Total</b>	<b>49,744</b>

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

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
5,449	Current	4,730
9,911	Non-current	7,570
(1,000)	Finance costs payable in future years	(884)
<b>14,360</b>	<b>Minimum lease payments</b>	<b>11,416</b>

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

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Minimum Lease Payments	Finance Lease Liabilities		Minimum Lease Payments	Finance Lease Liabilities
£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s
5,100	5,449	Not later than one year	4,387	4,730
8,036	8,654	Later than one year and not later than five years	5,994	6,482
1,224	1,257	Later than five years	1,035	1,088
<b>14,360</b>	<b>15,360</b>	<b>Group Total</b>	<b>11,416</b>	<b>12,300</b>

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

ii) Operating Leases

Norse Group Ltd

Norse Group Ltd uses leased vehicles, plant and equipment financed under the terms of an operating lease. The amount paid under these arrangements in 2023-24 was £0.339m (£0.662m in 2022-23).

Details of the Council's leases are shown in Note 30 on page 71.

The expenditure charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was £2.713m (£3.237m in 2022-23).

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

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
1,706	Not later than one year	2,432
5,587	Later than one year and not later than five years	8,544
8,356	Later than five years	9,287
<b>15,649</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,263</b>

## 12. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Norse Group Ltd is a participating employer in several multi-employer Local Government Pension Schemes, the main one being the Norfolk Pension Fund. The transactions for Norse Group Ltd relating to their defined benefit pension schemes have been added to those of the Council and reported in the same manner as in the single entity accounts except that the company's liabilities are reflected in their usable reserves (retained earnings) via the Group Movement in Reserves Statement.

Independence Matters CIC is an admitted body to the Norfolk Pension Scheme. The group accounts hold no adjustments in respect of this arrangement.

The following transactions have been made in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Group Usable Reserves via the Group Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
	Cost of Services:	
155,037	Current service cost	71,498
609	Past service costs/(gain)*	2,115
(1,630)	(Gain)/loss from settlements	4,959
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:	996
26,480	Net interest expense	
<b>180,496</b>	<b>Total post employment benefit charged to the Surplus of Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>79,568</b>
	Other post employment benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
	Remeasurement of the net defined pension liability including:	
111,465	Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(113,081)
(17,855)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(15,203)
(1,334,525)	Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(150,618)
18,023	Amounts not recognised due to effect of asset ceiling	209,623
14,020	Additional liability recognised due to minimum funding requirements	14,020
212,097	Other (if applicable)	84,735
<b>(816,279)</b>	<b>Total post employment benefit charged to the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>	<b>109,044</b>
	Movement in Reserves Statement:	
(180,496)	Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits following the Code	(79,568)
	Actual amount charged against Usable reserves for pensions for the year:	
73,545	Employers contributions payable to the scheme (includes contributions in respect of unfunded benefits)	78,257

### Pensions assets and liabilities recognised in the Group Balance Sheet

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

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(2,598,804)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(2,603,866)
2,578,484	Fair value of plan assets	2,776,402
<b>(20,320)</b>	<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation before consideration of asset ceiling</b>	<b>172,536</b>
(18,023)	Amounts not recognised due to effect of asset ceiling	(209,623)
(14,020)	Additional liability recognised due to minimum funding requirements	(14,020)
<b>(52,363)</b>	<b>Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(51,107)</b>

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

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>3,560,551</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April</b>	<b>2,598,804</b>
155,037	Current service cost	71,498
97,023	Interest cost	122,255
18,756	Contributions by scheme participants	20,237
	Remeasurement gains and losses:	
(17,855)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(15,203)
(1,334,525)	- Actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(150,618)
211,460	- Other	84,735
609	Past service costs/(gain)	2,115
(2,581)	Losses /(gains) on curtailments	(4,304)
(2,684)	Business Combinations and Disposals	(21,949)
(86,987)	Benefits paid	(103,704)
<b>2,598,804</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>2,603,866</b>

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

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
<b>2,618,360</b>	<b>Opening fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>2,578,484</b>
70,543	Interest income	121,259
	Remeasurement (gain)/loss:	
(111,465)	- The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	113,081
(637)	- Other	0
73,545	Employer contributions	78,257
18,756	Contributions by scheme participants	20,237
(86,987)	Benefits paid	(103,704)
(1,172)	Other (gain/loss from settlements)	(2,464)
(2,459)	Business Combinations and Disposals	(28,748)
<b>2,578,484</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>2,776,402</b>

The basis for estimating assets and liabilities, significant assumptions used by the actuary and the estimation of the defined benefit obligations are consistent with the disclosures shown in the Council's single entity accounts as shown in note 33.

## Supporting the Group Cash Flow Statement

### 13. Cash Flows from Operating Activities

The net cash flows from operating activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(5,822)	Interest received	(9,969)
37,267	Interest paid	37,895
(969)	Dividends received	(1,672)

The deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(77,733)	Depreciation	(87,870)
(38,236)	Impairment and downward valuations	(23,314)
(48,485)	(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(34,259)
24,122	Increase/(decrease) in debtors	30,097
(3,124)	Increase/(decrease) in inventories	(3,723)
(112,103)	Movement in Pension Liability	(4,990)
(37,276)	Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or de-recognised	(15,392)
81	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(3,570)
<b>(292,754)</b>		<b>(143,021)</b>

The deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
119,991	Capital grants credited to the deficit on the provision of services	167,813
1,327	Proceeds from short term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long term investments	955
28,874	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	12,463
90	Other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing activities	204
<b>150,282</b>		<b>181,435</b>



#### 14. Cash Flows from Investing Activities

The net cash flows from the investing activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
138,318	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	189,932
285,000	Purchase of short term and long term investments	302,907
2,631	Other payments for investing activities	6,458
(30,201)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(14,153)
(310,000)	Proceeds from short term and long term investments	(320,396)
(137,709)	Other receipts from investing activities	(196,211)
<b>(51,961)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(31,463)</b>

#### 15. Cash Flows from Financing Activities

The net cash flows from the financing activities include the following items:

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(10,000)	Cash receipts of short term and long term borrowing	(9,200)
0	Other receipts from financing activities	0
8,632	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	8,826
18,741	Repayments of short term and long term borrowing	40,152
1,407	Other payments from financing activities	0
<b>18,780</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>39,778</b>

Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities:

2023-24	Balance as at 1 April £000s	Financing Cash Flows £000s	Non-Cash Changes £000s	Balance as at 31 March £000s
Long term borrowings	(832,424)	16,495	15,515	(800,414)
Short term borrowings	(41,654)	23,657	(24,272)	(42,269)
Lease liabilities	(14,428)	5,683	(2,775)	(11,520)
On balance sheet PFI liabilities	(43,749)	3,143	0	(40,606)
<b>Total liabilities from financing</b>	<b>(932,255)</b>	<b>48,978</b>	<b>(11,532)</b>	<b>(894,809)</b>

2022-23	Balance as at 1 April £000s	Financing Cash Flows £000s	Non-Cash Changes £000s	Balance as at 31 March £000s
Long term borrowings	(841,344)	(10,000)	18,920	(832,424)
Short term borrowings	(30,946)	19,580	(30,288)	(41,654)
Lease liabilities	(20,719)	7,195	(904)	(14,428)
On balance sheet PFI liabilities	(45,754)	2,005	0	(43,749)
<b>Total liabilities from financing</b>	<b>(938,763)</b>	<b>18,780</b>	<b>(12,272)</b>	<b>(932,255)</b>

## Other Group Notes

### 16. Accounting Policies

#### i) General Principles

The accounting policies of the Group are the same as those applied to the Council's single entity accounts except for the following policies which are specific to the Group Accounts.

#### ii) Business combinations

Business combinations occurring on or after 1 February 2009 are accounted for using the acquisition method under the revised IFRS 3 Business Combinations. The consideration transferred by the Group to obtain control of a subsidiary is calculated as the sum of the acquisition-date fair values of assets transferred, liabilities incurred, and the equity interests issued by the Group, which includes the fair value of any asset or liability arising from a contingent consideration arrangement. Acquisition costs are expensed as incurred.

The Group recognises identifiable assets obtained and liabilities assumed, including contingent liabilities, in a business combination regardless of whether they have been previously recognised in the acquiree's financial statements prior to the acquisition. Assets obtained, and liabilities assumed are generally measured at their acquisition-date fair values.

Goodwill is stated after separate recognition of identifiable intangible assets. It is calculated as the excess of the sum of a) fair value of consideration transferred, b) the recognised amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and c) acquisition-date fair value of any existing equity interest in the acquiree, over the acquisition-date fair values of identifiable net assets. If the fair values of identifiable net assets exceed the sum calculated above, the excess amount (i.e. gain on a bargain purchase) is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

#### iii) Tax Expense

The tax expense is the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax not recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

The tax payable in respect of the year is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the income statement because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The Group's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Such assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary difference arises from initial recognition of goodwill or from the initial recognition of other assets and liabilities (other than in a business combination) in a transaction that affects neither the tax profit nor the accounting profit.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, associates, and interests in joint ventures, except where the Group can control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse soon. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date.

Deferred tax is calculated, without discounting, based on the laws enacted or substantially enacted by the reporting date and at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled, or the asset is realised. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the income statement except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to other comprehensive income or equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in other comprehensive income or equity.

#### **iv) Goodwill**

Goodwill arises from the acquisition of a controlling interest in various companies within the group accounts. It is the excess cost of acquisition over the group's interest in the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities of a subsidiary at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is initially recognised as an asset at cost and is then measured at cost less accumulated impairment losses. It is reviewed annually for impairment and any impairment is recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Goodwill arising on acquisitions before the date of transition to IFRS has been kept at the UK GAAP amounts subject to being tested for impairment at that date.

#### **v) Leases**

Following the adoption of IFRS16 from 1 April 2019, leases are recognised as right of use assets with a corresponding liability at the date from which the leased asset is available for use by the group. The leases are typically for fixed periods (of months or years) but may have extension options.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis.

The Council has taken the decision to depart from the CIPFA Code and not to adjust the Group Accounts to reverse the impact of IFRS16 adoption. More information on the impact of this decision can be found in Note 42 of the single entity accounts.

## Norfolk Firefighters Pension Fund Accounts

This section summarises the accounts of the Firefighters' Pension Fund for the year ending 31 March 2024. The accounts of the Firefighters Pension Fund have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies as detailed in the Statement of Accounting Policies on page 90, except for transfer values, which have been included in the statement on a cash basis.

### Firefighters Pension Fund Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	<b>Contributions receivable</b>	
	County Council	
(1,699)	- Contributions in relation to pensionable pay	(2,038)
0	- Early retirements	0
(316)	- Other (ill health charge from NCC)	(183)
(3,777)	Firefighters' contributions	(4,556)
<b>(5,792)</b>		<b>(6,777)</b>
(47)	Transfers in from other authorities	(34)
<b>(5,839)</b>		<b>(6,811)</b>
	<b>Benefits payable</b>	
8,701	Pensions	9,666
2,642	Commutations and lump sums	2,194
0	Lump sum death benefits	177
410	HMRC Pension Tax Allowances (Scheme Pays)	244
<b>11,753</b>		<b>12,281</b>
	<b>Payments to and on account of Leavers</b>	
20	Transfer out to other authorities	0
<b>20</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>5,934</b>	<b>Net amount payable for the year</b>	<b>5,470</b>
(5,934)	Top up grant payable by Government	(5,470)
<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>

### Firefighters Pension Fund Net Assets Statement

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
1,144	Top up (payable to) / receivable from Government	(74)
(1,144)	Amount owing (to) / from General Fund	74
<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>

The financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end.

## **Notes to the Norfolk Firefighters Pension Fund Accounts**

### **1. Summary of Arrangements**

The career averaged (CARE) Firefighter Pension Scheme was introduced in 2015 as a phased replacement of the 1992 'old' and 2006 'new' schemes for active members. It is open to both whole time and retained fire officers with most active members paying into this scheme. The employer contribution rate has been set at 28.8% of fire officers pensionable pay. The old and new schemes no longer have contributing members having all tapered to the 2015 scheme or retired. They are closed to new members joining. The 3 remaining retained staff previously special active members under the modified scheme tapered into the 2015 scheme. There remain only backdated employee contributions into the modified 2006 scheme relating to earnings between 2000 to 2006 for retained firefighters.

Payments are made under all schemes (1992, 2006, modified 2006 and 2015) until the beneficiaries with the replaced schemes are deceased.

Contributions from the Council (employer) and officers are paid into the fire pension account as are employee contributions. Pension payments are made from the same account and any net payment on the account is refunded by the Home Office in the form of a 'top-up' grant payment. This excludes compensation payments and injury awards which are unfunded and paid from the Council's revenue account.

Ill health retirement pay overs are made to the fire pensions account from the Council's account over a three-year period based on two- or four-times pensionable pay depending on lower or upper tier ill health category of retirement. This is effectively a pension strain paid for early retirement due to ill health.

### **2. Grant Arrangements**

The Norfolk Firefighters Pension Scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme which means that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash must be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due. Information on the Council's long term pension obligations can be found in note 33 to the Single Entity accounts.

