

Rother District Council

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND
STATEMENT OF
ACCOUNTS
2021/22**



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NARRATIVE

Introduction

The draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for Rother District Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been prepared and published in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 ("the Code") issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards, as adapted for the UK public sector under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Body.

The information contained in these accounts can be technical and complex to follow. The aim of this report, therefore, is to provide a narrative context to the accounts by presenting a clear and simple summary of the Council's financial position and performance for the year and its prospects for future years. This will give electors, local Rother residents, Council Members, partners, other stakeholders and interested parties confidence that public money which has been received and spent, has been properly accounted for and that the financial standing of the Council is secure.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 came into force on 1 April 2015, setting out the detailed requirements in relation to the duties and rights specified in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. These regulations introduced earlier deadlines for publication of the accounts. However, recognising the impact of the pandemic on councils' resources the Government introduced amendment regulations revising the completion deadline for the accounts from 31 May 2022 to 31 July 2022 for 2021/22 financial statements.

The publication date for audited 2021/22 accounts is revised from 31 July to 30 November 2022.

As the financial statements demonstrate, the financial standing of the Council is sound. The Council has well established good financial management disciplines and processes and operates in an environment of continuous improvement. It complies with the CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code published in October 2019 which formally sets those out.

This narrative report is structured as follows:

1. An Introduction to Rother
2. Summary of Achievements
3. Governance
4. Summary of the 2021/22 Financial Performance of the Council
5. Strategic Risks
6. Liability for Pensions Costs
7. Future Plans
8. Material assets/liabilities
9. Explanation of the Financial Statements
10. Acknowledgements

1. An Introduction to Rother

For the greater part, Rother is rural in character, forming the south-eastern part of the High Weald. However, it also embraces low-lying coastal areas at both the eastern and western ends of the District. The District covers some 200 square miles and serves a population of around 96,000 inhabitants. With the exception of Bexhill with its distinctive town centre and seaside character and the historic towns of Battle and Rye, the area is mainly rural.

The majority of the countryside located within the district falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Rother has around 4,600 businesses, with small and micro businesses forming a fundamental part of the Rother economy with 88% of businesses in Rother employing less than 9 people.

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The area we serve



2. Summary of Achievements

Climate Emergency:

Environment Strategy

Completed projects in 2021/22 include:

- Training with our various partners in conducting tree surveys, the urban forest/Trees for Cities project, carbon literacy training and reviewing the carbon footprint and carbon reduction.
- 200 survey plots were completed in 2021 for our tree survey
- Engaging with local volunteers to complete the tree surveys
- Working with our contractors to facilitate bio-diversity, reduce carbon emissions and reduce energy usage.

The Council's Climate Change Steering Group has also considered electric vehicle charging, carbon base-lining and other specific projects to reduce carbon emissions and increase bio-diversity across the district.

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Waste and Recycling

The proportion of household waste that goes for reuse, recycling and composting has risen slightly from 50% to 51% based on current estimates.

Work during the year has been focused on reviewing the Governments draft UK Environment Bill which achieved Royal Assent in December 2021 and will positively impact recycling rates in the future.

A 'Rother District Litter Strategy' has been agreed which focuses on getting the 'Right Litter Bin in the Right Place' and work will continue on implementing the strategy.

Community Infrastructure Levy

A new process for distributing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was approved in March 2022, reserving a proportion of funds for projects that directly address the climate emergency or those which have a distinctive environmental benefit, as long as they meet the base criteria for CIL.

Community Grants application forms have been updated to include environmental considerations and impacts.

Financial Stability:

There has been an increased focus on delivering the required outcomes of the Financial Stability Programme. This will include the appointment of a dedicated project officer to drive the programme forward.

Regeneration Investment:

The Council has continued to focus on the regeneration of the District by acquiring assets that are giving a positive return to the Council as well as protecting and creating jobs in the district.

Supply of Affordable Housing:

- There were 112 affordable homes delivered in 2021/22. Of the 112 homes, 50 were for affordable rent, 62 for shared ownership. In December 2021, 1,867 households were on the Council's housing list. This is an increase of 148 households since March 2021.
- From the pandemic, there is a rise in households applying for housing and placed in temporary accommodation. In March 2021, households in temporary accommodation peaked at 87 and held at 87 households by June, falling to 69 by December 2021.
- In 2020/21 there were 175 new homes (net) in Rother. In 2021/22 there figure was 237 new homes (net).
- Blackfriars in Battle is a housing initiative led by Rother District Council. It will provide 200 new homes. Wates Residential, our partner contractor, is building the development. The project includes 42 affordable rented homes and 28 homes for shared ownership, starting in spring 2022. In November 2021, the Blackfriars development was named best housing development in the UK (suburban and rural category) at the Inside Housing Development Awards. All new homes are designed to significantly reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- As part of the Council's Temporary Accommodation Support Scheme we have purchased 10 houses and flats for use as temporary accommodation, providing a dedicated support service to secure alternative accommodation.
- As part of the national pandemic response, the Council has actively supported the Government's call to bring all rough sleepers off the streets and into accommodation. All rough sleepers have been offered temporary accommodation solutions and we continue to accommodate over 25 rough sleepers who would otherwise be forced to sleep on the streets. The Council has stepped up to play its part in supporting the resettlement of Afghan nationals who are former employees of the British Armed Forces during the recent conflict. We have welcomed 2 Afghan families to date and have a further 2 arriving in March.

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Housing List Reduction:

We now own 21 units of accommodation across Bexhill and Rye and are looking at increasing that number. The accommodation is at varying stages from refurbishment to occupation. Support is currently delivered in house - this includes resident support and property management. We will be completing a procurement process over the summer of 2022 for a provider to deliver the support. Opportunities to acquire accommodation will be on-going throughout the next financial year.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Over the year the Council spent nearly £1.2 m on DFGs. This equates to 105 completed grants, however, a further 74 were worked on but for various reasons these did not progress to completion (client cancelled, client deceased, grant refused). This money helps residents to remain in their own homes.

Planning:

Development Management

Work has continued on implementing the recommendations of the iESE review. This will ultimately lead to a reduction in the current backlog of planning applications and the corresponding level of dissatisfaction with the service.

Local Plan

A review of the programme has been completed following a change in the project team. The direction of the Local Plan has changed as the Green to the Core vision and the rural spatial strategy is being explored in a different way. We wish to ensure that its public consultation (known as regulation 18) is based on a well-developed Local Plan document. It had been anticipated that we would undertake this consultation in spring 2022. However, the detailed evidence base progressed to date highlights that further work is required to support the Plan. We wish to take the opportunity to continue to work jointly with neighbouring planning authorities and liaise with our towns and parish councils (in summer 2022) before we formally consult. This has not impacted on the local plan adoption target.

Empowered Organisation

Reorganisation of senior management has now occurred with next tier review largely complete.

Economy

The main activity over the year has been related to supporting businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year the Government continued to supply funding for businesses suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2021/22 the Council has paid out £9.58 m in business grants, of which £1.85 m has been discretionary awards where the eligibility criteria has been set by the Council.

A Fairer Society:

Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group

The Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group met throughout the year and has developed an action plan.

Age Friendly Rother

In September 2020, the World Health Organisation approved the Council's application to join the global network of age-friendly cities and communities. This was an important step to help older people in Rother feel valued, supported and lead healthy and active lives. As part of its commitment to becoming recognised as age-friendly, the Council works with East Sussex County Council and Rother Voluntary Action to support and engage with older people in the district. Through the Healthy Ageing and Innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE) project, volunteers have held over 200 hours of in-depth conversations with local older people about their lives, needs, and aspirations. The Council, in conjunction with Active Rother, held the 'How to Age Well in the 21st Century' event at the De La Warr Pavilion to support over 50s stay healthy and active.

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An Open Council:

- All public Council meetings can be viewed online with links from our website.
- We have started a review of our customer service strategy.
- We are in the process of updating and modernising the Council's constitution.
- In 2021, the Council gave local people an opportunity to have their say on a wide variety of local issues, such as: high street shopping areas, our budget and financial plans, our draft Corporate Plan, the Bexhill Bike & Skate Park, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Rother's public space protection order and anti-social behaviour and extending street trading in Bexhill and Ticehurst.

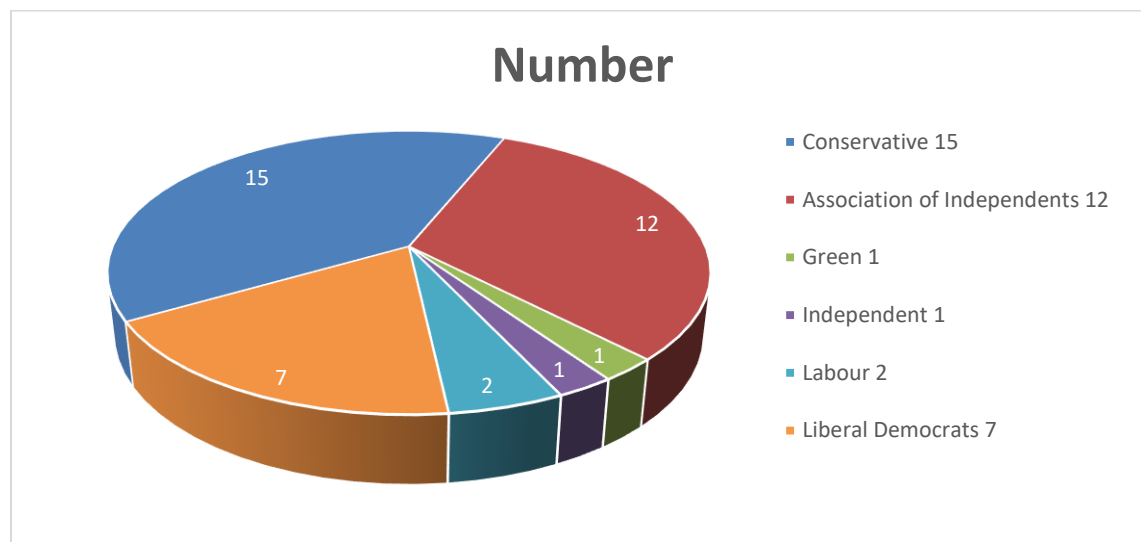
Bexhill Town Council

A Parish Council for Bexhill-on-Sea (subsequently called a Town Council) was created on 1 April 2021 meaning that the whole of Rother is now parished. The first elections were held on 6 May 2021.

3. Governance

The Council

The Council has 38 District Councillors. The political composition of the Council as at 31 March 2022 was:

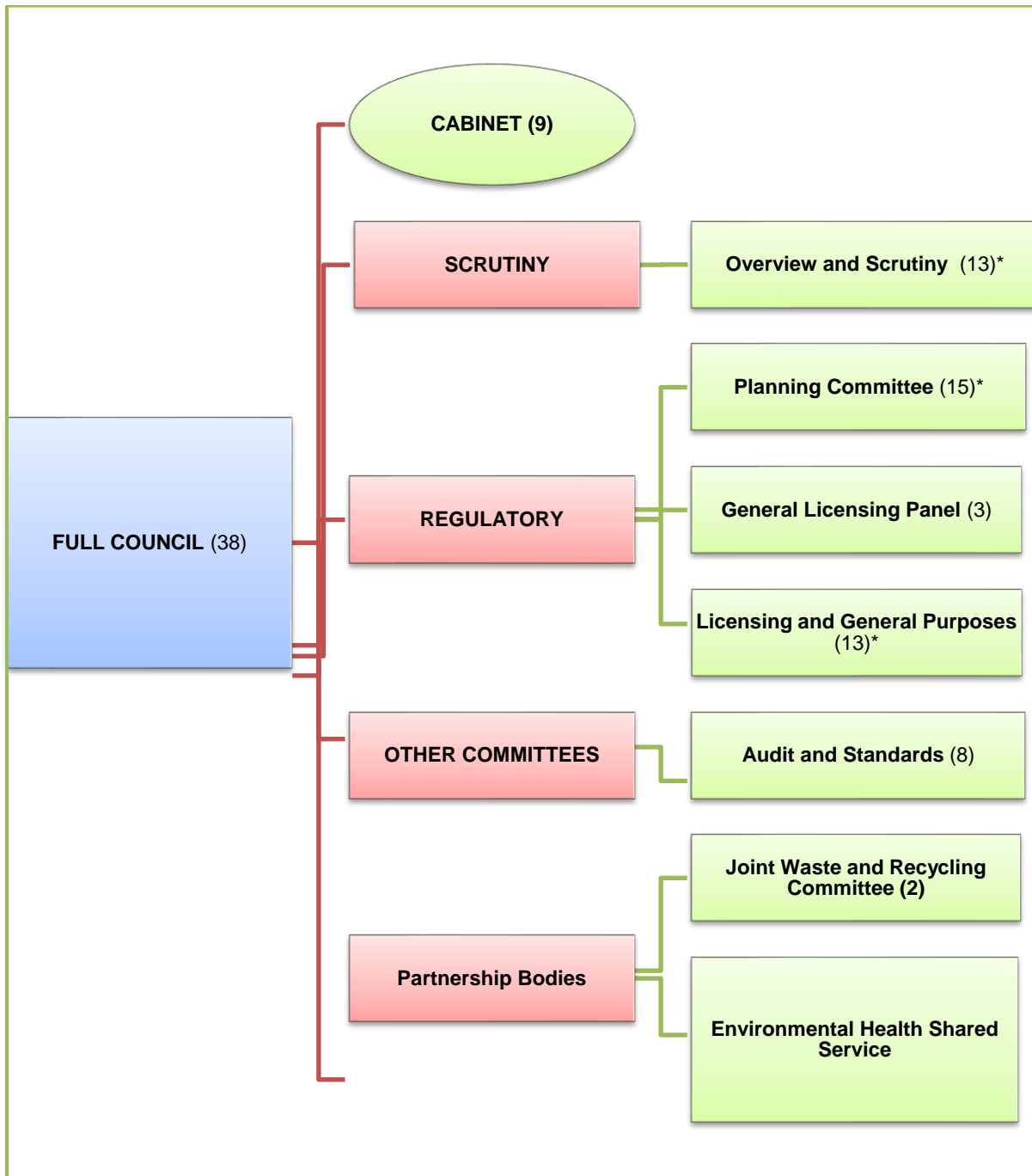


A by-election on 16 June 2022 did not change the political composition.

