



Statement of Accounts 2022-23

 Ashford
Borough Council

ASHFORD



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Approval of the Statement of Accounts

The Audit Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2024 approved the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, subject to the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

Signed:

CHARLES SUDDARDS.

Chairman Audit Committee
10 December 2024

Narrative Report

Introduction

Local Authority accounts are subject to regulatory requirements and accounting standards. This results in a complex format, which requires the reader to have a reasonable knowledge of accounting terms and presentation. An explanation of technical terms is provided in the Glossary (page 103).

The Statement of Accounts

The content and format of the Statement of Accounts is prescribed in the Accounting Code of Practice. The Statement of Accounts includes the Core Financial Statements and Supplementary Financial Statements along with other statutory sections.

For this year (2022/23), there have been no changes to the code which effect this Council.

The Core Financial Statements (page 15 to 20) comprise:

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- Movement in Reserves Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement

These statements include a group position, which incorporates the Council's subsidiaries, Ashford International Development Company Ltd, A Better Choice for Property Ltd and their subsidiary company, A Better Choice for Property Development Ltd. The accounts for these companies can be viewed at Companies House once filed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Overview of 2022/23 Financial Results and Activity

The Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

This is the second year for the [2022 - 2024 Corporate Plan](#) which can be viewed on the Council's website, and includes "The Ashford Ambition" that provides a vision for the future and catalyst for the corporate priorities.

The Ashford Ambition is *"to be a thriving, productive and inclusive borough in 2030 and beyond; a vital part of Kent and the South East where local businesses, social enterprises, communities and the public sector provide collective leadership to promote shared prosperity, happiness and wellbeing"*

The Ashford Ambition is supported by three priority themes that are detailed below:-

- Green Pioneer
- Caring Ashford
- Targeted Growth

The Corporate Plan includes the 'Super 6' which are strategic projects; Project Green, South Ashford Garden Community, Ashford College Phase 2, Newtown Works, Stodmarsh, and the Town Centre Reset.

One of the significant projects is Newtown Works and in May 2022 the Council obtained controlling interest of Ashford International Development Company Ltd. The Newtown Works project has started in 2022/23 with Phase 1 delivering an education facility for Ashford College and develop circa 300 residential units. Phase 2 of the project is due to commence in 2023/24

for the TV and film studios, workshop and multi storey carpark.

The Newtown works project and development has been awarded £14.7m from the Government Levelling up Fund following a successful application by the Council, and supports the overall viability of the scheme.

Newtown works in addition to other exciting projects coming forward are covered in the Council's Annual Performance Report 2022-2023 which was presented to the Council's Cabinet in June 2023 and is available on the Council's website.

In September 2020 DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) informed the Council that the Sevington Inland Border Facility (IBF) was being designated a Border Control Post and the Council would become responsible for carrying out various port health controls on behalf of the Government.

Despite numerous delays and reductions in staffing levels the Council still employ circa 54 Officers who will be necessary to fulfil the checks required once operational. DEFRA have Published a new Target Operating Model (TOM) for the facility in March 2023. Ashford Port Health is expected to become fully operational at the end of 2024. In the meantime the exiting teams have been repurposed for work required by DEFRA and by APHA dealing with the bird flu epidemic and also trials directly related to the schemes proposed in the new TOM.

The costs are currently being underwritten by Government, and therefore will not be a financial burden on the Ashford Tax Payer.

With the war in Ukraine that started in March 2022, the cost of energy significantly increased driving up inflation to 11.1% in October 2022. In response

to rising inflation the Bank of England (BOE) Monetary Policy committee (MPC) have sharply increased borrowing costs with interest rates hitting 4.5% in May 2023 having been at 0.10% on 15 December 2021.

The significant increase in energy costs and subsequent rise in inflation has created a cost of living crises with government intervention capping energy costs to support households from further unaffordable rises.

The Council reviewed its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) when setting the 2023/24 budget and this was presented to Cabinet in October 2022.

The MTFP report recognised pressure in the short and long term basis and although the plan was balanced over a 5 year period; this is due to the Council using its reserves and identifying the need for a savings plan to close the budget gap within 2023/24 and beyond.

For 2023/24 budget the local government finance settlement was a 3% funding guarantee adding to the Councils Core Spending Power (CSP), compared to the prior year when Ashford was one of 34 Councils that did not receive any increase in CSP. However the increase is considerably below the level of inflation in the UK and therefore represent further real terms cuts leaving the Council to fund the additional costs.

The other significant announcement coming out of the financial settlement was the government's recognition that local Councils are struggling to which they increased the Council Tax cap from 1.99% to 2.99%. While this was appreciated, for lower precepting councils like Ashford we were already increasing by circa 3% due the 2% of £5 rule, however the £5 threshold was not increased. Ashford could have raised

the Council tax for a band D property from £5 to £5.31 for 2023/24, although the administration at the time approved a £5 rise for an average Band D property.

Going forward, the Councils short term financial position will be extremely stressed and there will be a need for significant savings to be delivered, and further calls on reserve balances to fund service pressures.

The Council is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Kent County Council (KCC). For this accounting period the most recent valuation of the Fund was carried out in March 2019. This set the employer's contributions for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, at a rate of 17.9%.

A triennial review has been undertaken by KCC in conjunction with the actuary in 2022/23, and a revised contribution rate of 19.8% will be payable from 1 April 2023 and be reflected in next year's accounts.

COVID-19 \ cost of living crises impact on this statement

The pandemic confirmed to government that local authorities are an effective delivery model for distributing government support packages, such as the £150 energy grant. Despite some new burdens payments being made this new enforced responsibility adds pressure on the Council.

For the Council's financial statements, a judgement has to be made as to whether the Council was acting as an agent or principal, when awarding or applying government schemes, which then requires different accounting treatments, detailed below:-

- Where the Council acts as an agent it has no control of the grant scheme and is effectively working on behalf of Government, therefore the amount of income and expenditure relating to these grant does not show in the Council's accounts. During 2022/23 the Revenues and Benefits team paid out circa 39,701 grants £10.2m (2021/22: 1,638 grants totalling £9.9m) under the agent arrangement.
- Where the Council acted as a principal, and therefore had an element of discretion over the awarding of the grant, this has been coded to Economic and Development to reflect it in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES). During 2022/23, 9,052 grants totalling £6m were processed (2021/22: 526 grants totalling £1.6m).

Performance and Governance

Risk Management

The Corporate Risk register is assessed using the Risk Management Framework, adopted by the Cabinet in April 2018, and is formally reported to Audit Committee every 6 months. The last [Corporate Risk Register](#) report was

presented to Audit committee in March 2023 and is available on the Council's website.

Operational risks are monitored by individual Services, on an exception basis, and reported to the Council's Management Team. Where risks are of strategic significance, they will be reported to the Audit Committee accordingly.

Services review their risks monthly and as part of the service planning process.

Performance Management

The Council reports its wider performance data, including service specific indicators to Overview and Scrutiny, and Cabinet, on a quarterly basis, these are available on the internet. These indicators have been updated to reflect the themes and priorities within the corporate plan.

The Annual performance report will be presented to Cabinet in June 2023 and a link is provided within the overview section of the narrative report.

Annual Governance Statement

As part of the governance processes, the Council adopts an annual governance statement, and reports to the Audit Committee on progress made in remedying exceptions. The Annual Governance Statement is available on the Council's website. [2022/23 Annual Governance Statement](#)

General Fund (excluding the Housing Revenue Account)

2022/23 was an incredibly challenging year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has led to rapidly rising inflation (to 40 year highs) and successive interest rate rises seeing the Base of England base rate move from 0.75% in April 2022 to 4.50% in May 2023.

The increase in inflation has made all the Councils supplies and services more expensive resulting in an overall deficit £482,000 against the original budget (£1.8m overspend in services), equally

the wider costs of living crises has also increased demand on services, especially Homelessness which reported an overspend of circa £900,000 in year which is included in the figure above.

This deficit position would have been significantly higher if £900,000 of support for Tenterden Leisure Centre, and an additional £782,000 to fund urgent repairs to corporate assets were not funded from reserves. Other movements to and from reserves were also made in year resulting in an overall reduction in useable reserves of £4.2m. The reserve movements and revised balances are shown at note 13.

The Useable Reserves will be put under further stress in 2023/24 as inflation has been slow to come down and interest rates have increased by more than forecast, with further rises still anticipated which will result in higher borrowing costs to the Council which is a net borrower.

The current economic conditions will impact the Council resources considerably more than the covid19 pandemic, where Central Government provided strong support to the sector as it was a uniform problem. With the current economic crises the individual characteristics of each authority will determine the amount of pressure each local authority will face. To date there has been no indication the Government will support councils, and given the national from covid interventions it is highly unlikely any will be received.

The deficit reported above excludes the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is shown separately on page 10.

This general fund and HRA tables differ from the statutory presentation of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 15), and aims to present the information in a more meaningful manner as accounting adjustments have been removed.

The financial outturn report is presented to the Council's Cabinet on the 29 June 2023 and can be found on the Council's

website, this report provides a more comprehensive analysis of the financial performance of the council for 2022/23.

The following paragraphs highlight the significant movements in 2022/23.

Finance and IT had additional income of £330,000 from providing a financing facility to its new subsidiary Ashford International Development Company (AIDC), having also transferred £400,000 to reserves to fund future risks. The service received additional grant income in Revenues and Benefits of circa £420,000, some of this related to new burdens for delivering government grants.

As previously referenced Housing saw an increase in Homelessness referrals in year, especially from single person representations as a result of the cost of living crises that added and additional pressure of £900,000. The original budget was set at circa 100 placements, although this averaged between 120 and 150 throughout the year, with new referrals having to be placed in more expensive temporary accommodation units.

Parking which falls under Safety Wellbeing and Port had a pressure in year due to increased staffing costs within Environmental Health, £118,000 and increased car parking utility charges, £173,000.

Environment Property and Recreation is a significant business unit with an annual net expenditure of circa £5m. However in 2022/23 the service was put under significant pressure and reported a pressure of £1.4m. This pressure was largely due to a higher than anticipated increase in the waste contract increase which is inflation linked by circa £385,000, increased utility costs for facility management £148,000, recognition of Vicarage Lane in year revenue costs of £200,000, and a re-profiling of income receivable from the Stour Centre Operator reducing anticipated income by £387,000.

The Planning service did not manage to achieve efficiency savings through the new planning system as planned, and did not fully implement new charging schemes as anticipated resulting in an overall pressure of £215,000 in year.

Capital Charges and Net interest saw a surplus of £844,000 overall in which was a turbulent year, debt expenses increased by £475,000 as interest rates increased although this also strengthened returns on cash investment by £330,000. The Council also generated £590,000 in interest from new loans to AIDC although this was offset by a pressure of £550,000 as new loans to the subsidiary Property Company were delayed due to the ongoing building restrictions relating to Stodmarsh.

The Council generated additional business rates income of £690,000 in year. The actual NNDR3 report showed

a deficit in year of £5.3m, however, S31 Grant to fund this deficit had previously been received and placed in reserves; and applied accordingly in year.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and associated notes from page 15 include:

- the General Fund outturn as detailed below
- the Housing Revenue Account income and expenditure
- Other notional accounting entries for capital charges, pensions and asset sales.

A reconciliation between the statutory and management accounts is included in note 5.

General Fund Final Outturn 2022/23

Service	Original	Revised	Final	Variance
	Budget	Budget	Outturn	
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	
	A	B	B-A	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Finance and IT	2,331	2,283	1,549	(734)
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	630	462	389	(73)
Housing	1,259	1,237	2,197	960
Safety Wellbeing and Port	761	652	925	273
Environment, Property and Recreation	5,267	5,082	6,522	1,440
Planning and Development	2,356	2,309	2,524	215
Corporate Management Costs	935	1,650	1,492	(158)
Head of Economic Development	630	686	660	(26)
Head of Performance and Policy	1,442	1,353	1,335	(18)
Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	411	305	242	(63)
Net Service Expenditure	16,022	16,019	17,835	1,816
Capital Charges and net interest	(2,154)	(2,154)	(2,998)	(844)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	0	0	145	145
Levies and Grants	282	282	298	16
Contribution to Reserves	1,944	1,947	2,025	78
Net Expenditure	16,094	16,094	17,305	1,211
Funded by:				
Grant Funding	(2,371)	(2,371)	(2,270)	101
Business Rates	(4,685)	(4,685)	(5,375)	(690)
Council Tax	(9,038)	(9,038)	(9,178)	(140)
Total Financing	(16,094)	(16,094)	(16,823)	(729)
Outturn reported	0	0	482	482

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The outturn on the HRA is showing a deficit of £74,000, compared to a budgeted surplus of £1.5m, an increase of £1.6m.

There were various movements that effected the outturn, including £500,000 of additional rental income over forecast, increased utility costs of circa £540,000, primarily relating to independent living schemes, and an increase in depreciation costs from new assets.

More Capital works were completed in 2022/23 as Covid restrictions on accessibility eased. However, staffing issues within the team restricted capacity and a saving of £1.9m against forecast was delivered. This saving will be retained with the Major Repairs Reserve and be used to fund the work in future years.

The HRA currently maintains 5,207 properties and has a detailed repair and maintenance schedule for each property at a component level, i.e. kitchen, bathroom etc. When considering these options, the Council takes account of such aspects as robustness, good quality, low maintenance and the

serviceability of the component part over its whole lifecycle. Combining these features results in the HRA delivering value for money for the Council.

The Council is having a stock condition survey so it can thoroughly understand the works required to provide more energy efficient stock as part of the overall Councils commitment to carbon neutrality.

The HRA reserve balance at 31 March 2023 was £2m, (compared to £2.1m in 2021/22).

The Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) stands at £5.2m (£1.9m in 2021/22), and is available to fund the Decent Homes Programme.

The total reserve balance for the HRA is £7.2m (compared to £4m in 2021/22).

Council dwellings are revalued at the end of each financial year and all stock was revalued at 31 March 2023, this resulted in an increase of £42.6m (compared to a £16.2m increase in 2021/22).

Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2022/23

Service	Original Budget 2022/23 A	Revised Budget 2022/23 B £'000	Final Outturn 2022/23 C £'000	Variance C-B £'000
Income	(28,775)	(28,775)	(29,339)	(564)
Supervision and Management	6,732	6,732	7,180	448
Repairs and Maintenance	4,347	4,347	4,417	70
Other	16,160	16,160	17,816	1,656
Net Expenditure	(1,536)	(1,536)	74	1,610
Capital Works - Decent Homes	6,142	6,142	4,286	(1,856)
<i>Capital works financed by:</i>				
Debt repayment	0	0	0	0
Major Repairs Allowance (from Self-Financing Determination)	(6,142)	(6,142)	(4,286)	1,856
Outturn reported	(1,536)	(1,536)	74	1,610

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is investment in the acquisition, construction, enhancement or replacement of tangible assets such as land, buildings or major items of equipment. It also covers intangible assets for example the purchase of computer software, which will benefit the Council over a number of years.

Major projects during 2022/23 included:

- Newtown Works project £4.1m, Department of Levelling Up grant funding was secured totalling £3.9m
- Decarbonisation works at Tenterden Leisure Centre £2m funded from external grant.
- Victoria Park Rejuvenation £2.3m, £1.7m funded from external grant and £386,400 funded from Section 106 contributions.
- Purchase of 5 properties under the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme for £1.1m, funded partly by external grant £486,600.
- Street Purchase scheme during 2022/23 saw 5 units added to the HRA portfolio costing around £1.3m. Capital receipts totalling £537,800 from the sale of RTB (right to buy) Council properties supported these costs.
- Expenditure on existing housing stock amounted to £4.2m ensuring Decent Homes Standards are maintained.
- Works completed on the site at Halstow Way (Brickworks) costing £2.7m, Homes England grant funding was secured on this acquisition totalling £255,000.

In the financial year 2022/2023, the outturn for the capital programme was:

Summary of Capital Spending and Financing

	2022/23	
	£'000	£'000
<i>Capital investment</i>		
General Fund capital expenditure	16,161	
HRA capital expenditure	7,949	
Total expenditure		24,110
<i>Sources of finance</i>		
Prudential borrowing	6,417	6,417
Capital receipts		
- 1-4-1 capital receipts	809	
- General capital receipts (HRA)	400	
- General capital receipts (GF)	861	2,070
Grants and contributions		
- External grants and contributions	8,629	8,629
Contribution to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve	4,220	4,220
Direct revenue contributions		
- General Fund financing	2,367	
- HRA Revenue contributions	0	
- Developer contributions	407	2,774
Total financing		24,110

Treasury Management

Borrowing

At 31 March 2023, the Council had long and short-term borrowing of £238.2m, £125m of this relates to the HRA with £95.6m outstanding from the acquisition of the Council's Social Housing Stock from Government in 2013. Borrowing is used to fund capital projects such as new residential developments for the HRA, and opportunities for regeneration and portfolio maintenance within the general fund.

Excluding long-term HRA debt linked to the HRA stock acquisition, and £32m borrowed in 2021/22, the Council has maintained a predominantly short-term borrowing strategy to benefit from lower interest costs. This strategy was successful and significant savings were made, however, the unforeseen events in Ukraine have led to a rapid rise in interest rate and subsequently debt costs to the Council have significantly increased.

In response to rising interest rates the Council will need to maintain the existing strategy until rates start reducing at which stage consideration can be given to fixing interest rates. The Council will consult with its advisors to continually review the best long term borrowing strategy going forward.

During 2022/23 the Council had increased borrowing costs over budget of £475,000, this was a positive outcome as some 1 year loans taken late in 21/22 support the overall average.

Investments

At 31 March 2023, the Council had strategic investments with a fair value of £30.8m (£35.3m at 31 March 2022) which are detailed in note 22 Financial

Instruments. In 2022/23 the Council continued to maintain a diversified investment portfolio with long-term strategic investments continuing to be held.