The account is balanced to nil each year by receiving cash in the form of a pension top-up grant from the Government. The underlying principle is that employer and officer contributions together will meet the full costs of pension liabilities being accrued by serving officers while Central Government supports the costs of pensions paid to retired officers and their dependants. Should there be a surplus in the account this is repaid to Government.

### **3. Pension Administration**

West Yorkshire Pension Fund has the responsibility for, and continues to administer and pay, fire officer pensions following the Fire Pension Regulations 1992 (old pension scheme), 2006 (new pension scheme), Modified 2006 (modified new pension scheme) and 2015 (CARE pension scheme).

## Norfolk Pension Fund Accounts

### Introduction

This section provides details of the accounts of the Local Government Pension Fund for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is statutorily based and is governed by the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendment.

The full Pension Fund Accounts are considered by the Pensions Committee. The 2023-24 accounts will be submitted for approval by the Pension Committee, and incorporated in the Pension Fund Annual Report following successful completion of the audit. A copy of the report will be placed on the Pension Fund's website [www.norfolkpensionfund.org](http://www.norfolkpensionfund.org)

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24 (the Code of Practice) requires authorities to account for pension funds in accordance with IAS 26 Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans, subject to the interpretations and adaptations detailed in the Code of Practice.

The accounting statements in this section comprise:

- Revenue and Fund Account – shows the changes in net assets available for benefits, including income to and expenditure from the fund relating to scheme members and to the investment and administration of the fund;
- Net Assets Statement – discloses the type and value of the assets available at the year end to meet benefits;
- Notes to the accounts – provide additional information including a description of the fund, a summary of the significant applicable accounting policies, and supporting information on the figures included in the accounts.

A list of participating employers is included at the end of this section.

### Investment Strategy Statement and Funding Strategy Statement

With effect from the 1 April 2017 the Pension Fund is required to publish an Investment Strategy Statement in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 ("the Regulations") and supersedes all previously published Statement of Investment Principles.

The Investment Strategy Statement and Funding Strategy Statement can be found on the [Pension Fund's website](#) under the "Investment" and "Funding" sections.

Alternatively, a copy can be obtained from the Norfolk Pension Fund:

Norfolk Pension Fund,  
County Hall,  
Martineau Lane,  
Norwich,  
NR1 2DH

Telephone: 01603 495923

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Norfolk County Council**

The opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements will be added here once the audit is complete.

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## Revenue and Fund Account

2022-23		Note	2023-24
£000s			£000s
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the Fund		
184,958	Contributions	7	197,837
11,626	Transfers in from other pension funds	8	10,118
<b>196,584</b>			<b>207,955</b>
(160,774)	Benefits	9	(180,814)
(6,883)	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	(21,056)
<b>(167,657)</b>			<b>(201,870)</b>
<b>28,927</b>	<b>Net additions/withdrawals from dealings with members</b>		<b>6,085</b>
(31,433)	Management expenses	11	(37,607)
<b>(2,506)</b>	<b>Net additions/withdrawals from dealings with members including Fund Management</b>		<b>(31,522)</b>
76,068	Investment income	12	100,669
(1)	Taxes on income	13a)	0
(106,120)	Profit and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	14a)	369,824
<b>(30,053)</b>	<b>Net return on investments</b>		<b>470,493</b>
<b>(32,559)</b>	<b>Net increase/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year</b>		<b>438,971</b>
<b>4,912,180</b>	<b>Opening net assets of the scheme</b>		<b>4,879,621</b>
<b>4,879,621</b>	<b>Closing net assets of the scheme</b>		<b>5,318,592</b>

## Net Assets Statement

2022-23			2023-24	
£000s		Note		£000s
4,862,783	Investment assets	14		5,328,733
(846)	Investment liabilities	14		(5,944)
<b>4,861,937</b>	<b>Total Net Investments</b>			<b>5,322,789</b>
509	Long term Debtors	21		412
<b>509</b>	<b>Total Long Term Debtors</b>			<b>412</b>
16,110	Debtors	21		17,602
8,177	Cash in hand	21		13,617
<b>24,287</b>	<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>31,219</b>
(7,112)	Creditors	22		(35,828)
<b>(7,112)</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>(35,828)</b>
<b>17,175</b>	<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<b>(4,609)</b>
<b>4,879,621</b>	<b>Net Assets of the Fund available to fund benefits</b>			<b>5,318,592</b>

The Fund account and the net assets statement do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The ability to meet these future liabilities is considered by the Fund actuary as part of the triennial formal valuation process. Information relating to the valuation of these liabilities is shown in note 20.

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## **1. Description of the Fund**

The Norfolk Pension Fund ("the Fund") is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme and is administered by Norfolk County Council ("the Administering Authority"). The Administering Authority is the reporting entity for this pension fund.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, reference should be made to the Norfolk Pension Fund Annual Report 2023-24 and the underlying statutory powers underpinning the scheme, namely the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

### **i) General**

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

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

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Norfolk County Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Norfolk County Council, the district councils in Norfolk and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies. Teachers, police officers and fire fighters are not included as they come within other national public sector pension schemes.

The Council has delegated its pension functions to the Pensions Committee. Responsibility for the administration and financial management of the Fund has been delegated to the Director of Strategic Finance.

The Pension Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the assets of the Fund and the administration of benefits. The Committee meets quarterly in order to:

- Ensure compliance with legislation and best practice
- Determine policy for the investment, funding and administration of the Fund
- Monitor performance across all aspects of the service
- Consider issues arising and make decisions to ensure efficient and effective performance and service delivery
- Appoint and monitor advisors
- Ensure that arrangements are in place for consultation with stakeholders as necessary

### **ii) Membership**

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme.

Organisations participating in the Norfolk Pension Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund
- Admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary,

charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

There are currently 434 employer organisations with active members in the Norfolk Pension Fund including Norfolk County Council as detailed below. This is a net increase of five employers since 31 March 2023.

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
429	Number of Employers with Active Members	434
	<u>Full membership including employers with deferred and legacy</u>	
	Number of Employees in Scheme	
13,990	Norfolk County Council	14,656
18,073	Other Employers	18,645
<b>32,063</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>33,301</b>
	<u>Number of Pensioners</u>	
14,964	Norfolk County Council	15,437
14,798	Other Employers	15,412
<b>29,762</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>30,849</b>
	<u>Deferred Pensioners</u>	
20,244	Norfolk County Council	21,095
20,135	Other Employers	21,838
<b>40,379</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,933</b>
<b>102,204</b>	<b>Total membership including employers with deferred and legacy pension commitments</b>	<b>107,083</b>

The movement in employer numbers is due to the following employers leaving or joining the Fund during the financial year:

<b>Employers ceasing to have active employees in the Fund:</b>	<b>Employers joining the active section of the Fund:</b>
1. Chartwells (All Angels Federation)	1. UET Compass (Short Stay School)
2. Aspens Services (Evolution Trust)	2. Wimbotsham Parish Council
3. Aspens Services (Wroughton Infants)	3. Dereham Church of England Infant And Nursery School
4. Chartwells (Eastern MAT)	4. Tivetshall Parish Council
5. Docking Parish Council	5. Earsham Primary School
6. Reedham Parish Council	6. Acle St Edmund Primary School
7. Barford & Wrampingham Parish Council	7. Little Plumstead Primary School
8. Snettisham Parish Council	8. Great Moulton Parish Council
9. Bradwell Parish Council	9. Edwards & Blake (Southtown Primary)
10. South Walsham Parish Council	10. Turn It On (Eastern MAT)
11. Clarion Housing Group	11. Medequip Assistive Technology (ICES)
12. Anglia Maintenance Services	12. Yaxham Primary School
13. GYB Services Ltd	13. Robert Kett Primary
14. Suffolk Coastal Services	14. Sporle With Palgrave Parish Council
15. Great Witchingham Parish Council	15. Great Yarmouth Services
	16. West Dereham Parish Council



<b>Employers ceasing to have active employees in the Fund:</b>	<b>Employers joining the active section of the Fund:</b>
	17. Aspens Services (Diss Junior) 18. Millfield Primary 19. Garvestone, Reymerston & Thuxton Parish Council 20. Winterton-On-Sea Parish Council

A full list of participating employers is shown on page 188.

### iii) Funding

Benefits are funded by employee and employer contributions and investment earnings. For the financial year ending 31 March 2024, employee contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of actual pensionable pay.

Banding depends on a member's actual annual pay rate. The table below shows the bands for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Employee contribution rates are prescribed by the governing regulations and cannot be varied locally. Employers' contributions are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations.

The March 2022 triennial valuation set the rates payable by employers for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Excluding lump sum deficit recovery payments these rates range from 0% to 70.4% of actual pensionable pay.

<b>Actual Pensionable Pay 2023-24</b>	<b>Contribution rate per year</b>	<b>Actual Pensionable Pay 2024-25</b>	<b>Contribution rate per year</b>
Up to £16,500	5.5%	Up to £17,600	5.5%
£16,501 to £25,900	5.8%	£17,601 to £27,600	5.8%
£25,901 to £42,100	6.5%	£27,601 to £44,900	6.5%
£42,101 to £53,300	6.8%	£44,901 to £56,800	6.8%
£53,301 to £74,700	8.5%	£5,801 t £79,700	8.5%
£74,701 to £105,900	9.9%	£79,701 to£112,900	9.9%
£105,901 to £124,800	10.5%	£112,901 to £133,100	10.5%
£124,801 to £187,200	11.4%	£133,101 to £199,700	11.4%
£187,201 or more	12.5%	£199,701 or more	12.5%

### iv) Benefits

Pension benefits under the LGPS (until March 2014) were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 the scheme became a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th.

	<b>Membership before April 2008</b>	<b>Membership April 2008 to March 2014</b>	<b>Membership from April 2014</b>
<b>Pension</b>	Each year worked is worth 1/80 x final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 x final pensionable salary	1/49 of pensionable pay in each year
<b>Lump Sum</b>	Automatic lump sum of 3 x salary	No automatic lump sum	No automatic lump sum
<b>Additional Lump Sum</b>	Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up	Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up	Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax-free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up

Benefits are index-linked in order to keep pace with inflation. In June 2010, the Government announced that the method of indexation would change from the retail prices index (RPI) to the consumer prices index (CPI). This change took effect from 1 April 2011. The appropriate index for April 2024 is 6.7% (10.1% April 2023).

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

## 2. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2023-24 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24 (the Code) which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed in accordance with the requirements of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26. Full details of this approach are disclosed at note 20 of these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

In carrying out its assessment that this basis is appropriate, made to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, management of the fund have considered the additional qualitative and quantitative key requirements:

- The basis for preparation is supported by legislation for local authorities, and the Code requirements on the basis of the continuation of services;
- All employers within the fund are paying contributions as per the rates and adjustment certificate. No employer has requested to defer their payments within the 2023-24 financial year, or within 2024-25 to date;
- The Fund is cashflow positive meaning that the contributions received from the employers and members of the scheme exceed the benefits amount paid out.
- In line with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the Fund's actuary carried out a valuation during 2022-23. The Fund's assets were valued at £4,901 million, with liabilities of £4,613 million resulting in a funding level of 106%.

- The Results of the 2022 Valuation have been considered within Cash Flow Modelling and in spite of contribution rates remaining equal or marginally reducing, we expect Cash Flow to remain positive for the contribution period certified within the Valuation (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026).
- The fund does not have any external borrowing; and as at 31 March 2024, the fund has an allocation of 42% to public equities, 13% to liquid fixed income and holds around 2% of the Fund in cash (investment and current cash balances). These are assets that can be liquidated to pay benefits should the need arise.

On this basis, the fund has a reasonable expectation that it will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence throughout the going concern period. For this reason, alongside the statutory guidance, we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

### **3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **Fund Account – Revenue Recognition**

##### **a) Contribution income**

Employees' normal and additional contributions are accounted for when deducted from pay. Employer contributions are accounted for on the same basis as they are expressed in the Rates & Adjustments certificate to the relevant formal valuation. Employee and employer normal contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

##### **b) Transfers to and from other schemes**

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (see notes 8 and 10).

Individual transfers in and out are accounted for on a cash basis when received or paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers in from members wishing to use proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions (see below) to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In (see note 8).

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

##### **c) Investment income**

###### **i) Interest income**

Interest income is recognised in the Fund account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination.

###### **ii) Dividend income**

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

### **iii) Distributions from pooled funds**

Income distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

### **iv) Property-related income**

Property-related income consists of rental income and income from pooled property investment vehicles. Income from pooled property investment vehicles is recognised as in iii) above.

### **v) Movement in the net market value of investments**

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

## **Fund Account – Expense Items**

### **d) Benefits payable**

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

### **e) Taxation**

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

### **f) Management expenses**

The fund discloses its pension fund management expenses in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses 2016.

### **g) Administrative expenses**

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs incurred in respect of the administration of the Fund by the Administering Authority are charged to the Fund. These include staff, accommodation and IT costs.

### **h) Oversight and Governance Costs**

All oversight and governance expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the fund. Associated management and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the fund.

### **i) Investment Management Expenses**

All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Fund Manager fees are broadly based on the market value of the assets under management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change. Fees payable to external investment managers and the custodian are in accordance with the contractual agreements with the Fund.