As a result, Council is led by a coalition of the Association of Independents, Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour Councillors (22 Members).

All the Councillors meet together as Full Council and set the policy and budget framework within which the Council operates. Set out below is a diagram of the Decision-Making bodies for Rother District Council that were in place during 2021/22.

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*Chairman of Council sits as an ex-officio Member on these Committees but has no voting rights.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet consists of the Leader of the Council and 8 other Councillors and meets monthly. The main functions are:-

- To propose the budget and policy framework for approval by the Council

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- To carry out all of the Council's functions and take all decisions except:
 - (a) those reserved to Council, the Audit and Standards Committee, the Planning Committee and the Licensing and General Purposes Committee
 - (b) those delegated to the officers, providing those decisions are not in conflict with the approved budget policy framework
- To refer matters including the review of strategies and policies to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consultation, investigation and report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee is responsible for overview and scrutiny, which supports the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. The Committee is made up of 12 Councillors and it meets 8 times per year. The main activities are:

- (a) Policy development and review:
 - Assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
 - Question Members of the Executive and/or the Head of Paid Service, Directors or Service Managers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
 - Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working, and challenge the relevance of joint working, and in particular any service level agreements, in the delivery of the Council's aims.
- (b) Scrutiny:
 - Review and scrutinise the decisions made by, and the performance of the Executive and/or council officers both in relation to individual decisions and the impact of those decisions over time;
 - Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - Question Members of the Executive and/or the Head of Paid Service, Directors and Service Managers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets, over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
 - Make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
 - Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
 - Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee is made up of 8 Councillors and normally meets 5 times per year.

When carrying out the Audit function, its purpose is

- to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment;
- to provide independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.

When carrying out the Standards functions, its purpose is

- to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the Council;
- to adopt a Code of Conduct dealing with the conduct expected of Members and Co-opted Members of the Council when acting in that capacity;
- to put in place arrangements to investigate and make decisions on written allegations against Elected Members both at District and Parish level and undertake an overview of complaints handling and Local Government Ombudsman investigations, including the power to make payments or other benefits in cases of maladministration etc.

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Licensing and General Purposes Committee

The Committee is made up of 12 Councillors and normally meets 4 times per year. The Licensing and General Purposes Committee has specific responsibility for:

- Licensing
- Health and Safety at Work Act
- Appeals against any decision made by or on behalf of the authority
- Determination of applications for benefits and discretionary rate relief
- Elections and Electoral Registration
- Parish and Town Council matters
- Standing Orders
- Staffing matters
- Control of pollution, contaminated land and air quality

General Licensing Panel

These are made up of 3 Councillors drawn from the membership of the Licensing and General Purposes and meet ad hoc to deal with business as it arises. The Panels consider all aspects of licence applications, variations, suspensions and revocations across the spectrum of local authority licensing responsibilities.

Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Panel

These are made up of 3 Councillors from the membership of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and meet on an ad-hoc basis to deal with business as it arises. The Panels consider all aspects in regard to Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Driver, Operator and Vehicle Licences.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is made up of 14 Councillors and normally meets monthly. The Planning Committee has specific responsibility for:

- Determining Planning Applications
- Building Regulations and Safety of Buildings and Premises
- Conservation and Listed Buildings
- Tree Preservation and Planting
- Strategic Highway and Transportation issues

Joint Waste and Recycling Committee

The Joint Waste and Recycling Committee is made up of elected Member representatives from the Cabinets of East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council (HBC), Rother District Council (RDC) and Wealden District Council (WDC).

The Joint Waste and Recycling Committee also facilitates the authorities to work in partnership with East Sussex County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority to maximise integration opportunities.

The Management Structure of the Council

Supporting the work of elected Members is the organisational structure of the Council headed by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is supported by a senior leadership team comprising the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Place and Climate Change and Chief Finance Officer.

The Council appoints a Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, as required by law. In addition, it appoints a Deputy Monitoring Officer (Democratic Services Manager). These officers have responsibility to take action if the Council has, or is about to, break the law or if the Council is about to set an unbalanced budget.

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Staffing

A summary of the Council's staffing is shown in the table below:

Employees	2020/21	2021/22
Total number of current permanent full and part time employees	250	245
Total number of current temporary / fixed term employees	22	11
Total number of current job share employees	0	0
Total number of employees	272	256
Total number of employees expressed as full time equivalents	235	221

Posts	2020/21	2021/22
Total number of permanent full and part time posts	255	258
Total number of temporary / fixed term posts	22	11
Total number of job share posts	0	0
Total number of posts	277	269
Total number of posts expressed as full time equivalents	240	226

Sickness and accident statistics are shown in the table below:

	2020/21	2021/22
Short term sickness (days per FTE)	0.76	2.77
Medium term sickness (days per FTE)	0.48	0.53
Long term sickness (days per FTE)	3.44	3.49
Overall sickness (days per FTE)	4.68	6.79
Number of accidents	4	4

4. A Summary of the 2021/22 Financial Performance of the Council

General Fund

The Council approved a Council Tax Demand of £7.097 m at its budget meeting in February 2021 resulting in a Council Tax charge for a Band D property of £188.71, an increase of £4.61.

A summary of the General Fund position is shown below in the format used for management accounting and reported to Members throughout the year.

	2021/22 Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Revised Budget £(000)	2021/22 Outturn £ (000)	2021/22 Variance £ (000)
Chief Executive & Corporate Core	2,034	1,985	1,938	(47)
Environmental Services	658	609	451	(158)
Strategy and Planning	1,090	1,043	1,506	463
Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	(297)	(319)	(384)	(65)
Housing and Community Services	8,739	8,680	8,116	(564)

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Resources	3,350	3,288	3,581	293
Total Cost of Services	15,574	15,286	15,208	(78)
Interest from Investments	(326)	(326)	(338)	(12)
MRP	513	513	214	(299)
Interest Payments	914	914	405	(509)
Salaries Turnover	(288)	0	0	0
2020 savings and income generation	(632)	(632)	(195)	437
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	619	619	678	59
Net Cost of Services	16,374	16,374	15,972	(402)

	2021/22 Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Revised Budget £(000)	2021/22 Outturn £ (000)	2021/22 Variance £ (000)
Special Expenses	(692)	(692)	(692)	(0)
Business Rates				
Local Share of business rates	(7,043)	(7,043)	(7,238)	(195)
s31 Grants	(2,020)	(2,020)	(1,922)	98
Tariff	5,121	5,121	5,121	0
Pooling levy payment	195	195	293	98
Non-Specific Revenue Grants				
New Homes Bonus Grant	(272)	(272)	(272)	(0)
Rural services delivery grant	(31)	(31)	(64)	(33)
Local Council tax Support Grant	(146)	(146)	(254)	(108)
Benefits Administration Grant	(223)	(223)	(220)	3
Homelessness Grant - Preventions	(462)	(462)	(559)	(97)
Covid support grants	(519)	(519)	(519)	0
Covid Support – partial support towards Sales, Fees and Charges losses	0	0	(44)	(44)
Lower Tier Services Grant	0	0	(101)	(101)
New Burdens Grants	0	0	(403)	(403)
Council Tax Requirement (Rother only)	(7,097)	(7,097)	(7,097)	(0)
Other Financing				
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	134	134	120	(14)
Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves to fund Capital Expenditure	(619)	(619)	(678)	(59)
Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(2,700)	(2,700)	(1,443)	1,257
Total Income	(16,374)	(16,374)	(15,972)	402

The General Fund Revenue Budget outturn is a deficit of £1.443 m. The remaining drawdown of £0.678 m from earmarked reserves in 2021/22 was to fund capital expenditure. This therefore represents a total drawdown of £2.121 m. When the budget was originally set in February 2021 the Council estimated it would need to draw down £3.319 m from reserves in respect of these.

The main variances against budget are detailed in the following sections:-

Executive Directors & Corporate Core - £47,000 Surplus

- £41,000 overspend on staff costs and recruitment expenses;

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- £35,000 reduction in the running costs of Administrative Offices;
- £53,000 underspends within the Election services expenses.

Environmental Health Service - £158,000 surplus

- £120,000 Savings in salary costs are mainly attributable to the funding of staff redirected to Covid containment and control activities;
- £38,000 Savings in operational costs (hired and contracted services, printing, equipment) spread across various cost centres.

Strategy and Planning Development - £463,000 deficit

- £111,000 underspend due to the delay in the Local Development Framework;
- £282,000 overspend on planning appeal costs during the year;
- £292,000 overspend on external support to process Planning Applications, partially offset by salary savings.

Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration (ATRS) - £65,000 surplus

- £65,000 surplus is due to increase in income receivables and salary savings from vacant posts across the service area.

Housing, Community & Neighbourhood Services - £564,000 Surplus

- £280,000 Additional income in cemetery fees, garden waste and car parks;
- £38,000 lower than anticipated Covid related support for the De La Warr Pavilion, Leisure Centres and Homelessness Prevention;
- £131,000 expenditure savings on Camber, Coast Protection and Parks;
- £115,000 Savings on business rates due to change of legislation on Public Conveniences.

Resources - £293,000 deficit

- £167,000 overspend on Agency staff and redundancy costs, partly offset by salary savings;
- £125,000 Overspend on Technology costs (remote working, licenses and telephones);
- £53,000 Overspend on bank and audit charges;
- £57,000 Pension fund costs underspend;
- £5,000 Net overspend on other minor variances.

Other variations

- £820,000 under spend on Net Financing Costs mainly due to capital programme underspends, which resulted in a lower than expected borrowing requirement;
- £437,000 unachieved Financial Stability Programme savings mainly due to the pandemic.

Income (excluding contributions to/from Reserves) - £793,000 Surplus

- £783,000 under spend due to the receipt of additional government grants during 2021/22, mainly to support Councils with the costs of new burdens.

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General Fund: Capital Programme

The General Fund Capital Programme is summarised in the table below:

	2021/22 Original Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Revised Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Outturn £ (000)	2021/22 Variance £ (000)
<u>Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration</u>	-			
Other Schemes				
Community Grants	130	130	117	13
Cemetery Entrance	0	172	64	108
Rother Transformation ICT Investment	0	384	233	151
Corporate Document Image Processing System	0	435	15	420
1066 Pathways	0	66	68	(2)
Ravenside Roundabout	0	200	0	200
Development of Town Hall Bexhill	0	460	303	157
Property Investment Strategy (PIS)				
Office Development NE Bexhill	15,737	0	0	0
Mount View Street Development - Public commercial	0	964	0	964
PIS - Beeching Road/Wainwright Road	900	963	4	959
PIS - Barnhorn Road	3,345	3,402	246	3,156
PIS - Beeching Road 18-40 (Creative Workspace)	392	582	582	(0)
PIS - 35 Beeching Road	0	0	0	0
PIS - 64 Ninfield Road	0	19	19	0
PIS - Buckhurst Place	0	0	0	0
PIS - Beeching Road/Wainwright Road development	0	15,000	0	15,000
Housing Development Schemes				
Community Led Housing Schemes	303	600	0	600
Mount View Street Development - Housing	3,657	6,940	4,490	2,450
Blackfriars Housing Development - infrastructure only	10,350	10,728	2,613	8,115
Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	25,000	25,000	67	24,933
Rother DC Housing Company Ltd Investment	0	101	0	101
<u>Housing and Community Services</u>				
De La Warr Pavilion - Capital Grant	54	54	56	(2)
Sidley Sports and Recreation	811	811	615	196
Land Swap re Former High School Site	0	1,085	0	1,085
Bexhill Leisure Centre - site development	0	0	0	0
Bexhill Leisure Centre - refurbishment	140	140	0	140
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,625	1,625	1,347	278
New bins	125	125	181	(56)
Bexhill Promenade - Outflow pipe	0	100	9	91
Bexhill Promenade - Protective Barriers	0	47	45	2
Bexhill Promenade - Shelter 1	0	0	16	(16)
Bexhill Promenade Water feature	0	0	0	0
Fairlight Coastal Protection	0	0	9	(9)
Housing (purchases - temp accommodation)	0	7,281	938	6,343
Strategy & Planning				
Payments to Parishes - CIL	0	88	40	48
Executive Directors & Corporate Core				
Accommodation Strategy	0	0	0	0

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Resources				
ICT Infrastructure – Ongoing Upgrade Programme	0	0	2	(2)
ICT Infrastructure Replacement Programme	0	123	111	12
Invest To Save initiatives (Financial Stability Programme)	0	750	29	721
Total Capital Programme	62,569	78,375	12,219	66,156

	2021/22 Original Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Revised Budget £ (000)	2021/22 Estimated Outturn £ (000)	2021/22 Variance £ (000)
Funded By:				
Capital Receipts	0	1,085	0	1,085
Grants and contributions	13,481	14,346	5,157	9,189
CIL	0	88	40	48
Borrowing	23,764	37,532	6,782	30,750
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	324	324	173	151
Borrowing – Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	25,000	25,000	67	24,933
Total Funding	62,569	78,375	12,219	66,156

The outturn on the General Fund capital programme is an overall underspend of £66.1 m against the revised programme agreed by Members. Revisions to the programme budget were mainly the result of slippage in expenditure from previous years' underspends. Schemes that are underspent are largely affected by timing issues to planned expenditure and will be reflected in 2022/23 Capital Programme. The reasons for the largest variances are as follows:

- Slippage of £15 m on the Beeching Road/Wainwright Road development - final scheme to be agreed and commenced in 2022/23;
- Slippage of £24.9 m on investment into the RDC Housing Company - it is anticipated that the Council will significantly increase its borrowing to the Housing Company once the Blackfriars Infrastructure development has been completed in 2022/23;
- Slippage of £8.1 m on Blackfriars Housing Development infrastructure - the scheme experienced delays in 2021/22 but is due to complete in 2022/23;
- Slippage of £6.3 m on temporary accommodation purchases - the pandemic restricted the Council's ability to identify suitable property purchases, but this situation continues to improve;
- Slippage of £3.1 m on the Barnhorn Road development - the scheme has been delayed due to extensive design work being carried out in conjunction with key third parties. Project costs are now being reviewed, including inflationary pressures, to assess options with regards to the next steps;
- Slippage of £2.4 m on the Mount Street Development – initial costs were not as high as originally anticipated, further developments are currently being negotiated with third parties
- Slippage - land swap re former High School Site £1.1m. Development of leisure facilities in Bexhill was put on hold by the Council in 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic. The scheme will carry over into 2022/23.