The strategic investment portfolio has two considerations, the capital value of the underlying investment but also the performance in relation to interest received.

In 2022/23 the capital value decreased by £4.4m although this was largely driven by the CCLA Property Fund which decreased in value by £2.3m, reversing strong increase in 2021/22.

The strategic investments are long term placement and will continue to be held in consultation with its Advisors and it is expected that capital values will increase over time.

In relation to returns on the strategic portfolio, and additional £350,000 was received over budget.

With increases in interest rates the Council also benefited from higher interest rates on cash deposits generating an additional £330,000.

Collection Fund

All council tax and business rates Ashford collects are paid into this separate account before being passed to the precepting authorities and Central Government.

The Collection Fund for English authorities is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and the distribution to local authorities

and Central Government of council tax and national non-domestic rates.

The collection fund had a small deficit, overall, at year-end, which was broadly in-line with estimates. However, there were some variances within both Council Tax and Business Rates. Business Rates had an in-year deficit, as a result of reduced income, largely due to successful appeals of supermarkets against their Rateable Value. Council Tax, also had an in-year deficit due to an increase in the bad debt provision, as a result in a minor change in the methodology. Ashford's share of the deficit is covered by government grant and has been moved into reserves.

Pensions

As part of the Conditions of Employment, the Council must offer staff retirement benefits under statutory requirements.

At 31 March 2023, 91% of staff were part of the full pension scheme, contributing between 5.5% and 12.5% of salary. 4.4% of staff were opted into the 50/50 section of the scheme contributing between 2.75% and 6.25%, and the

remaining 4.6% of staff opted out of the scheme.

Payments into the pension scheme and investment assets are held and managed by the Kent County Council Pension Fund for all contributing member authorities. For further information, see note 30.

Stanhope Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The PFI agreement for the regeneration of the Stanhope Estate has been ongoing since 2007; the details are in note 29.

Council owned Companies

The Council has one wholly owned active subsidiary, A Better Choice for Property Limited, which has a subsidiary A Better Choice for Property Development Limited, for which it is the sole shareholder. The Council also acquired a controlling interest in Ashford international Development Company in May 2022.

All of the above companies considered material and therefore group accounts have been prepared in accordance with IFRS 10.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

Under law the Authority is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this authority, the Chief Finance Officer
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible, in law, for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice'). There is a responsibility of the CFO to observe the CIPFA statement on the role of the CFO in public service organisations.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the CFO has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the Codes of Practice.

The CFO has also:

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

I certify that the Statement of Accounts between pages 15 and 100 present a true and fair view of the financial position of Ashford Borough Council at 31 March 2023 and its income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.



Ben Lockwood
Chief Finance Officer
10 December 2024

Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

ABC 2021/22 Restated			Group 2021/22		ABC 2022/23			Group 2022/23
Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Net Expenditure £'000		Gross Expenditure £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
27,381	(26,991)	390	390	Finance and IT	30,723	(26,698)	4,025	4,025
759	(73)	686	686	HR, Customer Service, Comms and Digitalisation	623	(100)	523	523
7,030	(5,355)	1,675	1,675	Housing	8,661	(6,604)	2,057	2,057
10,012	(5,449)	4,563	4,486	Safety Wellbeing and Port Environment, Property and Recreation	11,926	(10,267)	1,659	1,659
9,035	(7,901)	1,134	1,134	Planning and Development	5,545	(2,502)	3,043	3,043
4,259	(2,130)	2,129	2,129	Corporate Management Costs	1,786	(275)	1,511	1,511
944	(53)	891	891	Head of Economic Development	1,983	(764)	1,219	573
2,725	(2,444)	281	(374)	Head of Performance and Policy	1,876	(43)	1,833	1,833
1,529	(100)	1,429	1,429	Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer	521	(190)	331	331
718	(201)	517	517	Local Authority Housing	9,520	(32,803)	(23,283)	(23,283)
44,575	(30,428)	14,147	14,147	Non distributed costs	1,976	0	1,976	1,976
2,180	0	2,180	2,180	Cost of Services	93,527	(89,040)	4,487	3,841
111,147	(81,125)	30,022	29,291	Other operating expenditure				
	2,559		2,559	Parish Council Precepts & Levies		2,788		2,788
	485		485	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool		0		0
	(1,873)	1,171	(1,873)	Disposal of non-current assets		(1,637)	1,151	(1,637)
	5,216		5,216	Financing and investment income and expenditure				
	1,786		1,786	Interest payable and similar charges		10,518		10,920
	(5,114)		(4,419)	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)		1,263		1,263
	0	1,888	(1,229)	Interest receivable		(3,518)		(5,601)
			(1,229)	Income, Expenditure and Changes in fair value of Investment Property		0	8,263	(264)
	0		242	Taxation and non-specific grant income		0		82
	(10,499)		(10,499)	Income Tax relating to companies		(11,106)		(11,106)
	521		521	Council Tax income		(2,007)		(2,007)
	(6,920)		(6,920)	Non-domestic rates income and expenditure		(5,126)		(5,126)
	(5,530)		(5,530)	Section 31 Grant - Collection Fund		(1,460)		(1,460)
	(4,138)	(26,566)	(4,138)	Non-ringfenced government grants (note 12)		(8,577)	(28,276)	(8,577)
		6,515	5,492	Capital grants received in year				
	(45,695)		(45,695)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(14,375)	(16,885)
	(1,010)		(1,010)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment (note 14)		(57,171)		(57,171)
	(14,004)		(14,004)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of investments elected for FVOCI		(138)		(138)
				Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability (note 30)		(69,099)		(69,099)
		(60,709)	(60,709)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(126,408)	(126,408)
		(54,194)	(55,217)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(140,783)	(143,293)
				(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services Attributable to Ashford Borough Council				(16,885)
				Attributable to the Non-controlling Interest				(16,900)
				Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Attributable to Ashford Borough Council				(126,408)
				Attributable to the Non-controlling Interest				0

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation, or raise fees and charges to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement. The restatement of the CI&ES for 2021/22 was due to restructuring of the Council and reporting being carried out at the Service Structure level.

Movement in Reserves Statement

2022/23	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves (excluding company)	Unusable Reserves (Note 26) (excluding company)	Total Usable Reserves (group)	Unusable Reserves (Note 26) Group
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2022	(41,221)	(2,119)	(3,986)	(1,910)	(1,676)	(50,912)	(218,852)	(50,234)	(221,032)
<i>Movements in Reserves during 2022/23</i>									
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	5,328	(19,703)				(14,375)		(16,885)	(264)
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure							(126,408)		(122,980)
Surplus or deficit on provision of services attributable to NCI									(2,021)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	5,328	(19,703)	0	0	0	(14,375)	(126,408)	(16,885)	(125,266)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulations									
Sources of Finance	7,363	321	2,070	4,219	944	14,917	(14,917)	14,917	(14,917)
Sums set-a-side for capital purposes	4,265	3,939		0		8,204	(8,204)	8,204	(8,204)
Revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute	(1,232)	0				(1,232)	1,232	(1,232)	1,232
Removal of items not chargeable to Fund Balances									
- Capital adjustment account	(6,601)	12,701	0	(7,539)		(1,439)	1,439	(1,439)	1,439
- Capital grants unapplied account	891	0			(891)	0		0	0
- Capital receipts reserve (for HRA, see note 5)	614	3,088	(3,704)			(2)	2	(2)	2
- Deferred capital receipts reserve	0		(21)			(21)	21	(21)	21
- Pensions reserve	(2,043)	(270)				(2,313)	2,313	(2,313)	2,313
- Collection fund adjustment account	5,243					5,243	(5,243)	5,243	(5,243)
- Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	0							2,634	
- Pooled Investment Adjustment Account	(4,403)	0				(4,403)	4,403	(4,403)	4,403
Net increase or decrease	9,425	76	(1,655)	(3,320)	53	4,579	(145,362)	4,704	(144,220)
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves						0		0	0
Increase or decrease during 2022/23	9,425	76	(1,655)	(3,320)	53	4,579	(145,362)	4,704	(144,220)
Balance at 31 March 2023	(31,796)	(2,043)	(5,641)	(5,230)	(1,623)	(46,333)	(364,214)	(45,530)	(365,252)

The Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS) is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the Balance Sheet over the financial year. It does this by analysing the increase or decrease in the net worth of the authority.

- movements in the current or fair value of its assets.
- movements between reserves to increase or reduce the resources available to the authority according to statutory provisions.

Movement in Reserves Statement

2021/22	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves (excluding company)	Unusable Reserves (Note 27) (excluding company)	Total Usable Reserves (group)	Unusable Reserves (Note 27) Group
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2021	(46,089)	(7,188)	(3,341)	(1,947)	(771)	(59,336)	(156,234)	(58,864)	(157,185)
<i>Movements in Reserves during 2021/22</i>									
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(9,830)	16,345				6,515		5,492	(1,229)
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure							(60,709)		(60,709)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(9,830)	16,345	0	0	0	6,515	(60,709)	5,492	(61,938)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulations									
Sources of Finance	1,482	1,750	3,716	2,081	0	9,029	(9,029)	9,029	(9,029)
Sums set-a-side for capital purposes	3,032	8,033		5,000		16,065	(16,065)	16,065	(16,065)
Revenue expenditure charged to capital under statute	(928)	0				(928)	928	(928)	928
Removal of items not chargeable to Fund Balances									
- Capital adjustment account	3,621	(24,169)	0	(7,044)		(27,592)	27,592	(27,592)	27,592
- Capital grants unapplied account	905	0			(905)	0		0	0
- Capital receipts reserve (for HRA, see note 5)	583	3,721	(4,302)			2	(2)	2	(2)
- Deferred capital receipts reserve	0		(59)			(59)	59	(59)	59
- Pensions reserve	(4,344)	(611)				(4,955)	4,955	(4,955)	4,955
- Collection fund adjustment account	7,922					7,922	(7,922)	7,922	(7,922)
- Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	0							1,229	
- Pooled Investment Adjustment Account	2,425	0				2,425	(2,425)	2,425	(2,425)
Net increase or decrease	4,868	5,069	(645)	37	(905)	8,424	(62,618)	8,630	(63,847)
Increase or decrease during 2021/22	4,868	5,069	(645)	37	(905)	8,424	(62,618)	8,630	(63,847)
Balance at 31 March 2022	(41,221)	(2,119)	(3,986)	(1,910)	(1,676)	(50,912)	(218,852)	(50,234)	(221,032)

Balance Sheet

ABC	Group		ABC	Group
31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
£'000	£'000	Notes	£'000	£'000
538,364	538,364	Property, Plant & Equipment	611,173	611,173
6,359	6,359	Heritage Assets	6,109	6,109
0		Investment in Subsidiary	1,383	0
0	35,092	Investment Property	0	49,866
295	295	Intangible Assets	371	371
37,631	36,842	Long Term Investments	33,611	32,619
33,259	1,432	Long Term Debtors	47,545	1,076
0	1	Deferred Tax Asset	0	1
615,908	618,385	Long Term Assets	700,192	701,214
0	0	Current held for sale	0	0
26,697	26,189	Short Term Debtors	16,843	16,858
1,491	1,684	Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,155	4,969
28,188	27,873	Current Assets	20,998	21,827
(101,270)	(101,270)	Short Term Borrowing	(118,503)	(118,503)
(37,951)	(38,196)	Short Term Creditors	(25,228)	(26,293)
(1,089)	(1,089)	PFI Current Liabilities	(1,039)	(1,039)
(140,310)	(140,555)	Current Liabilities	(144,770)	(145,835)
(2,847)	(2,847)	Long-term Provisions	(3,048)	(3,048)
(125,264)	(125,264)	Long Term Borrowing	(120,664)	(120,664)
(6,266)	(6,266)	Grants receipts in advance - capital	(9,131)	(9,131)
(469)	(469)	Grants receipts in advance - revenue	(1,678)	(1,678)
(82,370)	(82,370)	Pension Liability	(15,586)	(15,586)
(16,687)	(16,687)	PFI Liability	(15,648)	(15,648)
(119)	(119)	Finance Lease Liability	(118)	(118)
0	(414)	Deferred Tax Liability	0	(553)
(234,022)	(234,437)	Long Term Liabilities	(165,873)	(166,426)
269,764	271,266	Net Assets	410,547	410,781
		Financing (see MiRS)		
(50,912)	(50,233)	Usable Reserves	(46,333)	(45,530)
(218,852)	(221,033)	Unusable Reserves	(364,214)	(365,254)
(269,764)	(271,266)		(410,547)	(410,784)

The Balance Sheet summarises the Authority's financial position as at 31 March. The 'top half' contains the Council's assets and liabilities held or accrued. As Local Authorities do not have equity, the 'bottom half' is comprised of reserves that shows the position of an authorities net worth, they fall into two categories:

- usable reserves, which include the revenue and resources available to meet future expenditure, such as the General Fund Balance and the Capital Receipts Reserve
- unusable reserves, which include unrealised gains and loss or adjustment accounts, such as the Revaluation Reserve or the Pension Reserve

Cash Flow Statement

ABC	Group		ABC	Group
2021/22	2021/22		2022/23	2022/23
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
6,515	5,491	Net (surplus) or deficit on the Provision of services	(14,375)	(16,885)
(36,182)	(36,549)	Adjustment to the Net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	35 3,008	(824)
6,044	7,284	Adjustment for items in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	36 4,968	17,069
(23,623)	(23,774)	Net cash flows from operating activities	(6,399)	(640)
31,234	31,740	Investing activities	38 15,278	16,486
(213)	(528)	Financing activities	39 (11,543)	(19,108)
7,398	7,438	Net movements in year excluding non-cash items	(2,664)	(3,262)
8,889	9,120	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,491	1,707
(7,398)	(7,438)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,664	3,262
1,491	1,682	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	40 4,155	4,969

The Cash Flow Statement summarises the flows of cash into and out of the authority's bank accounts over the financial year. It separates the flows into:

- those that have occurred as a result of the authority's operations
- those arising from the authority's investing activities (including cash flows related to noncurrent assets), and
- those attributable to financing decisions.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authorities transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year ending 31 March 2023. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which are being prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22' (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

1. Accounting Concepts and Conventions

The Going Concern basis has been selected for the preparation of these accounts based on the assumption that the Council will operate for the foreseeable future.

Qualitative characteristics are the attributes that make the information provided within this Statement of Accounts, useful to users. The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) Framework sets out the two fundamental, qualitative characteristics and four enhancing, qualitative characteristics of financial statements, which have been adopted by the Code:

- Fundamental
 - relevance
 - faithful representation
- Enhancing
 - comparability
 - verifiability
 - timeliness
 - understandability

The Code also includes consideration of materiality as a qualitative characteristic and the Framework considers it as part of the fundamental characteristic of relevance.

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

With the exception of the Cash Flow Statement, including its notes, and the Collection Fund, the Statement of Accounts is presented on an accruals basis.

The accruals basis of accounting requires the non-cash effect of transactions to be reflected in the Statement of Accounts for the year in which those effects are experienced, and not in the year in which the cash is actually received or paid. In particular: fees, charges and rents due from customers are accounted for as income at the date the Council provides the relevant goods or services; interest

payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

As per IFRS 15, revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

Where income and expenditure have been recognised, but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. There is a de minimis limit for manual accruals (not automatic accruals) which has been set at £10,000 to aid faster closing, transactions below this limit are not accrued for as they are deemed not material to the understanding of these accounts

3. **Estimation Techniques**

Estimation techniques are the methods adopted by the Council to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes in reserves. Details of where these are used are contained in the relevant Note to the Accounts. Where a change in an estimation technique is material, an explanation of the change is provided and its effect on the results for the current period.

4. **Costs of Internal Support Services**

All costs of management and administration are fully allocated to services. The basis of allocation used for the main costs of management and administration are outlined below:

Cost	Basis of Allocation
Accounting and other services	Budgeted time spent by staff, as predicted by budget managers
Legal services	Actual time spent by staff, as recorded on time recording systems
Administrative Buildings	Per capita
IT support of corporate financial systems	Actual direct costs (hardware costs etc.) plus cost of estimated staff resources
Network / PC support	Per capita
Call Centre and Printing	Actual use, as recorded by monitoring systems
Internal Audit	Per audit plan
Payroll and Personnel Costs	Per capita
Debtors and Creditors	Per transaction

5. **Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates**

Revenue relating to council tax and business rates is measured at the full amount receivable (net of any impairment losses) as they are non-contractual, non-exchange transactions. Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits of the transaction will flow to the Council and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

The council tax and business rates income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the accrued income for the year, which consists of:

- The Council's council tax precept and business rate share from the Collection Fund i.e. the amount billed for the year; and
- The Council's share of the actual council tax and business rates surplus or deficit on the fund at the preceding year-end that has not been distributed or recovered in the current year.

The latter is not required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund and so is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves on the General Fund balance.

The Council, as billing authority, recognises the creditor in its balance sheet for cash collected from taxpayers and businesses on behalf of major preceptors but not yet paid to them, or a debtor for cash paid to major preceptors.

6. **Charges to Revenue**

Service and Support Service Accounts are debited with amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets used in the provision of services.

These amounts include the annual provision for depreciation, certain revaluation gains/losses and impairment losses and the amortisation of intangible assets. The amounts are subsequently reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account so that they do not impact on the amounts required from local taxation.

Capital charges made to the Housing Revenue Account are the amounts as determined by statutory provision.

External interest payable is debited in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts set aside from revenue for the repayment of external loans, are charged to the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

7. **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute**

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as Property Plant and Equipment. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than being charged to the General Fund and have a direct impact upon Council Tax. These items are generally grants and expenditure on property not owned by the Council.