In addition, the Fund has agreements with the following managers that an element of their fee is performance related:

Manager	Asset Class
J.P. Morgan Asset Management Equitix	Infrastructure Infrastructure

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
1,034	Performance-related fees	1,139

Where an investment managers' fee invoice has not been received by the Net Asset Statement date, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate as at the end of the year plus any appropriate performance allowance is used for inclusion in the Fund account.

2022-23 Restated		2023-24
£000s		£000s
458	Value of invoiced fees based on estimates (excluding performance fees and fee rebates)	8,690

The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants, investment performance measurement, governance and voting and custody is included within management expenses under the relevant heading.

## Net Assets Statement

### j) Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of asset are recognised by the Fund in the Fund Account.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the code of practice and IFRS13 (see note 16a). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the fund has adopted the classification guidelines in Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016).

### k) Freehold and leasehold properties

The direct freehold property holding was valued as at 31 March 2022. The direct freehold property holding is valued every 3 years at the year-end date in line with the triennial valuation of the Fund. The valuation is performed by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition). The next valuation will be as at 31 March 2025.

### l) Foreign currency transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange rates are used to value

cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

#### **m) Derivatives**

The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities. The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

Derivative contract assets are fair valued at bid prices and liabilities are fair valued at offer prices. Changes in the fair value of derivative contracts are included in change in market value.

The future value of forward currency contracts is based on market forward exchange rates at the year-end date and determined as the gain or loss that would arise if the outstanding contract were matched at the year-end with an equal and opposite contract.

#### **n) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits as arising. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value. Cash and cash equivalents held with the global custodian (Northern Trust) are classified as cash deposits within other investment balances. Operational cash balances managed by the Administering Authority's treasury management operations are disclosed as cash in hand within current assets.

#### **o) Financial liabilities**

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

#### **p) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits**

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS 26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the net assets statement (note 20).

#### **q) Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)**

The Fund has three appointed providers of AVCs; Prudential, Clerical Medical and Utmost Life and Pensions (previously Equitable Life - a legacy arrangement that is not open to new contributors).

AVCs are held by the providers and do not form part of the Fund's assets. These amounts are not included in the main Fund accounts in accordance with Regulation 4 (1) (b) of the Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed as a note only (note 23).

Members participating in these arrangements receive an annual statement at 31 March each year showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year. Contributions are deducted from member salaries by their employer and paid directly to the AVC providers. AVCs may be used to fund additional retirement benefits or to purchase additional life cover at a level higher than that provided by the main scheme.

Upon retirement the value of an individual AVC account may be used in some or all the following ways depending on the circumstances of the retiring member:

- i) Buy an annuity from a third-party provider

- ii) Buy an annuity within the LGPS
- iii) Take some of or the entire accumulated AVC fund as cash, if within limits set down in the scheme regulations and by HMRC
- iv) Under certain specific circumstances buy extra membership within the LGPS (this is a legacy right associated with some members only)

**r) Accounting Standards issued but not yet adopted**

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24 requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of changes that will be required by a new standard that has been introduced but not yet adopted and applies to the adoption of the following disclosures as amended in the 2024-25 code:

- i) IFRS 16 Leases issued in January 2016 (but only for those local authorities that have not decided to voluntarily implement IFRS 16 in the 2023/24 year).
- ii) Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020. The amendments:
  - specify that an entity's right to defer settlement must exist at the end of the reporting period
  - clarify that classification is unaffected by management's intentions or expectations about whether the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement
  - clarify how lending conditions affect classification, and
  - clarify requirements for classifying liabilities an entity will or may settle by issuing its own equity instruments.
- iii) Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions.
- iv) Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022. The amendments improved the information an entity provides when its right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months is subject to compliance with covenants.
- v) International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12)
- vi) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduced:
  - a temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
  - targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.
- vii) Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023. The amendments require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance arrangements. The IASB developed the new requirements to provide users of financial statements with information to enable them to:
  - assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities and cash flows, and
  - understand the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's exposure to liquidity risk and how the entity might be affected if the arrangements were no longer available to it.

The code requires implementation of the above disclosure from 1 April 2024. These changes are not considered to have a material effect on the Pension Fund accounts of 2023-24

#### s) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

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

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net assets statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

#### 4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

##### Unquoted private equity investments

It is important to recognise the subjective nature of determining the fair value of private equity investments. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which Norfolk Pension Fund has invested. These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

Funds managed by HarbourVest are subject to full valuations at 31 March each year. Patria Investment funds are valued at 31 December and rolled forward for cash flows to 31 March.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
450,516	Value of unquoted private equity	475,833

##### Pooled Investment Vehicle – Property/Freehold Property

Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax.

Pooled property funds and Limited Partnerships in property have derived underlying assets that have been valued by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and generally in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition). The valuation of freehold property is performed by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition).

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
464,041	Value of Pooled Investment Vehicle – Property/Freehold Property	447,155



### Infrastructure Equity Pooled Fund

Investments in Pooled Infrastructure Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. All assets are valued using income or discounted cash flows.

Audited valuation is carried out annually and is based on the Limited partnerships are valued at Fair value based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
472,264	Value of Infrastructure Equity Pooled Fund	502,725

### Timberland Equity Pooled Fund

Investments in Pooled Timberland Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. Assets are valued by independent appraisers using comparable asset costs or sales and discounted cash flows. Audited valuations are carried out annually and based on the Fair value of the fund.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
56,698	Value of Timberland Equity Pooled Fund	83,140

### Pooled Illiquid Closed-Ended Debt Funds

Pooled investment vehicle is valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income, which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax. The credit fund is valued monthly on a Net Asset Value basis. The five debt funds are valued quarterly on a Net Asset Value basis.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
167,064	Value of Pooled Illiquid Closed-Ended Debt Funds	174,776

### Pension fund liability

The pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary. The assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in note 19. In accordance with IAS26 the Fund is also required to disclose on an annual basis the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (see note 20). Actuarial methodology used in triennial valuations is different from that used in IAS26, therefore they will produce different liability values at a common valuation date.

The liability estimates in notes 19 and 20 are subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions and actual future experience related to the development of pension liabilities.

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

The preparation of financial statements requires the Administering Authority to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The key judgements and uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions															
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (measured under IAS26)	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 expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	<p>CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2023</th> <th>Approximate % increase to liabilities</th> <th>Approximate monetary amount (£m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate</td> <td>2%</td> <td>£90m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 year increase in member life expectancy</td> <td>4%</td> <td>£197m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate</td> <td>0%</td> <td>£4m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0.1% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate</td> <td>2%</td> <td>£87m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2023	Approximate % increase to liabilities	Approximate monetary amount (£m)	0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	£90m	1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	£197m	0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	£4m	0.1% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate	2%	£87m
Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2023	Approximate % increase to liabilities	Approximate monetary amount (£m)															
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	£90m															
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	£197m															
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	£4m															
0.1% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate	2%	£87m															
Private Equity	Private equity investments are valued at fair value in accordance with appropriate standards and guidance. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	<p>The total private equity investments in the financial statements are £475.8m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p> <p>Generally, these investments are valued a minimum of a quarter in arrears. Estimated valuations (valued at 31 December 2023) for all HarbourVest private equity investments have been used in the accounts.</p> <p>Estimated valuations (valued at 31 December 23 and rolled forward for cash flows to 31 March 24) for Patria Investments have been used in the accounts.</p>															
Pooled Property/Freehold Property	Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is	The total pooled property/freehold property investments in the financial statements are £447.2m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.															

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	<p>reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax. For freehold property the valuation is performed by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition).</p>	
Pooled Infrastructure Equity	<p>Investments in Pooled Infrastructure Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. All assets are valued using income or discounted cash flows. Audited valuation is carried out annually and is based on the Limited partnerships are valued at Fair value based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.</p>	<p>The total Pooled Infrastructure Equity investments in the financial statements are £502.7m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p>
Timberland Equity Pooled Fund	<p>Investments in Pooled Timberland Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. Assets are valued by independent appraisers using comparable asset costs or sales and discounted cash flows.</p> <p>Audited valuations are carried out annually and based on the Fair value of the fund.</p>	<p>The total Pooled Timberland Equity investments in the financial statements are £83.1m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p>
Pooled Illiquid Closed-Ended Debt Funds	<p>Pooled investment vehicle is valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax. The</p>	<p>The total Pooled Debt Fund investments in the financial statements are £174.8m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	credit fund is valued monthly on a Net Asset Value basis. The three debt funds are valued quarterly on a Net Asset Value basis.	

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with independent investment advisors, the fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges as at 31 March.

Investment Type	Range of Accuracy
Pooled Property/Direct Freehold Property	10.00%
Private Equity	15.00%
Pooled Infrastructure Equity	10.00%
Pooled Timberland Equity	10.00%
Pooled Debt Funds	10.00%
Pooled Real Estate Funds	12.00%

Full details of the impact on asset values are detailed in note 16.

#### 6. Events after the Net Asset Statement Date

There have been no events since 31 March 2024, and up to the date when these accounts were authorised, which require any adjustments to these accounts.

#### 7. Contributions receivable

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	<b>By Category</b>	
145,201	Employers – normal	153,653
0	Employers – special	0
1,564	Employers – strain	2,506
37,797	Members – normal	41,303
396	Members – purchase of additional scheme benefits	375
<b>184,958</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>197,837</b>

Employer Normal contributions include Deficit recovery (Secondary) contributions as shown below. Where applicable the actuarial certification of the employers' contribution rate includes an element in respect of secondary contributions.

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
38,730	Deficit recovery contributions included in employer normal contributions	46,826
<b>38,730</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>46,826</b>

Special contributions represent amounts paid by employers in excess of the minimum contribution levels required by the Actuary (in the Rates and Adjustment Certificate to the applicable triennial valuation) and to termination settlements agreed by scheduled bodies ceasing participation in the Fund. They do not relate to augmentation and strain arising on non ill-health early retirements.

Pension benefits are funded to be paid from normal retirement age. If any employee is allowed to take their pension benefits early, this places an additional cost (strain) on the Pension Fund. Employers are required to reimburse the Pension Fund in respect of the "strain costs" arising from an employee taking early retirement. In some cases, the cost can be paid in full at the date of retirement or by instalments over 3 years in which case interest is added.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
	<b>By Authority</b>	
79,513	Administering authority	86,965
87,659	Other scheduled bodies	95,651
4,495	Community admission bodies	3,080
2,652	Transferee admission bodies	2,857
10,639	Resolution bodies	9,284
<b>184,958</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>197,837</b>

The LGPS provides scope for employers to award additional years of membership on retirement. If an employer opts to award augmented membership, the employer is required to purchase the additional period from the Pension Fund. Again, in some cases the cost can be paid in one instalment or over 3 years with an appropriate interest adjustment.

The outstanding instalments due after 31 March were:

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
68	Strain instalments due after the net asset statement date	39
<b>68</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

The debtors figure for augmentation/strain due in note 21 comprises the total of these balances plus the outstanding invoiced balances in respect of augmentation/strain due from Fund employers at 31 March 2024.

## 8. Transfers in from other Pension Funds

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
0	Group Transfers	0
11,626	Individual transfers	10,118
<b>11,626</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,118</b>

There were no group transfers in 2023-24 (none in 2022-23). The individual transfers figure represents the payments received by the Fund in relation to individual members' transfers of benefit into the Fund from other pension arrangements.

## 9. Benefits payable

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	<b>By Category</b>	
137,276	Pensions	153,087
20,599	Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	23,418
2,899	Lump sum death benefits	4,309
<b>160,774</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>180,814</b>

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	<b>By Authority</b>	
72,099	Administering authority	82,193
60,674	Other scheduled bodies	67,659
7,397	Community admission bodies	7,844
4,840	Transferee admission bodies	5,356
15,764	Resolution bodies	17,762
<b>160,774</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>180,814</b>

## 10. Payments to and on account of leavers

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
0	Group transfers	0
441	Refunds to members leaving service	410
6,442	Individual Transfers out to other Schemes	6,746
0	Payment made under Regulations 74, 75 and 15(3) and 64 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008/2018	13,900
<b>6,883</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,056</b>

There were no group transfers in 2023-24 (None in 2022-23).

## 11. Management Expenses

Pension Fund management expenses for 2023-24 are accounted for in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs.

Note 11 Management Expenses now includes fund administration costs, oversight and governance costs (previously included with the fund administration cost figure) and investment management expenses (including Transaction Costs previously included in investment Purchases and Sales).

2022-23		2023-24
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
2,163	Administrative costs	2,145
28,248	Investment managements expenses	34,830
1,022	Oversight and governance costs	632
<b>31,433</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,607</b>

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations enables administration expenses (including Oversight and Governance) to be charged to the Fund.