Collection Fund

The outturn on the Collection Fund for the year is a deficit of £5.05 m on Business Rates against a January 2022 estimated surplus of £0.13 m and a surplus of £0.96 m on Council Tax against a budgeted deficit of £0.074 m. The difference between actual and budgeted will be adjusted in 2023/24 and 2024/25 tax setting.

The significant Business Rates deficit is mainly due to the impact of additional reliefs, particularly retail relief of £2.3 m (£4.7 m in 2020-2021) administered to local businesses to cope with the impact of the pandemic. The Government meets the cost of reliefs by providing section 31 grants to the Council, which are credited to the General Fund in 2021-2022, not the Collection Fund. The impact on the council's share of the deficit, which is due to additional reliefs met by the section 31 grant is met by transfer from the earmarked reserves in 2021-2022 (in 2020-2021 a contribution to earmarked reserves was made to meet this deficit in 2021-22 and onwards).

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In 2021-2022 Rother District Council received £6.9 m of grant funding to cover additional support to businesses. The difference between that and the £2.3 m distributed will need to be repaid to the government.

The Council's future share of the deficit, which is down to the additional reliefs met by the section 31 grant will be met by a transfer from the earmarked reserves.

5. Strategic Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Business Rates Business Rates reset by national Government could lead to reduced income being retained.	Adverse financial outcome(s) for the Council in future years.	Continuing to engage with the DLUHC through their consultations.
Reliance on Commercial Income Exploring alternative sources of income to offset core funding reductions and also ensure value for money for residents, particularly in relation to the Property Investment Strategy.	A recession or other unexpected or uncontrollable events could leave the Council exposed to under-funding or large losses in income.	Robust monthly monitoring, which scrutinises forecast projections and challenges material movements against budgeted targets.
Medium Term impact on the economy of COVID – 19 Possible impact of economic downturn on the number of businesses operating in Rother and potential increase in unemployment could reduce income from Council Tax as more households claim financial support from the Council.	Currently Rother would have to support 40% of the loss of income from business rates should there be business failures due to a prolonged economic downturn. Increased unemployment would see the claims for Council Tax reduction with resultant reduction in the taxbase and inability to compensate through higher levels of Council Tax charged to other households	Continuing to engage with the DLUHC through their consultations to mitigate the loss of income to the council through enhanced central government support
Rother DC Housing Company Ltd Not meeting the target of delivering 1,000 new homes.	The Council will be required to lend significant sums to the Company to enable it to achieve this target.	Borrowing will be structured and secured in a manner to minimise the risk the Council is exposed to from significant lending.

6. Liability for Pensions Costs

The estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discounts used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The fund assets have been subject to the triennial revaluation the results of which were only published in July 2023 thus significantly delaying the completion of the accounts for 2021-2022 as figures needed to be restated.

The Council's net Pension Liability valued on an IAS 19 basis decreased from £22.65 m at 31st March 2021 to £18.051 m at 31st March 2022 (£4.6m decrease)– see Note 8 to the accounts. Gross liabilities have increased by £1.76 m mainly due to combination of changes in financial assumptions (the discount rate increased from 2% to 2.6%, salary/inflation assessments increased from 2.8% to 3.2%). There were also substantial changes in demographic assumptions and experience losses on defined benefit obligation. The value of fund assets increased by £6.4 m (return

NARRATIVE

on assets of £9.6m having been counterweighed by other actuarial losses of £3.1 m resulting from the roll forward figures now being based on the 2022 valuation information rather than the one from 2019).

The Council does not operate its own Pension Fund but is part of the East Sussex Local Government Pension Scheme, which is administered by East Sussex County Council. Full details of the Pension Scheme and its accounts are available on-line at www.eastsussex.gov.uk.

7. Future Plans

In common with the rest of local government, the Council has seen a steady reduction in its core funding in recent years. The Government's aim is to phase out non-specific grant funding altogether, instead allowing local authorities to retain a higher proportion of business rates collected locally.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy has recently been updated indicating that due to reductions in government funding and demands on Council services, as well as other economic factors, the financing of the Council services remains challenging.

To balance the budget, there will be a continuing need for service transformation, efficiencies and savings initiatives for the foreseeable future.

The Medium Term Financial Plan

The budget for 2021/22 was set against a background of continuing fiscal tightening of local government through Government policy and managing the impact of the pandemic locally. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was set in February 2021 and updated in December of 2021 to update the effects of COVID – 19 on the Council's finances together with a reassessment of the deliverability of savings and income targets.

The updated medium term financial plan for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 is set out in the table below (source: Report CB211213 Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to Cabinet 13 December 2021).

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive & Corporate Core	1,998	1,998	1,998	1,998	1,998	1,998
Environmental Services	609	613	611	611	611	611
Strategy and Planning	1,043	1,493	1,043	1,043	1,043	1,043
Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	(329)	(542)	(1,291)	(1,974)	(2,318)	(2,372)
Housing and Community Services	8,672	8,190	8,177	8,177	8,177	8,177
Resources	3,293	3,297	3,296	3,295	3,296	3,295
Total Cost of Services	15,286	15,049	13,834	13,150	12,807	12,752
Interest from Investments	(326)	(342)	(342)	(342)	(342)	(342)
MRP	513	1,059	1,078	1,098	1,118	1,116
Interest payments	914	843	832	819	807	796
Pay Inflation	0	99	100	101	102	103
Non-Pay and income Inflation	0	123	132	135	145	148
Vacancy Provision/Salary Turnover	0	(197)	(201)	(205)	(210)	(214)

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Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	619	374	186	187	130	130
Savings and Income generation						
(i) Increase income - Property Investment Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0
(ii) Increase income (net) - other	(107)	(202)	(202)	(202)	(202)	(202)
(iii) Lean and Demand	(180)	(180)	(180)	(180)	(180)	(180)
(iv) Service Prioritisation/Devolution	(250)	(158)	(1,660)	(1,720)	(1,720)	(1,720)
(v) Reduced Staffing Structure	(95)	(95)	(95)	(95)	(95)	(95)
Net Cost of Services	16,374	16,373	13,482	12,746	12,360	12,292

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Special Expenses	(692)	(702)	0	0	0	0
Business Rates						
Local Share of business rates 44% 2019/20 and 40% thereafter	(7,043)	(7,043)	(7,043)	(7,043)	(7,043)	(7,043)
s31 Grants	(2,020)	(2,020)	(2,020)	(2,020)	(2,020)	(2,020)
Tariff	5,121	5,121	5,121	5,121	5,121	5,121
Pooling Levy	195	195	195	195	195	195
Non-Specific Revenue Grants						
New Homes Bonus Grant	(272)	0	0	0	0	0
Rural services delivery grant	(30)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(34)	(35)
Local Council tax Support Grant	(146)	(150)	(153)	(157)	(161)	(164)
Benefits Administration Grant	(223)	(228)	(234)	(239)	(245)	(251)
Homelessness Grant - Preventions	(462)	(473)	(484)	(496)	(508)	(520)
Flexible Homeless Support Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Covid Support Grants	(519)	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Requirement (Rother only)	(7,097)	(7,501)	(7,694)	(7,890)	(8,082)	(8,283)
Other Financing						
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	134	134	134	134	0	0
Capital expenditure funded from reserves	(619)	(374)	(186)	(187)	(130)	(130)
Total Income	(13,673)	(13,073)	(12,397)	(12,616)	(12,907)	(13,130)

NARRATIVE

Funding Gap - from Earmarked Reserves to balance the budget	2,701	3,300	1,085	130	(547)	(838)
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The Council has adopted a Property Investment Strategy (PIS) focussed on investment within Rother District in order to facilitate economic regeneration, secure existing employment and develop new employment space. This has been achieved in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, and work on identifying other suitable properties continues.

Income Generation

The Council has a number of key income streams besides Council Tax and Non Domestic rates. These include car parking, planning, licensing and land charges. Please refer to Note 7b for details.

Another source of income is rents from land and industrial estates. The Council has increased the level of income it receives from property through the above mentioned PIS. The table below highlights the contribution assets acquired through the PIS are making towards services:

2020/21 Gross Additional Income £'000	Property	2021/22 Gross Additional Income £'000
106	14 Terminus Road	106
93	18-40 Beeching Road	90
97	16 Beeching Road	68
437	Glovers House	479
195	Market Square, Battle	195
*2	11 Beeching Road headlease	100
930	Total	1,039

*Not previously reported due to insignificant value

Property Funds

The Council has £5 m invested in the CCLA Property Fund and £3 m in the Hermes Property Fund. The reason for these investments was due to the current low interest rates offered by banks and to try to achieve improved investment returns. These funds returned between 3.41 and 3.68%, which helped to support Council services. They also provide a capital return or potential loss depending on property values but this is not realised until the funds are sold. As of 31 March 2022 the value of the units held by RDC was worth £918,000 more than the original investment.

Capital Strategy 2022/23

The CIPFA revised 2017 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy report, which seeks to provide the following:

- a high-level long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activities contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability

Of most significance are the Council plans to continue with its capital investment on Housing schemes and its Property Investment Strategy as part of its regeneration ambitions.

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The Council's latest Capital Strategy was approved by full Council on 22 February 2021 and is available on the Council's website. The table below also includes estimates for 2026/27 to align with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

	2021/22 Revised Budget £000	2022/23 Budget £000	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	Total Budget £000
<u>Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration</u>							
Other Schemes							
Community Grants	130	130	130	130	130	130	780
Cemetery Entrance	172	83					255
Rother Transformation ICT Investment	384	153					537
Corporate Document Image Processing System	435	399					834
1066 Pathways	66						66
Ravenside Roundabout	200	200					400
Development of Town Hall Bexhill	460	15					475
Property Investment Strategy							
Mount View Street Development - Public commercial	964						964
PIS - Beeching Road/Wainwright Road	963	2,590					3,553
PIS - Barnhorn Road	3,402	6,099	3,313				12,814
PIS - Beeching Road 18-40 (Creative Workspace)	501	29					530
PIS - 64 Ninfield Road	100						100
Housing Development Schemes							
Community Led Housing Schemes	600	166					766
Mount View Street Development - Housing	6,940						6,940
Blackfriars Housing Development - infrastructure only	10,728	7,450					18,178
Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	25,000	60,492	18,000				103,492
RDC Housing Investment	100						100
<u>Housing and Community Services</u>							
De La Warr Pavilion - Capital Grant	54	55	56	57			222
Sidley Sports and Recreation	811	101					912

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Land Swap re Former High School Site	1,085	900					1,985
Bexhill Leisure Centre - site development	0	189					189
Bexhill Leisure Centre - refurbishment	140	90					230
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	9,750
New bins	125	125	125	125	125	125	750
Bexhill Promenade - Outflow pipe	100	80					180
Bexhill Promenade - Protective Barriers	47						47
Bexhill Promenade - Shelter 1		55					55
Fairlight Coastal Protection							0
Housing (purchases - temp accommodation)	7,300	4,000	1,500				12,800
Strategy & Planning							
Payments to Parishes - CIL	88	48					136
Resources							
ICT Infrastructure – Ongoing Upgrade Programme	123	14					137
Invest To Save initiatives (Financial Stability Programme)	50	350	350				750
Total Capital Programme	62,693	85,438	25,099	1,937	1,880	1,880	178,927

	2021/22 Revised Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Funded By:							
Capital Receipts	1,085	900					1,985
Grants and contributions	13,893	7,200	1,625	1,625	1,625	1,625	27,593
CIL	431	446					877
Borrowing	20,846	15,384	5,288	125	125	125	41,893
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	1,438	1,016	186	187	130	130	3,087
Borrowing - Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	25,000	60,492	18,000				103,492
Total Funding	62,693	85,438	25,099	1,937	1,880	1,880	178,927

8. Material assets/liabilities

In 2021-2022 the most significant assets purchased by the Council were the acquisition of land at Mount View Street (£4.5 m), the Blackfriars housing development (£2.6 m) and Temporary Accommodation units for homeless households (£938,000).

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These were financed by loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) and Homes England grants. As at 31st March 2022 the Council's borrowing stood at £27.312m long term loans with PWLB and £5 m short term loan with another local authority.

9. Explanation of the Financial Statements

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to produce a Statement of Accounts for each financial year. There have been no changes to accounting policies.

These statements contain a number of different elements which are explained below.

Statement of Responsibilities sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Chief Finance Officer.

Independent Auditor's Report gives the auditor's opinion of the financial statements and of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

Statement of Accounts

- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** shows the cost of providing services in the year in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.
- **Movement in Reserves Statement** shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed between usable reserves (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves.
- **Balance Sheet** shows the value of the Council's assets and liabilities at the reporting date. These are matched by usable and unusable reserves.
- **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in the Council's cash and cash equivalents during the reporting period.
- **Collection Fund** is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation of billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and its distribution to precepting bodies.

10. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those involved in managing the Council's finances and preparing this Statement of Accounts. Their support under ever increasing competing demands has been appreciated throughout these challenging times.

Duncan Ellis

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Section 151 Officer

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Scope of Responsibility

Rother District Council (RDC) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. RDC also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, RDC is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, which facilitate the effective exercising of its functions. This also includes making arrangements for the management of risk.