Such expenditure is charged to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but subsequently reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

8. **Government Grants and Contributions**

Grants received are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the income is recognised and, once conditions have been met. Revenue Grants specific to a particular service will be shown against the service expenditure section. General Revenue Grants, in the form of Revenue Support Grant, and Capital Grants are credited and disclosed separately in the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Capital Grants and Capital Contributions will subsequently be transferred through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account or the Grants Unapplied Account, if expenditure has not been incurred.

If conditions have not been met, grants will be held as a creditor (Grants received in advance) on the Balance Sheet until conditions are met or grants are repaid.

9. **VAT**

VAT is accounted for separately and is not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, whether of a capital or revenue nature. Input VAT, which is not recoverable from HM Revenue and Customs, will be charged to Service Revenue Accounts, or added to capital expenditure as appropriate. The Council's partial exemption status is reviewed on an annual basis.

10. **Goodwill**

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable net assets of the acquired subsidiary at the date of acquisition. The goodwill arising from acquisitions of subsidiaries is included in intangible assets, tested annually for impairment and carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold. Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually. Should the test indicate that the net realisable value of the subsidiary is less than current carrying value, an impairment loss will be recognised immediately in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. Subsequent reversals of impairment losses for goodwill are not recognised.

11. **Heritage Assets**

Heritage assets are carried at valuation (e.g. insurance valuation) rather than fair value, reflecting the fact that exchanges of heritage assets are uncommon. Valuations are determined by the insurance valuation or where not available, the historical cost. Although there are no prescribed minimum periods for review, the assets will be reviewed in line with the insurance policy and material changes will be incorporated into the accounts. A de-minimis level has been set at £10,000 for heritage assets based on the method of valuation above.

12. **Assets Held for Sale (Current Assets)**

These assets have been declared surplus to the Council's operational requirements, are being actively marketed for disposal and have an estimated sale date within twelve months of the Balance Sheet date. They are reported on the Balance Sheet, at the lower of the carrying amount or the fair value (market value) of the asset, less the costs to sell the asset. Assets held for sale are not subject to depreciation. Potential 'Right-to-buy' sales are not accounted for until the date of sale, as they are not actively marketed in any conventional way.

13. **Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the Council (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it will benefit the Council for more than one financial year.

An intangible asset is initially measured at cost but will be revalued where the fair value of the asset differs significantly from its carrying value. The depreciable amount is amortised over its useful economic life to the relevant service section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but subsequently reversed through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

14. **Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. The cost of finished goods and work in progress comprises raw materials, direct labour, other direct costs

and related production overheads (based on normal operating capacity). The cost of items of inventory which take a substantial period of time to complete includes attributable borrowing costs.

The net realisable value of inventories is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less applicable variable selling expenses. Provisions are made for any slow-moving, obsolete or defective inventories.

15. **Investment Assets**

These assets are held solely to earn rentals and/or capital appreciation. The property cannot be used for any other purpose to be classed as an investment asset.

They are held initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset.

Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end.

16. **Property, plant and equipment**

16.1. **Recognition**

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation, or enhancement of these assets is capitalised on an accruals basis. These assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis.

16.2. **Recognition Definition**

Property, plant and equipment are tangible assets (i.e. assets with physical substance) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and expected to be used during more than one period.

The category is split into seven subcategories.

- Council Dwellings;
- Other Land and Buildings;
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment;
- Infrastructure Assets;
- Community Assets;
- Surplus Assets;
- Assets Under Construction.

The Accounting policy for each type of asset is detailed below:

16.3. **Council dwellings**

These assets are held on the Balance Sheet at current value but discounted to allow for the Existing Use Value for Social Housing (EUV-SH).

An annual valuation is carried out by a qualified surveyor in accordance with the latest guidance issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as at 31 March. Material changes will be reflected in the accounts if they arise after the valuation.

16.4. Other Land and Buildings

These assets are held on the Balance Sheet initially at cost, however are revalued and updated with a desktop revaluation annually. All property and land will be fully valued at least once within the 5-year cycle.

IFRS requires the consideration of componentisation for material items of property, plant and equipment, where they are of a material financial nature or have significantly differing life expectancies. The Council has set a minimum asset value of £1,000,000 and a component size of at least 10% of the value.

16.5. Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment

These assets are recognised in the Balance Sheet at cost and are subject to straight-line depreciation over the expected life of the asset.

16.6. Infrastructure Assets

These assets are recognised in the Balance Sheet at cost and are subject to straight-line depreciation over the expected life of the asset.

16.7. Community Assets

These are defined as assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal.

Examples of community assets are parks and allotments. These assets are held on the Balance Sheet at historic cost and are not subject to revaluation or depreciation.

16.8. Assets under Construction

This covers assets currently not yet ready for operational purposes. The Council does not depreciate nor revalue assets under construction. These assets are held at cost on the Balance Sheet.

16.9. Surplus Assets

These assets are not being used to deliver services and are held at fair value which is the price that would be receivable if sold.

16.10. Valuations

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise revaluation gains. However, where the increased valuation follows a previous reduction in the carrying value below its historic cost, gains would be credited to the service expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to reverse the loss previously charged to a service.

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

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is written out.

16.11. Depreciation

Depreciation on assets with a finite useful life, in line with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 16, is calculated on a straight-line basis according to the following policy:

- All assets with a finite useful life are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset life. The life of buildings is reviewed as part of the asset revaluation. The life of vehicles, plant and equipment is generally taken to be five years, unless evidence exists to support a longer or shorter life.
- Newly acquired assets and enhancements are depreciated in year one, assets in the course of construction are not depreciated until they are ready for use, starting in the following year.
- In accordance with recognised accounting practice, land owned by this Council is not depreciated.

Following removal of the transitional arrangements from 1 April 2017, Council Dwellings and other HRA land and property are depreciated in line with proper accounting practices.

16.12. Impairment of Non-current Assets

A review for impairment of non-current assets, whether carried at historical cost or valuation, is carried out at year-end to ascertain whether events or changes in circumstances, indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. Examples of events and changes in circumstances that indicate impairment may have been incurred include:

- a significant decline in the asset's fair value during the period;
- evidence of obsolescence or physical damage to the asset;
- a significant adverse change in the statutory or other regulatory environment in which the authority operates;
- a commitment by the authority to undertake a significant reorganisation.

In the event that an impairment is identified, the value will either be written off to the Revaluation Reserve where sufficient reserve levels for that asset exist, or written off to Service Expenditure through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where the carrying value falls below the historic value of the asset. Any impairment at the Balance Sheet date is shown in the notes to the core financial statements, along with the name, designation and qualifications of the officer making the impairment.

If the impairment is identified on an investment property, the value is written out to the Financing and Investment Income section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

16.13. Gains or Losses on Disposal of Property Plant and Equipment

When an asset is disposed of or de-commissioned, the carrying value of the asset and any receipts from the sale, together with the costs of disposal, are shown on the Other Operating Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement which, therefore, bears a net gain or loss on disposal. Where the receipt is in excess of £10,000, it is appropriated to the Capital Receipts Reserve, via the Movement in Reserves Statement, where it can be

used for any approved capital purpose, e.g. for new capital investment. The carrying value of the disposed asset is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the Movement on Reserves Statement. Costs of disposal are accounted for within the Other Operating Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

17. **Leases**

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment or series of payments, the right to use an asset for an agreed period. A finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred. An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease. A definition of a lease includes hire purchase arrangements.

17.1. **Finance Leases**

As lessee, the Council shall recognise finance leases as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge (interest) and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is calculated to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

The Council recognises an asset under a finance lease in the Balance Sheet at an amount equal to the net investment of the lease.

Assets recognised under a finance lease are depreciated; the depreciation policy for leased assets is consistent with the policy for other property, plant and equipment. Where it is not certain that ownership of the asset will transfer at the end of the lease, the asset is depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and its useful economic life. After initial recognition, assets recognised under a finance lease are subject to accounting policies in the same way as any other asset.

As lessor, the Council derecognises the asset and show this as a long-term debtor. Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between a charge for the acquisition of capital (applied to write down the lease debtor) and finance income – which is credited to the Financing and Investment Income section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The Code required this income to be treated as a capital receipt and therefore, it is reversed out via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Receipts Reserve. For finance leases that existed at 31st March 2010, regulations allow these capital receipts to remain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

17.2. **Operating Leases**

Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received by the Council.

18. Current Assets and Liabilities

18.1. Short term Debtors and Creditors

With exception set out above (policy no 2), the Revenue and Capital accounts of the Council are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code and other relevant IASs. That is, sums due to or from the Council during the year are included, whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year.

18.2. Impairment Allowance for Bad and Doubtful Debts

The figure shown in the Statement of Accounts for Debtors is adjusted for bad debts. This amount is to provide for debts that are unlikely to be collected in future years. The percentage used to reduce the Debtors figure is based on historical evidence of collection and management judgements.

19. Contingent Assets and Contingent Liabilities

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Statement of Accounts. They are disclosed by way of notes if the inflow of a receipt or economic benefit is probable. Such disclosures indicate the nature of the contingent asset and an estimate of its financial effect.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the accounting statements. They are disclosed by way of notes if there is a possible obligation which may require a payment or a transfer of economic benefits. For each class of contingent liability, the nature of the liability is disclosed together with a brief description, an estimate of its financial effect, an indication of the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflow and the possibility of any reimbursement.

20. Short term and long-term Provisions

The Council sets aside provisions for specific liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but the amounts or the dates on which they will arise are uncertain. The value of the provision must be the best estimate of the likely liability or loss. When utilised, the payment is charged to Provisions and not to Service Expenditure.

21. Reserves

The Council holds Usable and Unusable Reserves. Usable Reserves give the Council discretion to meet expenditure without having a direct impact on Council Tax. In contrast, Unusable Reserves do not give the Council such discretion and are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and employee benefits.

Usable Reserves are created when the Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. These reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. No expenditure is charged directly to a reserve but is charged to the service revenue account within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; this is then offset by a reserve appropriation within the Movement in Reserves Statement. The exception is amounts required for the repayment of external loans and for financing capital expenditure from revenue sources. Where this applies, amounts are appropriated from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The General Fund Balance acts as a working contingency to meet unforeseen and unforeseeable costs including those relating to emergencies. Earmarked reserves, such as the repairs and renewals reserve, are for specific purposes. The Capital Receipts Reserve can only be used for certain statutory purposes such as financing capital expenditure.

The Major Repairs Reserve is required by statutory provision to be set up in relation to the Housing Revenue Account.

22. Employee Benefits

Three categories of employee benefits exist, under IAS 19 and IPSAS 25 Employee Benefits, as detailed below.

22.1. Benefits payable during employment

- Short-term employee benefits arise during a financial year or are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees, and are recognised as an expense for services in the year employees render service to the Council.
- Benefits earned by current employees but payable twelve months or more after the end of the reporting period such as, long-service leave or jubilee payments and long-term disability benefits.

Where considered of a material nature these are accrued.

22.2. Termination benefits including Exit Packages

This covers costs that are payable as a result of either an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date; or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. These are often lump-sum payments, but also include enhancement of

retirement benefits and salary until the end of a specified notice period, if the employee renders no further service that provides economic benefits to the entity.

In the event of notice of termination being served on an employee, the costs of redundancy are accrued to the year that the notice is served, but other costs will be charged to the year they are incurred. These costs are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or, where applicable, to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where the Council is committed to the termination of employment.

22.3. **Post-employment benefits**

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Code requires the Council to account for this benefit at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. The amount charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for employee's pensions is in accordance with IAS19 Retirement Benefits, subject to the interpretations set out in the Code. This is accounted for in the following ways:

- Pension liabilities, attributable to the Council, are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates and projected earnings for current employees etc.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the indicative rate of return.
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included on the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - Quoted securities – current bid price;
 - Unquoted securities – professional estimate;
 - Unitised securities – current bid price;
 - Property – market value.
- The change in net pensions liability is analysed into five components:
 - Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the service where employees worked.
 - Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the net cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the Non-Distributable Costs.
 - Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – the change during the period in the net liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time. This is debited/ (credited) to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Gains/losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or actions that reduce the expected future service or actuarial benefits of employees - debited to the net cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the Non-Distributable Costs.
 - 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 assumptions have been updated - debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Under IAS 19, the Council recognises as an asset or liability, the surplus/deficit in pension costs calculated in accordance with the standard. This surplus/deficit is the excess/shortfall of the value of assets when compared to the present value of the pension liabilities. Where the contributions paid into the Pension Fund do not match the change in the Council's recognised liability for the year, the recognised cost of pensions will not match the amount required to be raised in taxation. Any such mismatch is to be dealt with by an equivalent appropriation to or from the Pension Reserve together with any actuarial gains/losses. The difference between the recognised net pension liability and the amounts attributed to this Council in Kent County Pension Fund are shown in the Balance Sheet as Pensions Liability and this is offset by the Pensions Reserve (an adverse balance).

The Local Government Pension Scheme, applicable to this Council, is administered locally by Kent 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 pension's liabilities with investment assets over the average future working life of its employees.

Contributions to the pension scheme are determined by the Fund's actuary on a triennial basis. The latest formal valuation of the Kent County Pension Fund was at 31 March 2023 and changes to contribution rates as a result of that valuation will take effect on 1 April 2023.

23. Financial Instruments

The Code has significant disclosure requirements relating to Financial Instruments (e.g. loans and investments). They relate to the identification of the various types of Financial Instruments, gains and losses arising from transactions during the year, comparative valuation statements, and the assessment of risks associated with holding Financial Instruments.

Detailed disclosure of the Council's holding of Financial Instruments is included in Note 22.

23.1. Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure classification 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 reconciliation of amounts charged to the Financing and Investment Income section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed in the Movement in Reserves Statement by a transfer to or from Unusable Reserves (Financial Instruments Adjustment Account).

23.2. 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)

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure sections in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) 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 authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement. Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section in the CIES.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit of Loss (FVPL)

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

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 in accordance with the following three levels:

Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.

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

Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset. Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI) It is the policy of the Council that certain equity assets will be designated as Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income. Designation is considered when the investment would normally fall into the Fair Value through Profit of Loss classification, the investment meets the definition of an equity instrument and is not held for trading.

Any designation is determined so that a reliable accounting policy is maintained for the investment reflecting the long term strategical nature of each investment. Designation is irrevocable so that gain/losses in movements in fair value are not recognised in usable reserves until the investment matures or is sold.

23.3. **Financial Instrument Risk**

The Code requires Authorities to estimate the “Fair Value” of their Financial Instruments and compare them with the carrying amounts which appear on the Balance Sheet. The Fair Value estimate will include the future discounted cash flows associated with the Councils’ Financial Instruments as at 31 March and should reflect prevailing interest rates as at that date.

The Code identifies the following three types of risk associated with Financial Instruments:

- (a) Credit risk
- (b) Liquidity risk
- (c) Market risk

The Code requires Authorities to produce a sensitivity analysis, detailing the impact of a 1% interest rate change. A full assessment of these risks, including the sensitivity analysis, is included in Note 23.

These disclosure requirements are equally applicable to outstanding debtors, see Note 24 for an analysis of debtors. In addition to this, a provision for impairment is also included in the Statement.

24. **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value and are shown on the Balance Sheet at their nominal value; these include investments that can be accessed immediately without incurring a penalty, such as call accounts. Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of any bank overdraft that forms part of the Council’s cash management.

25. **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available Property Plant and Equipment needed to provide the services, passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as the ownership of the Property Plant and Equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contract at no charge, the Council carries the Property Plant and Equipment used under the contract on the Balance Sheet.

The original recognition of these Property Plant and Equipment was balanced by the recognition of a liability, for the amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the assets, net of any capital contributions made.

The stock is recognised at current value less the EUV-SH factor and additions are measured at cost, as per the contractor model. Lifecycle costs are accounted for when they occur.

Property Plant and Equipment recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as Property, Plant and Equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators will be analysed into the following elements:

- Fair value of the services received during the year;
- Finance charge – an interest charge on the balance sheet liability;
- Payment towards the liability.

26. **Group Accounts**

Group Accounts are prepared in accordance with IFRS 10 (consolidated financial statements) and IFRS 12 (disclosure of interest in other entities), where it is considered that the Council has a material interest in subsidiaries.

Where applicable the following principles will be followed:

Basis of Consolidation

Group Accounts will be prepared on the basis of a full consolidation of the financial transactions and balances of the Council and a relevant subsidiary. Any gains and losses arising from a subsidiary will be fully reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and Cashflow Statement within the Group column.

Accounting Policies

Group Accounts will be prepared using consistent accounting policies where possible; where there are conflicting policies with IFRS requirements, then the requirements of the Code of practice for Local Authority accounting will be adopted for consolidation purposes.

Where Intra-group charges occur, they will be removed during consolidation of the accounts.

The decision to group account is determined by Qualitative and Quantitative materiality, therefore when considering whether to group, not only the values are relevant, the interest to all stakeholders is also taken into account.

27. **Exceptional Items and Prior Year Adjustments**

Exceptional items are included in the cost of the service to which they relate, or on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, if that degree of prominence is necessary in order to give a fair presentation of the accounts. An adequate description of each exceptional item is given within the notes to the accounts.

Prior year adjustments arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. When either of the circumstances applies, the Council will show the extent of the adjustment in a table, reconciling the adjusted opening and closing balances and/or comparative amounts shown for a prior period.

28. **Events after the Balance Sheet Date**

Where an event occurs after the Balance Sheet date, favourable or unfavourable, which provides evidence of conditions that existed at the Balance Sheet date, the amounts in the Statement of Accounts and any affected disclosures should be adjusted.

Where an event occurs after the Balance Sheet date and is indicative of conditions that arose after the Balance Sheet date, the amounts recognised in the Statement of Accounts should not be adjusted but a disclosure made, including:

- the nature of the event;
- an estimate of the financial effect.

Events after the Balance Sheet date should be reflected up to the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue, as per the approved policies by the council.

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but not adopted

The Code requires disclosure of the impact (where material), of changes to accounting standards which have been issued but not yet adopted.