#### a) Investment Expenses

<b>2023-24</b>	<b>31 March 2023 Total £000s</b>	<b>Management Fees £000s</b>	<b>Performance Related Fees £000s</b>	<b>Transaction Costs £000s</b>
Fixed Interest Securities	0	0	0	0
Pooled investments	13,883	13,127	0	756
Private equity	9,745	9,745	0	0
Infrastructure (incl. Timberland)	7,280	6,142	1,139	0
Direct Freehold Property	47	47	0	0
Derivatives Forward Currency	856	856	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,811</b>	<b>29,917</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>756</b>
Fees and Other Expenses	2,987			
Custody Fees	32			
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,830</b>			

<b>2022-23 (Restated)</b>	<b>31 March 2023 Total £000s</b>	<b>Management Fees £000s</b>	<b>Performance Related Fees £000s</b>	<b>Transaction Costs £000s</b>
Fixed Interest Securities	0	0	0	0
Pooled investments	9,681	9,625	(117)	173
Private equity	8,552	8,552	0	0
Infrastructure (incl. Timberland)	5,983	4,832	1,151	0
Direct Freehold Property	37	37	0	0
Derivatives Forward Currency	987	987	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,240</b>	<b>24,033</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>173</b>
Fees and Other Expenses	2,987			
Custody Fees	21			
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,248</b>			

#### 12. Investment Income

<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2023-24</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
185	Income from fixed interest securities	670
140	Income from index linked securities	0
19,277	Pooled property investments	17,621
50,400	Pooled fund income- Unit trusts and other managed funds	76,249
1,845	Private equity income	856
2,363	Pooled funds rebate	1,247
1,413	Interest on cash deposits	3,812
57	Rents from Property (Note 12a)	41
388	Other	173
<b>76,068</b>	<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>100,669</b>

a) Property Income

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
57	Rental income	41
(37)	Direct operating expenses	(47)
<b>20</b>	<b>Net income or expenditure</b>	<b>(6)</b>

13. Other Fund Disclosures

a) Taxes on Income

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
1	Withholding tax – pooled investments	0
<b>1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

b) External Audit costs

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
86	Payable in respect of external Audit	103
<b>86</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

14. Investments

Market Value 31 March 2023		Market Value 31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	<b>Investment assets</b>	
59,970	Fixed Interest Securities	235,302
3,831,834	Pooled Investments	4,064,762
462,996	Pooled property investments	446,109
450,516	Private equity Partnerships	475,833
1,046	Direct Freehold Property	1,046
0	Derivatives – futures	314
7,875	Derivatives - forward currency	5,276
48,546	Cash deposits	100,091
0	Amounts receivable for sales	0
<b>4,862,783</b>	<b>Total investment assets</b>	<b>5,328,733</b>
	<b>Investment liabilities</b>	
(846)	Derivatives - forward currency	(244)
0	Amounts payable for purchases	(5,700)
<b>(846)</b>	<b>Total investment liabilities</b>	<b>(5,944)</b>
<b>4,861,937</b>	<b>Net investment assets</b>	<b>5,322,789</b>



a) Reconciliation of Movements in Investments and Derivatives

2023-24	Market value 31 March 2023  £000s	Purchases during the year and derivative payments  £000s	Sales during the year and derivative receipts  £000s	Change in market value during the year  £000s	Market value 31 March 2024  £000s
Fixed Interest Securities	59,970	476,718	(304,385)	2,999	235,302
Pooled property investments	462,996	20,563	(12,488)	(24,962)	446,109
Pooled investments	3,831,834	859,763	(983,186)	356,351	4,064,762
Private equity	450,516	82,212	(53,916)	(2,979)	475,833
Direct Freehold Property	1,046	0	0	0	1,046
	<b>4,806,362</b>	<b>1,439,256</b>	<b>(1,353,975)</b>	<b>331,409</b>	<b>5,223,052</b>
<b>Derivative contracts:</b>					
- Futures	0	166	(884)	1,032	314
- Forward currency contracts	7,029	21,101	(60,606)	37,508	5,032
	<b>7,029</b>	<b>21,267</b>	<b>(61,490)</b>	<b>38,540</b>	<b>5,346</b>
<b>Other investment</b>					
- Cash deposits	48,546			0	100,091
- Amount receivable for sales of investments	0			(125)	0
- Amount payable for purchases of investments	0			0	-5,700
<b>Net investment assets</b>	<b>4,861,937</b>			<b>369,824</b>	<b>5,322,789</b>

2022-23	Market value 31 March 2022  £000s	Purchases during the year and derivative payments  £000s	Sales during the year and derivative receipts  £000s	Change in market value during the year  £000s	Market value 31 March 2023  £000s
Fixed Interest Securities	65,047	15,738	(5,073)	(15,742)	59,970
Pooled property investments	521,833	26,413	(20,470)	(64,780)	462,996
Pooled investments	3,853,238	412,559	(380,074)	(53,889)	3,831,834
Private equity	414,125	83,097	(67,603)	20,897	450,516
Direct Freehold Property	1,046	0	0	0	1,046
	<b>4,855,289</b>	<b>537,807</b>	<b>(473,220)</b>	<b>(113,514)</b>	<b>4,806,362</b>
<b>Derivative contracts:</b>					
- Forward currency contracts	(5,295)	92,610	(85,523)	5,237	7,029
	<b>(5,295)</b>	<b>92,610</b>	<b>(85,523)</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>7,029</b>
<b>Other investment</b>					
- Cash deposits	36,160			0	48,546
- Amount receivable for sales of investments	5,016			2,157	0
- Amount payable for purchases of investments	0			0	0
<b>Net investment assets</b>	<b>4,891,170</b>			<b>(106,120)</b>	<b>4,861,937</b>

Transaction costs are included in the cost of purchases and in sale proceeds. These include costs charged directly to the Fund, such as fees, commissions, stamp duty and other fees. In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments within pooled investments.

2022-23		2023-24
£000s		£000s
173	Transaction costs incurred during the year	756

#### b) Investments Analysed by Fund Manager

Market Value 31 March 2023 £000s	Percentage of Total Net Investments %		Market Value 31 March 2024 £000s	Percentage of Total Net Investments %
<b>Investments Managed by the ACCESS Pool (Link Fund Solutions)</b>				
709,657	14.60%	LF ACCESS Global Equity (ex UK) Fund	786,651	14.78%
414,417	8.52%	LF ACCESS Globe Equity Capital Fund	464,143	8.72%
299,388	6.16%	LF ACCESS Globe Equity Mondrian Fund	340,212	6.39%
290,236	5.97%	LF ACCESS UK Equity Core Fund	283,480	5.33%
291,517	6.00%	LF ACCESS Janus Henderson MAC	232,639	4.37%
191,941	3.95%	LF ACCESS Global Alpha Paris Aligned	213,276	4.01%
0	0%	WS ACCESS Emerging Markets Equity	140,817	2.65%
0	0%	WS ACCESS Global Income Opportunities Fund	199,090	3.74%
0	0%	WS ACCESS Sterling Corporate Bonds	121,311	2.28%
0	0%	WS ACCESS Sterling Investment Grade Credit	115,492	2.16%
<b>2,197,156</b>	<b>45.20%</b>		<b>2,897,111</b>	<b>54.43%</b>
<b>Investments Managed outside of the ACCESS Pool</b>				
235,067	4.83%	Janus Henderson Global Investors	186,103	3.5%
475,617	9.77%	LaSalle Investment Management	466,761	8.77%
457,809	9.42%	M&G (inc. Infracapital)	391,767	7.36%
451,229	9.28%	HarbourVest Partners	485,741	9.13%
116,251	2.39%	UBS	0	0.00%
179,060	3.68%	Insight Investment **	230,931	4.34%
179,769	3.70%	Capital International Ltd	0	0.00%
219,353	4.51%	J.P. Morgan Asset Management	220,312	4.14%
126,770	2.61%	Equitix	137,037	2.57%
44,991	0.93%	Aviva Investors	35,994	0.68%

35,565	0.73%	Global Custodian *	76,109	1.43%
54,244	1.12%	Pantheon	85,377	1.60%
32,358	0.67%	Patria Investments (formerly abrdrn Capital Partners)	26,402	0.50%
56,698	1.16%	Stafford Capital Partners	83,144	1.55%
<b>2,664,781</b>	<b>54.80%</b>		<b>2,425,676</b>	<b>45.57%</b>
<b>4,861,937</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>5,322,789</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

All the above companies are registered in the United Kingdom.

\* The assets held by the Global Custodian(s) represent cash held in money market funds primarily to meet the cash flow requirements of the Fund's private markets programme.

\*\* Currency hedging contracts in respect of the Fund's overseas equity holdings are reported in the Insight Investment holding. The market value of the contracts could represent a payable or receivable.

#### Investments representing more than 5% of the Net Assets of the Scheme

Market Value 31 March 2023 £000s	Percentage of Total Fund %		Market Value 31 March 2024 £000s	Percentage of Total Fund %
		<b>Security</b>		
709,657	14.5%	LF ACCESS Global Equity (ex UK) Fund	786,651	14.8%
414,417	8.5%	LF ACCESS Globe Equity Capital Fund	464,143	8.7%
299,388	6.1%	LF ACCESS Globe Equity Mondrian Fund	340,212	6.4%
290,236	5.9%	LF ACCESS UK Equity Core Fund	283,480	5.3%
291,517	6.0%	LF ACCESS Janue Henderson MAC	262,639	4.4%
293,505	6.0%	M&G Alpha Opportunities Fund	227,818	4.3%

During the year there were no individual investment (a single security) exceeding 5% of the total value of the net assets. Four pooled holdings (six in 2022-23) represent over 5% of the total value of the net assets of the scheme. Each holding is a pooled investment vehicle and comprises the following:

- As at 31 March 2024 the LF ACCESS Global Equity ex UK A INC fund held 187 (2023 - 203) stocks.
- As at 31 March 2024 the Link Fund Sol Ltd Access UK Equity Core A Inc fund held 56 (2023 - 57) stocks.
- As at 31 March 2024 the Link Fund Sol Ltd Access Globe Eq Mondrian A Inc fund held 49 (2023 - 47).
- As at 31 March 2024 the Link Fund Sol Ltd Access Globe Equity Cap A Inc fund held 285 (2023 - 295).

### c) Property Holdings

Details of the Funds directly owned freehold properties are as follows:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
1,046	<b>Opening Balance</b>	1,046
0	Additions	0
0	Disposals	0
0	Net increase in market value	0
0	Other changes in fair value	0
1,046	<b>Closing balance</b>	1,046

There are no restrictions on the realisability of the property or the remittance of income or proceeds on disposal and the Fund is not under any contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop the property. Nor does it have any responsibility for any repairs, maintenance or enhancements relating to properties that are occupied.

### 15. Analysis of Derivatives

#### Objectives and policies for holding derivatives

The holdings in derivatives are to hedge exposures to reduce risk in the Fund. The use of derivatives is managed in line with the investment management agreements between the Fund and the investment managers holding mandates that permit the use of these instruments.

#### i) Futures

Futures contracts are exchange traded contracts to buy or sell a standard quantity of a specific asset at a pre-determined future date. The economic exposure represents the notional value of stock purchased under futures contracts and is therefore subject to market movements.

The Fund has also authorised the use of futures by Janus Henderson to assist in meeting the investment objectives that they have been set. Janus Henderson held net futures of £314,000 in its portfolio at 31 March 2024 (2023 nil).

#### ii) Forward foreign currency

In order to maintain appropriate diversification and to take advantage of overseas investment opportunities, a significant proportion of the Fund's quoted equity portfolio is in overseas stock markets. To reduce the volatility associated with fluctuating currency rates, the Fund has a currency hedging programme in place, managed by Insight Investment.

The Fund also requires LaSalle to hedge 100% of the currency exposure arising from its discretionary (off-benchmark) investments in global (ex-UK) property funds. This hedging activity covers US Dollar, Euro, and Australian Dollar exposures. In addition to these mandate positions short term contracts may also arise in portfolios investing in non-Sterling denominated assets as a consequence of the need to settle transactions in foreign currencies. These tend to be shorter term contracts than those undertaken for other purposes, but settlement may span the balance sheet date.

a) Open forward currency contracts

Settlement	Currency bought	Local value 000s	Currency sold	Local value 000s	Asset value £000s	Liability value £000s
Up to one month	GBP	28,215	AUD	(54,257)	86	0
Up to one month	GBP	19,863	EUR	(23,175)	30	0
Up to one month	GBP	442	JPY	(82,007)	11	0
Up to one month	GBP	6,790	USD	(8,668)	0	(71)
Up to one month	EUR	52	GBP	(44)	0	0
Between one & three months	GBP	108,694	EUR	(126,690)	199	0
Between one & three months	GBP	232,223	JPY	(43,216,500)	4,514	0
Between one & three months	GBP	72,272	USD	(90,770)	437	0
Between one & three months	EUR	75,680	GBP	(64,959)	0	(148)
Between one & three months	JPY	11,939,000	GBP	(62,932)	0	(25)
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2024					<b>5,277</b>	<b>(244)</b>
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2024						<b>5,033</b>
Open forward currency contracts at 31 March 2023					<b>7,875</b>	<b>(846)</b>
Net forward currency contracts at 31 March 2023						<b>7,029</b>

A key to the currencies referred to in the table is provided below:

Symbol / Acronym	Currency
GBP	British pounds (Sterling)
USD	United States dollar
AUD	Australian dollar
EUR	Euro
JPY	Japanese yen

## 16. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

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

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Equities	Level 1	The value of an investment for which there is a readily available market price is determined by the	Not required	Not required