RDC has approved and adopted a local code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. A copy of the Code is on the RDC website or can be obtained from the Council's Monitoring Officer, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3JX or telephone 01424 787273. This statement explains how RDC has complied with the code and meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

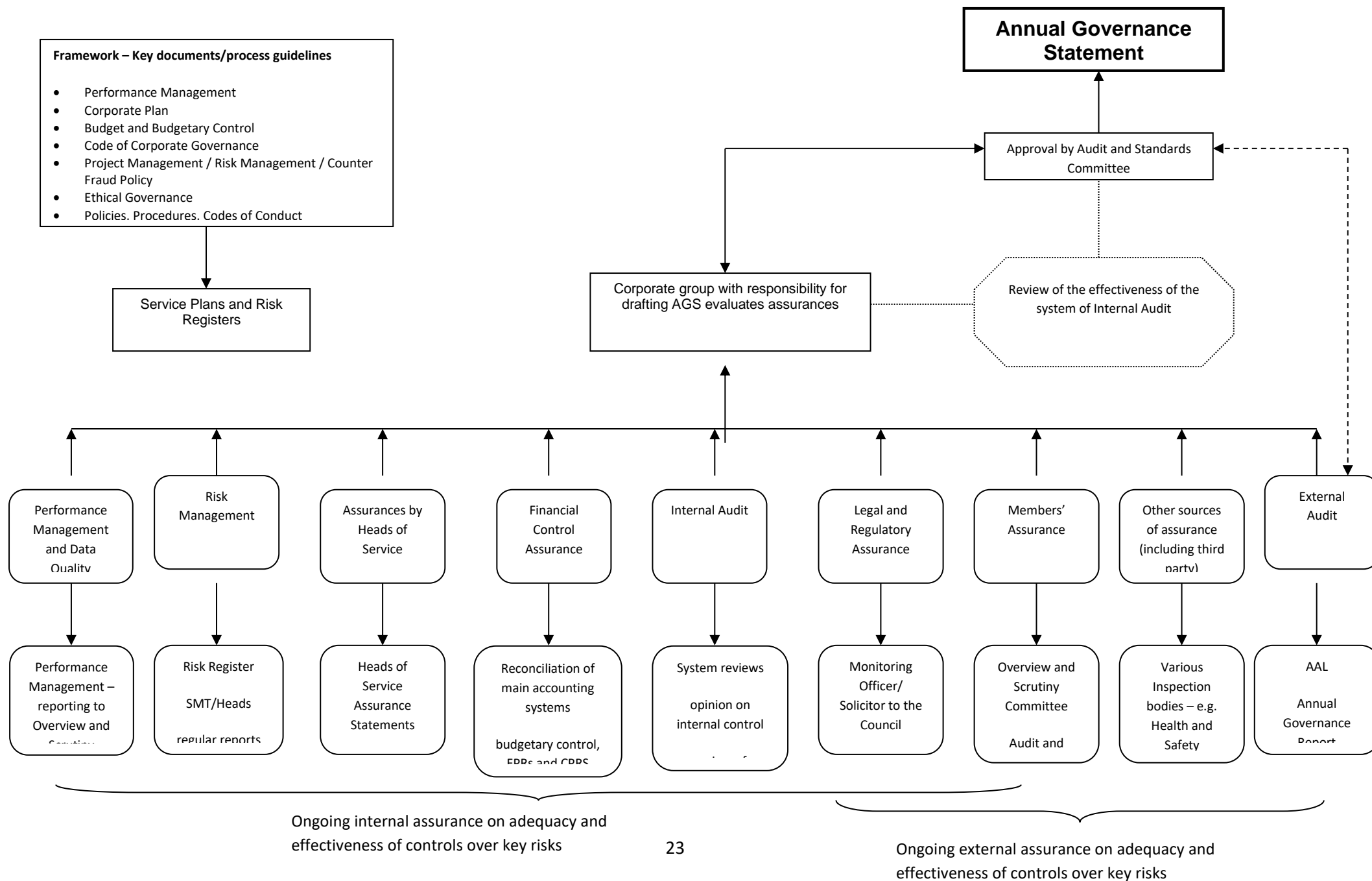
The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the authority is directed and controlled. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designated to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Rother's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and their impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at Rother for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of approval of the statement of accounts.

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ANNUAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK TO 31 MARCH 2022



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Review of Effectiveness

RDC has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the Chief Executive within the authority who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Audit Manager's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The way the Council complied with the Code of Corporate Governance is explained below:

PRINCIPLE A – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

Legal and Regulatory Assurance

The role of Solicitor to the Council entails oversight of all the Council's legal dealings, including as necessary the sealing or signing of formal legal documents. The role of Monitoring Officer entails oversight of the Council's ethical framework, oversight of the Council's Constitution including the proper allocation of functions between the executive, regulatory and scrutiny limbs of the democratic machinery, and the statutory duty to report direct to full Council with respect to any breach of law. Key to the performance of the Monitoring Officer is the vetting of the agenda, reports and minutes of all meetings.

The Deputy Chief Executive appointed in January 2022 is the Council's Monitoring Officer, which was a post previously held by the Democratic Services Manager who now becomes the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Council's Legal Services are provided by Wealden District Council and their lead officer is the appointed Solicitor to the Council.

Members' Assurance – Audit and Standards Committee

During 2021/22, the Audit and Standards Committee (A&SC) received and scrutinised quarterly reports from the Audit Manager on the reviews carried out and progress against the plan and the year-end report includes a formal opinion of the adequacy, reliability and effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control systems.

In carrying out its responsibilities for Standards matters, the Committee also includes three Independent Person(s) and two Parish and Town Councillor representatives, who usually attend meetings of the A&SC twice a year, when standards related matters are considered. Under the Localism Act 2011, the Standards regime changed and Councils were given the responsibility of setting their own Codes of Conduct and procedures for dealing with complaints against Members. The Monitoring Officer is now able to assess all complaints after consultation with one of the Independent Persons and determine what actions, if necessary, should be taken. All valid complaints are reported to the A&SC for information bi-annually. Sanctions for dealing with Councillors who may have breached the Code of Conduct are significantly reduced under the current regime.

In addition to its statutory responsibilities, the Council has also vested in the Committee the overview of complaints handling and Local Ombudsman investigations. In this regard, the Committee receives a bi-annual report and an annual report on the Council's whole year performance. The Council has since the financial year end, created a new role and now appointed an independent person for the Audit responsibilities of the A&S Committee.

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework

All officers and Members are signed up to the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework. The Framework is made up five separate but related documents, namely:

- ✓ Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
- ✓ Fraud Response Plan
- ✓ Anti-Bribery Policy
- ✓ Anti-Money Laundering Policy
- ✓ Whistleblowing Policy

The Whistleblowing policy places emphasis on the agreed ethical values of Members and employees, providing protection for individuals to raise concerns in confidence about suspect behaviour and ensuring that any concerns raised are properly investigated.

PRINCIPLE B – Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Full Council, Cabinet, Regulatory and Scrutiny meetings are available to view live on the Council's website and can be viewed after the meeting using the link from the relevant meeting on the website as well as being open to the public to attend in person. All agenda papers, reports and decisions made by the Council are published on the Council's website

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together with details of forthcoming consultation exercises, surveys and public meetings, except those determined as exempt from publication.

The Council's consultation charter sets out how it engages with stakeholders and partners. The Council website has a section called "Ask the Leader!" where the Leader of the Council will answer question posted online. The Council has a public question time scheme which allows the public to put questions to the appropriate Member of Cabinet or Committee Chairman at full Council meetings. Anyone who works or lives in the Rother District can submit one written question to full Council attended by all the elected Councillors.

PRINCIPLES C AND D - Defining, optimising and achieving outcomes

Rother's new Corporate Plan 2020-2027 was adopted by Full Council on 5 July 2021. The Corporate Plan provides the strategic direction for the Council and shapes the work programmes and Service Plans throughout this period. The overarching vision of the Corporate Plan is to put customers at the heart of everything the council does. It also sets out the following key themes:

- Financial Stability
- Increasing the supply of affordable homes across the district
- Protecting the natural environment and tackling climate change
- Empowering our people and strengthening processes and resources
- Delivering more effective services
- Prosperity and economic development

The Corporate Plan sets out several priority objectives which are underpinned by key actions, milestones and targets. An annual report setting out progress against the Corporate Plan is reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis. This also provides an opportunity to review data about the district, national policy, and the external context to determine whether any changes are needed to the Corporate Plan. The programmes and projects within the plan are also monitored on a quarterly basis by Members through the Corporate Programme Board.

Rother's Performance Framework is reviewed annually by Overview and Scrutiny Committee who make recommendations to Cabinet on what measures should form part of our Key Performance Indicators to be monitored regularly by the Committee. These reports also allow the opportunity for exception reporting of performance indicators monitored by services that need focus. Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends action and resource allocation for consideration by Cabinet where appropriate.

PRINCIPLE E – Developing capacity and capability

A key element of the Council's service planning is to maximise the investment in staff through staff training to ensure we have the necessary skills for the future. All employees' training and development needs are considered as part of their annual appraisal. The Council is a member of the Sussex Training Consortium which provides access to cost effective training for all Councils across East and West Sussex. The Council works across a broad set of partnerships and collaborative arrangements and uses commissioning and procurement processes to maximise capacity by delivering services in the most effective and efficient way.

Although recruiting to professional posts is becoming increasingly difficult due to skills shortages in several areas, the Council has for some time had a very effective process for training and developing its own talent from within. Although not a quick fix it has helped to mitigate skills shortages across certain service areas.

PRINCIPLE F – Managing risks and performance

Risk Management

The Council has an approved Risk Management Policy and Strategic Integrated Framework. This document shows the role both Members and officers have in the identification and minimisation of risk. Progress has been made to further embed risk management within the organisation and is now driven by risk and corporate governance forming an integral part of meetings of the Corporate Management Team (SMT). Desk top exercises are held on a regular basis to test identified risks against our Business Continuity planning. These were disrupted by the pandemic but were restarted in 2021. Risk Management is a feature of all new projects and is an integral part to the service planning process. Day to day management and monitoring processes and procedures are in place but work continues to improve the awareness of all staff. The corporate risk register forms an integral part of the Council's risk management process and is now available throughout the Council's services.

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Financial Control Assurance

A regular process of reconciling the main accounting systems is in place. Budget monitoring is produced monthly for all budget managers and regular reports have been submitted to the Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet. The quality of reporting is continually under review by Finance and improvements have been made during 2021/22.

Internal Audit

Each year an Internal Audit plan of work is agreed by the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer and the Audit and Standards Committee. Most of the audit work planned in 2021/22 was completed by the financial year end. This work included the core financial audits and several other audits that had been categorised as high/medium risk within the Audit Plan.

The Audit Manager reports monthly to the Chief Executive and quarterly to the A&SC on the audit reviews that have been undertaken, highlighting any significant recommendations that have been made. In addition, the Chief Executive reviews the effectiveness of Internal Audit annually.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that ultimate responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control rests with the Council, but this has been delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (as s.151 Officer). The assessment of the control environment is made by reviewing Internal Audit report recommendations and the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

At Audit & Standards Committee on the 20th June 2022 the Internal Audit Manager reported that of the audit reports completed in 2021/22, three received a limited assurance rating although of the 69 control objectives examined only one had not been met. The quarterly Internal Audit activity reports also showed that most of the expected controls are in place and no significant concerns were found with the internal control environment. As a result, the Internal Audit Manager's overall opinion on the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control in 2021/22 deemed that it was adequate and effective, (minute AS22/12).

External Audit

External audit provides the Council with an Auditor's Annual Report and an Audit Findings Report, which reports on the Council's financial performance, value for money and a review of the effectiveness of the governance arrangements.

PRINCIPLE G – Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and accountability

All Council decisions are published online together with supporting information to outline why that decision was chosen above other options. The Council has developed both its website and the format of Council reports to improve transparency and accessibility.

The Council reports performance against targets and financial targets on a regular basis. This reporting incorporates services provided by all models of delivery including services shared with other authorities, partnerships and contracted out services. All high-risk audit recommendations are reported to the A&SC, to ensure that officers undertake any follow up actions as appropriate.

Significant Governance Issues

In terms of internal control, there have been areas where weaknesses which have been identified through the review of compliance to the local code of corporate governance, Managers' Assurance Statements, Internal Audit and the work of the A&SC and these are commented on below. In addition, there are areas where, due to external factors, these have potential to adversely impact on the Council.

Governance issues arising from the review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

There are no outstanding issues to report from previous years, and the work carried out by Internal Audit in 2021/22 did not highlight any significant concerns regarding the internal control environment.

Other issues and areas of emerging risk that may impact on the Council include:

Local Government Funding Review and Business Rate Retention Scheme reset – the Government's review of local government funding and business rates has been further delayed by at least another year. This continues to be a significant source of uncertainty over the Council's financial stability.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Achieving a balanced budget – as a result of the above uncertainty and the projected funding shortfall in the Medium-Term Financial Plan, pressure remains on the Council to deliver savings and additional income up to £2.2 m by 2024/25. The current plan includes the delivery of savings of £1.7 m through the devolvement of services to alternative providers including Town and Parish Councils. Failure to deliver these will result in difficulties in achieving a balanced revenue budget without recourse to using a major proportion of the Council's reserves. The Council's plans to deliver savings were further developed during 2021/22 and are overseen by the Corporate Programme Board following a decision by Cabinet on the 28th March 2022 (CB21/98) to merge the Financial Stability Programme and the Protecting Discretionary Service Strategy into a single project.

Joint Working – It is expected that the Council will continue with its programme of delivering services jointly with other bodies where it helps to maintain or improve services at a reduced cost. The Council has 3 main shared services. Building Control and Legal services are provided by Wealden District Council. The shared Environmental Health and Licensing Service with Wealden is provided by Rother District Council. Shared services provided by another Council could limit the Council's ability to maintain the quality of a service, particularly in the short term. The provision of a shared service for another Council does reduce the Council's flexibility and ability to redirect its resources when committed to delivery of a service for another Council. The Council also jointly procures a number of major contracts including waste collection and street cleaning and grounds maintenance.

Loss of staff and recruitment – Several internal and external factors are having a negative impact on staff morale. Whilst no compulsory redundancies are currently planned, the current financial challenges could reduce morale and increase the risk of staff turnover. This could result in the loss of knowledge and experience which the Council relies upon moving forward. In addition, the recruitment of professional level Local Government posts continues to be problematic. There are a range of factors influencing this, but seasoned professionals and specialists are becoming a real issue for Local Government and in particular, semi-rural Councils such as Rother. The Council's ability to deliver services and projects can be severely compromised by the inability to recruit, combined with the retirement of qualified and experienced staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted some recruitment. However, going forward the changes in working practice brought about in response to the pandemic has increased the flexibility of the Council can offer prospective employees, in particular homeworkers. In addition, the Council continues to employ and train apprentices which can include professional roles.