The accounting standards which have been issued but not yet adopted in the 2022/23 financial statements are listed below.

Adoption of these standards is not expected to have a material impact on the Council's financial statements. The revised standard IFRS 16 on leases became effective on 1 January 2019 but implementation has now been deferred to 2024/25.

- Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council has an interest in three subsidiary companies currently operating. Following an assessment, the Council consolidated, Ashford International Development Company Limited, A Better Choice for Property Limited, and its subsidiary, A Better Choice of Property Development, based on materiality.

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

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023, for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year, are shown in the following table.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from assumptions
Pensions	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements, relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets.</p> <p>A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.</p>	<p>A 0.5% change in the discount rate would result in a change in the liability of £11.2m.</p> <p>A 1 year change in the mortality assumption would result in a £5.5m change in the pension liability.</p>
NNDR appeals liability	<p>From April 2013, the Council has been responsible for refunding successful appeals against past NNDR liabilities. Business Rates were revalued as at April 2017, therefore estimates of the possible effects on this council have been taken into account in these accounts and future funding assumptions.</p> <p>In regards to the provision for appeals, estimates have been calculated using the following methods, for each valuation list: (1) for the 2010 valuation list an estimate of successful appeals has been calculated using the Council's historic experience of appeals this has an average success rate of 29%. (2) There is not yet sufficient evidence to calculate the 2017 valuation list,</p>	<p>If the level of successful appeals exceeds the assumptions already made, the cost will be met from future budgets.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from assumptions
	therefore ABC has taken a prudent approach and used 2.7% of Net Rates Payable, where necessary appropriate provisions will be made for specific national appeals.	
Recovery of Benefit over-payments	These accounts assume that the Council will continue to be able to recover overpaid benefit from Benefit Claimants.	Should the changes being considered by the Government restrict the ability of local authorities to pursue such debts, write-offs of uncollected debt will have to be met from future budgets.
PPE - Property valuations	We are still in a period of uncertainty in relation to many economic factors from the withdrawal from EU. The effect by reference to transactions in the property marketplace is difficult to gauge. It will certainly require valuations to be kept under regular review.	If the valuations were made under different assumptions, there could be significant changes in the accounts.
PPE Property Assets	Property valuations will need to be kept under regular review. Valuations are therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Red Book Global. Consequently, less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuations.	If the valuations were made under different assumptions, there could be significant changes in the accounts. A 1% change in valuations would result in an overall movement in valuations of Council Dwellings £4.3m, Land and Buildings £1.6m and Surplus Assets £64,000.

Item		Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pensions – Property Assets	As with the property valuation's the Kent Pension Fund is also disclosing a material valuation uncertainty in respect of the directly held property and pooled property investment valuations. The pension fund has 10% of its overall assets invested in property funds. As at Note 30, for Ashford this represents a value of £13,685,000.	Any impact to property valuations could see a decline in returns.

5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

The tables below include outturns for adjustments for the whole authority, including HRA and General Fund:

2022/23 Expenditure and Funding Analysis	As reported for resource Management	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to GF and HRA balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the GF and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Finance and IT	1,549	2,301	3,850	175	4,025
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	389	(62)	327	196	523
Housing	2,197	(1,684)	513	1,544	2,057
Safety Wellbeing and Port	925	(1,260)	(335)	1,994	1,659
Environment, Property and Recreation	6,522	(691)	5,831	3,762	9,593
Planning and Development	2,524	344	2,868	175	3,043
Corporate Management Costs	1,492	(14)	1,478	33	1,511
Head of Economic Development	660	536	1,196	23	1,219
Head of Performance and Policy	1,335	473	1,808	25	1,833
Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	242	48	290	41	331
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	74	(16,754)	(16,680)	(6,603)	(23,283)
Non distributed costs	0	1,907	1,907	69	1,976
Net Cost of Service	17,909	(14,856)	3,053	1,434	4,487
Other Income & Expenditure	(530)	6,978	6,448	(25,314)	(18,866)
(Surplus) or deficit	17,379	(7,878)	9,501	(23,880)	(14,379)
Opening GF and HR Balance 31 March 2022			(43,340)		
Closing GF and HRA Balance 31 March 2023			(33,839)		

Expenditure and Funding Analysis continued

Restated 2021/22 expenditure and Funding Analysis	As reported for resource Management	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to GF and HRA balances	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the GF and HRA Balances	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the CIES
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive					
Director of Finance & Economy					
Director of Law & Governance					
Director of Place & Space					
Local Authority Housing (HRA)					
Non distributed costs					
Finance and IT	2,402	(2,445)	(41)	431	390
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisati	459	(109)	350	335	686
Housing	1,231	(693)	538	1,137	1,675
Safety Wellbeing and Port	1,101	2,219	3,320	1,242	4,562
Environment, Property and Recreation	6,521	(701)	5,820	(4,686)	1,134
Planning and Development	2,782	(1,077)	1,705	423	2,128
Corporate Management Costs	568	255	823	69	892
Head of Economic Development	656	(438)	218	63	281
Head of Performance and Policy	1,387	(28)	1,359	70	1,429
Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	414	(28)	384	133	517
Local Authority Housing	3,554	(18,866)	(15,312)	29,459	14,146
Non distributed costs	0	2,110	2,110	70	2,180
Net Cost of Service	21,075	(19,801)	1,274	28,746	30,020
Other Income & Expenditure	(4,109)	12,772	8,663	(32,170)	(23,507)
(Surplus) or deficit	16,966	(7,029)	9,937	(3,424)	6,513
Opening GF and HR Balance 31 March 2021			(53,277)		
Closing GF and HRA Balance 31 March 2022			(43,340)		

Restatement due to restructuring of Council and reporting at the Service Structure level.

6. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2022/23	Depreciation/ impairment reported at Directorate level £'000	Other adjustments in relation to management reporting £'000	Total to arrive at the amount charged to the GF and HRA £'000	Adjustments for capital purposes £'000	Net change for the Pension Adjustment £'000	Net change for Pooled Investments £'000	Net change for Collection Fund Section 31 Grant £'000	Total Adjustment between funding and accounting basis £'000
Finance and IT	(40)	2,341	2,301	41	134	0	0	175
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	(133)	71	(62)	133	63	0	0	196
Housing	(43)	(1,641)	(1,684)	1,470	74	0	0	1,544
Safety Wellbeing and Port	(137)	(1,123)	(1,260)	1,777	217	0	0	1,994
Environment, Property and Recreation	(2,182)	1,491	(691)	3,640	122	0	0	3,762
Planning and Development	(42)	386	344	42	133	0	0	175
Corporate Management Costs	0	(14)	(14)	0	33	0	0	33
Head of Economic Development	(5)	541	536	5	18	0	0	23
Head of Performance and Policy	0	473	473	0	25	0	0	25
Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	0	48	48	0	41	0	0	41
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(7,590)	(9,164)	(16,754)	(6,725)	122	0	0	(6,603)
Non distributed costs	0	1,907	1,907	0	69	0	0	69
Net Cost of Service	(10,172)	(4,684)	(14,856)	383	1,051	0	0	1,434
Other Income & Expenditure	0	6,974	6,974	(25,732)	1,263	4,403	(5,243)	(25,309)
Total	(10,172)	2,290	(7,882)	(25,349)	2,314	4,403	(5,243)	(23,875)

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis continued

Restated 2021/22	Depreciation/ impairment reported at Head level	Other adjustments in relation to management reporting	Total to arrive at the amount charged to the GF and HRA	Adjustments for capital purposes	Net change for the Pension Adjustment	Net change for Pooled Investments	Other differences	Total Adjustment between funding and accounting basis
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Finance and IT	(20)	(2,425)	(2,445)	20	411	0	0	431
HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digitalisation	(126)	17	(109)	124	211	0	0	335
Housing	(30)	(663)	(693)	915	222	0	0	1,137
Safety Wellbeing and Port	(180)	2,399	2,219	540	702	0	0	1,242
Environment, Property and Recreation	(1,752)	1,051	(701)	(5,123)	437	0	0	(4,686)
Planning and Development	(32)	(1,045)	(1,077)	32	391	0	0	423
Corporate Management Costs	0	255	255	(3)	72	0	0	69
Head of Economic Development	(5)	(433)	(438)	5	58	0	0	63
Head of Performance and Policy	0	(28)	(28)	0	70	0	0	70
Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	0	(28)	(28)	2	133	0	0	135
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(7,173)	(11,693)	(18,866)	29,067	392	0	0	29,459
Non distributed costs	0	2,110	2,110	0	70	0	0	70
Net Cost of Service	(9,318)	(10,483)	(19,801)	25,579	3,169	0	0	28,748
Other Income & Expenditure	0	12,772	12,772	(23,609)	1,786	(2,425)	(7,922)	(32,170)
Total	(9,318)	2,289	(7,029)	1,970	4,955	(2,425)	(7,922)	(3,422)

Telling the story - Prior year adjustment of statement

This year the presentation of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement has changed, during 2022/23 Ashford Borough Council implemented a restructure of the organisation.

Restatement of the 2021/22 CIES cost of services.

	Ashford Port Health	Corporate Core	Corp. Policy, Eco. Dev. & Comm.	Community Safety and Wellbeing	Hr & Customer Services	Legal & Democratic Services	Corporate Property & Projects	Finance & Ict	Housing Services	Culture	Environmental & Land Management	Planning	Health, Parking & Comm Safety	Local Authority Housing	Non distributed costs	Cost of service
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Ad Finance And It								439								439
Ad Hr And Customer Services, Comms And Digitilisation			537		173											710
Ad Housing							77		1,627							1,704
Ad Safety Wellbeing And Port	2,947												1,699			4,646
Ad Env, Property And Recreation							(205)			(6,162)	4,953					(1,414)
Ad Planning And Development												2,178				2,178
Corporate Management Costs		790					111									901
Head Of Economic Development			507							(220)						287
Head Of Performance And Policy			283							338						1,438
Solicitor To The Council And Monitoring Officer							532									532
Local Authority Housing														14,190		14,190
Non distributed costs															2,178	2,178
Cost of service	2,947	790	1,327	0	173	1,460	(128)	439	1,627	(6,044)	4,953	2,178	1,699	14,190	2,178	27,789

7. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

2021/22		2022/23
Totals per CI&ES		Totals per CI&ES
£'000		£'000
(46,609)	Fees, charges and other service income	(52,098)
(34,516)	Grants	(36,942)
(81,125)	Total Income	(89,040)
27,552	Employees	31,646
13,379	Premises	14,299
45,136	Supplies and Services	46,702
792	Transport	868
(11,680)	Recharged to other accounts	(14,690)
10,354	Recharged from other accounts	11,329
25,610	Capital Charges	3,368
4	Transfers To/From Reserves	5
111,147	Total Expenditure	93,527
30,022	Cost of Services	4,487
2,559	Parish Council Precepts & Levies	2,788
485	Payments to housing capital receipts pool	0
(1,873)	Gain or loss on disposal of non-current assets	(1,637)
5,216	Interest payable and similar charges	10,518
1,786	Pension interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	1,263
(5,114)	Interest receivable and similar income	(3,518)
(10,499)	Council Tax income	(11,106)
521	Non-domestic rates	(2,007)
(6,920)	Section 31 Grant - Collection Fund	(5,126)
(5,530)	Non-ringfenced government grants	(1,460)
(4,138)	Capital grants and contributions	(8,577)
6,515	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	(14,375)
(60,709)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(126,408)
(54,194)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(140,783)

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of service income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

8. Members' Allowances

The Authority paid the following amounts to Members of the Council during the year:

2021/22		2022/23	
£'000		£'000	
382	Allowances	386	
2	Expenses	4	
<u>384</u>		<u>390</u>	

9. Officers' Remuneration

This note provides the details of Senior Officers' remuneration and the numbers of employees whose remuneration falls into the categories shown. 'Remuneration' for this purpose, means taxable pay, and includes the tax value of other benefits e.g. leased cars, and termination payments.

Senior Employee Remuneration 2022/23

2022/23		Pay & expenses	Benefits in kind	Total	Pension contributions	Total remuneration
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	+	139	0	139	24	163
Deputy Chief Executive	+	109	0	109	19	128
Assistant Director Place, Space & Leisure		90	0	90	15	105
Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing		90	0	90	15	105
Assistant Director Customer, Technology & Finance		89	0	89	15	104
Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer	+	67	11	78	12	90
Head of Economic Development		67	0	67	12	79
Head of Policy & Performance		66	0	66	12	78
		<u>717</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>728</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>852</u>

+ Officers that also fulfil statutory roles.

Senior Employee Remuneration 2021/22 comparators

2021/22		Pay & expenses	Benefits in kind	Total	Pension contributions	Total remuneration
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	+	143	0	143	25	168
Corporate Director (Finance & Economy)	+	98	0	98	17	115
Corporate Director (Law & Governance)	+	66	11	77	12	89
Head of Planning & Development		74	0	74	13	87
Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Developpr *		59	0	59	10	69
Head of Health, Parking & Community		80	0	80	13	93
Head of Environment & Land Management		74	0	74	13	87
Head of Corporate Property & Projects		74	0	74	13	87
Head of HR & Customer Services		74	0	74	13	87
Head of Housing		74	0	74	13	87
Head of Finance & IT		73	0	73	13	86
Head of Cultural Services		72	4	76	13	89
		<u>961</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>1,144</u>

+ Officers that also fulfil statutory roles.

* Left 16th January 2022

Other Employee Remuneration by Band

2021/22		2022/23
<i>nos</i>	Remuneration bands	<i>nos</i>
21	£50,000 - £54,999	27
13	£55,000 - £59,999	19
15	£60,000 - £64,999	7
2	£65,000 - £69,999	9
0	£70,000 - £74,999	1
0	£75,000 - £79,999	6 *
0	£80,000 - £84,999	0
0	£120,000 - £124,999	0
<u>51</u>		<u>69</u>

If figures are marked with an * this indicates bands which include officers who have received redundancy payments within their remuneration for the year.

The bandings only include the remuneration of senior employees and relevant officers that have not been disclosed individually within the Senior Employee Remuneration table above.

10. Termination Benefits

The Authority terminated the contracts of employees in 2022/23 incurring liabilities of £230,571 (£9,539 in 2021/22).

2021/22			2022/23	
Voluntary <i>nos</i>	Compulsory <i>nos</i>	Exit package cost band (including special payments)	Voluntary <i>nos</i>	Compulsory <i>nos</i>
2	1	£0 - £19,999	7	1
		£20,000 - £39,999	3	
		£40,000 - £59,999		2
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total number included in bandings and in CIES	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>

11. External Audit Costs

In 2022/23, Ashford Borough Council paid the following fees relating to external audit and inspection:

2021/22 <i>£'000</i>		2022/23 <i>£'000</i>
56	Fees payable with regard to external Audit services carried out by the appointed Auditor for the year	86
24	Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns	24
<u>80</u>		<u>110</u>

12. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following material government grants and contributions to the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2021/22			2022/23	
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
		<i>Credited to Net Cost of Services</i>		
2,639		CLG: Homeless Initiatives including Refugee Project	3,591	
135		CLG: Major Sites Planning Grant	620	
172		DWP: Discretionary Housing Payments	94	
584		DWP: Benefit Administration Subsidy	503	
23,818		DWP: Benefits Subsidy	23,333	
26		Home Office: Community Safety	50	
2,257		DFT: Port Infrastructure Grant	6,269	
1,763		Covid Grant Paid as Principal	524	
2,829	34,223	Other government grants	1,656	36,640
272		KCC: Recycling Credits	272	
100		Funding For CT Family Annex Scheme	121	
	372			393
	34,595			37,033
		<i>Credited to Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income</i>		
		Non-ringfenced government grants:		
87		Rate Support Grant	87	
6,920		S31 Grant NNDR	5,126	
930		S31 Grant - Other	(931)	
2,505		Covid Support Grants	297	
1,908		New Homes Bonus	1,886	
4,138	16,488	Capital grants and contributions	8,577	15,042
	51,083			52,075

13. General Fund Reserves

This note sets out the split of General Fund reserve balances to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in year.

	Balance at 31	2022/23		Balance at 31
	March 2022	Transfers In	Transfers Out	March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General fund general reserves	(2,601)	0	0	(2,601)
<u>Earmarked general fund reserves</u>				
Recovery Project Reserve (now including Victoria Park)	(1,094)	(0)	333	(761)
Improvement Delivery Fund	(3,000)	(1,886)	87	(4,799)
Fund Future Expenditure (Risk, Legislation, Transformation)	(13,834)	(1,268)	6,570	(8,532)
Economic Growth and Risk Fund	(8,344)	3,031	3,257	(2,056)
Climate Change Delivery Fund	(2,000)	(0)	1,105	(895)
Provide for Maintenance of Assets	(4,932)	(783)	1,853	(3,862)
Required by Statute Reserves and other ring fenced amounts	(4,141)	(3,764)	1,019	(6,886)
Developer contributions	(1,274)	(238)	109	(1,403)
	<u>(38,619)</u>	<u>(4,909)</u>	14,334	<u>(29,194)</u>

	Balance at 31	2021/22		Balance at 31
	March 2021	Transfers In	Transfers Out	March 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General fund general reserves	(2,562)	(39)	0	(2,601)
<u>Earmarked general fund reserves</u>				
Fund future expenditure	(36,397)	(5,468)	10,216	(31,649)
Provide for the maintenance of an asset	(5,657)	(1,360)	1,393	(5,624)
Required by statute reserves	(102)	0	30	(72)
Developer contributions	(1,370)	(26)	122	(1,274)
	<u>(43,526)</u>	<u>(6,854)</u>	11,761	<u>(38,619)</u>

The reserves opening balances were re-profiled into the new reserve allocations that were reviewed as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process to better reflect the current emerging risks. 2021/22 comparative figures have not been restated as it would not be a true representation on how the Council looked at the reserves categories at that point in time.