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
		bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period.		
UK Gilts and Quoted Bonds	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at a market value based on current yields.	Not required	Not required
FX	Level 1	Market forward exchange rates at the year-end.	Exchange rate risk	Not required
Equity Futures	Level 1	Published exchange prices at year end.	Not required	Not required
Pooled Investment Vehicle – Equity and Debt	Level 2	Valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax.	The valuation is undertaken by the investment manager or responsible entity and advised as a unit or security price. Observable inputs are used. The valuation standards followed in these valuations adhere to industry guidelines or to standards set by the constituent documents of the pool or the management agreement.	Not required
Pooled Investment Vehicle - Property	Level 3	Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid prices if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the Fund, net of applicable withholding tax.	Investments in unquoted property pooled funds are valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the fund manager.  Pooled property funds and Limited Partnerships in property have derived underlying assets that have been valued by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and generally in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition).	Valuations could be affected by Material events.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Direct Freehold Property	Level 3	The valuation is performed by independent external valuers on a fair value basis and in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Valuation Standards (9th Edition)	Existing lease terms and rentals; Independent market Research; Nature of tenancies; Covenant strength for existing tenants; Assumed vacancy Levels; Estimated rental Growth; Discount rate.	Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices.
Private Equity	Level 3	Investments in private equity funds and unquoted listed partnerships are valued based on the Fund's share of the net assets in the private equity fund or limited partnership using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers in accordance with the appropriate industry guidelines.  Limited partnerships are valued at Fair value based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.	Observable inputs are subject to judgment by the respective manager but are applied in accordance with the appropriate industry guidelines.	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts.
Infrastructure Equity Pooled Fund	Level 3	Investments in Pooled Infrastructure Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. Assets are valued using income or discounted cash flows. Audited valuations are carried out annually and based on the Limited partnerships valued at Fair value or based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.	Unobservable inputs are subject to judgment by the respective manager but are applied in accordance with the appropriate industry guidelines.	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts.
Timberland Equity Pooled Fund	Level 3	Investments in Pooled Timberland Funds are valued using the fair value of the underlying investments. Assets are valued by independent appraisers using comparable asset costs or sales and discounted cash flows.	Observable inputs are subject to judgment by the respective manager but are applied in accordance with the appropriate industry guidelines.	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
		Audited valuations are carried out annually and based on the Fair value of the fund.		audited and unaudited accounts.
Pooled Debt Funds – Credit	Level 3	The fund is valued monthly on a Net Asset Value basis.	<p>The Fund primarily invest in Asset Backed Securities (ABS) and ABS securities issued by special purpose which are collateralised primarily by a portfolio that includes commercial and industrial bank loans (“CLO”).</p> <p>The portfolio is valued using a number of unobservable inputs, such as internal credit ratings for internally-valued instruments (valued by the AIFM), which is used when deciding the comparable public bonds for the discount rate calculation, and single broker quotes for CLO instruments.</p>	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund’s own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts.
Pooled Debt Funds – Special Situations	Level 3	The funds are valued quarterly on a Net Asset Value basis.	<p>The funds primarily invest in debt and equity instruments that have or are in the process of being restructured, covering both public and private instruments.</p> <p>The portfolios are valued primarily using unobservable inputs due to the large weighting to private instruments. Unobservable inputs include but are not limited to discount rates, valuation multiples and land valuations.</p>	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund’s own reporting date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts.
Pooled Debt Funds – Real Estate Debt	Level 3	The funds are valued quarterly on a Net Asset Value basis.	<p>The fund primarily invests in private junior loans that are secured against real estate assets.</p> <p>The primary unobservable input within the valuations is the internal credit rating,</p>	Valuations could be affected by Material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension fund’s own reporting



Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
			which is used when deciding the comparable public bonds for the discount rate calculation.	date, by changes to expected cash flows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts.

### Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with independent investment advisors, the Fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges and has set out below the potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2024.

2023-24	Assessed Valuation	Value at 31 March 2024	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
<b>Description of Asset</b>		<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Pooled Property / Direct Freehold Property	10.00%	447,155	491,870	402,439
Private Equity	15.00%	475,833	547,208	404,458
Pooled Infrastructure Equity	10.00%	502,725	552,998	452,453
Pooled Timberland Equity	10.00%	83,140	91,454	74,826
Pooled Private Debt/Credit Funds	10.00%	145,528	160,080	130,975
Pooled Real Estate Debt Fund	12.00%	29,248	32,758	25,738
<b>Net Investment Assets</b>		<b>1,683,629</b>	<b>1,876,368</b>	<b>1,490,889</b>

The potential movement of +/- 10.00% for Pooled Property/Direct Freehold Property represents a combination of factors, the key one is market prices, which is derived from other factors, such as vacancy levels, rental movements and the discount rate.

Private Equity, Pooled Infrastructure Equity and Pooled Timberland Equity unrealised investments are typically valued in accordance with fair market value principles set out in the valuation policy and applicable valuation guidelines set out in international accounting standards. Actual realised returns on unrealised investments will depend on, among other factors, future operating results, the value of the assets and market conditions at the time of disposition, any related transaction costs, and the timing and manner of sale. Accordingly, the actual valuations on these unrealised investments may differ materially from those indicated and could be up to 10.00% for Infrastructure, Timberland and Private Debt/Credit Funds, 6% for Real Estate Debt Funds and 15.00% for Private Equity investments (or higher or lower).

2022-23	Assessed Valuation	Value at 31 March 2023	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
<b>Description of Asset</b>		<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Pooled Property / Direct Freehold Property	10.00	464,042	510,446	417,637
Private Equity	15.00	450,516	518,093	382,938
Pooled Infrastructure Equity	10.00	472,264	519,490	425,037
Pooled Timberland Equity	10.00	56,698	62,368	51,028
Pooled Private Debt/Credit Funds	10.00	130,549	143,604	117,494
Pooled Real Estate Debt Fund	12.00	36,514	40,896	32,133
<b>Net Investment Assets</b>		<b>1,610,583</b>	<b>1,794,897</b>	<b>1,426,267</b>

### a) Fair Value Hierarchy

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Level 1, 2 and 3 assets of the Fund are classified above in note 16 along with a description of the basis of valuation.

#### Level 1

Financial instruments at level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value of the investment is based on the bid market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

#### Level 2

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

#### Level 3

Financial instruments at Level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable:

### Fair Value Hierarchy

Values at 31 March 2024				
	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant unobservable inputs	Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Fixed interest securities	235,302	0	0	235,302
Pooled investments	0	3,304,121	760,641	4,064,762
Pooled property investments	0	0	446,109	446,109
Private equity partnerships	0	0	475,833	475,833
Derivatives – forward currency	5,276	0	0	5,276
Derivatives - futures	313	0	0	313
Cash deposits	100,091	0	0	100,091
<b>Total Investment Assets</b>	<b>340,982</b>	<b>3,304,121</b>	<b>1,682,583</b>	<b>5,327,686</b>
<b>Non Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss</b>				
Direct Freehold Property	0	0	1,046	1,046

<b>Financial Liabilities at Fair Value</b>				
Derivatives – forward currency	(244)	0	0	(244)
Payable for Investment Purchases	(5,700)	0	0	(5,700)
<b>Net Investment Assets</b>	<b>335,038</b>	<b>3,304,121</b>	<b>1,683,629</b>	<b>5,322,788</b>

<b>Values at 31 March 2023</b>				
	<b>Quoted market price</b>	<b>Using observable inputs</b>	<b>With significant unobservable inputs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Fixed interest securities	59,970	0	0	<b>59,970</b>
Pooled investments	0	3,135,809	696,025	<b>3,831,834</b>
Pooled property investments	0	0	462,996	<b>462,996</b>
Private equity partnerships	0	0	450,516	<b>450,516</b>
Derivatives – forward currency	7,875	0	0	<b>7,875</b>
Cash deposits	48,546	0	0	<b>48,546</b>
<b>Total Investment Assets</b>	<b>116,391</b>	<b>3,135,809</b>	<b>1,609,537</b>	<b>4,861,737</b>
<b>Non Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss</b>				
Direct Freehold Property	0	0	1,046	<b>1,046</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Derivatives – forward currency	(846)	0	0	<b>(846)</b>
<b>Net Investment Assets</b>	<b>115,545</b>	<b>3,135,809</b>	<b>1,610,583</b>	<b>4,861,937</b>

#### b) Transfers between Fair Value Hierarchy Levels

There were no transfers between Level 1 and 2 in 2023-24 (no transfers during 2022-23).

During the year three new investments were made and classified as Level 3 in accordance with the classification guidelines in the Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures (PRAG/Investment Association, 2016).

c) Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

2023-24	Pooled Property / Freehold Property £000s	Private Equity £000s	Infrastructure Equity Pooled Fund £000s	Timberland Equity Pooled Fund £000s	Pooled Debt Fund £000s	Total £000s
<b>Market value 1 April 2023</b>	<b>464,042</b>	<b>450,516</b>	<b>472,264</b>	<b>56,698</b>	<b>167,064</b>	<b>1,610,584</b>
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purchases during the year and derivative payments	20,563	82,212	57,624	50,995	26,125	<b>237,519</b>
Sales during the year and derivative receipts	(12,488)	(53,916)	(29,751)	(29,664)	(26,108)	<b>(151,927)</b>
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(7,545)	23,332	214	(274)	6	<b>15,733</b>
Realised gains/(losses)	(17,416)	(26,311)	2,374	5,384	7,690	<b>(28,279)</b>
<b>Market value 31 March 2024</b>	<b>447,156</b>	<b>475,833</b>	<b>502,725</b>	<b>83,139</b>	<b>174,777</b>	<b>1,683,630</b>

Unrealised and realised gains and losses are recognised in the changes in value of investments line of the fund account.

2022-23	Pooled Property / Freehold Property £000s	Private Equity £000s	Infrastructure Equity Pooled Fund £000s	Timberland Equity Pooled Fund £000s	Pooled Debt Fund £000s	Total £000s
<b>Market value 1 April 2022</b>	<b>522,879</b>	<b>414,125</b>	<b>372,010</b>	<b>20,502</b>	<b>167,100</b>	<b>1,496,616</b>
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purchases during the year and derivative payments	26,413	83,097	89,008	31,288	25,875	<b>255,681</b>
Sales during the year and derivative receipts	(20,470)	(67,603)	(40,532)	(275)	(17,850)	<b>(146,730)</b>
Unrealised gains/(losses)	4,713	42,135	2,986	0	451	<b>50,285</b>
Realised gains/(losses)	(69,493)	(21,238)	48,792	5,183	(8,512)	<b>(45,268)</b>
<b>Market value 31 March 2023</b>	<b>464,042</b>	<b>450,516</b>	<b>472,264</b>	<b>56,698</b>	<b>167,064</b>	<b>1,610,584</b>

## 17. Financial Instruments

### a) Classification

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Fair value through profit and loss £000s	Assets at amortised cost £000s	Liabilities at amortised cost £000s		Fair value through profit and loss £000s	Assets at amortised cost £000s	Liabilities at amortised cost £000s
59,970	0	0	Fixed interest Securities	235,302	0	0
3,831,834	0	0	Pooled Investments	4,064,763	0	0
462,996	0	0	Pooled Property	446,109	0	0
450,516	0	0	Private equity	475,833	0	0
7,875	0	0	Derivative contracts	5,590	0	0
0	56,723	0	Cash	0	113,707	0
855	0	0	Other investment balances	1,675	0	0
0	111	0	Debtors	0	79	0
<b>4,814,046</b>	<b>56,834</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>5,229,272</b>	<b>113,786</b>	<b>0</b>
(846)	0	0	Derivative contracts	(244)	0	0
0	0	(3,361)	Creditors	0	0	(17,852)
0	0	0	Other investment balances	(5,700)	0	0
<b>(846)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,361)</b>	<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,944)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17,852)</b>
<b>4,813,200</b>	<b>56,834</b>	<b>(3,361)</b>	<b>Total Financial Instruments</b>	<b>5,223,328</b>	<b>113,786</b>	<b>(17,952)</b>

### b) Net gains and losses on Financial Instruments

31 March 2023 £000s		31 March 2024 £000s
	<b>Financial assets</b>	
(25,834)	Fair value through profit and loss	398,120
0	Assets at amortised cost	0
	<b>Financial liabilities</b>	
(80,286)	Fair value through profit and loss	(28,297)
0	Liabilities at amortised cost	0
<b>(106,120)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>369,823</b>
	<b>Reconciliation to Revenue and Fund Account – Profit and losses on disposal of Investments and change in the market value of investments</b>	
0	Direct Freehold Property Holding (Not classified as a financial instrument)	0
<b>(106,120)</b>		<b>369,823</b>

In accordance with our accounting policies, financial assets and liabilities are included in the accounts on a fair value basis. The Authority has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

## 18. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

### Risk and risk management

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

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management and investments strategies rests with the Pension Fund Committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the council's pensions operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

#### a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings.

The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objectives of the Fund's risk management strategy are to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return at a given level of risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities.

#### Other Price Risk

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

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investment presents a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from shares sold short are unlimited but restrictions are in place on managers undertaking this activity.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the council to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund's investment strategy.