Property Investment - The Council has a Property Investment Strategy (PIS) for the acquisition and development of commercial property in the district. The strategy enables the Council to invest primarily to stimulate economic activity/regeneration. Recent activity has focused on development opportunities which will bring jobs and yield a return in the longer term but will require time to bring to fruition. The Property Investment Panel carefully considers all property investment opportunities and seeks professional advice before making acquisitions but there are significant financial risks if the Council embarks on more speculative investments. As most property investment is funded through borrowing, returns are very sensitive to increases in interest rates.

U4BW ERP Implementation Project – The project has moved to a fine-tuning phase with no further work planned other than scheduled upgrades. The required elements of the Income Manager module are now fully operational. Mastercard are discontinuing their payment services with Unit 4 and will be replaced by Capita. Development work on the Expenses and Self-Service modules has paused whilst alternative delivery options are explored.

Major Projects – The Council is undertaking several high-profile projects with the aim of delivering housing and economic regeneration to the district. The Council has also established a wholly owned housing company to deliver the new housing. The projects are managed by special projects team in the Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration Service. The Corporate Programme Board has regular oversight of all the major projects and progress is reported annually through the Corporate Plan monitoring report.

Trading with European Union and Northern Ireland – the full ongoing impact of the Country's exit from the European Union remain unclear on the activities of the Council and its supply chain. The new trading agreement has resulted in increased work for the environmental health service issuing export health certificates. As trade recovers, the demands on the shared service with Wealden District Council will increase further.

Pandemic – Although all restrictions in place during the Covid-19 pandemic have now been removed there is still an on-going impact on the Council's staffing resources in terms of dealing with on-going outbreaks of Covid-19. The cost of this is generally funded by Government but that source of funding is likely to end after 21/22 (although unspent funding can be carried forward into the next financial year) and the Council will need to consider the 'business as usual' implications into the future.

Climate Change Emergency – The Council's Climate Change Steering Group has had oversight of the delivery of the Council's Environment Strategy. During 2021/22 work has been underway to develop the Council's carbon baseline.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The next steps will be to develop a carbon descent plan which will quantify (carbon saved and cost) the interventions the Council can take to reduce its carbon emissions balanced against any carbon offsetting. Several projects have been progressed and monitoring continues through the Steering Group.

Joint Waste Collection and Street Cleaning Contract – The Council's waste and street cleansing contract is managed through the Joint Waste and Recycling Committee (made up of representatives from Rother, Wealden and Hastings Councils). This committee meets quarterly, and the agenda and minutes are available on the Council's website.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address these matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Two handwritten signatures are shown above horizontal lines. The signature on the left is for Cllr Doug Oliver, and the signature on the right is for Malcolm Johnston.

Cllr Doug Oliver

Malcolm Johnston

Leader of the Council

Chief Executive

On behalf of Rother District Council

On behalf of Rother District Council

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council's Responsibility

The Council is required:

- to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. At Rother District Council this officer is the Chief Finance Officer.
- to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- to approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibility

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's statement of accounts, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:

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

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

Chief Financial Officer Certificate

I certify that I have fulfilled my responsibilities noted above and that the accounts set out on pages 31 to 84 give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2022 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022.



Duncan Ellis

Deputy Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer

Date 24 November 2023

Approval of Accounts

The draft accounts were presented to and noted by the Audit and Standards Committee on 4 December 2023.



Councillor Bryan Drayson

Chairman of Audit and Standards Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the members of Rother District Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Rother District Council (the 'Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2022, which comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Collection Fund Statement and notes 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 2021/22.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law, as required by the Code of Audit Practice (2020) ("the Code of Audit Practice") approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. 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. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the Deputy Chief Executive's (Section 151 Officer as the Chief Finance Officer) use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the Deputy Chief Executive's (Section 151 Officer) conclusions, and in accordance with the expectation set out within the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 that the Authority's financial statements shall be prepared on a going concern basis, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuation of services provided by the Authority. In doing so we had regard to the guidance provided in Practice Note 10 Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom (Revised 2020) on the application of ISA (UK) 570 Going Concern to public sector entities. We assessed the reasonableness of the basis of preparation used by the Authority and the Authority's disclosures over the going concern period.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Deputy Chief Executive's (Section 151 Officer) use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

The responsibilities of the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) as Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the 'Responsibilities of the Authority, the Chief Finance Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements' section of this report.

Other information

The Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Financial Report and Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in April 2020 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the Code of Audit Practice) we are required 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters required by the Code of Audit Practice

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit of the financial statements and our knowledge of the Authority, the other information published together with the financial statements in the Financial Report and 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Responsibilities of the Authority, the Chief Finance Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the financial statements

As explained in the Statement of Responsibilities, 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 Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer). The Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for the preparation of the Financial Report and 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 2021/22, for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 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 Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Authority will no longer be provided.

The Audit and Standards Committee is Those Charged with Governance. Those Charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK).

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Authority and determined that the most significant, which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements, are those related to the reporting frameworks (international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992) and the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
- We enquired of senior officers and the Audit and Standards Committee, concerning the Authority's policies and procedures relating to:
 - the identification, evaluation and compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the detection and response to the risks of fraud; and
 - the establishment of internal controls to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

- We enquired of senior officers, and the Audit and Standards Committee, whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Authority's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by evaluating officers' incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included the evaluation of the risk of: fraudulent revenue and expenditure recognition; management override of controls and the risk of management bias in accounting estimates. We determined the principal risks were in relation to journal entries we considered to be high risk and management bias in the calculation of significant estimates subject to a high level of estimation uncertainty and sensitivity to small changes in assumptions, namely the valuation of land and buildings, investment properties and valuation of pension fund net liability
- Our audit procedures involved:
 - evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls that the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
 - journal entry testing, with a focus on unusual journals made during the year and the accounts production stage for appropriateness and corroboration;
 - challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates in respect of land and buildings, investment property and defined benefit pensions liability valuations;
 - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.
- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.
- The audit team discussed the risk of Authority's potential non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations, the potential for fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition and the significant accounting estimates related to land and property, investment property and defined benefit pensions net liability valuations.
- Our assessment of the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team included consideration of the engagement team's:
 - understanding of, and practical experience with audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation;
 - knowledge of the local government sector;
 - understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements specific to the Authority including:
 - the provisions of the applicable legislation;
 - guidance issued by CIPFA, LASAAC and SOLACE;
 - the applicable statutory provisions.
- In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of:
 - the Authority's operations, including the nature of its income and expenditure and its services and of its objectives and strategies to understand the classes of transactions, account balances, expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.
 - the Authority's control environment, including the policies and procedures implemented by the Authority to ensure compliance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 2022.

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, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

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 have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021. 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 have documented 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 have considered whether there is evidence to suggest that there are significant weaknesses in arrangements.

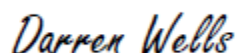
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements – Audit certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of Rother District Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

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 43 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.



Darren Wells, Key Audit Partner

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

London

14 December 2023

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2020-21				2021-22		
Expenditure	Income	Net		Expenditure	Income	Net
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
2,574	(204)	2,370	Corporate Core (incl Chief Executive)	2,795	(566)	2,229
2,448	(2,350)	98	Environmental Services	2,881	(2,577)	304
2,190	(890)	1,300	Strategy and Planning and Development	2,826	(1,024)	1,802
1,904	(1,176)	728	Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	2,524	(1,610)	914
14,352	(3,955)	10,397	Housing and Community Services	14,544	(5,356)	9,188
27,281	(23,125)	4,156	Resources	24,611	(20,303)	4,308
50,749	(31,700)	19,049	Cost of Services	50,181	(31,436)	18,745
1,774	0	1,774	Parish Council Precepts	2,151	0	2,151
134	0	134	Levies	136	0	136
0	(223)	(223)	(Gains) on the disposal of assets	0	(387)	(387)
1,908	(223)	1,685	Other Operating Expenditure	2,287	(387)	1,900
492	0	492	Net interest on defined pension liabilities (note 8)	487	0	487
0	(324)	(324)	Interest receivable and similar income	0	(338)	(338)
292	0	292	Interest payable and similar expenses	405	0	405
147	0	147	Gains and losses on financial assets – (note 20)	0	(1,347)	(1,347)
334	(803)	(469)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value (note 14)	121	(1,199)	(1,078)
1,265	(1,127)	138	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	1,013	(2,884)	(1,871)
0	(9,417)	(9,417)	Council Tax Income	0	(10,111)	(10,111)
5,614	(3,158)	2,456	Non Domestic Rates	5,413	(4,870)	543
0	(9,880)	(9,880)	Non-ringfenced government grants	0	(6,538)	(6,538)
0	(2,857)	(2,857)	Capital grants and contributions	0	(3,943)	(3,943)
5,614	(25,312)	(19,698)	Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	5,413	(25,462)	(20,049)
59,536	(58,362)	1,174	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	58,894	(60,169)	(1,275)
		1,893	(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of non-current assets.			(1,371)
		0	Valuation (gains) / losses on available for sale financial assets reserve			0
		3,294	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			(7,325)
		5,187	Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure			(8,696)
		6,361	Total Comprehensive (Income/Surplus) and Expenditure/Deficit			(9,971)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2020/21								
Balance at 1 April 2020	1,000	13,970	14,970	3,187	4,566	22,723	39,421	62,144
Movement in Reserves in 2020/21:								
Surplus (deficit) on the provision of services (accounting basis)	(1,174)	0	(1,174)	0	0	(1,174)	0	(1,174)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	(5,187)	(5,187)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(1,174)	0	(1,174)	0	0	(1,174)	(5,187)	(6,361)
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - <i>note 6</i>	4,467	0	4,467	227	1,423	6,117	(6,117)	0
Net increase/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	3,293	0	3,293	227	1,423	4,943	(11,304)	(6,361)
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - <i>note 10</i>	(3,293)	3,293	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	0	3,293	3,293	227	1,423	4,943	(11,304)	(6,361)
Balance at 31 March 2021	1,000	17,263	18,263	3,414	5,989	27,666	28,117	55,783

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	General Fund Balance	Ear-marked Reserves	Total General Fund Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021/22								
Balance at 1 April 2021	1,000	17,263	18,263	3,414	5,989	27,666	28,117	55,783
Movement in Reserves in 2021/22:								
Surplus (deficit) on the provision of services (accounting basis)	1,275	0	1,275	0	0	1,275	0	1,275
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,696	8,696
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	1,275	0	1,275	0	0	1,275	8,696	9,971
Adjustments between accounting and funding basis under regulation - <i>note 6</i>	(5,131)	0	(5,131)	565	1,413	(3,153)	3,153	0
Net increase/decrease before transfers to Earmarked reserves	(3,856)	0	(3,856)	565	1,413	(1,878)	11,849	9,971
Transfers to/from Earmarked reserves - <i>note 10</i>	3,856	(3,856)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Year	0	(3,856)	(3,856)	565	1,413	(1,878)	11,849	9,971
Balance at 31 March 2022	1,000	13,407	14,407	3,979	7,402	25,788	39,966	65,754

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2021			31 March 2022
£'000			£'000
61,743	Property, Plant and Equipment	<i>Note 13</i>	67,770
11,513	Investment Properties	<i>Note 14</i>	13,379
501	Intangible Assets	<i>Note 15</i>	492
7,601	Long Term Investments	<i>Note 20</i>	8,918
33	Long Term Debtors		475
0	Non-Current Assets Held for Sale		877
81,391	LONG TERM ASSETS		91,911
14,942	Short Term Debtors	<i>Note 16</i>	6,730
18	Inventories		17
0	Short Term Investments	<i>Note 20</i>	0
23,507	Cash and Cash Equivalents	<i>CFS</i>	41,816
0	Current Assets Held for Sale		2,053
38,467	CURRENT ASSETS		50,616
(26,407)	Short Term Creditors	<i>Note 17</i>	(27,028)
(905)	Provisions	<i>Note 18</i>	(843)
(249)	Short Term Borrowing	<i>Note 20</i>	(511)
0	Capital grants receipts in advance	<i>Note 19</i>	(550)
(27,561)	CURRENT LIABILITIES		(28,932)
(2,115)	Capital grants receipts in advance	<i>Note 19</i>	(2,800)
(11,751)	Long Term Borrowing	<i>Note 20</i>	(26,990)
(22,648)	Net Defined Pension liability	<i>Note 8</i>	(18,051)
(36,514)	LONG TERM LIABILITIES		(47,841)
55,783	NET ASSETS		65,754
1,000	General Fund		1,000
17,263	Earmarked Reserves	<i>Note 10</i>	13,407
3,414	Capital Receipts Reserve		3,979
5,989	Capital grants unapplied reserves		7,402
27,666	USABLE RESERVES		25,788
22,580	Revaluation Reserve		22,518
33,010	Capital Adjustment Account		36,503
33	Deferred capital receipts		75
(22,648)	Pensions Reserve		(18,051)
(4,264)	Collection Fund Adjustment Account		(1,898)
(195)	Accumulated Absences Account		(99)
(399)	Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account		918
28,117	UNUSABLE RESERVES	<i>Note 11</i>	39,966
55,783	TOTAL RESERVES		65,754

These financial statements replace the unaudited financial statements confirmed by the Council's responsible financial officer (Duncan Ellis) on 13 December 2023

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2020-21		2021-22
£'000		£'000
(12,118)	Taxation	(15,542)
(41,066)	Grants and Contributions	(27,735)
(5,640)	Sales of goods and rendering of services	(13,407)
(324)	Interest received	(336)
(17)	Other receipts from operating activities	-
(59,165)	Cash inflows generated from operating activities	(57,020)
8,284	Cash paid to and on behalf of employees	8,424
19,127	Housing benefit payments	17,503
5,614	NNDR levy and tariff payments	5,413
1,908	Precepts paid	2,287
11,696	Cash paid to suppliers of goods and services	11,626
294	Interest paid	347
9,676	Other operating cash payments	7,327
56,599	Cash outflows generated from operating activities	52,927
(2,566)	Net cashflows from operating activities	(4,093)
(223)	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(606)
4,268	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	10,377
0	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	100
(3,280)	Other receipts from investing activities	(6,643)
765	Net cashflows from investing activities	3,228
0	Cash Receipts - long/short term borrowing	(15,600)
115	Repayments of long/short term borrowing	158
1,637	Changes in Council Tax balances held for preceptors	(2,426)
7,385	Changes in National Non-Domestic Rates balances held for preceptors	(3,832)
(14,774)	Change in Covid grants held for Government – (increase) or decrease in creditors due to agency arrangements	4,256
(5,637)	Net cashflows from financing activities	(17,444)
(7,438)	Net (Increase) / decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(18,309)
16,069	Cash and cash equivalents 1 April	23,507
7,438	Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	18,309
23,507	Cash and cash equivalents 31 March	41,816
2	Cash in hand	2
9,993	Call accounts and short term deposits	9,999
13,512	Bank balances	31,815
23,507	Cash and cash equivalents 31 March	41,816

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2021/22 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2022. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, 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.