The Purpose of the Earmarked Reserves

The Council has established a number of earmarked reserves for specific purposes. These reserves broadly fall into four classifications:

Fund future expenditure – These have been established specifically to manage fluctuations in expenditure in the future or provide for specific risks that may need to be funded. Examples of these reserves are:

- Elections reserve
- Economic risk reserve
- Planning appeals

- Section 106 monitoring fee
- £1.5m is earmarked for collection fund deficits.

Recovery Project reserve – Is used to support projects coming forward that do not fit the criteria of other reserves.

Improvement Delivery Fund – Will be used to focus on delivering projects in the more deprived areas, and those further afield in the Borough.

Fund Future Expenditure (Risks, Legislation and Transformation) – This reserve is to manage unforeseen risk that may come from legislative changes that could impact on the activities of the Council or funding streams, such as the New Homes Bonus and Fair Funding review.

Economic Growth and Risk Fund – This fund is held to support short and medium term risk that may arise as a result of the current economic conditions. As risks dissipate then these reserves can be redistributed.

Climate Change Delivery Fund – Will be used to support projects the support the reduction of Carbon within the Borough.

Provide for the maintenance of an asset – A general reserve has been established to provide for the maintenance of the Council's assets, in addition to this a number of leases require the Council to put aside money to cover future maintenance liabilities.

Required by statute reserves – A number of the Council's revenue generating activities are governed by statutory provisions that require the Council to breakeven over a number of years. Any surplus generated by these activities is allocated to these reserves to offset future deficits, for example land charges and building control surplus.

Developer contributions – As part of the Planning process developers can be required to pay sums to the Council for the provision and maintenance of community facilities and open space. Often the payment of these amounts occurs over a number of years and is linked to the progress of the development. These monies are held in reserves until needed.

14. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant & Equipment 2022/23	Council dwellings	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infra-structure assets	Community assets	Surplus assets	Assets under construction	Total property, plant & equipment	PFI assets included in Property, plant & equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>Cost or Valuation</i>									
1 April 2022	378,965	141,927	4,359	2,496	1,716	4,078	10,274	543,815	28,489
Additions	5,811	580	1,611	0	0	1,708	8,819	18,529	17
Revaluation recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	39,620	8,073	0	0	0	630	0	48,323	5,287
Revaluation recognised in the Provision of Services	3,016	7,764	0	0	0	41	0	10,821	(459)
Derecognition - disposals	(1,573)	(40)	0	0	0	0	(1,820)	(3,433)	(76)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	(486)	0	0	0	0	0	(486)	0
Transfer between classes of Assets	3,850	3,863	0	0	0	0	(7,464)	249	0
31 March 2023	429,689	161,681	5,970	2,496	1,716	6,457	9,809	617,818	33,258
<i>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</i>									
1 April 2022	0	(3,143)	(2,019)	(47)	(229)	(14)	0	(5,452)	0
Depreciation charge	(7,538)	(2,081)	(419)	(11)	0	(4)	0	(10,053)	(459)
Depreciation written out - Revaluation Reserve	7,528	1,317	0	0	0	3	0	8,848	459
Derecognition - disposals	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
31 March 2023	1	(3,906)	(2,438)	(58)	(229)	(15)	0	(6,645)	0
<i>Net book value</i>									
31 March 2023	429,690	157,775	3,532	2,438	1,487	6,442	9,809	611,173	33,258
31 March 2022	378,965	138,785	2,340	2,449	1,487	4,064	10,274	538,364	22,713

Property, Plant and Equipment continued

Property, Plant & Equipment 2021/22	Council dwellings	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant, furniture & equipment	Infra-structure assets	Community assets	Surplus assets	Assets under construction	Total property, plant & equipment	PFI assets included in Property, plant & equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>Cost or Valuation</i>		Restated				Restated			
1 April 2021 Restated	337,966	121,003	3,856	2,496	1,716	2,330	19,403	488,770	22,713
Additions	7,770	3,196	513	0	0	1,758	23,372	36,609	6
Revaluation recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	29,595	5,516	0	0	0	337	0	35,448	6,108
Revaluation recognised in the Provision of Services	(12,974)	(2,013)	0	0	0	(347)	0	(15,334)	(338)
Acc Depreciation & Impairment written out									
Derecognition - disposals	(2,165)	(29)	(10)	0	0	0	0	(2,204)	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	526	0	0	0	0	0	526	0
Transfer between classes of Assets	18,773	13,728	0	0	0	0	(32,501)	0	0
31 March 2022	378,965	141,927	4,359	2,496	1,716	4,078	10,274	543,815	28,489
<i>Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment</i>									
1 April 2021	(13)	(2,364)	(1,606)	(36)	(229)	(14)	0	(4,262)	0
Depreciation charge	(7,045)	(1,789)	(422)	(11)	0	0	0	(9,267)	(339)
Depreciation written out - Revaluation Reserve	7,033	989	0	0	0	0	0	8,022	339
Derecognition - disposals	20	0	9	0	0	0	0	29	0
Other movements in Depreciation and Impairment	5	22	0	0	0	0	0	27	0
31 March 2022	0	(3,142)	(2,019)	(47)	(229)	(14)	0	(5,451)	0
<i>Net book value</i>									
31 March 2022	378,965	138,785	2,340	2,449	1,487	4,064	10,274	538,364	28,489
31 March 2021 Restated	337,953	118,639	2,250	2,460	1,487	2,316	19,403	484,508	22,713

Surplus Assets

Land at Cudworth Road, Repton Park, Ninn Lane and Alpha Blinds site have been purchased and to be held in the surplus category whilst plans for redevelopment are being established. A deposit has been paid for the site at Kent Wool Growers, which both will remain in this category until future development is decided upon. Orchard Cottage at Tile Kiln Lane and 55 Mabledon have been transferred to Land and Buildings as works have commenced on these two sites.

The surplus assets have been valued using IFRS13 fair value level 2 as there are significant observable inputs using land prices in the Local Authority area.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
62	Bockhanger Site	62
725	Torrington Road Ex-Allotment Site	725
607	Land at Coneybeare, Torrington Road	607
393	Land at Blinds Groom Lane	444
208	Court Wurtin Flats	225
419	Mecca	439
	Site Mabledon Avenue	0
	Site Orchard Cottage, Tile Kiln Road	0
550	Land at St Stephens Walk	550
1,100	The Vicarage Rolvenden	1,100
0	Cudworth Road	636
0	Repton Park	225
0	Ninn Lane	850
0	Alpha Blinds	180
0	Kent Wool Growers	400
<u>4,064</u>		<u>6,443</u>

Movement of Surplus Assets	1st April	Additions & disposals	Transfer between classes of assets	Revaluation gains/ losses	31st March
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022/23	4,064	1,705		674	6,443
2021/22	4,991	1,758	(2,676)	(10)	4,064
2020/21	4,934	0	22	35	4,991

Asset Valuation

A valuation exercise and impairment review was completed by external qualified (RICS) valuers, Wilks Head and Eve LLP, in accordance with the relevant guidance. Valuation movements are reviewed and challenged where significant movement has occurred.

Depreciation

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

- Council Dwellings – the useful life of 50 years (previously used the Major Repairs Allowance as a proxy for depreciation between 25-60 years)
- Other Land and Buildings – the useful life estimated by a qualified valuer between 15-60 years
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment – subject to professional view on life generally between 5-15 years.
- Infrastructure – the useful life estimated between 15-60 years

15. Revaluation Gains and Impairments

There have been valuation movements of the HRA Dwellings. Please see the HRA supplementary statement, note 6 on page 95.

General Fund assets were revalued as at 31st March 2023. Overall there have been upward revaluations of £1,334,585.94 recognised through the Revaluation Reserve and downwards revaluation movements of £4,652,297.24 written out through the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement.

Assets were valued, using information available at 28 February 2023 based on expected valuations as at 31 March 2023. The valuers have confirmed the valuations did not significantly move between the 28 February and year-end.

16. Investment Properties (Group Accounts)

Investment properties are wholly owned with the A Better Choice for Property Ltd and 65% owned with Ashford International Development Company. Property valuations were made by an independent valuer Sibley Pares (Taylor Riley) Limited, external qualified (RICS) valuers and are reflected in the group statement and the tables below.

The accuracy of the fair value measurement is classified by 'fair value levels' which are shown under financial instruments at note 22, the valuation of the property portfolio is assessed at level 2.

For the Development Company and Ashford International Development Company the works are valued as inventory as the Company is planning to dispose of the assets once completed, the total is therefore shown separately from the Property Company investment properties.

The cashflow statement has the movements to reflect these purchases.

Group Position 2021/22 £'000		Group Position 2022/23 £'000
23,823	Property Portfolio - (A Better Choice for Property Ltd.)	24,087
11,270	Inventory - (A Better Choice for Property Development Ltd.)	12,477
0	Inventory - (Ashford International Development Company Ltd.)	13,302
<u>35,092</u>		<u>49,866</u>

Movements in Investment Property (A Better Choice for Property Ltd. and its subsidiary)	1st April £'000	Additions & disposals £'000	Revaluation gains/ losses £'000	31st March £'000
2021/22	33,357	506	1,229	35,092
2020/21	28,224	4,422	711	33,357
2019/20	26,560	1,664	1	28,224
2018/19	6,205	20,584	(229)	26,560
2017/18	4,043	2,039	123	6,205
2016/17	3,227	567	249	4,043
2015/16	1,096	2,019	112	3,227

Movements in Investment Property (Ashford International Development Company Ltd)	at acquisition date £'000	Additions & disposals £'000	Revaluation gains/ losses £'000	31st March £'000
2022/23	10,228	3,074		13,302

17. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets have been identified and disclosed in these accounts. The following assets are disclosed in the Balance Sheet:

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
4,996	Windmills at Woodchurch & Willesborough	4,997
250	Doctor Wilkes Hall	0
750	Hubert Fountain (Victoria Park)	750
266	Mayor's regalia, including mace and badges	266
96	Queen Marie Statue	96
<u>6,358</u>		<u>6,109</u>

During 2022/23, insurance valuations were sought resulting in no movement Dr Wilkes Hall has been declassified and transferred to Land and Buildings. This will now be valued with WHE accordingly.

18. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

This year the Capital Financing Requirement has slightly increased, mainly due to Victoria Park rejuvenation, Newtown Works project and the Decarbonisation Programme.

2021/22	2022/23
£'000	£'000
263,665	276,485
<i>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</i>	
<i>Capital investment:</i>	
36,609	22,684
248	195
427	2,000
928	1,232
	<i>Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute</i>
38,212	26,111
<i>Sources of Finance:</i>	
(3,718)	(2,070)
(3,232)	(7,685)
(2,081)	(4,220)
	<i>Major Repairs Reserve</i>
(9,031)	(13,975)
<i>Sums set aside from revenue and subsidiaries</i>	
(296)	(311)
(3,697)	(2,774)
(1,108)	(1,089)
(9,425)	(2,850)
(1,835)	(1,483)
	<i>- Minimum revenue provision (MRP)</i>
(16,361)	(8,507)
276,485	280,114
<i>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</i>	
<i>Explanation of movements in year</i>	
25,189	8,107
(12,368)	(5,422)
	<i>Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)</i>
12,821	2,685
	<i>Provision for the repayment of debt</i>

19. Capital Receipt

During the year the Council received £4m in capital receipts and used £2m to fund capital expenditure. At 31 March 2023, the Council had capital receipt reserves of £5.6m of which £4.1m is set aside for the provision of affordable housing.

2021/22	<i>Movements in year</i>	2022/23
£'000		£'000
(3,341)	Balance at 1 April	(3,986)
(5,100)	Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(4,048)
(38)	Other Capital Receipts not arising from the disposal of a non-current asset	(29)
3,717	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new Capital Expenditure	2,070
329	Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	352
486	Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government Capital Receipts Pool	0
(59)	Transfer from the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon the receipt of cash	(21)
20	Capital receipts to treated as revenue income	21
<u>(645)</u>	Movement in year	<u>(1,655)</u>
<u>(3,986)</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(5,641)</u>

20. Capital Grants

During the year the Council received £8.5m in capital grants of which £7.6m funded Capital Expenditure in year. At 31 March 2023, the Council had capital grant reserves of £1.6m.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
<u>(771)</u>	Balance at 1 April	<u>(1,676)</u>
0	Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	944
(3,232)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and applied in year	(7,685)
3,232	Capital grants and contributions applied in year credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	7,685
(905)	Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(891)
0	Other Adjustments	0
0	Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 12)	0
<u>(905)</u>	Movement in year	<u>53</u>
<u>(1,676)</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(1,623)</u>

21. Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2023, the Council had an approved capital programme for the next three years totalling £404m. The value of capital contractual commitments is £99m as detailed below:

31-Mar-22		31-Mar-23
£'000		£'000
0	Newtown Works	70,623
0	Stodmarsh	23,700
0	International House Roof	699
0	Victoria Park Rejuvenation	1,508
	<i>Housing Revenue Account - Major Projects</i>	
0	Hope House	2,543
0	The Hamlet S106	347

22. Financial Instruments

Equity instruments elected to fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) or profit and loss (FVPL)

The tables below identify investments that have recognised through FVPL and FVOCI and detail the annual movements in their fair value.

Equity instruments elected to fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

	Market Value as at 31/03/2022	(Sale) / Purchase of shares during the year	Change in Market Value during the year recognised in FVOCI	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Investment Interest	
					2022/23	2021/22
<i>Elected Fair value OCI</i>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
A Better Choice for Property Ltd*	2,290	203	182	2,675	0	0
Ashford International Development Company	0	1,427	(43)	1,384	0	0
Total	2,290	1,630	139	0	4,059	0

Equity instruments elected to fair value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

	Market Value as at 31/03/2022	(Sale) / Purchase of shares during the year	Change in Market Value during the year recognised in FVPL	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Investment Interest	
					2022/23	2021/22
<i>Not elected, fair value through profit and loss</i>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Aegon Diversified Monthly Income Fund	5,444	0	(640)	4,804	273	272
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	3,077	0	(273)	2,804	85	74
CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund	13,847	0	(2,283)	11,565	586	518
Goldman Sachs	54	0	(1)	53	0	0
Ninety One Diversified Income Fund	2,371	0	(133)	2,237	95	89
Payden and Regal	2,968	0	(41)	2,926	63	13
Schroder Income Maximiser Fund	3,512	0	(435)	3,077	231	213
UBS Global Income Fund	1,389	0	(155)	1,234	132	107
UBS Multi-Asset Income Fund	2,679	0	(444)	2,234	150	128
Total	35,341	0	(4,405)	30,934	1,615	1,414

Financial Instruments

Long-term	Current		Long-term	Current
31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
		Investments		
		<i>Investments</i>		
35,341	1,491	FVPL	30,937	4,155
0	0	Amortised cost	0	0
2,290	0	FVOCI*	4,058	0
		Unquoted equity investment at cost		
		Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss		
<u>37,631</u>	<u>1,491</u>	Total Investments	<u>34,995</u>	<u>4,155</u>
		Debtors		
33,259	17,588	Amortised cost	47,545	7,620
70,890	19,079	Total assets	82,540	11,775
		Borrowings		
(125,264)	(101,270)	Amortised cost	(120,664)	(118,503)
		Other Long-term Liabilities		
(16,687)	(1,089)	Amortised cost	(15,648)	(1,039)
		Creditors		
(119)	(22,466)	Financial liabilities	(118)	(38,789)
<u>(142,070)</u>	<u>(124,825)</u>	Total liabilities	<u>(136,430)</u>	<u>(158,331)</u>

Financial assets carried at contract amounts include loans to the Council's property and development companies, A Better Choice For Property Ltd and its subsidiary A Better Choice For Property Development Limited amounting to £33.8m as at 31 March 2023 (£32.1m as at 31 March 2022). These loans are secured against charges on the properties and land acquired by the Companies.

Financial Instruments – Gains and losses

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
5,216	Interest payable	10,515
(2,686)	Interest and Investment Income	(7,923)
(2,428)	Downward/upward revaluation of financial assets (FVPL)	4,405
(1,010)	Downward/upward revaluation of financial assets (FVOCI)*	139
<u>(908)</u>	Net gains/loss for the year	<u>7,136</u>

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Not all of the Financial Instruments are carried in the Balance Sheet at fair value. In particular, long-term loans, receivables and financial liabilities are carried at amortised cost.

Balance Sheet and fair values are shown in the tables below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – fair value is calculated from inputs other than those quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
- Level 3 – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated credit worthiness

Balance Sheet	Fair Value		Fair Value Level	Balance Sheet	Fair Value
31 March 2022	31 March 2022			31 March 2023	31 March 2023
£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
Financial Liabilities held at Amortised Cost:					
(125,264)	(130,927)	Long Term loans from PWLB	2	(120,664)	(104,555)
(17,776)	(22,160)	PFI Liabilities	3	(16,687)	(17,847)
(119)	(195)	Lease Payables	3	(118)	(259)
(143,159)	(153,282)	Subtotal where fair value is applicable		(137,469)	(122,661)
(22,466)	*	Short-term creditors		(38,789)	*
(101,270)	*	Short-term borrowing		(118,503)	*
(266,895)				(294,761)	

Balance Sheet	Fair Value		Fair Value Level	Balance Sheet	Fair Value
31 March 2022	31 March 2022			31 March 2023	31 March 2023
£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000
Financial assets held at fair value:					
1,388	1,388	Money market funds	1	5,984	5,984
21,494	21,494	Equity funds	1	19,370	19,370
13,847	13,847	Property fund	1	11,565	11,565
2,290	2,290	Shares in A Better Choice for Property Ltd.	3	2,675	2,675
0	0	Shares in Ashford International Development Co Ltd	3	1,384	1,384
39,020	39,020	Subtotal where fair value is applicable		40,977	40,977
Financial assets held at amortised cost:					
17,588	*	Short-term debtors		7,620	*
33,259	*	Long-term debtors		47,545	*
89,867				96,142	

* The fair value of trade and other receivables (e.g. debtors) is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Fair values have been determined with reference to Arlingclose or Bloomberg where applicable.