#### Other Price Risk - Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's performance monitoring advisor, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2023-24 reporting period:

Asset Type	Potential Market Movements (+/-) %
Short Index-Linked Gilts	4.10%
Long Index-Linked Gilts	8.40%
UK Equities including pooled	16.00%
Overseas Equities including pooled	16.70%
Infrastructure Equity	13.60%
UK Bonds including pooled	5.80%
Index Linked Gilts including pooled	8.40%
Bonds including pooled	7.10%
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Including Payables and Receivables)	0.30%
Pooled Property Investments/Direct Freehold Property	15.60%
Private Equity	31.20%
Private Debt	8.80%
Timberland Equity	13.60%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>10.70%</b>

The total % and value on increase/decrease totals are an aggregate across all asset classes and is applied to the assets in the Fund available to pay pensions benefits to illustrate sensitivity.

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the Fund's investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is also shown below):

31 March 2024				
Asset Type	Value £000s	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £000s	Value on Decrease £000s
Cash and Cash Equivalents including payables and receivables	99,737	0.30%	100,036	99,438
<b>Investment Portfolio Assets:</b>				
Short Index-Linked Gilts	32,817	4.10%	34,162	31,472
Long Index-Linked Gilts	97,895	8.40%	106,118	89,672
UK Equities including pooled	283,480	16.00%	328,837	238,123
Overseas Equities including pooled	1,945,100	16.70%	2,269,932	1,620,268
Infrastructure Equity	502,725	13.60%	571,096	434,354
UK Bonds including pooled	500,296	5.80%	529,313	471,279
Index Linked Gilts including pooled	104,590	8.40%	113,376	95,804
Bonds including pooled	659,547	7.10%	706,375	612,719
Pooled Property Investments / Direct Freehold Property	447,156	15.60%	516,912	377,400
Private Equity	475,833	31.20%	624,293	327,373
Private Debt	90,473	8.80%	98,435	82,511
Timberland	83,140	13.60%	94,447	71,833
<b>Total Assets Available to Pay</b>	<b>5,322,789</b>	<b>10.70%</b>	<b>5,892,327*</b>	<b>4,753,251*</b>

\* The total % is an aggregate across all asset classes and is applied to the assets in the Fund available to pay pensions benefits to illustrate sensitivity.

31 March 2023				
Asset Type	Value £000s	Percentage Change %	Value on Increase £000s	Value on Decrease £000s
Cash and Cash Equivalents including payables and receivables	55,575	0.3	55,742	55,408
<b>Investment Portfolio Assets:</b>				
Short Index-Linked Gilts	22,955	4.1	23,896	22,014
Long Index-Linked Gilts	6,749	8.9	7,350	6,148
UK Equities including pooled	406,486	18.2	480,466	332,506
Overseas Equities including pooled	1,615,404	19.0	1,922,331	1,308,477
Infrastructure Equity	472,264	16.0	547,826	396,702
UK Bonds including pooled	611,029	6.0	647,691	574,367
Index Linked Gilts including pooled	30,266	8.9	32,960	27,572
Bonds including pooled	585,022	7.8	630,654	539,390
Pooled Property Investments / Direct Freehold Property	464,042	15.5	535,969	392,115
Private Equity	450,516	31.2	591,077	309,955
Private Debt	84,931	9.6	93,084	76,778
Timberland	56,698	16.0	65,770	47,626
<b>Total Assets Available to Pay</b>	<b>4,861,937</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>5,445,369*</b>	<b>4,278,505*</b>

\* The total % is an aggregate across all asset classes and is applied to the assets in the Fund available to pay pensions benefits to illustrate sensitivity.

#### b) Interest Rate risk

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

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements through its gross cash holdings as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets:

31 March 2023	Value	31 March 2024
£000s	Asset Type	£000s
48,546	Investment Cash Balances	100,091
8,177	Cash in hand	13,617
59,970	Fixed Interest Securities	235,302
<b>116,693</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>349,010</b>

31 March 2023	Interest Receivable	31 March 2024
£000s	Asset Type	£000s
1,053	Investment Cash Balances	3,098
360	Cash in hand	713
325	Fixed Interest Securities	670
<b>1,738</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,481</b>



### Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The council recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. A 100 basis point (BPS) movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied by the Administering Authority when considering risk in its own treasury management activities.

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 100 BPS (1%) change in interest rates:

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Asset values £000s	Impact of +1% £000s	Impact of -1% £000s	Asset Type	Asset values £000s	Impact of +1% £000s	Impact of -1% £000s
48,546	49,031	48,061	Investment Cash Balances	100,091	101,092	99,090
8,177	8,259	8,095	Cash in hand	13,617	13,753	13,481
59,970	60,570	59,370	Fixed Interest Bonds	235,302	237,655	232,949
<b>116,693</b>	<b>117,860</b>	<b>115,526</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>349,010</b>	<b>352,500</b>	<b>345,520</b>

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Interest Receivable £000s	Impact of +1% £000s	Impact of -1% £000s	Asset Type	Interest Receivable £000s	Impact of +1% £000s	Impact of -1% £000s
1,053	1,064	1,042	Investment Cash Balances	3,098	3,129	3,067
360	364	356	Cash in hand	713	720	706
325	328	322	Fixed Interest Bonds	670	677	663
<b>1,738</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>4,526</b>	<b>4,436</b>

In addition, the above interest receivable the fund holds debt pooled fund investments. These are a mix of multi asset credit vehicles including fixed and variable interest rate securities.

### c) Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (Sterling). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than Sterling and Sterling denominated pooled investment vehicles where the underlying assets are denominated in other currencies. As detailed in note 15a) the Fund has various hedging strategies in place to reduce the impact of currency volatility on the Fund assets. The table below the page is prepared after consideration of the hedging strategies in place.

### Currency Risk Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund's performance measurers, the council considers the likely annualised volatility associated with foreign exchange movements to be 9.30% in respect of non-sterling assets including those partially hedged to Sterling but excluding those where full hedging is in place (see note 15b).

This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

A 9.30% strengthening/weakening of the pound against various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows (values shown are for non-Sterling denominated assets were full hedging of currency risk is not in place):

31 March 2023				31 March 2024		
Asset Value	Change to net assets available to pay benefits			Asset Value	Change to net assets available to pay benefits	
£000s	+9.50% £000s	-9.50% £000s		£000s	+9.30% £000s	-9.30% £000s
1,615,404	159,925	(159,925)	Overseas Equities (including pooled equity funds where underlying assets are non-Sterling denominated)	1,945,100	180,894	(180,894)
0	0	0	Infrastructure	502,725	46,753	(46,753)
56,698	5,613	(5,613)	Timberland	83,140	7,732	(7,732)
450,516	44,601	(44,601)	Private Equity	475,833	44,252	(44,252)
	<b>210,139</b>	<b>(210,139)</b>	<b>Change in net assets available to pay benefits</b>		<b>279,631</b>	<b>(279,631)</b>

#### d) Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence, the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivatives positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt that remains outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of a counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Credit risk on over-the-counter derivative contracts is minimised as counterparties are recognised financial intermediaries with acceptable credit ratings determined by a recognised rating agency.

Where a direct counterparty relationship exists, cash collateral is posted when the value of unrealised profit due to the Fund exceeds an agreed limit.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet the council's credit criteria. Money market funds that are used all have AAA rating from a leading ratings agency.

The non-investment cash holding was managed through the treasury management arrangements of the Administering Authority:

The credit exposure was as follows:

31 March 2023			31 March 2024	
Short term Rating (S&P)	Balances £000s		Short term Rating (S&P)	Balances £000s
	0	<b>Bank Deposit Accounts</b>		
AAA	3,990	Aviva Money Market Fund	AAA	6,796
AAA	3,991	Federated Money Market Fund	AAA	6,797
		Aberdeen Money Market Fund		0
		<b>Bank current Accounts</b>		
A-1	196	Barclays Bank		0
	<b>8,177</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>13,593</b>

The majority of Custodied Investment cash is swept overnight to the AAA rated constant NAV money market funds of the custodian. The credit exposure on investment cash balances at 31 March 2024 comprise £83.6 million (31 March 2023, 4£44.5m) deposited with AAA rated money market funds, £10.8 million (31 March 2023 £4.0m) with the custodian Northern Trust (rated A-1+), The current account figure includes control account balances.

#### e) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council therefore takes steps to ensure that the pension fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Council has immediate access to its pension fund cash holdings. There were no deposits with fixed periods at 31 March 2024 (2023 nil).

#### Liquid Assets

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert into cash. The Fund classifies property (pooled and direct) and private equity partnerships in this category. The comparator figure has been restated in line with current liquidity profile of the Fund.

Balances at 31 March 2023 £000	Percentage of Total Fund Assets %	Balances at 31 March 2024 £000	Percentage of Total Fund Assets %
3,296,492	67.8	3,639,159	68.4%

The Fund regularly monitors and forecasts future cash flow to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flow obligations.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2024 are due within one year.

#### Refinancing Risk

The key risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its pension fund financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury and investment strategies.

## **19. Funding Arrangements**

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 57(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. It has been prepared at the request of the Administering Authority of the Fund for the purpose of complying with the aforementioned regulation.

### **Description of Funding Policy**

The funding policy is set out in the Administering Authority's Funding Strategy Statement (FSS), dated March 2023. In summary, the key funding principles are as follows:

- take a prudent long-term view to secure the regulatory requirement for long-term solvency, with sufficient funds to pay benefits to members and their dependents
- use a balanced investment strategy to meet the regulatory requirement for long-term cost efficiency (where efficiency in this context means to minimise cash contributions from employers in the long term)
- where appropriate, ensure stable employer contribution rates
- reflect different employers' characteristics to set their contribution rates, using a transparent funding strategy
- use reasonable measures to reduce the risk of an employer defaulting on its pension obligations
- manage the fund in line with the stated ESG policies.

The FSS sets out how the Administering Authority seeks to balance the conflicting aims of securing the solvency of the Fund and keeping employer contributions stable. For employers whose covenant was considered by the Administering Authority to be sufficiently strong, contributions have been stabilised to have a sufficiently high likelihood of achieving the funding target over 20 years. Asset-liability modelling has been carried out which demonstrate that if these contribution rates are paid and future contribution changes are constrained as set out in the FSS, there is at least a 75% likelihood that the Fund will achieve the funding target over 20 years.

### **Funding Position as at the last formal funding valuation**

The most recent actuarial valuation carried out under Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 was as at 31 March 2022. This valuation revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2022 were valued at £4,901 million, were sufficient to meet 106% of the liabilities (i.e. the present value of promised retirement benefits) accrued up to that date. The resulting surplus at the 2022 valuation was £289 million.

Each employer had contribution requirements set at the valuation, with the aim of achieving their funding target within a time horizon and likelihood measure as per the FSS. Individual employers' contributions for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 were set in accordance with the Fund's funding policy as set out in its FSS.

### **Principal Actuarial Assumptions and Method used to value the liabilities**

Full details of the methods and assumptions used are described in the 2022 valuation report and FSS.

## Method

The liabilities were assessed using an accrued benefits method which takes into account pensionable membership up to the valuation date; and makes an allowance for expected future salary growth to retirement or expected earlier date of leaving pensionable membership.

## Assumptions

A market-related approach was taken to valuing the liabilities, for consistency with the valuation of the Fund assets at their market value.

The key financial assumptions adopted for the 2022 valuation were as follows:

<b>Financial assumptions</b>	<b>31 March 2022</b>
Discount rate	4.3% pa
Salary increase assumption	3.4% pa
Benefit increase assumption (CPI)	2.7% pa

The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The life expectancy assumptions are based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2021 model, with a 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of 1.50% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Current Pensioners	21.9 years	24.6 years
Future Pensioners*	22.9 years	26.2 years

\*Aged 45 at the 2019 Valuation.

Copies of the 2022 valuation report and Funding Strategy Statement are available on request from the Administering Authority to the Fund and on the Fund's website.

## Experience over the period since 31 March 2022

Markets were disrupted by the ongoing war in Ukraine and inflationary pressures in 2022 and 2023, impacting on investment returns achieved by the Fund's assets. High levels of inflation in the UK (compared to recent experience), have resulted in higher than expected LGPS benefit increases of 10.1% in April 2023 and 6.7% in April 2024. However, asset performance has improved towards the end of 2023 and into 2024 and inflation has begun to return towards historical levels and the Bank of England's target (2% pa). There has been a significant shift in the wider economic environment since 2022, resulting in generally higher expected future investment returns and a reduction in the value placed on the Fund's liabilities. Overall, the funding position is likely to be stronger than at the previous formal valuation at 31 March 2022.

The next actuarial valuation will be carried out as at 31 March 2025. The Funding Strategy Statement will also be reviewed at that time

## 20. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

Under IAS26 the Fund is required to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. These represent the present value of the whole fund liabilities to pay future retirement benefits.

The required valuation is carried out by the Hymans Robertson LLP using a similar approach to that employed for individual participating employers reporting pension liabilities under either FRS102 (previously FRS17) or IAS19. For the avoidance of doubt this approach will result in a different valuation of liabilities than the methodology employed at the triennial funding valuation.

Under the IAS19/FRS102 basis reporting is produced using the same base data as the last completed funding valuation rolled forward to the latest reporting date, taking account of material changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year and requirements of the reporting approach.

In order to assess the value of the benefits on this basis, the Fund Actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes (see note 19).