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract. However, for low individual value annual transactions (e.g. annual payment for beach hut licences) this is recognised on a cash basis.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed - where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments is accounted for as income on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- Accruals are made for amounts exceeding £100.

3. Accounting for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

The Council collects income from payers of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Ratepayers, but only part of the income relates to this Council, the balance being collected on behalf of other major precepting authorities, including the Government (for business rates). The amounts of debtors, adjustments for doubtful debts, overpayment creditors and receipts in advance that relate to the precepting authorities are shown as a single net debtor or creditor in the balance sheet. The element of the Collection Fund due to or from preceptors is held as part of the Short -Term Creditors or Debtors balance. Annual changes in the amounts held for preceptors are shown as part of financing activities in the Cash Flow Statement.

The amounts legally credited to the General Fund are those estimated before the start of the financial year, including distributions of estimated surplus, or contributions towards estimated deficits. In accounting terms, however, the Council's share of the collectable debit (including adjustments to allowances for doubtful debts and appeals) are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES). The difference between the cumulative amounts for statutory and accounting purposes forms the Collection Fund Adjustment Account (an unusable reserve) and the annual adjustment forms part of the accounting and financing adjustments.

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in no more than ninety days from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

5. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, ie. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment. Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

6. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

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

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

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. This provision, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), is equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

7. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

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

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant service cost line in the CI&ES when the Council is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy. Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post-Employment Benefits

The majority of the Council's employees are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by East Sussex County Council. The Scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

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

- The liabilities of the East Sussex pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.0% based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond chosen by the Fund's Actuary.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

- The assets of the East Sussex pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - quoted securities - current bid price
 - unquoted securities - professional estimate
 - unlisted securities - current bid price
 - property - market value
- The change in the net pension liability is analysed into the following components:
 - current service cost - the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year - allocated in the CI&ES to the services for which the employees worked
 - past service cost - the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years - debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CI&ES as part of the cost of the Resources service
 - net interest on the defined benefit liability, i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the financing and investment income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period – taking account of any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
 - remeasurements comprising:
 - the return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined liability, charged to the Pension Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
 - actuarial gains or losses - changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions - charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
 - contributions paid to the East Sussex pension fund - cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

8. Events after the Reporting Period

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

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period - the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

9. Fair Values

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets (surplus assets and investment properties), and any available for sale financial asset, at fair value at each reporting date. The Council also discloses fair values for financial assets and liabilities categorised as loans and receivables. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or transfer a liability in an orderly transaction at the year end. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or, in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

The Council measures the asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that they act in their economic best interest.

When measuring the fair value the Council takes into account the market participants' ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset or liability in its highest or best use, or by selling it to another party that would use the asset or liability for its highest and best use.

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

Inputs to the valuation techniques for assets and liabilities that are measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Level 1 | Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the year end. |
| Level 2 | Inputs, other than quoted prices within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. |
| Level 3 | Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. |

10. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

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

This means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the CI&ES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement. Liabilities include trade payables. It has been assessed that the carrying amount in the Balance Sheet is a proxy for the fair value of those liabilities.

Financial Assets

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

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

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are then measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES 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 loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the CI&ES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Council has from time to time made a number of loans to voluntary organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the CI&ES (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CI&ES to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of an asset are credited/debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES.

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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 substantially since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased substantially or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

The Council has a substantial amount of investments and employs treasury management advisers in addition to full time professional staff. However, reasonable and verifiable information to support the measurement of lifetime losses on individual instruments is not available without undue cost or effort. Losses are mainly assessed for the portfolio on a collective basis.

Financial Assets are amalgamated into the following groups to assess risk and associated loss allowances whilst making use of a simplified approach contained in regulations.

Group 1 – Commercial investments in line with treasury management policy including counterparties that have external credit ratings of A or better. Loss allowances will be assessed on a group basis using the simplified approach of collective assessment.

Group 2 – Loans to related parties. Loss allowances for these loans are assessed on an individual basis and / or an individual borrower basis.

Group 3 – Other loans to local businesses, in support of the Council vision and objectives. Loss allowances for these loans are assessed on an individual basis and / or an individual borrower basis.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

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

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 or losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

Financial assets that are measured at FVOCI are recognised on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are charged to the Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and are held in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve.

Movements in amortised cost are charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Cumulative gains/losses on fair value are transferred to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services on derecognition.

11. Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

The above treatments relate to grants received by the Council as the Principal. However, where the Council acts as an agent passporting support grants to local residents and businesses, both the grant income and expenditure are removed from the financial statements and any potential difference between the two at the end of the financial year results in creation of a debtor or creditor with the central government.

The Council has elected to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new builds with appropriate planning consent. The income from the levy will be used to fund various projects described as “infrastructure” in a broader sense than used for Council property in Note 1.16 below. The infrastructure investment is determined by a panel and it is not necessarily this Council that will undertake the works. Part of the CIL income is retained to offset the cost of administration and is accounted for as income for the Strategy and Planning service. Some is also payable to parishes: this is treated as an agency service and is excluded from the CI&ES. The rest is intended for use to finance capital and is treated as capital contributions. As it is received without conditions it is recognised immediately as capital grants and contributions income and is then transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve.

The income from CIL is accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised immediately in the CI&ES at the commencement date of the chargeable development. Surcharges and interest received in accordance with the CIL regulations will be accounted for as if they were CIL receipts.

12. Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use.

Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CI&ES. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

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

13. Intangible Assets

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and that the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to use the asset. Costs relating to the development of computer software for internal use are capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred in the development phase. When the software is available for its intended use, these costs are amortised in equal annual amounts over the estimated useful life of the software.

Amounts capitalised include the total cost of any external products or services and labour costs directly attributable to development. Management judgement is involved in determining the appropriate internal costs to capitalise and the amounts involved. The useful life is determined by management at the time the software is acquired and brought into use and is regularly reviewed for appropriateness. For computer software licences, the useful life represents management's view of the expected period over which the Council will receive benefits from the software.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is written down over its useful life, to the appropriate line in the CI&ES. No intangible assets are recorded with indefinite lives. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired, and any losses are posted to the appropriate line in the Income and Expenditure Statement.

The calculated amounts for amortisation and impairment are charged to the Cost of Services in the CI&ES, but they are not proper charges against the General Fund. A transfer is therefore made from the Capital Adjustment Account to the General Fund to reverse the impact.

14. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

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

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

All of the Council's leases have been determined to constitute operating leases.

The Council as Lessee

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the CI&ES as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the appropriate line in the CI&ES. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

15. Overheads and Support Services

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

16. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

- Vehicles, plant, etc. and infrastructure - depreciated historical cost.
- Community assets and assets under construction - historic cost.
- Land and buildings - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV). Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of current value.
- Surplus Properties – fair value, as described in accounting policy 1.9 above, equating to market value for their highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are subject to a full valuation once every five years, but are subject to a desktop review at the end of each year to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value, or fair value at the year-end. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the CI&ES where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service. Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

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.

The values of Land and Buildings assets individually worth less than £10,000 are recorded, but not included in the balance sheet values.

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

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

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

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- dwellings and other buildings - straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the Valuer. Useful life is between 10 and 50 years depending on the asset.
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – straight line allocation over the useful life of the asset. Useful life is between 7 and 20 years.
- Infrastructure - straight-line allocation over 50 years.

No depreciation is charged in year of acquisition but is charged at a full year rate in the year of disposal.

Reclassified assets are depreciated from year of reclassification.

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

Componentisation of Property Assets

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Where the Council has revalued a property, or carried out major capitalised works, it has been necessary to identify the major components making up the property using the following major component analysis:

- Land
- Buildings
- External areas (such as car parks)
- Plant and equipment (such as lifts and heating systems)

The Council has reviewed its approach and elected to componentise elements of buildings which make up at least 10% of the building value or £50,000, whichever is higher.

Disposals

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the other Operating Expenditure line in the CI&ES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the CI&ES also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts and are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

17. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CI&ES in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

control of the Council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

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

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

18. Reserves

The Council maintains two groups of reserves, usable and unusable.

Usable reserves comprise the following:

- Capital Receipts Reserve: proceeds from the sales of non-current assets are initially credited to the CI&ES, but legally can only be used to finance capital expenditure, and so are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve and afterwards used for this specific purpose.
- Capital Grants Unapplied: the Council receives grants and contributions towards capital expenditure, and, where repayment conditions are not present or no longer apply, they are credited to the CI&ES and immediately transferred into the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve until required to finance capital investment.
- Earmarked Reserves: the Council may set aside earmarked reserves to cover specific projects or contingencies. These are transferred from the General Fund, and amounts are withdrawn as required to finance such expenditure. The expenditure itself is charged to the appropriate line in the CI&ES. There are no legal restrictions on the use of earmarked reserves, and unspent balances can be taken back to the General Fund in the same way.
- General Fund: this represents all other usable reserves, without legal restrictions on spending, which arise from annual surpluses or deficits.

Unusable Reserves consist of those which cannot be used to finance capital or revenue expenditure:

- Revaluation Reserve: this consists of accumulated gains on individual items of Property, Plant and Equipment. The Reserve contains only gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains before that date were consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:
 - revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
 - used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
 - disposed of and the gains are realised.
- Capital Adjustment Account: Receives credits when capital is financed from the General Fund or from the Capital Receipts and Capital Grants Unapplied reserves, and receives debits to offset depreciation and other charges relating to capital which are not chargeable against the General Fund. The account contains revaluation gains accumulated on non-current assets before 1 April 2007, the date on which the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.
- Deferred Capital Receipts: in some cases (particularly former housing stock disposed of, where the purchaser financed the transaction through a mortgage from the Council) an asset is disposed of, but the income cannot be collected immediately. The Council maintains records for a long-term debtor, offset by a balance in the Deferred Capital Receipts Account. When the income is received the debtor is written down and a transfer is made between this account and the Capital Receipts Reserve.
- Pensions Reserve: The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CI&ES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.
- Collection Fund Adjustment Account: this represents the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax income and Non-Domestic Rates in the CI&ES as they fall due from payers, compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts from the Collection Fund to the General Fund.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

- Accumulated Absences Reserve: this contains the difference between the statutory and accounting liability for the cost of accumulated absences: the cost is properly chargeable to the CI&ES, but not to the General Fund.
- Pooled Investment Fund Adjustment Account: this contains the unrealised gains or losses made by the Council arising from increases or decreases in the value of its investments that have quoted market prices or otherwise do not have fixed or determinable payments.

19. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

20. VAT

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

21. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council is 100% shareholder of Rother DC Housing Company Ltd. The company was incorporated in October 2020. Group accounts were not prepared for 2021-2022 as the amounts involved were immaterial.

In the Council's own single-entity accounts, its interest in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

NOTE 2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

This note sets out information regarding the impact of an accounting change that will be required by any new accounting standards that have been issued but not yet adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice.

At the balance sheet date the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published and will be introduced by the 2021/22 Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom:

Annual improvement to IFRS Standards 2018-2020. The annual IFRS improvement programme notes 4 changed standards –

- IFRS1 (first time adoption) – amendment relates to foreign operations of acquired subsidiaries transitioning to IFRS,
- IAS37 (Onerous Contracts) – clarifies the intention of the standard,
- IFRS16 (Leases) – amendment removed a misleading example that is not referenced in the Code material, and
- IAS41 (Agriculture) – one of a small number of IFRS that are only expected to apply to local authorities in limited circumstances.

Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before intended use (Amendments to IAS 16).

IFRS 16 Lease accounting has had its implementation date deferred to 1 April 2024.

It is judged that the introduction of the changes in 2021/22 will not have a material impact on the Council's financial position and performance.

NOTE 3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Rother District Council Housing Company Ltd

The Council is sole shareholder of Rother District Council Housing Company Ltd. Since the company's inception in October 2020 costs incurred by the company have been relatively small in scale. The Council has determined that group accounts will not be prepared in 2021/22, in addition to its single entity accounts, since the interest in the company of £400,000 as of 31 March 2022 was not material to the Council's overall financial position. We will review this position for 2022/23 and decide whether group accounts are prepared or rather an extended disclosure to the account.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Financial Statements contain estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The main items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022 on which such assumptions have been made are as follows:

Pensions Liability

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 and mortality rates. A firm of consulting actuaries, Barnett Waddingham LLP, is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. For instance:

- A 0.1% decrease in the real discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £2.329m.
- A 0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate would result in an increase in the pension liability of £0.158m.
- A 0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate would result in an increase in the pension liability of £2.155m.
- A 1 year increase in estimated life expectancy would result in an increase in the pension liability of £6.849m.

Changes in any one assumption would be affected by changes in others, so that the effect of a number of changes would be a complex calculation.

Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Properties

The COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken to mitigate its impact continue to affect economies and real estate markets globally. Nevertheless, as at 31 March 2022 property markets are mostly functioning again, with transaction volumes and other relevant evidence, at levels where an adequate quantum of market evidence exists upon which to base opinions of value.

Accordingly, the property, plant and equipment and investment properties valuations are not being reported as being subject to material valuation uncertainty.