The fair value of shares in the Council's wholly owned subsidiary 'A Better Choice for Property Ltd. are equal to the total group equity of the company, as the Council is the sole shareholder.

Long term debtors are carried at amortised cost.

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

Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities for the year ended 31st March

	Long term borrowings	Short-term borrowings	Lease liabilities	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1 April 2022	(125,264)	(101,270)	(119)	(226,653)
Cash flows:				
- Repayment		141,100		141,100
- Proceeds	0	(153,000)		(153,000)
Non-cash:				
- Accruals		(734)		(734)
- Reclassification	4,600	(4,600)		0
31 March 2023	(120,664)	(118,504)	(119)	(239,287)

23. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Risk management in this area is carried out by a central treasury team and supported by specialist external advisor. Policies approved by the Council in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy provide provides written principles for risk management and has adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, and has set Treasury Management indicators to control key Financial Instrument risks in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code.

The Council's investment portfolio as at 31 March 2023 was as follows:

Credit Risk

<i>Counter party</i>	<i>Maturity date</i>	<i>Amount</i> <i>£'000</i>	<i>Credit rating</i>
<i>Deposits/investments with other financial institutions</i>			
Goldman Sachs	Instant	53	AAA
Payden Money Market Fund	3 Days Notice	2,926	AAA
UBS Multi Asset Income Fund	2 Days Notice	2,234	N/A
Ninety One Diversified Income Fund	2 Days Notice	2,237	N/A
UBS Global Income Equity Fund	2 Days Notice	1,234	N/A
Aegon Diversified Monthly Income Fund	2 Days Notice	4,804	N/A
Schroder Income Maximiser Fund	2 Days Notice	3,077	N/A
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	2 Days Notice	2,804	N/A
CCLA LAMIT Property Fund	Variable	11,565	N/A
Investment In A Better Choice for Property*	Variable	2,493	N/A
Black Rock Money Market Fund	Variable	0	AAA
BNP Paribas Money Market Fund	Variable	5,984	AAA
CCLA Public Sector Disposit Fund	Variable	0	AAA
HSBC Money Market Fund	Variable	0	AAA
Invesco Money Market Fund	Variable	0	AAA

Credit ratings are assigned to each investment using information from ratings agencies, or where formal ratings are not provided ratings are applied, where possible, based on the characteristics of the investment, such as money market funds. AAA, AA, A and BBB are considered investment grade products with AAA being the highest level, any investments below BBB would be considered non-investment grade and would not be entered into directly, unless it was the Council's banking provider.

The Code requires the Council to estimate the potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of defaults and collection rates over recent years. However, as the Council has not experienced any defaults on investments, the Council is unable to quantify its exposure with any degree of accuracy.

Credit risk arises from investments; some of the Council's customers commercial rent and trade debtors, excluding Council Tax and Business Rate debts.

The Council has not experienced any losses from default by counterparties in the past in relation to investments. The Council's investments are such that it does not expect any losses by any of its counterparties in relation to investments.

The table below compares the percentage of the Council's investment portfolio that was invested at each credit level at the beginning and at the end of the year.

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
	%	%
12	AAA	23
85	Unrated pooled Funds	71
3	Unrated Company	6

The overdue amount of sundry debtors held within the Council's systems can be analysed by age as follows:

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
1,165	Less than 30 days	1,048
13	31 days to 90 days	51
269	91 days to 364 days	75
742	More than 1 year	436
<u>2,191</u>		<u>1,610</u>
(992)	Impairment allowance	(612)

Liquidity Risk

As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise funds to meet its commitments. Instead, the risk is that the Council may have to re-invest a significant proportion of its investments at a time of unfavourable interest rates.

The PWLB has tightened its lending criteria in recent years and has made it clear that it will not support lending that is for the purpose of 'Debt for Yield' investments. The Council does not anticipate the changes to impact on any future borrowing need or be restricted from accessing the facility.

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

Market Risk interest rates/prices/exchange rates

The council is exposed to interest rate risk on some of its borrowing and if interest rates had been 1% higher or lower during the year, this would have resulted in an increase or decrease in variable investment income of £331,000 and an increase or decrease in variable loan payments of £1.053m. The Council's long-term borrowing is fixed rate and therefore a material movement is not anticipated. In relation to the movement in Investment this is an indicative figure as the movement in the long-term strategic investment are not directly linked to base rate movements.

Interest rates continued to rise during 2022/23 and therefore the Council will be paying considerably more for short term borrowing than in recent years. The Council will need to be mindful of the trajectory of short term rates and how this impacts upon debt expenses.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI or FVPL), either on a 12-month or lifetime basis.

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

The Council has considered its financial assets and considers any losses that would need to be set aside would be immaterial to the accounts.

The most significant asset considered is the loans that have been made to the Council's subsidiary A Better Choice for Property Ltd. which total £35m and these loans are secured against the assets of the business. The Council has considered the history of the loan repayments made by the company and is satisfied that no loan defaults will be made in the next 12 months. The council has also assessed the entity as low risk and has sufficient cash flows to meet its liabilities, the cash flows of the company have been shared with the Council as sole shareholder of the Company for review.

24. Debtors

These amounts were due to the Council:

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
	1,548	Central government bodies		1,696
		NHS bodies		
		Public corporations and trading funds		
		Other entities and individuals:		
1,766		- Housing Tenants	1,933	
(896)	870	Less : Impairment Allowance	(1,238)	695
2,414		- Local Taxpayers/ratepayers	3,059	
(825)	1,589	Less : Impairment Allowance	(877)	2,182
24,278		- Other	13,416	
(1,588)	22,690	Less : Impairment Allowance	(1,146)	12,270
	<u>26,697</u>	Balance at 31st March		<u>16,843</u>

Movement in Debtors

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
0	Benefit Subsidy owed by government	0
(374)	Other amounts owed by government	148
(288)	Amounts owed by housing tenants	167
(1,056)	Amounts owed by local taxpayers/ratepayers	645
175	Movement in payments in advance	175
(3,812)	Amounts owed by Sundry Debtors	(11,087)
1,092	Change in Impairment Allowance	48
16	Transfer from Long term Debtors	50
<u>(4,247)</u>	Movement in the year	<u>(9,854)</u>

25. Creditors

These amounts were due to be paid by the Council at 31 March 2023

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£'000		£'000
(28)	Central government bodies	(227)
	Other entities and individuals:	
(972)	- Housing Tenants	(810)
(294)	- Local Taxpayers	(322)
(587)	- Business Rate Payers	(624)
(1,202)	- Business Rates Pool	(2,006)
(5,433)	- Developer contributions	(2,169)
(29,435)	- Sundry Creditors	(19,070)
<u>(37,951)</u>		<u>(25,228)</u>

Movement in Creditors

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(5,701)	NNDR liability	9,319
5,869	Other amounts owed to government	(9,518)
0	Amounts owed to Other Local Authorities	0
304	Amounts owed by housing tenants	162
(10)	Amounts owed by local taxpayers	(28)
(243)	Amounts owed by Business Rate payers	(37)
(386)	Amounts owed to East Kent Cluster (Business Rate Pilot)	(804)
(861)	Change in Developer contributions	3,264
956	Amounts owed to Sundry Creditors	10,365
<u>(72)</u>	Movement in the year	<u>12,723</u>

26. Unusable Reserves

This category of reserves is held for statutory and accounting purposes, i.e. they are not available for the Council to finance expenditure. They are held for the following purpose:

- *Revaluation Reserve (see note (a))* - Store of gains on revaluation of Property Plant and Equipment not yet realised through sales.
- *Pooled Investment Financial Instruments* – this represents the reversal of movements in the fair value on investments recorded through profit and loss, which are then reversed through statutory override.
- *Capital Adjustment Account - (see note (b))* Store of capital resources set aside to meet past expenditure.
- *Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve* – This is the reserve representing the fair value of investment recognised through other comprehensive income.
- *Deferred Capital Receipts* - Recognises that amounts included in long term Debtors will produce capital receipts in the future.
- *Pensions Reserve* - Balancing account to allow inclusion of Pensions Liability in the Balance Sheet.
- *Collection Fund Adjustment Account* - Holds the balance owing to/from the Council at Balance Sheet date.
- *Accumulated Absences Reserve* - The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences between leave accrued but not taken.

Unusable Reserves	Revaluation balances				Adjustment accounts					Non-controlling Interest	Total Unusable Reserves (Group)	
	2022/23	Revaluation Reserve *	Pooled Investment Financial Instruments	Financial Instrument Revaluation reserve	Capital Adjustment Account *	Deferred Capital Receipts	Pensions Reserve	Collection Fund Adj Acc	Accum -ulated Absences			Total Unusable Reserves
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000
Balance at 31 March 2022	(188,877)	(2,304)	(1,501)	(112,312)	(1,368)	82,370	4,921	219	(218,852)	0	(221,032)	
<i>Movements in Reserves during the year</i>												
Non-controlling interest at acquisition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2,036)		
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	(264)	
Other comprehensive income & expenditure	(57,171)	0	(138)	0	0	(69,099)			(126,408)	0	(122,980)	
Total comprehensive income & expenditure	(57,171)	0	(138)	0	0	(69,099)	0	0	(126,408)	(2,021)	(123,244)	
Adj between accounting and funding basis				(20,451)	21	2,315	(5,243)	0	(23,358)	0	(23,358)	
Net movement before transfers to other reserves	(57,171)	0	(138)	(20,451)	21	(66,784)	(5,243)	0	(149,766)	(2,021)	(146,602)	
Transfers to/from other Unusable reserves	4,076	4,403		(4,075)	0				4,404	0	4,404	
Increase or decrease during the year	(53,095)	4,403	(138)	(24,526)	21	(66,784)	(5,243)	0	(145,362)	(2,021)	(142,198)	
Balance at 31 March 2023	(241,972)	2,099	(1,639)	(136,838)	(1,347)	15,586	(322)	219	(364,214)	(2,021)	(363,230)	

* Analysed in tables (a) and (b)

Unusable Reserves 2021/22	Revaluation balances			Adjustment accounts					Total Unusable Reserves £'000	Total Unusable Reserves (Group) £'000	
	Revaluation Reserve *	Pooled Investment Financial Instruments	Financial Instrument Revaluation reserve	Capital Adjustment Account *	Deferred Capital Receipts	Pensions Reserve	Collection Fund Adj Acc	Accum -ulated Absences			Total Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000
Balance at 31 March 2021	(146,672)	121	(491)	(112,243)	(1,427)	91,418	12,841	219	(156,234)	(157,185)	
<i>Movements in Reserves during the year</i>											
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services (accounting basis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,229)	
Other comprehensive income & expenditure	(45,695)	0	(1,010)			(14,004)			(60,709)	(60,709)	
Total comprehensive income & expenditure	(45,695)	0	(1,010)	0	0	(14,004)	0	0	(60,709)	(61,938)	
Adj between accounting and funding basis				3,424	59	4,956	(7,920)	0	519	519	
Net movement before transfers to other reserves	(45,695)	0	(1,010)	3,424	59	(9,048)	(7,920)	0	(60,190)	(61,419)	
Transfers to/from other Unusable reserves	3,490	(2,425)		(3,493)	0				(2,428)	(2,428)	
Increase or decrease during the year	(42,205)	(2,425)	(1,010)	(69)	59	(9,048)	(7,920)	0	(62,618)	(63,847)	
Balance at 31 March 2022	(188,877)	(2,304)	(1,501)	(112,312)	(1,368)	82,370	4,921	219	(218,852)	(221,032)	

* Analysed in tables (a) and (b)

(a) Revaluation Reserve:

2021/22			2022/23
£'000			£'000
	<i>Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>		
(37,674)	Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(48,323)	
(8,022)	Depreciation and downward revaluations written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(8,848)	
(45,696)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(57,171)
	<i>Transfers to/from Capital Adjustment Account</i>		
2,544	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	3,269	
1	Adjustment to opening balance between the reserves	0	
946	Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	807	
	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		4,076
(42,205)	Increase or decrease during year		(53,095)

(b) Capital Adjustment Account

2021/22			2022/23
£'000			£'000
(9,032)	Sources of Finance		(14,918)
(16,064)	Sums set-a-side for capital purposes		(8,195)
928	Revenue expenditure met from capital under statute		1,232
26,421	Removal of items not chargeable to Fund Balances		1,206
2,252	<i>Total accounting adjustments between funding basis under statute</i>		(20,675)
(3,448)	Adjustment with Revaluation Reserve		(4,076)
(1,196)	Increase or decrease during year		(24,751)

(c) Collection fund Adjustment Account Split between Council Tax and Business Rates (NNDR)

2021/22			2022/23	
Business Rates	Council Tax		Business Rates	Council Tax
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
12,783	58	Opening Balance	5,322	(402)
(12,765)	(58)	Reversal of Previous Year's Balance	(5,298)	402
(10)		Ashford Share of Renewable Energy	(9)	
5,314	(402)	Ashford's Share of in year (surplus) / deficit	(495)	158
5,322	(402)	Closing Balance	(480)	158

27. Leases

Council as a Lessor - Finance Leases

The Council has leased the Ashford Indoor Bowls Centre to the Ashford Indoor Bowls Centre Ltd; the lease is for the majority of the asset's life and therefore is to be treated as a finance lease. The remaining life of this lease is 32 years. The table below shows the income due on this lease:

	Principal receivable	Interest	Total lease payment
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Within 1 year	21	21	42
2 - 5 years	114	96	210
Later than 5 years	801	249	1,050
	<u>936</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>1,302</u>

This balance is held within the long-term debtor's line on the Balance Sheet.

Council as a Lessor - Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for different purposes. These include sports facilities, shops, and community assets. The income from these leases, over remaining life of the contracts, calculated at current levels, is detailed in the tables below.

The expected future income from the Park Mall current shop leases is detailed below:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
465	Within 1 year	438
1,443	2 - 5 years	1,099
199	Later than 5 years	140
<u>2,107</u>		<u>1,677</u>

The Council owns International House, which is Town Centre office space. The future income receivable for these leases is detailed below:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
878	Within 1 year	751
2,333	2 - 5 years	2,184
569	Later than 5 years	138
<u>3,780</u>		<u>3,073</u>

The Council also owns various smaller leases including industrial units, estate shops, and other small units.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,294	Within 1 year	1,426
3,702	2 - 5 years	3,768
1,857	Later than 5 years	1,828
<u>6,853</u>		<u>7,022</u>

The Council owns Elwick Place which is an entertainment complex featuring a cinema, hotel and a mixture of commercial units.

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
1,025	Within 1 year	907
4,101	2 - 5 years	3,629
11,606	Later than 5 years	10,375
<u>16,732</u>		<u>14,911</u>

28. Provisions

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(2,654)	Business Rates Appeals	(2,860)
(193)	Municipal Mutual Insurance	(188)
<u>(2,847)</u>		<u>(3,048)</u>

The reasons for movement in provisions are:

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
(1,193)	Additional provision made in year	(2,018)
987	Amounts used in year	1,817
<u>(206)</u>	Movement in the year	<u>(201)</u>

29. PFI and Similar Contracts

Stanhope PFI

On the 13 April 2007 the Council entered into a design, build, finance, and operate contract with the Chrysalis Consortium (the Contractor) for the provision of the regeneration of the Stanhope Estate and housing management services for the duration of the contract. The contract was for 30 years.

The total value of the contract (assuming an annual inflationary increase of 2.5%) was £140m, which included construction costs of £28m net of a capital contribution by the authority. The contract was benchmarked and reduced to £127m in 2011/12. A further benchmarking exercise in 2016/17 showed that the PFI was performing consistently within its peer group, therefore no changes were made to the calculations. A benchmarking exercise was also carried out in 2020/21, again this showed that the PFI was performing consistently within its peer group, therefore no changes were made to the calculations.

Details of the PFI assets held on the Balance Sheet are included in note 14.

Under the terms of the contract the Council is required to make the following payments to the Contractor:

- An annual unitary charge net of deductions for performance
- Capital contributions to infrastructure costs
- Pass through costs e.g. Disabled Facilities Grants.

These payments will be met from:

- The Council's existing revenue budget for the services, rental income and housing subsidy
- PFI Special Grant from Central Government.

The payments to the Provider will be subject to indexation RPIX and may vary by virtue of certain provisions within the contract. These primarily relate to the following:

- Performance and availability deductions
- changes in law which affect the costs of the service
- variations to the contract which are approved by the Council
- benchmarking of non-property related costs at agreed intervals (a benchmarking exercise was completed in 2020/21, with the next expected in 2025/26).

Analysis of minimum forecast Unitary Charge assuming 0% inflation

	Service cost £'000	Life Cycle Costs	Repayment of liability £'000	Interest cost £'000	Total payment £'000
Within 1 year	1,210	326	1,039	990	3,565
2 - 5 years	4,639	2,443	3,710	3,362	14,154
6 - 10 years	5,971	2,237	6,383	2,844	17,435
11 - 15 years	4,942	2,594	5,555	795	13,886
16 - 20 years	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>16,762</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>16,687</u>	<u>7,991</u>	<u>49,040</u>

The PFI contract transfers risks from the Council to the contractor, as the Council retains ownership of the assets the risk to the Council in event of a contractor default is low. The Council monitors performance of the contractor against a range of Key Performance Indicators and can deduct money from the unitary payment in the event that these measures are not achieved. A ratchet mechanism in the contract allows penalties to increase in the event of continued performance issues.