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
(4,866,000)	Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	(4,925,000)
4,880,000	Fair Value of scheme assets (bid value)	3,315,000
<b>14,000</b>	<b>Net Liability</b>	<b>390,000</b>

The promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2024 have been projected using a roll forward approximation from the latest formal funding valuation as at 31 March 2022. The approximation involved in the roll forward model means that the split of benefits between the three classes of member may not be reliable. However, I am satisfied that the total figure is a reasonable estimate of the actuarial present value of benefit promises.

The figures include both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. Further, there is no allowance made for unfunded benefits.

It should be noted the above figures are appropriate for the Administering Authority only for preparation of the pension fund accounts. They should not be used for any other purpose (i.e. comparing against liability measures on a funding basis or a cessation basis).

### Assumptions

The assumptions used are those adopted for the Administering Authority's IAS19 report and are different as at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023. I estimate that the impact of the change in financial assumptions to 31 March 2024 is to decrease the actuarial present value by £274m. I estimate that the impact of the change in demographic assumptions is to decrease the actuarial present value by £30m.

#### Financial Assumptions

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2023</b>
%	<b>Assumptions Used</b>	%
2.95	Inflation/Pension Increase Rate Assumption	2.75%
3.65	Salary Increase Rate	3.45%
4.75	Discount Rate	4.85%

#### Demographic Assumptions

The longevity assumptions have changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund.

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 25% weighting of 2022 data, 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Current pensioners	21.4 years	24.1 years
Future pensioners (assumed to be aged 45 at the latest formal valuation)	22.3 years	25.7 years

All other demographic assumptions are unchanged from last year and are as per the latest funding valuation of the Fund.

### Sensitivity Assumptions

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the obligations are set out below:

<b>Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2024</b>	<b>Approximate % increase to liabilities</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£m)</b>
0.1% p.a. decrease in the Discount Rate	2%	90
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	197
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	4
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	87

The liabilities above are calculated on an IAS 19 basis and therefore will differ from the results of the 2022 triennial funding valuation (see note 19) because IAS 19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate which reflects market rates.

The Fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

## 21. Current Assets

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
	<b>Cash in Hand</b>	
8,177	Cash in Hand**	13,617
	<b>Debtors:</b>	
2,955	Contributions due - employees*	3,537
10,820	Contributions due - employers*	9,342
1	Employers special contributions	1,400
465	Augmentation & strain due	773
454	Dividends receivable**	1,250
243	Pooled funds rebate due**	209
0	UK tax receivable	0
740	Overseas tax receivable	610
157	VAT refund due	180
158	Interest due**	217
53	Recharge of fees**	54

6	Prepayments	5
58	Sundry **	25
<b>16,110</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>17,602</b>
<b>24,287</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>31,219</b>

\* Principally represents amounts due in respect of March payrolls but payable the following month

\*\* Cash and Debtors classed as financial instruments (assets) note 17a).

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	<b>Long term debtors:</b>	
441	Employers contributions	374
68	Augmentation & strain due	38
<b>509</b>	<b>Total Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>412</b>

Long term debtors comprise of amounts not due to be paid to the Fund for a period of more than 12 months from the balance sheet date.

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	<b>Analysis of Debtors (including Long Term):</b>	
899	Central government bodies	781
9,889	Other local authorities	10,615
5,831	Other entities and individuals	6,618
<b>16,619</b>	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>18,014</b>

## 22. Current Liabilities

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	<b>Creditors:</b>	
940	Transfer values payable (leavers)	162
0	Exit Credit Payable	13,850
1,339	Benefits payable	2,069
531	Investment Management Fees**	367
14	Receipts in Advance	14,684
2,816	Other Fees & Charges**	2,801
1,472	UK Taxation payable	1,895
0	Sundry creditors	0
<b>7,112</b>	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>35,828</b>

\*\* Creditors classed as financial instruments (liabilities) note 17a).



31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
	<b>Analysis of Creditors:</b>	
1,472	Central government bodies	1,895
2,715	Other local authorities	31,251
2,925	Other entities and individuals	2,682
<b>7,112</b>	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>35,828</b>

### 23. Additional Voluntary Contributions

The Fund has three in-house AVC providers; Prudential, Clerical Medical and Utmost Life and Pensions (previously Equitable Life - a legacy arrangement that is not open to new contributors). The value of AVC investments and contributions paid directly to the providers by scheme employers during the year is shown below.

31 March 2023 Restated		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
8,103	Separately Invested AVC Funds	9,434

31 March 2023 Restated		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
1,710	AVC contributions paid directly during the year	2,032

### 24. Agency Contracted Services

The Norfolk Pension Fund pays discretionary awards to the former employees of Norfolk County Council, the seven Norfolk district councils and 23 other employers. The amounts paid are not included within the Fund Account but are provided as a service and fully reclaimed from the employer bodies. The sums are disclosed below:

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
1,132	Norwich City Council	1,199
1,065	Norfolk County Council	1,103
249	North Norfolk District Council	263
211	Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	222
155	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	161
105	Breckland District Council	100
83	Broadland District Council	83
47	South Norfolk District Council	50
139	Other	149
<b>3,186</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,330</b>

### 25. Related Party Transactions

#### Norfolk County Council

The Fund is administered by Norfolk County Council. Consequently, there is a close relationship between the council and the Fund.

The council incurred costs in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses.

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations enables administration expenses to be charged to the Fund. Internal Audit Services are provided by Norfolk Audit Services, the internal audit function of the Administering Authority. Internal legal fees represent the total cost of internal advice provided by the legal services unit of the Administering Authority (NPLaw).

The council is also the single largest employer of members in the pension fund.

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
2,715	Norfolk County Council incurred administration and investment costs reimbursed by the fund	2,726
61,952	Norfolk County Council Employer Contributions	66,505

All monies owing to and due from the fund were paid within statutory timescales. All contributions were paid in accordance with the rates and adjustment certificate.

Part of the pension fund cash holdings are invested on the money markets by the treasury management operations of Norfolk County Council. The arrangement is managed through a service level agreement.

<b>31 March 2023</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>
<b>£000s</b>		<b>£000s</b>
15,256	Average investment balance held by NCC Treasury Management Operation	14,360
360	Interest earned on balances invested by NCC Treasury Management Operation	713

### Governance

Each member of the Pension Fund Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting. Declarations of interest are recorded in the minutes of each Committee meeting as part of the public record and a copy can be found on the Norfolk County Council website under Pensions Committee papers at [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk).

### Personnel Employed in the Delivery of the Pensions Function by the Administering Authority

All employees of Norfolk County Council (other than those whose profession grants them access to other public service schemes) may join the Local Government Pension Scheme. This includes personnel employed in delivering the pensions function through the Norfolk Pension Fund. Benefits are accrued and employee contributions calculated on a standard national, statutory basis.

Disclosure of senior officer remuneration is made in note 13 of the Statement of Accounts of the Administering Authority (Norfolk County Council). This disclosure includes the Director of Strategic Finance who has responsibility under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the proper financial administration of the Fund and holds the role of Fund Administrator.

The Administering Authority (Norfolk County Council) disclosure of senior officer remuneration includes the Director of Strategic Finance who has responsibility under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the proper financial administration of the Fund and holds the role of Fund Administrator. For 2023-24 the remuneration amount incurred by the Fund was £9,560 (£9,000 2022-23).

Remuneration is deemed to include:

- Gross pay (before the deduction of employees' pension contributions).
- Expense allowances chargeable to tax and other benefits (as declared on HM Revenue & Customs form P11D).
- Compensation for loss of office and any other payments receivable on termination of employment transfer.

## 26. Contractual Commitments, Contingent Assets and Liabilities

### a) Contractual Commitments

31 March 2023		31 March 2024
£000s		£000s
366,958	Private equity partnerships	337,265
9,829	Property investment vehicles	6,536
16,610	Pooled Illiquid Closed-Ended Debt Funds	26,198
105,107	Pooled Infrastructure	64,623
214	Pooled Timberland	33,801
<b>498,718</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>468,423</b>

At March 2024 the Fund had made contractual commitments to private equity funds managed by Patria Investments (previously Aberdeen Standard Investments/ abrdn Capital Partners LLP) and HarbourVest Partners. Commitments are made in the underlying currency of the Fund (Euros and US Dollars respectively) and are therefore subject to volatility (risk) arising from exchange rate fluctuation. This volatility will impact both on the value of unfunded commitments in Sterling terms and the valuation of the funded interest and monies received as distributions.

The Fund's private equity programme is now maturing. The commitments are paid over the investment timeframe of the underlying partnerships. Concurrently as these partnerships mature they distribute capital back to investors.

In addition to the private equity commitments, within the LaSalle property portfolio there are unfunded commitments to various property investment vehicles. This total potentially includes Sterling and US Dollar denominated commitments as at 31 March 2024. The foreign exchange exposure on the funded portion of these positions is hedged within the LaSalle portfolio but the unfunded commitments are impacted by exchange rate volatility. There are also commitments on the M&G Debt and Credit opportunities portfolios.

The Fund has ongoing contractual commitments with Infrastructure managers, Equitix, Pantheon and Aviva as well as Timberland manager Stafford. This includes Sterling and US Dollar denominated commitments as at 31 March 2024. The contractual commitments associated with these investments are shown above.

The current value of the funded commitment net of distributions in these funds at 31 March 2023 is included in the net asset statement.

### b) Contingent Assets

In the 2023-24 financial year, Norfolk County Council as Administering Authority of the Norfolk Pension Fund acted as Lead Plaintiff in the US Class Action case against Apple. As at 31 March 2024 an agreed settlement of \$490 million was reached gross of legal fees and subject to court approval. It is not possible to reliably estimate the Norfolk Pension Fund's share of the settlement until claims have been processed on behalf of investors who identify themselves as having eligible trading activity during the class period.

There were no contingent assets as at 31 March 2024.

## Appendix 1 - Participating Employers (Employers with active members during the year)

Employer	Type
Access Community Trust	Admitted Body
Acle Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Acle Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Acle St Edmund Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Action for Children Early Childhood and Family Services	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ad Meliora Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Admirals Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Alburgh with Denton C of E Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Alderman Peel High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Alive West Norfolk Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
All Saints Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Angel Road Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Angel Road Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Anthony Curton CofE Primary School Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Antingham & Southrepps Community Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Aslacton Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Aspens Services (Diss High)	Admitted Body
Aspens Services (Diss Junior)	Admitted Body
Aspens Services (St John the Baptist MAT)	Admitted Body
Astley Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Attleborough Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Attleborough Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Aylsham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Banham Community Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Bawdeswell Community Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Beeston Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Bighton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Belton with Browston Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Biffa Municipal Ltd	Admitted Body
Bignold Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Blenheim Park Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Blofield Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Bluebell Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Brancaster CofE VA Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Brancaster Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Breckland Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Brisley Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Broad Horizons Education Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Broadland District Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Broadland High Ormiston Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Broads (2006) Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Broads Authority	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Brundall Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Bunwell Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Bure Park Specialist Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Burnham Market Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Burnham Market Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Burston Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Butterflies Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Buxton With Lamas Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Caister Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Castle Acre Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Caston Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cawston Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cawston Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Change Grow Live	Admitted Body
Charles Darwin Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Chartwells (Iceni Academy)	Admitted Body
Cherry Tree Academy Marham Infant	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cherry Tree Academy Marham Junior	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cherry Tree Academy Trust Marham	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Churchill Park Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Churchill Services (Broadland District Council)	Admitted Body
Churchill Services (Easton College)	Admitted Body
City Academy Norwich	Scheduled/Resolution Body
City College Norwich	Scheduled/Resolution Body
City of Norwich School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Clarion Corvus Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Clenchwarton Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cliff Park Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cobholm Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Colkirk Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
College of West Anglia	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Coltishall Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Corpusty Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Costessey Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Costessey Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cranworth Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cringleford Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cromer Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cromer Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Cromer Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dereham C of E Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dereham Church of England Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dereham Neatherd High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dereham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dersingham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diamond Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dickleburgh Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diocese of Norwich Education Services Company	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diss Church of England Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diss High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diss Infant Academy and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Diss Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ditchingham Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Docking Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Downham & Stow Bardolph Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Bod
Downham Market Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Downham Market Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Drayton Community Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Drayton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Duchy of Lancaster Methwold Church of England Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Duke of Lancaster School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Dussindale Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Earsham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
East Coast College	Scheduled/Resolution Body
East Norfolk Multi Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
East of Ouse, Polver & Nar Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Body
East Ruston Infant School and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Eastern Multi-Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Eastgate Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Eaton Hall Specialist Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Eaton Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Edith Cavell Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Edward Worlledge Ormiston Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Edwards & Blake	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Cherry Tree Marham Infant Academy)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Fakenham Infant and Nursery School)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Fred Nicholson School)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Magdalen Gates Primary School)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Ormiston Trust)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Southtown Primary)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Unity Education Trust)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Unity Trust Kings Park)	Admitted Body
Edwards & Blake (Wymondham Academy)	Admitted Body
Emneth Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Enrich Learning Trust (previously IE Trust)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Evolution Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Evolve Norse Ltd (previously NPS (London) Ltd)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Fakenham Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Fakenham Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Fakenham Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Fakenham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Filby Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Firside Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Flagship Housing Group	Admitted Body
Flegg High Ormiston Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Flitcham Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Foulsham Primary School Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Framingham Earl High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Framingham Earl Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Freebridge Community Housing Ltd	Admitted Body
Gardoldisham Church Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Garrick Green Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Garvestone Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Garvestone, Reymerston & Thuxton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Gayton Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Gaywood Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
George White Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ghost Hill Infant & Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Gillingham St Michael's CofE Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Glebeland Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great and Little Plumstead Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Dunham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Hockham Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Moulton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Snoring Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Witchingham Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Yarmouth Charter Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Yarmouth Norse	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Yarmouth Port Authority	Admitted Body
Great Yarmouth Port Company	Admitted Body
Great Yarmouth Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Great Yarmouth Services	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Greenpark Academy (previously St Edmunds Academy)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Gresham Village School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Greyfriars Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body