PPE and Investment Properties are one of the largest values on the balance sheet being £67.7 m and £13.3m respectively. If their valuations were to change by just 1%, the effect would be significant as it could mean an increase or decrease in the balance sheet value of £811,000.

Depreciation charges applied to Property, Plant and Equipment

The depreciation charge for the year is based on the assumed remaining Useful Economic Life (UEL) of relevant assets and was calculated as £930,000 for 2021/2022. If the UEL applied were to be decreased or increased it would have had the following effect on the depreciation charge.

Change to Estimated remaining Useful Economic life (UEL) across the board	Impact on Depreciation charge Increase/(decrease)
-20%	232,600
-10%	103,400
10%	(84,600)
20%	(155,100)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Allowance for impact of rating appeals

There are a number of appeals against rating values outstanding, a few going back to 1 April 2010, and this Council is liable for its share (currently 40%) of the losses resulting from successful appeals.

Following the 2017 revaluation, where average rateable values in the district rose by 12.4%, a new check, challenge, appeal process has been introduced, the impact of which is highly uncertain with very few challenges lodged to date in the district of Rother. The Council has made a provision for the likely impact on its yield of expected future successful appeals based on both the 2010 and 2017 lists for the period to the end of March 2022 based on work completed by Analyse Local.

If appeals on the list are rejected or settled at a lower value from the amount taken into account in the appeals provision, the provision for the excess would be released. If appeals on the list are settled at a higher value than the appeals provision or appeals are settled that are not included on the list at 31 March 2022, there would be an impact on the business rates income to the authority under the Rates Retention Scheme. A £100,000 increase which represents just under 5% change in provision for appeals including settlements would mean a £40,000 corresponding decrease in NNDR income for the council, however there is a great deal of uncertainty around what appeals and when might be lodged with the VOA by the ratepayers and this allowance could be materially different in 12 months' time.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 5. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

2020-21				2021-22			
Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
2,117	253	2,370	Corporate Core (incl. Chief Executive)	1,940	289	2,229	
(187)	285	98	Environmental Services	(46)	350	304	
1,032	268	1,300	Strategy and Planning and Development	1,506	296	1,802	
290	438	728	Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	149	765	914	
9,264	1,133	10,397	Housing and Community Services	8,116	1,072	9,188	
4,089	67	4,156	Resources	3,441	867	4,308	
16,605	2,444	19,049	Cost of Services	15,106	3,639	18,745	
(19,898)	2,023	(17,875)	Other Income and Expenditure	(11,250)	(8,770)	(20,020)	
(3,293)	4,467	1,174	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	3,856	(5,131)	(1,275)	
Earmarked Reserves	General Fund	Total		Earmarked Reserves	General Fund	Total	
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
13,970	1,000	14,970	Opening balances	17,263	1,000	18,263	
0	3,293	3,293	Surplus or (Deficit) on Provision of Services	0	(3,856)	(3,856)	
3,293	(3,293)	0	Transfers between General Fund and earmarked reserves	(3,856)	3,856	0	
17,263	1,000	18,263	Closing General Fund balance	13,407	1,000	14,407	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Financing and Accounting Adjustments					
	Capital and Assets	Pensions	Tax Collection	Other	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2020-21					
Corporate Core	62	184	0	7	253
Environmental Services	0	293	0	(8)	285
Strategy and Planning and Development	0	248	0	20	268
Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	258	176	0	4	438
Housing and Community Services	732	393	0	8	1,133
Resources	342	(282)	0	7	67
Cost of Services	1,394	1,012	0	38	2,444
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(3,493)	492	4,911	113	2,023
Total for 2020-21	(2,099)	1,504	4,911	151	4,467

Financing and Accounting Adjustments					
	Capital and Assets	Pensions	Tax Collection	Other	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021-22					
Corporate Core	64	234	0	(9)	289
Environmental Services	0	363	0	(13)	350
Strategy and Planning and Development	0	317	0	(21)	296
Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	538	237	0	(10)	765
Housing and Community Services	613	478	0	(19)	1,072
Resources	278	612	0	(23)	867
Cost of Services	1,493	2,241	0	(95)	3,639
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(5,573)	487	(2,367)	(1,317)	(8,770)
Total for 2021-22	(4,080)	2,728	(2,367)	(1,412)	(5,131)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 6. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

	General Fund Balance £'000	Capital Receipts reserve £'000	Capital grants unapplied £'000	Unusable Reserves £'000	Total £'000
2020-21					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Amortise Intangible Assets	(126)	0	0	126	0
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,060)	0	0	1,060	0
Movements in value of Investment Properties	(214)	0	0	214	0
Disposal of non-current assets					
Capital receipts to Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	223	(227)	0	4	0
Capital grants and contributions to Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	1,498	0	(1,498)	0	0
Difference between accounting and statutory employment benefit	(38)	0	0	38	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	(154)	0	0	154	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	(4,757)	0	0	4,757	0
Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	(1,244)	0	0	1,244	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pension costs	(1,504)	0	0	1,504	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pooled investment funds	(113)	0	0	113	0
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	477	0	0	(477)	0
Other adjustments					
Minimum revenue provision	150	0	0	(150)	0
Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	2,394	0	75	(2,469)	0
Total for 2020-21	(4,467)	(227)	(1,423)	6,117	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts reserve	Capital grants unapplied	Unusable Reserves	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021-22					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Amortise Intangible Assets	(129)	0	0	129	0
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,188)	0	0	1,188	0
Movements in value of Investment Properties	350	0	0	(350)	0
Disposal of non-current assets	(171)			171	
Capital receipts to Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	559	(565)	0	6	0
Capital grants and contributions to Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	1,583	0	(1,583)	0	0
Difference between accounting and statutory employment benefit	96	0	0	(96)	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	220	0	0	(220)	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	2,147	0	0	(2,147)	0
Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	(1,628)	0	0	1,628	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pension costs	(2,728)	0	0	2,728	0
Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pooled investment funds	1,317	0	0	(1,317)	0
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	678	0	0	(678)	0
Other adjustments					
Minimum revenue provision	214	0	0	(214)	0
Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	3,811	0	170	(3,981)	0
Total for 2021-22	5,131	(565)	(1,413)	(3,153)	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 7A. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

2020-21 Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services		2021-22 Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services
£'000		£'000
12,239	Employee benefits expenses	13,355
43,697	Other service expenses	41,530
292	Interest payments	405
1,186	Depreciation, amortisation, impairment etc	1,317
1,908	Precepts and levies	2,287
214	Investment properties change in fair value	0
59,536	Total Expenditure	58,894
(7,480)	Fees, charges and other service income	(9,569)
0	Investment Properties changes in fair value	(350)
(324)	Interest and investment income	(336)
(12,575)	Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate income	(14,980)
(37,759)	Grants and Contributions	(33,200)
(223)	Gains on the disposal of assets	(387)
(1)	Other	0
0	Changes in value of Long term investments	(1,317)
0	IFRS Adjustments	(30)
(58,362)	Total income	(60,169)
1,174	Net	(1,275)

NOTE 7B. REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for contracts with service recipients:

2020/2021		2021/2022
£'000	Acquisitions, Transformation, Regeneration	£'000
30	Street Naming/House Numbering and other income	28
	Environmental Health Services	
83	Alcohol Licensing	91
67	Taxi Licensing	68

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

47	Other income	67
Executive Directors and Corporate Core		
3	Feed in Tariff and other income	6
Housing and Community Services		
1,276	Car Parks	1,850
863	Refuse Collection	1,138
140	Cemeteries	191
34	Other income	73
Resources		
26	Printing income	54
Planning		
581	Planning Applications	615
168	Land Charges	186
27	Planning Enquiries	28
<hr/>		
3,345	Total included in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,395
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NOTE 8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

Characteristics of defined benefit plans and associated risks

The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings. Full details of the benefits being valued are as set out in the Regulations as amended and summarised on the LGPS website and the Fund's membership booklet. There are currently uncertainties in relation to LGPS benefits due to the McCloud and Sargeant judgement and the 2016 cost cap process. The Government has published its consultation on a remedy for the McCloud and Sargeant judgement and at the same time announced the unpausing of the 2016 cost cap process which will take into account the remedy for the McCloud and Sargeant judgement. These are yet to be finalised and therefore it remains uncertain what changes may be made to LGPS benefits as a result.

The administering authority for the Fund is East Sussex County Council. The Pension Fund Committee oversees the management of the Fund whilst the day to day fund administration is undertaken by a team within the administering authority. Where appropriate some functions are delegated to the Fund's professional advisers.

As administering authority to the Fund, East Sussex County Council, after consultation with the Fund Actuary and other relevant parties, is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Funding Strategy Statement and the Investment Strategy Statement. These should be amended when appropriate based on the Fund's performance and funding.

Contributions are set every three years as a result of the actuarial valuation of the Fund required by the Regulations. The actuarial valuation of the Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2022 and contributions for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 will be set accordingly. There are no minimum funding requirements in the LGPS but the contributions are generally set to target a funding level of 100% using the actuarial valuation assumptions.

On the Employer's withdrawal from the Fund, a cessation valuation will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 64 of the LGPS Regulations 2013 which will determine the termination contribution due by the Employer, on a set of assumptions deemed appropriate by the Fund Actuary.

In general, participating in a defined benefit pension scheme means that the Employer is exposed to a number of risks:

□ Investment risk. The Fund holds investment in asset classes, such as equities, which have volatile market values and while these assets are expected to provide real returns over the long-term, the short-term volatility can cause additional funding to be required if a deficit emerges;

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

- Interest rate risk. The Fund's liabilities are assessed using market yields on high quality corporate bonds to discount future liability cashflows. As the Fund holds assets such as equities the value of the assets and liabilities may not move in the same way;
- Inflation risk. All of the benefits under the Fund are linked to inflation and so deficits may emerge to the extent that the assets are not linked to inflation; and
- Longevity risk. In the event that the members live longer than assumed a deficit will emerge in the Fund. There are also other demographic risks.

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

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

2020-21 £'000		2021-22 £'000
	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
2,834	Current Service Cost	3,278
156	Past service cost (inc. curtailments)	826
<u>2,990</u>	Cost of Services	<u>4,104</u>
492	Net interest expense	487
<u>492</u>	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	<u>487</u>
<u>3,482</u>	Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>4,591</u>
(15,437)	Return on plan assets, less included in interest expense	(9,646)
	Actuarial gains & losses:	
(1,605)	Changes in demographic assumptions	1,147
21,652	Changes in financial assumptions	(4,728)
(1,316)	Other	5,902
<u>3,294</u>	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	<u>(7,325)</u>
<u>6,776</u>	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	<u>(2,734)</u>
	Movement in Reserves Statement	
3,482	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefit debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	4,591
(1,978)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(1,863)
<u>1,504</u>	Total taken to Note 6	<u>2,728</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

2020-21		2021-22
£'000	Reconciliation of Fair Value of Employer Assets (scheme Assets):	£'000
82,302	Value of Assets at 1 April	97,804
1,518	Interest income on plan assets	1,789
449	Contributions by Members	445
1,978	Contributions by the Employer	1,863
15,437	Return on assets excluding amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	9,646
(3,788)	Benefits Paid	(4,232)
(92)	Administration expenses	(51)
0	Other Actuarial gains and (losses)	(3,100)
<u>97,804</u>		<u>104,164</u>
Reconciliation of Defined Benefit Obligation (scheme Liabilities):		
(100,152)	Value of Liabilities at 1 April	(120,452)
(2,742)	Current Service Cost	(3,227)
(156)	Past service cost (incl. curtailments)	(826)
(2,010)	Interest Cost	(2,276)
(449)	Contribution by Members	(445)
	Actuarial Gains and (Losses):	
1,605	Change in demographic assumptions	(1,147)
(21,652)	Change in financial assumptions	4,728
1,316	Other experience gains and (losses)	(2,802)
3,788	Benefits Paid	4,232
<u>(120,452)</u>		<u>(122,215)</u>
<u>(22,648)</u>	Net Liability at 31st March	<u>(18,051)</u>

Fair value of employer assets

The percentage of the Total Fund held in each asset class is as follows:

Asset Category	31 March 2022		Total
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active markets	
	%	%	%
Index Linked			
Government Securities:			
UK	0	3.0	3.0
Overseas	0	0	0
Corporate Bonds:			
UK	0	3.0	3.0
Overseas	0	6.0	6.0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Equities:			
UK	0	0	0
Overseas	43.0	0	43.0
Property (all)	0	8.0	8.0
Others:			
Absolute return portfolio	0	22.0	22.0
Private Equity	0	8.0	8.0
Infrastructure	0	3.0	3.0
Other	0	2.0	2.0
Cash/temporary invests	2.0	0.0	2.0
Net current assets			
Debtors			
Totals	45.0	55.0	100.0

(The estimated return on the Fund, on a bid value to bid value basis, for the year to 31 March 2022 is 11.73%.)

The estimated asset allocation for Rother District Council as at 31 March 2022 is as follows:

31 March 2021			31 March 2022		
Total	%	Asset Category	Total	%	
£,000	%		£,000	%	
74,136	76%	Equities	76,553	74%	
14,646	15%	Bonds	13,582	13%	
7,359	7%	Property	11,795	11%	
1,663	2%	Cash	2,234	2%	
97,804	100%		104,164	100%	

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Local Government Pension scheme liabilities have been assessed by Barnett Waddingham LLP, an independent firm of Actuaries, estimates being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

2020-21		2021-22
2.8%	Rate of increase in salaries	3.2%
2.8%	Rate of increase in pensions	3.2%
2.0%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.6%

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The projections of liabilities assume the following mortality rates:

2020-21		2021-22
	Mortality assumptions:	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:	
21.1	Men	21.1
23.7	Women	24.0
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:	
21.9	Men	22.1
25.0	Women	25.5

Sensitivity analysis for impact in the defined benefit obligation in the scheme

	Impact of Increase in assumption £000s	Impact of Decrease in assumption £000s
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	(2,261)	2,329
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	158	(156)
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	2,155	(2,094)
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	6,849	(6,458)

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The Council anticipates paying £1,707,000 of contributions to the scheme in 2022/23.