Extra Care Housing PFI

During 2007/08, the Council entered into a partnership arrangement with Kent County Council and nine other district councils within Kent to provide new homes for vulnerable people. The overall scheme is being funded by Public Finance Initiative credits over a 30-year period. In the event of the scheme ceasing the Council will be liable for:-

1. Contractor default, for example £4.125m in year 20
2. Force Majeure, for example £3.675m in year 20

Other Service Contracts

The Council has a refuse collection and street cleansing contract, which was entered into on 1 April 2014, and covers three Councils, the equipment can be used in any of the three areas, and therefore as the Council does not have exclusive use of the assets there will not be an embedded finance lease for the new contract. The total value of the contract is estimated to be £140m over 10 years to be allocated between the three contracting authorities, the contract has

been extended by another year to 2023/24 then the contract will go through the procurement process in 2024/25.

30. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Transactions relating to retirement benefits

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services, when employees earn these, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the difference is reversed out. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

2021/22 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £'000
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	
	<i>Service cost comprising:</i>	
7,368	- current service cost	5,824
0	- past service costs	482
80	Administration expenses	77
	<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>	
1,786	- net interest expense	1,263
9,234	Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,646
	<i>Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>	
	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
(915)	- return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in net interest expense)	3,737
	- Other actuarial gains/(Losses) on assets	(1,352)
(5,447)	- actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(572)
(6,718)	- actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(90,175)
(924)	- gains/losses on defined benefit obligation	18,782
(14,004)	Total Other Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(69,580)
(4,770)	Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(61,934)
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
(9,234)	- reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(7,646)
	- actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	
4,278	employers' contributions payable to scheme	4,851
(4,956)		(2,795)

Pension Assets and Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

2021/22 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £'000
(216,999)	Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(152,690)
134,629	Fair value of plan assets	137,105
(82,370)	Net liability arising from defined benefit liability	(15,585)

The liability shows the Council's underlying long-term commitment to pay retirement benefits. Although the liability has a negative impact on the Council's equity position, statutory arrangements for the funding of the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy.

The deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme will be made good by increased contributions, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits

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

2021/22 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme	2022/23 £'000
129,913	Opening fair value of scheme assets	134,629
2,590	Interest income	4,657
915	Remeasurement gain/(loss) - return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in net interest expense	(3,737)
4,278	Contributions from employer	4,851
1,075	Contributions from employees into the scheme	1,153
(6,154)	Benefits paid - funded	(5,723)
0	Benefits paid - unfunded	
2,092	Other actuarial gains/(losses)	1,352
0	Settlement Price Received/Paid	0
-80	Administration expenses	(77)
134,629	Closing fair value of scheme assets	137,105

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

2021/22 £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme		2022/23 £'000
(221,331)	Opening balance at 1st April		(216,999)
(7,368)	Current service cost		(5,824)
(4,376)	Interest cost		(5,920)
(1,075)	Contributions from scheme participants		(1,153)
	Remeasurement (gains)/loss		
5,447	- actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions		572
6,718	- actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		90,175
5,946	Benefits paid - funded		5,521
208	Benefits paid - unfunded		202
0	Liabilities extinguished on settlements		0
(1,168)	Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation		(18,782)
(216,999)	Closing balance at 31st March		(152,690)

The Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by value of the total assets held:

2021/22 £'000				2022/23 £'000
2,974	Cash and cash equivalents	1.9%		2,460
83,676	Equity instruments:	66.1%		87,488
	Bonds			
774	- gilts	0.6%	751	
18,464	- other	13.6%	18,007	18,758
15,770	Property	10.3%		13,685
9,913	Target return portfolio	7.6%		10,043
3,058	Infrastructure			
134,629	Total assets			132,434

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed 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. The Pension Fund's liabilities were assessed by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries. A full actuarial valuation is carried out every 3 years. The actuarial valuation of the fund was carried out as at 31 March 2023 and sets the contributions for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027. The next actuarial valuation will be in March 2026.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2021/22		2022/23
	Assumed life expectations from age 65 are:	
	Retiring today	
21.0	- Men	21.1
23.5	- Women	23.5
	Retiring in 20 years	
22.3	- Men	22.3
24.9	- Women	25.0
	Additional assumptions	
	- Members will exchange half of their commutable pension for cash at retirement	
	- Active members will retire one year later than they are first able to do so without reduction	
3.25%	Rate of inflation - Consumer price index (CPI)	2.90%
4.25%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%
3.25%	Rate of increase in pensions	2.90%
2.60%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligation is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonable changes to the assumptions made above, occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumptions analysed changes, while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy may increase or decrease 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 did not change from those used in the previous period.

2021/22			2022/23	
Increase in assumption £'000	Decrease in assumption £'000	Local Government Pension Scheme	Increase in assumption £'000	Decrease in assumption £'000
		Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)		
226,959	207,497	- Present value of total obligation	158,236	147,357
7,123	6,548	- Projected service cost	3,152	2,936
		Rate for discounting scheme liabilities inflation (increase or decrease by 0.5%)(0.1% for 2021/22)		
196,620	240,743	- Present value of total obligation	141,444	165,470
5,704	8,199	- Projected service cost	2,543	3,634
		Rate for discounting scheme liabilities inflation (increase or decrease by 0.5%)(0.1% for 2021/22)		
219,178	214,910	- Present value of total obligation	153,917	151,516
6,849	6,811	- Projected service cost	3,053	3,032
		Rate for discounting scheme liabilities inflation (increase or decrease by 0.5%)(0.1% for 2021/22)		
238,279	263,156	- Present value of total obligation	164,428	142,372
8,164	5,731	- Projected service cost	3,630	2,546

The projected pension expenses for the year ended 31 March 2023 are:

	Year to 31 Mar 2023 £'000
Service Cost	3,042
Net Interest on the defined liability (asset)	638
Administration Expenses	82
	3,762
Employer contributions	4,422

31. Related Parties

Under the Accounting Standard IAS24 'Related Party Transactions' the Council must declare any Related Party Transactions between the Council and elected Members, Senior Officers of the Council or any of their close relatives.

United Kingdom Central Government

United Kingdom Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits).

Members and Senior Officers

All Members and Senior Managers were written to requesting details of any relationships that could result in a related party transaction, for 2022/23. 55 forms (out of 60) were returned with nothing significant declared.

There is a standing item on each Committee agenda requiring Members to declare any interest in any item to be discussed. The Democratic Services Manager keeps a record of all declarations made at meetings and a Register of Members' Interests, which is available for public inspection.

32. Interest in Companies

The council has interest in two companies, one wholly owned subsidiary, A Better Choice for Property Limited, and its wholly owned subsidiary, A Better Choice for Property Development Limited.

There are no significant restrictions on the Council's ability to access or use assets and settle liabilities of the Group.

A Better Choice for Property Limited

The property company has a Facilities Agreement with the Council that enables it to drawdown loans to the value of £150m. As at 31 March 2023 the Company had drawn down £39m of loans which are at market rates, of this drawn facility £31m remains outstanding.

The Facilities Agreement does not provide liquidity issues for the Council as drawdowns by the Company can be matched against borrowing by the Council.

In terms of security of loans, the Facilities Agreement has certain financial covenants, which must be reported on an annual basis, one covenant being the ratio of all outstanding loans under the facilities agreements to the market value of the properties not exceeding 1:1. On the 31 March 2023 this ratio was 0.93:1 and therefore in compliance with the financial covenants.

The Council as sole shareholder in the Company and as at 31st March 2023 had acquired 991,907 shares with a nominal value of £1 per share.

During the year the Council approved further equity to be reinvested into the Property Company to enable operations as they develop new properties. This will see the Council reinvesting around 20% of received interest receipts from the company back as share capital. This will be approved annually through the Trading & Enterprise Board. The Company including its subsidiary had equity of £2,674,623 as at 31 March 2023 representing a gain of £1,682,716 over its original investment value.

33. Contingent Liabilities

The Council has entered into two agreements with Kent County Council and South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), now transferred to Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which includes provision for the repayment of Regional Infrastructure Funding (RIF), used to pay for works to the Drovers Roundabout and the M20 junction 9 and footbridge. Regional Infrastructure Funding was paid to KCC for the schemes by SEEDA. A condition of these agreements is that, money collected from developers in respect of these works, through the planning process by Ashford Borough Council, and a share of CIL funds received, will be paid to HCA. The Council's liability is limited to the total amount received, and a proportion of the total CIL funds received, in each case.

The Council has entered into an agreement with Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which include the provision for the repayment of funding used to pay for works relating to the construction of Junction 10A. A condition of these agreements is that, money collected from developers, in respect of these works through the planning process by Ashford Borough Council, and a share of CIL funds received, will be paid to HCA. The Council's liability is limited to the total amount received and a proportion of the total CIL funds received, in each case.

The Council has agreed to underwrite the rental income and service charge for 18,000 square foot of the new Commercial Quarter building, located in Dover Place car park. Should the areas not be leased the Council will be required to cover the lost income which could amount to a maximum of £450,000 per annum until June 2028. Currently 3,800 square foot remains to be leased, of which TMLE and THEMIS have now committed to lease agreement for the 30,000 square foot at £50k per annum exclusive of VAT, utilities, rates and service charge that the tenants will be liable for. Once Legal completes the process of this lease and is occupied, there will be a positive revenue stream of £12,177 per annum. Hence, this would then leave only 800 square foot remaining vacant.

The Council is party to an Asset Protection Agreement with Stanhope PLC and High Speed 1 (HS1). This agreement resulted in the Council undertaking a commitment to HS1 to underwrite the costs of remedying any incidents that affect the High Speed line as a result of construction activity by Stanhope on the Elwick site. Under the development agreements, this obligation in respect of Phase 1 has been passed to the developer and they have provided adequate insurance for this obligation in respect of Phase 1, however the Council would be liable for a payment in the event that the developer and the insurance fail to cover these liabilities. This obligation also applies to Phase 2 although as at 31 March 2023 no construction activities had commenced on Phase 2.

34. Acquisitions

On 10 May 2022, Ashford Borough Council acquired 65% of the shares in Ashford International Development Company Limited (formerly known as Quinn Estates Newtown Works Limited) for the consideration of £1.4m. The remainder of 35% of the shares are held by Quinn Estates Kent Limited.

Ashford International Development Company Limited is leading the Newtown Work Strategic Project whereby a 4.8 hectare brownfield site with 5 grade II listed buildings in the heart of Ashford town will be transformed into a dynamic Ashford International Film Studios and residential development. The development will convert the former Newtown Railway Works into 302 homes and commercial space including new purpose built film studios, workshops, production offices, and a ground breaking Creative Industries and Digital Industries skills and education centre.

35. Cash Flow Statement – Adjustment to Net Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movement

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	<i>Adjustment for items that are operating activities</i>	
(9,240)	Depreciation	(10,053)
(14,164)	Impairment and downward valuations	10,821
(78)	Amortisation	(119)
(23,482)	Items relating to Capital Adjustment Account	649
0	Increase/(decrease) in impairment for bad debts	48
(4,262)	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(9,952)
(281)	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	8,751
(5,324)	Movement in pension liability	(2,313)
(2,939)	Carrying amount of non-currents and Held for Sale sold or derecognised	(2,088)
(206)	Contributions to/from Provisions	(201)
119	Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus of deficit on the provision of services	12,517
2,425	(Increase)/decrease in FVPL investments	(4,403)
(33,950)	<i>Total non-cash adjustments of operating activities</i>	3,008

36. Cash Flow Statement - Adjustment to Net Deficit on the Provision of Services for Investing & Financing Activities

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	<i>Adjustment for items that are investing and financing activities</i>	
5,139	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	4,077
905	Capital grants and contributions applied	891
6,044	<i>Total non-cash adjustments of investing and financing activities</i>	4,968

37. Cash Flow Statement – Interest

2021/22			2022/23	
£'000			£'000	
4,024	Interest paid		4,294	
(1,078)	Interest received		(1,421)	
(1,448)	Dividend received		(1,455)	
<u>1,498</u>			<u>1,420</u>	

38. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2021/22			2022/23	
ABC	Group		ABC	Group
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
37,094	37,600	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	18,616	19,824
0	0	Purchase of shares in subsidiary	1,427	0
184	184	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	203	203
(5,138)	(5,138)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(4,077)	(4,077)
(905)	(905)	Other receipts from investing activities	(891)	(891)
<u>31,235</u>	<u>31,741</u>	<i>Net cash flows from investing activities</i>	<u>15,278</u>	<u>15,059</u>

39. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2021/22			2022/23	
ABC	Group		ABC	Group
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
(150,621)	(151,232)	Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	(153,732)	(155,935)
1,108	1,108	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on Balance Sheet PFI contracts	1,089	1,089
149,300	149,596	Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	141,100	141,411
<u>(213)</u>	<u>(528)</u>	<i>Net cash flows from financing activities</i>	<u>(11,543)</u>	<u>(13,435)</u>

40. Cash Flow Statement - Makeup of Cash and Cash Equivalents

31 March 2022			31 March 2023	
£'000			£'000	
85	Cash held by the Council		341	
18	Bank Current Accounts		(2,168)	
1,388	Bank Call Accounts		5,982	
<u>1,491</u>	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>4,155</u>	

Supplementary Single Entity Statements

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a record of the revenue expenditure and income relating to the Council's housing stock. Its primary purpose is to ensure that expenditure on managing tenancies and maintaining dwellings is balanced by rents charged to tenants; the HRA is a statutory account, ring-fenced from the rest of the General Fund, so that rents cannot be subsidised from council tax (or vice versa).

2021/22		2022/23	
£'000		£'000	£'000
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
5,792	Repairs and maintenance	5,315	
6,538	Supervision and management	6,748	
395	Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	187	
1,866	Special services	2,836	
7,173	Depreciation	7,590	
21,894	Impairment/Reversal of Charges of non-current assets	(14,315)	
95	Debt management costs	118	
305	Movement in the allowance for bad debts	334	
	Other revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute		
	HRA self-financing - revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute		
<u>44,058</u>	<i>Total Expenditure</i>		<u>8,813</u>
	<i>Income</i>		
(26,139)	Dwelling rents	(27,969)	
(4)	Non-dwelling rents	(7)	
(1,105)	Charges for services and facilities	(1,338)	
(61)	Leaseholder charges for services and facilities	(45)	
(117)	Contributions towards expenditure	(443)	
(2)	Sale of land	0	
(3,000)	PFI Subsidy receivable	(3,000)	
<u>(30,428)</u>	<i>Total Income</i>		<u>(32,802)</u>
13,630	Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(23,989)
560	HRA services' share of Corporate and Democratic Core		707
275	HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority Cost of Services but not allocated to specific services		163
<u>14,465</u>	Net Cost for HRA Services		<u>(23,119)</u>
	<i>HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</i>		
(1,577)	Gain or (loss) on sale of HRA non-current assets		(1,524)
	Other capital receipts		
3,909	Interest payable and similar charges		4,060
1,120	Interest payable on PFI contracts and Finance Leases		1,120
0	Interest and investment income		(67)
220	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)		148
(1,749)	Capital grants and contributions receivable		(321)
<u>16,388</u>	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA services		<u>(19,703)</u>

Movement on the HRA Statement

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(7,187)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year	(2,119)
16,388	(Surplus) or deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(19,703)
(11,320)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	19,780
5,068	Net (increase) or decrease before transfers to or from reserves	77
0	Transfers to or from reserves	0
5,068	(Increase) or decrease in year on the HRA (MIRS)	77
(2,119)	Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	(2,042)

Notes to the Housing Revenue Account

1. Number and type of Housing Stock, Balance Sheet Opening and Closing Values

31 March 2022 Units		31 March 2023 Units
5,212	Total Dwellings	5,207

31 March 2022 £'000		31 March 2023 £'000
383,701	Operational assets - dwellings, land and buildings	455,154
1,858	Non-Operational assets	2,679
6,178	Assets Under Construction	3,315
391,737		461,148

2. Vacant Possession Value of Dwellings

The vacant possession value of dwellings within the Council's HRA as at 31 March 2023 was £1.251m (£1.140m as at 31 March 2022). The difference between this and the Balance Sheet value shows the cost of providing council housing at less than open market rents.

The valuation exercise was completed by an external valuer, Wilks Head and Eve LLP.

3. Major Repairs Reserve

2021/22 £'000	Movements in year	2022/23 £'000
(1,947)	Balance at the end of the previous year	(1,910)
(7,170)	Amount transferred to the Reserve during the year	(7,566)
5,000	Debits in respect of any repayment, made in the year, of the principal of any amount borrowed where the repayment was met by payment out of the reserve	0
2,081	Debits to the Reserve in respect of capital expenditure on HRA land, houses and other property	4,219
126	Reversal of depreciation (other than Council Dwellings)	28
<u>(1,910)</u>	Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>(5,229)</u>

4. Summary of Capital Expenditure and Financing

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	<i>Capital investment:</i>	
2,081	Expenditure on Existing Dwellings	4,286
5,346	Expenditure on New Stock Purchases	1,881
21,320	Expenditure on new developments (including Assets Under Construction)	1,783
<u>28,747</u>		<u>7,950</u>
	<i>Sources of Finance:</i>	
(3,485)	Capital Receipts	(1,209)
(2,081)	Major Repairs Reserve	(4,220)
(1,751)	External Contributions - HCA Grants and COMF	(321)
(18,930)	Borrowing	(2,200)
(2,500)	Revenue Contribution from the Housing Revenue Account	0
<u>(28,747)</u>		<u>(7,950)</u>

5. Capital Receipts from Disposal of Assets

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
(3,234)	Receipts from Right-to-buy sales	(3,059)
(25)	Receipts from Repayment of Discounts	(18)
(355)	Receipts from the sale of Housing land	(50)
(140)	Other non right-to-buy sales	0
<u>(3,754)</u>	Total receipts	<u>(3,127)</u>
33	Costs of disposal	41
<u>(3,721)</u>		<u>(3,086)</u>

6. Valuations

Land and Buildings are held individually and the total housing stock (including land and garages) had increases and decreases in valuation.