<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Grove House Nursery Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Halvergate Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Happisburgh Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hardingham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Harleston Sancroft Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Harling Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Heacham Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Heacham Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Heart Education Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Heartsease Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Heather Avenue Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hellesdon High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hellesdon Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hemblington Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hemsby Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Henderson Green Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hethersett Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hethersett Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Highgate Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hilgay Riverside Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hindolveston Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hobart High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hockering Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Holt Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hopton Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hoveton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Howard Junior School (Academy)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Hunstanton Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Iceni Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Inclusive Schools Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Independence Matters	Admitted Body
Inspiration Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Jane Austen College	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Kenninghall Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Kettlestone Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King Edward VII Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King's Oak Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King's Park Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King's Lynn Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
King's Lynn Water Management Alliance	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Kinsale Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Kirby Cane and Ellingham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Konectbus Ltd	Admitted Body
Lingwood and Burlingham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lingwood Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lionwood Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lionwood Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Litcham School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Little Plumstead Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Little Snoring Community Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Little Snoring Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Loddon Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lodge Lane Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Long Stratton High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ludham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lyng C of E Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Lynn Grove High Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Magdalen Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Manor Field Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Marlingford & Colton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Marshland High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Marshland St. James Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Martham Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Martham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mattishall Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mattishall Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Medequip Assistive Technology (ICES)	Admitted Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Middleton Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Millfield Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Morley C of E Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mousehold Infant and Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mulbarton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mundesley Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Mundford Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Narborough Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
NCS (Assistive Technology)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
NCS Transport Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Nelson Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Nelson Infant School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
New Buckenham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Newton Flotman Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Newton Flotman Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Nightingale Infant & Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norfolk Chief Constable	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norfolk County Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust	Admitted Body
Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norman Church of England Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norse Care Limited	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norse Care Services	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norse Commercial Services	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norse Eastern	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norse Eastern (Highways)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Norfolk District Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Walsham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Walsham Infant School & Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Walsham Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Walsham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
North Wootton Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Northgate High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Northgate Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Northrepps Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norwich City Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norwich City Services Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norwich Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norwich Road Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Norwich University of the Arts	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Notre Dame High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
NPS (South East) Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
NPS (South West) Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
NPS Property Consultants Ltd	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Old Buckenham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Old Buckenham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Old Catton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Open Academy - Heartsease	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ormiston Herman Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ormiston Venture Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ormiston Victory Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Overstrand Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ovington Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Parker's Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Peterhouse Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Poringland Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Postwick with Witton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Queensway Infant Academy and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Raleigh Infant Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Redenhall with Harleston Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Reedham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Reepham High School and College	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Reepham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Reepham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Reffley Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Robert Kett Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Rockland St. Mary Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Rollesby Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Rudham Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Saffron Housing Trust	Admitted Body
Salhouse Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sandringham And West Newton Church Of England Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Scole Church of England Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Scoulton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sculthorpe Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Seething and Mundham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Serco (Breckland Refuse)	Admitted Body
Serco Group Plc (North Norfolk District Council)	Admitted Body
Sewell Park Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sheringham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sheringham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form Free School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Smithdon High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Snettisham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
South Norfolk District Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
South Wootton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Southery & District Internal Drainage Board	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Southery Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Southtown Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Spire Cleaning (Fred Nicholson School)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Spixworth Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Spooner Row Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sporle Church of England Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sports & Leisure Management Ltd	Admitted Body
Springwood High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sprowston Community Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Sprowston Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Clements High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Clements Hill Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
St Germans Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St John the Baptist Multi-Academy Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Martha's Catholic Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Martin at Shouldham Church of England VA Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Mary & St Peter Catholic Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Michael's Family Centre	Admitted Body
St Michael's Church of England Academy (King's Lynn)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Peter & St Paul Carbrooke Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
St Peters Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Stalham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Stalham Infant School and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Stalham Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Stradbroke Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Strumpshaw Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Surlingham Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Swaffham Church of England Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Swaffham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Swanton Morley Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Synergy Academy Trust (previously North Norfolk Academy Trust)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tacolneston C of E Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tarmac	Admitted Body
Tasburgh Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Taverham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Taverham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Ten Mile Bank Riverside Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tharston and Hapton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Bishop's CE Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Bridge Easton School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Fen Rivers Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Free School Norwich	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Hewett Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Nicholas Hamond Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Pinetree School (previously Thetford Free School)	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
The Thetford Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Wensum Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
The Wherry School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thetford Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thompson Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thorpe St. Andrew Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Thurlton Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
TIAA Ltd (South Norfolk District Council)	Admitted Body
Tilney All Saints C of E Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tivetshall Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tivetshall Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Trowse with Newton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Tuckswood Academy and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Turn IT On (Eastern MAT)	Admitted Body
UET Compass (Short Stay)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
UET Pathfinder (Short Stay)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Unity Education Trust	Scheduled/Resolution Body
University Technical College Norfolk	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Upton with Fishley Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Upwell Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Valley Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wacton Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Walcott Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Walsingham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Watton Junior School (Wayland Junior)	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Watton Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Watton Westfield Infant & Nursery School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wayland Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Weasenham Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Weeting VC Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wells-next-the-Sea Primary	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Wensum Junior School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
West Dereham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
West Lynn Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
White House Farm Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Whitefriars Church of England Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wimbotsham and Stow Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wimbotsham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Winterton Primary School and Nursery	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Winterton-on-Sea Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Woodlands Primary Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wroughton Infant Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wroughton Junior Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wroxham Parish Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wymondham College Academy	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wymondham College Prep School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wymondham High School	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Wymondham Town Council	Scheduled/Resolution Body
Yaxham Primary School	Scheduled/Resolution Body



## **Glossary of Terms**

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES** The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the Council in preparing and presenting financial statements.

**ACCRUALS** Amounts included in the 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** These may arise on both defined benefit pension scheme liabilities and assets. A gain represents a positive difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were lower than estimated). A loss represents a negative difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were higher than estimated).

**AMORTISATION** The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of an intangible asset.

**AMORTISED COST** A mechanism that sees through contractual terms to measure the full cost/benefit that a council bears each year from being party to a financial liability/asset. For instance, if a premium is paid for the right to enter into a loan at less than market rates or a period of lower than market interest rates is granted and compensated for by a period of higher than market rates, councils are required to account using a single effective interest rate. Interest payable in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will then be recognised on a level interest rate basis over the expected life of the loan.

**ASSET** An item owned by the Council which has a value, for example, premises, vehicles, equipment, cash. Fixed assets or long term assets yield benefits to the Council and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

**ASSOCIATED COMPANIES** An organisation in which the Council has a participating interest and over which it can exercise significant influence without support from other participants in that organisation (e.g. other board members etc.).

**BORROWING** Local authorities can borrow to invest in capital works and assets so long as the cost of that borrowing is affordable and prudent. The Council borrows in the long term to finance capital expenditure and in the short term to smooth daily cash flow requirements. The principal source of borrowings for more than one year (i.e. classified as long term borrowing) is the Public Works Loan Board.

**BUDGET** The statement of the Council's policy expressed in financial terms usually for the current or forthcoming financial year. The Revenue Budget covers running expenses (see revenue expenditure), and the Capital Budget plans for asset acquisitions and replacements (see capital expenditure).

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE** Payments for the acquisition, construction or replacement of an asset, or expenditure which adds to the life or value of an existing asset (enhancement).

**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 RECEIPTS** Monies received for the sale of assets, some of which may be used to finance new capital expenditure or to repay outstanding loan debt as laid down within rules set by the Central Government.

**CASH EQUIVALENTS** These are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash Equivalents are held to meet short term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes.

**CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA)** The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the professional accountancy institute that sets the standards for the public sector. CIPFA publishes the Accounting Codes of Practice for local government.

**CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING (the Code)** The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: Based on International Financial Reporting Standards (the Code) aims to achieve consistent financial reporting between all English local authorities. It is based in generally accepted accounting standards and practices.

**COLLECTION FUND** A separate fund that records the income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and non-domestic rates. District Councils estimate the extent to which they will successfully collect Council Tax in their area. Any surplus or deficit is carried forward to the next financial year.

**COMMUNITY ASSETS** Community assets are assets that the local authority intends to hold for an unlimited period of time, have no determinable useful life and may have restrictions on their disposal.

**CONTINGENT LIABILITIES** Potential costs that the Council may incur in the future because of something that happened in the past. A contingent liability is either:

- a possible obligation arising from a past event whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that there will be an associated cost, or the amount of the obligation cannot be accurately measured.

**CREDITORS** Amounts owed by the Council for goods and services received for which payment has not been made as at 31 March.

**DEBTORS** Amounts owed to the Council for goods and services provided for which payment has not been received as at 31 March.

**DEFICIT** Arises when expenditure exceeds income or when expenditure exceeds available budget.

**DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME** A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not related to the investments of the scheme.

**DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME** A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employee pays regular fixed contributions as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to the employee service in the current and prior periods.

**DEPRECIATION** The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a tangible asset.

**EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS** Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Authority 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.

**EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET** Events that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Those events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period are adjusted for in the Statement of Accounts. Events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period are disclosed if material, but no adjustment is made to the Statement of Accounts.

**FAIR VALUE** 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.

**FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT** Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one organisation and a financial liability in another. A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits, examples include the lending of money. A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits, examples include the borrowing of money.

**FINANCE LEASE** A finance lease substantially transfers all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset to the lessee. Title may or may not eventually be transferred. With a finance lease, the present value of the minimum lease payments would equate to the fair value of the leased asset.

**GENERAL FUND** The account to which the cost of providing the Council Services is charged that are paid for from Council Tax and Government Grants (excluding the Housing Revenue Account).

**INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)** International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of accounting standards developed by an independent, not-for-profit organisation called the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

**IAS19 RETIREMENT BENEFITS** This International Accounting Standard requires local authorities to reflect the true value of the assets and liabilities relating to the Pension Fund in their financial statements. This creates a notional amount in the balance sheet but does not impact on council tax.

**IMPAIRMENT** A reduction in the value of an asset to below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet. Impairment of an asset is caused either by a consumption of economic benefits such as physical damage (e.g. fire at a school) or a deterioration in the quality of the service provided by the asset (e.g. a library closing and becoming a storage facility), or by a general fall in prices of that particular asset or type of asset.

**INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS** A type of asset that have an indefinite useful life and are not usually capable of being sold. Expenditure on infrastructure assets is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of infrastructure assets are highways and footpaths.

**INTANGIBLE ASSETS** Intangible assets are non-financial assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights

**INVENTORY** Items of raw materials and stores an authority has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores, raw materials and products and services in intermediate stages of completion.

**INVESTMENT PROPERTIES** Assets that the Council owns but are not used in the direct delivery of services, for example the residual Norwich Airport Industrial Estate.

**LOCAL AUTHORITY (SCOTLAND) ACCOUNTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LASAAC)** The Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) assists CIPFA in setting the standards for the public sector. CIPFA publishes the Accounting Codes of Practice for local government.

**LIABILITY** An obligation to transfer economic benefits. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year.

**MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)** The minimum amount, calculated in accordance with statutory guidance, that must be charged to the Council's revenue account each year to meet the costs of repaying amounts borrowed. This ensures that the Council makes a satisfactory annual provision for loan repayments.

**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.

**NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)** The business rate in the pound is the same for all non-domestic rate payers and is set annually by the Government. Income from business rates goes into a central Government pool, which is then distributed to local authorities according to resident population.

**NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS** These are specific overheads relating to unused assets and certain pension costs for employees' service in previous years. These are not allocated to service departments because they do not relate to the in-year cost of providing the service.

**OUTTURN** The actual amount spent in the financial year.

**OPERATING LEASE** A lease other than a finance lease, which does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessee. With an operating lease, lease payments are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received by the lessee.

**PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)** A Government initiative that enabled, through the provision of financial support, authorities to carry out capital projects through partnership with the private sector.

**PRECEPTS** The income which the Council requires a District Council to raise on behalf of the County Council from Council Tax.

**PROVISION** An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or highly likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

**PRUDENTIAL CODE** The Government removed the extensive capital controls on borrowing and credit arrangements from 1 April 2004 and replaced them with a Prudential Code under which each Council determines its own affordable level of borrowing. The Prudential Code requires authorities to set specific prudential indicators e.g. affordable borrowing limit on an annual basis.

**PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BOARD (PWLB)** A Government controlled agency that provides a source of borrowing for public authorities.

**RESERVES** A reserve is an amount set aside for a specific purpose in one financial year and carried forward to meet expenditure in future years. County Fund (General Balances) is available to meet future revenue and capital expenditure.

**REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME** The expenditure includes day to day expenses, mainly salaries and wages, general running expenses and the minimum revenue provision cost. Revenue income includes charges made for goods and services.

**REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE (REFCUS)** Capital expenditure, which does not create a tangible asset, e.g. improvement, grants or expenditure on an asset not owned by the County Council, e.g. leased properties.

**SUBSIDIARY** An organisation that is under the control of the Council (e.g. where the Council controls the majority of voting rights, etc.)

**SURPLUS** Arises when income exceeds expenditure or when expenditure is less than available budget.

**UK GAAP (GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICES in the UK)** The body of accounting standards and other guidance published by the UK's Financial Reporting Council (FRC)

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