The net adjustments of these valuations as reported saw an increase to the Housing Revenue Account of £55,473,646 recognised in the Revaluation Reserve and £14,315,484 written through the CIES to reverse previous year impairments.

7. Pensions

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the Council is required to make against the Housing Revenue Account is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Statement of Movement in the Housing Revenue Account Balance. The following transactions have been made in the Income and Expenditure Account and the Statement Movement.

2021/22 £'000		2022/23 £'000
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	
	<i>Cost of Services:</i>	
949	- current service cost	680
0	- past service costs	0
9	- administration expenses	9
	<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>	
220	- net interest expense cost	148
1,178	<i>Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>	837
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
(1,178)	- reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(837)
	- actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:	
523	employers' contributions payable to scheme	567

8. Rent Arrears

During the year 2022/23 arrears totalling £342,718 (£472,799 – 2021/22) were written off to the impairment allowance for bad debts held outside the HRA as they were considered to be uncollectable. The balance on the provision at 31 March 2023 was £1,238,463 (£895,740 at 31 March 2022).

31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£'000		£'000
926	Gross arrears	1,279
(895)	Provision for Bad Debts	(1,238)

Collection Fund

This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund; it shows the transactions in relation to non-domestic rates, including distribution to government; and council tax, illustrating the way this has been distributed to precepting authorities and the General Fund.

2021/22			2022/23	
Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000		Business Rates £'000	Council Tax £'000
		<i>Income</i>		
	(92,341)	- Council Tax		(97,325)
(42,919)		- Business Rates	(49,821)	
	6	- Transfer from General Fund for Covid19 Hardship		0
<u>(42,919)</u>	<u>(92,335)</u>	<i>Total Income</i>	<u>(49,821)</u>	<u>(97,325)</u>
		<i>Expenditure</i>		
		<i>Precepts, Demand & Shares</i>		
4,721	64,090	- Kent County Council	4,439	71,110
	9,854	- Kent Police Authority		11,103
525	3,651	- Kent and Medway Fire Authority	493	4,007
20,983	10,075	- Ashford Borough Council (including Parish Precepts)	19,730	11,127
26,229		- Central Government	24,663	
<u>52,458</u>	<u>87,670</u>		<u>49,325</u>	<u>97,347</u>
		<i>Charges to the Collection Fund</i>		
196	246	- Write-Offs of uncollectable amounts	234	88
(902)	732	- Increase/(Decrease) in Bad Debt Provisions	113	98
1,193		- Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Appeals	2,023	
90		- Disregarded amounts	98	
196		- Costs of Collection Allowance	199	
371		- Transitional Protection Payments	77	
<u>1,144</u>	<u>978</u>		<u>2,744</u>	<u>186</u>
		<i>Contributions</i>		
(29,310)	(319)	- Towards previous year's estimated Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(16,771)	4,702
<u>24,292</u>	<u>88,329</u>	<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>35,298</u>	<u>102,235</u>
(18,627)	(4,006)	Deficit/(Surplus) in Year	(14,523)	4,910
31,912	501	Balance at 1st April	13,285	(3,505)
<u>13,285</u>	<u>(3,505)</u>	Balance at 31st March	<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>1,405</u>
		<i>Apportionment of Balance to Preceptors/Borough Council</i>		
1,196	(2,562)	- Kent County Council	(111)	1,027
	(395)	- Kent Police Authority		161
133	(146)	- Kent and Medway Fire Authority	(12)	59
5,314	(402)	- Ashford Borough Council	(495)	158
6,642		- Central Government	(620)	
<u>13,285</u>	<u>(3,505)</u>		<u>(1,238)</u>	<u>1,405</u>

Notes to the Collection Fund

1. Collection Fund - Allocation of Arrears, Prepayments and Other Balances

for the year ended 31st March 2023

2022/23	2022/23					Total
	Ashford Borough Council	Kent County Council	Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent	Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Service	Central Government	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax:						
Council Tax Arrears (excl. costs)	888	5,771	915	328	0	7,902
Council Tax Overpayments and Prepayments	(322)	(2,091)	(331)	(119)	0	(2,863)
Council Tax Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(318)	(2,065)	(327)	(117)	0	(2,827)
Council Tax Cash	(406)	(2,641)	(418)	(151)	0	(3,616)
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	158	1,026	161	59	0	1,404
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Rates (NNDR):						
NNDR Arrears (excl. costs)	977	211	0	23	1,170	2,381
NNDR Overpayments and Prepayments	(624)	(140)	0	(16)	(780)	(1,560)
NNDR Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(334)	(75)	0	(8)	(417)	(834)
NNDR Provision for Alteration of Lists and Appeals	(2,860)	(643)	0	(71)	(3,574)	(7,148)
NNDR Cash	3,336	758	0	84	4,221	8,399
NNDR Collection Fund Deficit	(495)	(111)	0	(12)	(620)	(1,238)
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

for the year ended 31st March 2022

2021/22	2021/22					Total
	Ashford Borough Council	Kent County Council	Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent	Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Service	Central Government	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax:						
Council Tax Arrears (excl. costs)	778	4,974	777	280	0	6,809
Council Tax Overpayments and Prepayments	(294)	(1,880)	(293)	(106)	0	(2,573)
Council Tax Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(312)	(1,994)	(311)	(112)	0	(2,729)
Council Tax Cash	230	1,462	222	84	0	1,998
Council Tax Collection Fund Deficit	(402)	(2,562)	(395)	(146)	0	(3,505)
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Rates (NNDR):						
NNDR Arrears (excl. costs)	1,052	237	0	26	1,315	2,630
NNDR Overpayments and Prepayments	(587)	(132)	0	(15)	(734)	(1,468)
NNDR Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(288)	(65)	0	(7)	(360)	(720)
NNDR Provision for Alteration of Lists and Appeals	(2,654)	(597)	0	(66)	(3,317)	(6,634)
NNDR Cash	(2,837)	(639)	0	(71)	(3,546)	(7,093)
NNDR Collection Fund Deficit	5,314	1,196	0	133	6,642	13,285
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. NNDR Rateable Value

The Council collects business rates for its area, based on rateable values and multipliers set by central government (details below). The Council is a member of the Kent Business Rates Pool. The total amount for 2022/23, less certain reliefs and other deductions, is shared between Central Government (50%), Ashford Borough Council (40%), Kent County Council (9%) and the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority (1%).

2021/22		2022/23
£'000		£'000
	<i>Total Non-Domestic Rateable Values at:</i>	
133,566	- 1st April	135,061
135,061	- 31st March	138,808
<u>1,495</u>	Increase/(decrease) in year	<u>3,747</u>

2021/22		2022/23
p		p
	Uniform rate (multiplier) set by the government:	
49.9	For rateable values below £18,000	49.9
51.2	For rateable values £18,000 and above	51.2

3. Band D Council Tax

The band D level of council tax is the average level of tax charged as prescribed in legislation. When calculating the tax base, the number of properties is converted into band D equivalents and this is used when authorities set their council tax. If a property is within a parished area, an additional charge will be made for the Parish Council.

2021/22		2022/23
£		£
1,418.76	Kent County Council	1,461.24
218.15	Kent Police Authority	228.15
80.82	Kent and Medway Fire Authority	82.35
172.50	Ashford Borough Council	177.50
<u>1,890.23</u>	Council Tax - basic amount	<u>1,949.24</u>
50.53	(including Parish Precepts)	51.16
<u>1,940.76</u>	Council Tax - Borough average	<u>2,000.40</u>

4. Council Tax Base

The number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band (adjusted where discounts apply) converted into an equivalent number of Band D dwellings, was calculated as follows:

Band	2021/22			2022/23		
	<i>Estimated Number of properties (Net of exemptions, discounts & reliefs)</i> (a)	<i>Multipliers</i> (b)	<i>Band D equivalents properties</i> (a x b)	<i>Estimated Number of properties (Net of exemptions, discounts & reliefs)</i> (c)	<i>Multipliers</i> (d)	<i>Band D equivalents properties</i> (c x d)
A with disabled relief	9.35	5 /9	5.14	2.30	5 /9	1.25
A	3,436.50	6 /9	2,291.00	3,641.30	6 /9	2,427.50
B	11,408.50	7 /9	8,873.28	12,022.00	7 /9	9,350.44
C	11,778.80	8 /9	10,470.00	12,478.80	8 /9	11,092.22
D	8,643.00	9 /9	8,642.95	9,273.20	9 /9	9,273.17
E	6,182.25	11 /9	7,556.08	6,387.00	11 /9	7,806.33
F	5,238.30	13 /9	7,566.36	5,465.30	13 /9	7,894.25
G	3,065.00	15 /9	5,108.33	3,226.00	15 /9	5,376.67
H	161.50	18 /9	323.00	177.80	18 /9	355.50
Tax Base before Council Tax Support			50,836.14			53,577.34
Tax Base before Council Tax Support			50,836.14			53,577.34
Less Council Tax Support			(4,975.82)			(4,422.18)
Tax Base after Council Tax Support			45,860.32			49,155.16
Estimated Collection Rate			0.985			0.990
Council Tax Base			45,173.00			48,664.00

Independent auditor's report to the members of Ashford Borough Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Disclaimer of opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Ashford Borough Council (the 'Authority') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement, the Collection Fund, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Authority or the group. Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for disclaimer of opinion

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') require the Authority to publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 by 13 December 2024 ('the backstop date'). The backstop date has been put in law with the purpose of clearing the backlog of historical financial statements. We have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by the backstop date to conclude that the Authority's or group's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 as a whole are free from material misstatement. We were also unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence for the corresponding figures for the same reason. We have therefore issued a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements. This enables the Authority to comply with the requirement in the Regulations that they publish audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 by the backstop date. We have concluded that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements arising from this matter could be both material and pervasive.

Other information we are required to report on by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition' published by CIPFA and SOLACE, or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit. We are not required to consider whether the Annual Governance Statement addresses all risks and controls or that risks are satisfactorily addressed by internal controls.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Governance Statement and the Statement of Accounts, other than the Authority's and group's financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Because of the significance of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we have been unable to form an opinion, whether based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority gained through our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, whether the other information published together with the financial statements in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matters.

Responsibilities of the Authority and the Chief Finance Officer

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Authority 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 Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the relevant national body of the intention to dissolve the Authority and the group without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Authority's financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on those financial statements.

We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The audit was defective in its ability to detect irregularities, including fraud, on the basis that we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence due to the matter described in the basis for disclaimer of opinion section of our report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception – the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We have nothing to report in respect of the above matter.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We undertake our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in October 2024. This guidance sets out the arrangements that fall within the scope of ‘proper arrangements’. When reporting on these arrangements, the Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to structure their commentary on arrangements under three specified reporting criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

We document our understanding of the arrangements the Authority has in place for each of these three specified reporting criteria, gathering sufficient evidence to support our risk assessment and commentary in our Auditor’s Annual Report. In undertaking our work, we consider whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate for Ashford Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed our consideration of an objection brought to our attention by a local authority elector under section 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. We are satisfied that this matter does not have a material effect on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 [and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited]. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Authority’s members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent

permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Parris Williams

Parris Williams, Key Audit Partner

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Local Auditor

London

12 December 2024

Glossary

Actuary – a business professional who advises on the measurement and management of risk and uncertainty. In Ashford's case Barnett Waddington undertake this work for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Agency Services – services which are performed for another Authority or public body, where the principal Authority responsible for the service reimburses the agent Authority doing the work for the cost of the work carried out.

Amortised – the deduction of capital expenses over a specific period. Similar to depreciation, it is a method of measuring the consumption of the value of long-term assets like equipment or buildings and intangible assets e.g. software.

Appointed Auditors – external auditors of Local Authorities appointed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd, in Ashford's case, Grant Thornton carries out this function.

Budget – a statement defining the Council's financial plans for the year of expenditure and income.

Budget Requirement – the estimated revenue expenditure on General Fund services that needs to be financed from Council Tax, Government Grant and NNDR after deducting income from fees and charges, certain specific grants and any funding reserves.

Capital Expenditure – spending on the acquisition, construction, enhancement or replacement of tangible assets such as land, buildings or major items of equipment, which will be used to provide services for a number of years. Under statutory determination expenditure on assets not belonging to the council can be treated as capital expenditure.

Capital Financing – funds used to pay for capital expenditure.

Capital Receipts – the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets. Capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure within the rules set down by the Government, but they cannot be used to finance revenue expenditure. Capital Receipts can be used for debt repayment.

CIPFA – The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy is the leading professional accountancy body for public services in the UK. CIPFA has responsibility for setting good practice accounting standards for Local Government. And has approval from the Financial Reporting Advisory Board to issue the Accounting Code of Practice, which prescribes the content and format of the Statement of Accounts.

Collection Fund – a statutory fund maintained by a Billing Authority, which is used to record local taxes and non-domestic rates collected by the Authority, along with payments to major precepting authorities, the national pool of non-domestic rates and its own general fund.

Componentisation – An accounting term that covers the practice of splitting an asset into its component parts (e.g. Walls, Roof, Lift, Boiler) to determine the appropriate value and depreciation basis for each component.

Contingent Liability – a potential liability at the Balance Sheet date. If the liability cannot be estimated reasonably accurately, it must be disclosed as a note to the Statement of Accounts.

Council Tax – the main source of local taxation to Local Authorities. Council Tax is levied on all domestic households within the Council's area.

Council Tax Support – assistance provided to adults on low incomes to help them pay their Council Tax bill. A resident that qualify for this are entitled to a discount on their council tax bill.

Credit Risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.

Creditors – money owed by the Council to others.

Debtors – money owed to the Council by others.

Fair Value - is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Financial Assets – is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset.

Force Majeure – is a common clause in contracts which essentially frees both parties from liability or obligation when an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond the control of the parties, such as war, strike, riot, crime, act of nature e.g. flooding, earthquake, volcano, prevents one or both parties from fulfilling their obligations under the contract.

General Fund – the main revenue fund of the Authority. Day-to-day spending on services is met from the fund. Spending on the provision of social housing, however, must be charged to a separate Housing Revenue Account.

Gross Expenditure – the total cost of providing the Council's services before taking into account income from Government grants and fees and charges for services.

Housing Benefit – the allowance to persons on low income or unable to meet, in whole or part, their rent. Benefit paid to the Authority's own tenant is known as rent rebate and that paid to private sector tenants as rent allowance.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – account which sets out the expenditure and income arising from the provision of housing. The HRA is funded by specific housing grants and rents payable by the Council's tenants.

Impairment – An accounting term that covers the loss in value of an asset either through consumption of its economic life or a change in its usefulness. For example, fire damage.

Internal Audit – a specialist section of the Council that examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of internal control systems and the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

International Financial Reporting Standards – The accounting standards that have been produced and adopted to govern accounting and move to a globally similar basis.

Liquidity Risk - the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments

Market Risk - the possibility that losses may arise due to changes in interest rates and market prices.

MRP – Minimum Revenue Provision. This is the calculation that Councils make for the repayment of debt.

National Non-Domestic Rate NNDR – a levy on businesses, based on a national rate in the pound set by the Government multiplied by the 'rateable value' of the premises they occupy. Since the localisation of Business rates was introduced, NNDR is collected by Billing Authorities and distributed to Central Government, County and Fire Authorities on the basis of a pre-set formula.

Net Expenditure – gross expenditure minus specific service income and grants, but before deduction of Revenue Support Grant and reallocated NNDR receipts.

Outturn – actual income and expenditure in a financial year.

Partial Exemption– a VAT term which ensures that a Local Authority does not recover VAT on Inputs that relate to the generation of exempt income more than the 5% of the total VAT recovered.

Pension Fund – an employees' pension fund maintained by an Authority, or group of Authorities, in order to make pension payments on retirement of participants. It is

financed from contributions from the employing Authority, the employee and investment income. Ashford participates in a pension fund that covers all Kent Authorities.

Pooled Investments – a pooled investment fund collects money from multiple investors and puts it in one managed portfolio.

Principal Arrangement – this is where the Council is administering grants on behalf of another body but has an element of control over the award, and therefore the cost and receipt of grant are reflected in the costs of service. Where no control over allocation exist then this is an Agency arrangement and costs would not be shown in the councils cost of service.

Precept – the levy made by precepting authorities on Billing Authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from Council taxpayers on their behalf. County councils, police authorities, fire and rescue authorities are major precepting authorities and Parish Councils are local precepting authorities.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) – a Central Government initiative which aims to increase the levels of funding available for public services by attracting private sources of finance. In 2018 the Government announced that new PFIs could no longer be created, however existing contracts would continue.

Provisions – amounts set aside for specific liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but the amounts or the dates on which they will arise are uncertain. The value of the Provision must be the best estimate of the likely liability or loss.

Reserves – amounts set aside to meet general, rather than specific future expenditure. These include “other reserves”, to be spent on specific services or functions and “general reserves” or “balances”, which every Authority must maintain as a matter of prudence. Sums may be put into or taken from reserves at the Council’s discretion. The Council also maintains **unusable reserves** that are established by the code of practice to offset non-current assets.

Revenue Expenditure – the day-to-day running costs of providing services.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute – expenditure that does not result in the creation of a Property Plant and Equipment but is classified as capital expenditure for Capital Control purposes.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG) – a grant paid by Central Government to aid Local Authority services in general, as opposed to specific grants, which may only be used for a specific purpose.

Specific Grants – grants from Central Government which may only be used for a specific purpose.

Treasury Management – management of the Council’s cash balances on a daily basis, to obtain the best return while maintaining an acceptable level of risk.

Usable Reserves – funds available to the Council and represent specific amounts set-aside for future policy purposes or earmarked purposes, including the General Fund and the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Unusable Reserves – These are non-cash reserves that are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, investments, retirement benefits, employee benefits and collection fund adjustments and do not represent usable resources for the Council.