NOTE 9. INCOME FROM GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Council credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2020-21 £'000		2021-22 £'000
(3,313)	Covid grants and related support	(2,324)
(18,589)	DWP benefits grants	(16,867)
(1,036)	Grants for revenue financed from capital under statute	(1,452)
(2,084)	Other Grants and Contributions	(1,579)
(25,022)	Total within Cost of Services	(22,222)
(7,525)	Covid grants and related support	(902)
(81)	New Burden Grant	(41)
(220)	Benefits Administration Grant	(220)
(247)	New Homes Bonus	(272)
(1,517)	Section 31 Grant Income	(4,105)
(102)	Local Services Support Grant	(254)
(188)	Other grants	(744)
(2,857)	Grants and contributions towards capital expenditure	(3,943)
(12,737)	Total within Taxation and non-specific grant income	(10,481)
(37,759)	Total income from grants and contributions	(32,703)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The value of grants provided to the Council in respect of Covid and related support amounted to £5,596,000 in 2021/22.

NOTE 10. EARMARKED RESERVES

The Council maintains a number of Earmarked Reserves for a variety of purposes. Below is an analysis of the Council's reserves showing the movements and transfers that took place.

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers out £'000	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers out £'000	Transfers in	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000
Medium Term Financial Strategy Reserve	1,164	(54)	2,693	3,803	(4,432)	2,208	1,579
Economic Development Fund	319	0	0	319	0	0	319
Risk Management Fund	195	0	0	195	0	0	195
Repairs and Renewals Reserve	943	(1)	0	942	(84)	0	858
Affordable Housing Reserve	921	0	0	921	0	0	921
Corporate Development Reserve	345	(13)	26	358	(33)	23	348
Planning Improvement & LDF Reserve	240	(23)	0	217	(58)	20	179
Homelessness Reserve	214	0	0	214	0	0	214
Grants Reserve	2,612	(86)	751	3,277	(153)	653	3,777
Treasury Investment Reserve	7,017	0	0	7,017	(2,000)	0	5,017
Total	13,970	(177)	3,470	17,263	(6,760)	2,904	13,407

The transfer from reserves shown in the MIRS as at the 31 March 2022 is £3,856,000 (£6,760,000 less £2,904,000).

The purposes of these reserves are set out below:

Medium Term Financial Strategy	A reserve created to help the Council meet our agreed objectives not just now but moving into the future. It is primarily aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan but can also be used to respond to the pressures and uncertainties of the current financial climate.
Economic Development	A reserve created to fund one off research, investigation and projects that relate to the economic development of the Rother area.
Risk Management	A reserve to meet expenditure under excess arising from insurance claims.
Repair and Renewals	A reserve to fund expected repairs and renewals of the Council's assets.
Affordable Housing	A reserve to subsidise social housing providers capital projects relating to the provision of new affordable housing.
Corporate Development	A reserve funding a variety of Council provided services supporting among others Tourism, Economic Development, Democratic Engagement, Staff and Member training etc.
Planning Improvement and LDF	A reserve supporting the development and maintenance of the Council's long term Planning Strategy.
Homelessness	A reserve to support the prevention of homelessness.
Grant Reserve	A reserve created to hold grants received in one year with no conditions but used in following years.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Treasury Management Reserve This reserve has been created to help stabilise the impact of movements in interest rates.

NOTE 11. UNUSABLE RESERVES

Revaluation Reserve

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
24,669	Balance 1 April	22,580
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
(1,893)	Gain/(loss) on revaluation of assets	1,371
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(196)	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve	(199)
0	Other movements*	(1,234)
22,580	Balance 31 March	22,518

*Removal of Revaluation reserve amounts on Disposals and reclassifications

Capital Adjustment Account

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
32,361	Balance 1 April	33,010
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(126)	Write down Intangible Assets	(129)
(1,060)	Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(1,188)
(214)	Movements in value of Investment Properties	350
0	Gain or (loss) on sale of non-current assets	(218)
(1,244)	Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute	(1,628)
477	Capital expenditure financed from revenue	678
150	Minimum revenue provision	214
	Capital expenditure financed from Capital grants and contributions	3,981
197	Depreciation charged to Revaluation Reserve	199
0	Other movements*	1,234
33,010	Balance 31 March	36,503

*Removal of Revaluation reserve amounts on Disposals and reclassifications

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
37	Balance 1 April	33
	Addition of Finance lease – council as a lessor	47
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(4)	Deferred receipts received to Capital Receipts Reserve	(5)
33	Balance 31 March	75

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Pensions Reserve

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
(17,850)	Balance 1 April	(22,648)
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
(3,294)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	7,325
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
(1,504)	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for pension costs	(2,728)
(22,648)	Balance 31 March	(18,051)

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
647	Balance 1 April	(4,264)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Council Tax	220
(154)		
	Difference between accounting and statutory credit for Non-Domestic Rates	2,146
(4,757)		
(4,264)	Balance 31 March	(1,898)

Accumulated Absences Account

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
(157)	Balance 1 April	(195)
	Accounting / Financing Adjustments:	
	Difference between accounting and statutory employment benefit	96
(38)		
(195)	Balance 31 March	(99)

Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account

2020-21		2021-22
£000		£000
(286)	Balance b/f	(399)
	Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	
(113)	Gain/(Loss) revaluation Pooled Investment funds	1,317
(399)	Balance 31 March	918

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 12. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

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

2020-21 £'000		2021-22 £'000
15,788	Opening Capital Financing Requirement 1 April	18,168
	<i>Capital Investment</i>	
4,215	Property, Plant and Equipment	10,508
17	Intangible assets	121
1,244	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)	1,628
0	Loans to RDC Housing Company Ltd	400
(150)	Minimum Revenue Provision	(214)
	<i>Sources of finance</i>	
(1,433)	Government grants and other contributions	(2,530)
(477)	Sums set aside from revenue and reserves	(678)
(1,036)	Grants and contributions towards REFCUS	(1,452)
<u>18,168</u>	Closing Capital Financing Requirement 31 March	<u>25,951</u>

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is made up of the following balance sheet items.

31 March 2021 £'000		31 March 2022 £'000
61,743	Property, Plant and Equipment	70,105
11,513	Investment Properties	13,379
501	Intangible Assets	492
0	Long Term Debtor	400
(22,580)	Revaluation Reserve	(22,517)
(33,009)	Capital Adjustment Account	(35,908)
<u>18,168</u>		<u>25,951</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant etc	Infra-structure	Assets under Const-ruction	Surplus Props.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost:						
Opening value 1 April 2020	38,699	1,292	14,649	879	7,721	63,240
Additions	3,242	129	0	845	0	4,216
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses	(174)	0	0	0	0	(174)
Reclassifications	630	0	0	0	43	673
Revaluations	(760)	0	0	0	(1,550)	(2,310)
Other movements	1	(1)	0	0	0	0
Value 31 March 2021	41,638	1,420	14,649	1,724	6,214	65,645
Cumulative Depreciation:						
Opening value 1 April 2020	0	(537)	(2,853)	0	0	(3,390)
Charge for the year	(470)	(126)	(291)	0	0	(887)
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	375	0	0	0	0	375
Other movements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance 31 March 2021	(95)	(663)	(3,144)	0	0	(3,902)
Net book value 31 March 2021	41,543	757	11,505	1,724	6,214	61,743

	Land & Buildings	Vehicles Plant etc	Infrastructure	Assets under Construction	Surplus Props.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost:						
Opening value 1 April 2021	41,638	1,420	14,649	1,724	6,214	65,645
Additions	5,990	496	9	4,014	0	10,509
Disposals	(57)	(219)	0	(11)	(150)	(437)
Impairment losses	446	0	0	0	(705)	(259)
Reclassifications	(3,937)	0	0	(3)	0	(3,940)
Revaluations	3,337	0	0	0	(3,099)	238
Other movements	1	0	0	0	0	1
Value 31 March 2022	47,418	1,697	14,658	5,724	2,260	71,757
Cumulative Depreciation:						
Opening value 1 April 2021	(95)	(663)	(3,144)	0	0	(3,902)
Charge for the year	(531)	(108)	(292)	0	0	(931)
Disposals	0	219	0	0	0	219
Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	627	0	0	0	0	627
Other movements	(1)	0	1	0	0	0
Balance 31 March 2022	0	(552)	(3,435)	0	0	(3,987)
Net book value 31 March 2022	47,418	1,145	11,223	5,724	2,260	67,770

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The Council's assets are typically fully revalued on a 5 year programme, but the Council arranged for a full revaluation of its land and property (including its investment property) as at 31 March 2022 two years after the previous full revaluation. The exercise was undertaken by external valuers Wilks Head and Eve Chartered Surveyors. The useful economic life of operational land and buildings was also assessed at that time. In addition, assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired.

The Council's surplus properties consist of various parcels of land which are surplus to operational requirements, but which are not yet being actively marketed. There are no quoted prices for identical assets, but there are values available for similar assets, so it has been possible to value them at Level 2 of the Fair Value hierarchy (see Note 1.9 above), both at the start and end of the financial year.

There has been a downward revaluation of £3.995m in respect of land the Council holds south of Marley Lane, Battle. The adjustment mainly reflects an estimated increase in building costs on the land on the basis of the plans for development there.

The measurement bases for all the Council's property plant and equipment is set out in its accounting policies above.

Update on uncertainties affecting the valuations of the Council's other land and buildings

The ongoing pandemic and the measures taken to tackle COVID-19 continue to affect economies and real estate markets globally.

Nevertheless, as at 31 March 2022 property markets are mostly functioning again, with transaction volumes and other relevant evidence at levels where an adequate quantum of market evidence exists upon which to base opinions of value.

Accordingly, and for the avoidance of doubt, the valuations are not being reported as being subject to material valuation.

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2022 the Council had a number of material commitments relating to capital expenditure on Property Plant and Equipment. There is an ongoing work and associated commitments on the Blackfriars Spine Road and preliminary expenditure on the Town Hall Renaissance Project. For details please see the Capital Programme Section of the narrative report.

NOTE 14. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

2020-21		2021-22
£'000		£'000
(803)	Rental income from investment property	(849)
120	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	121
171	Net (gains)/losses from in year fair value adjustments	(350)
43	Correction to previous year fair value adjustment-transfer asset	0
<u>(469)</u>	Total	<u>(1,078)</u>

Balance Sheet movements in Investment Properties during the year:

2020-21		2021-22
£'000		£'000
12,357	Balance at start of the year	11,513
0	Disposals	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

(171)	Net gains/(loss) from fair value adjustments	350
(673)	Assets reclassified from Property Plant & Equipment	1,513
0	Assets reclassified from Assets Under Construction	3
<u>11,513</u>	Balance at end of the year	<u>13,379</u>

The Council's Investment Properties consist of commercial properties let at market rents. There are no quoted prices for identical properties, and also no significant observable values for similar properties. Values have therefore been assessed under Level 3 of the Fair Value hierarchy (see Note 1.9 above), both at the start and end of the financial year. They are measured using the income approach, by means of the discounted cash flow method, where the discounted cash flows from the properties are discounted (using a market-derived discount rate) to establish the present value of the net income stream. In all cases the highest and best use for these assets is their current use.

A full revaluation of the Council's investment properties at 31 March 2022 has been undertaken by Wilks Head and Eve Chartered Surveyors with values updated accordingly.

Update on uncertainties affecting the valuation of the Council's investment properties

The ongoing pandemic and the measures taken to tackle COVID-19 continue to affect economies and real estate markets globally.

Nevertheless, as at 31 March 2022 property markets are mostly functioning again, with transaction volumes and other relevant evidence at levels where an adequate quantum of market evidence exists upon which to base opinions of value. Moreover, despite the initial worrying estimates regarding income streams from investment properties, no significant reduction to those was reported at the end of the financial year.

Accordingly, and for the avoidance of doubt, the valuations are not being reported as being subject to material valuation uncertainty.

NOTE 15. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

2020-21	2021-22
£'000	£'000
819 Gross Carrying Amount 1 April	836
(209) Accumulated Amortisation 1 April	(335)
610 Net Carrying Amount at start of year	501
17 Additions	120
0 Disposals	(30)
(126) Amortisation	(129)
0 Amortisation on disposal	30
836 Gross Carrying Amount 31 March	926
(335) Accumulated Amortisation 31 March	(434)
<u>501</u> Total	<u>492</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 16. SHORT TERM DEBTORS

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
4,763	Central government bodies	1,603
4,781	Other Local Authorities & Public Bodies	628
3	NHS	0
6,718	All other bodies	5,864
<hr/>		<hr/>
16,265	Total short term debtors before impairment provision	8,095

Impairment provision of short term debtors

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
(591)	Local taxation	(727)
(421)	Housing Benefits	(296)
(178)	Housing	(170)
(133)	Other	(172)
<hr/>		<hr/>
(1,323)	Total impairment	(1,365)
<hr/>		<hr/>
14,942	Total Short Term Debtors	6,730

Short term debtors includes amounts due from major preceptors and central government on council tax and business rates, for balances held on an agency basis. The impact of the pandemic on the collectability and performance of local taxation in 2021/22 has resulted in due balances significantly decreasing, as follows:

31 March 2021	Council tax and business rates agency balances due	31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
4,139	Central government	1,029
2,874	Major precepting authorities	206

NOTE 17. SHORT TERM CREDITORS

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:	
(23,449)	Central government bodies	(22,417)
(410)	Other Local Authorities & Public Bodies	(1,479)
0	Public Corporations	0
(2,548)	All other bodies	(3,132)
<hr/>		<hr/>
(26,407)	Total short term creditors	(27,028)

Amounts due to central government bodies of £22,417k in 2021/22 includes £12,059k of Covid (and other) funding including £11.9m where the Council was acting as agent for the Government when paying over the Covid 19 support sums to eligible businesses/individuals.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

In addition, the Council owes £4,493k to the Government for overpaid s31 grants in respect of business rates relief. Also £4.823m was received in advance in relation to Council Tax Energy Rebate for distribution to residents in 2022-2023.

NOTE 18. PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Provisions

The Council has a liability for its share of refunds of rate income arising from successful appeals against rateable values. The provision decreased from £905,000 to £843,000 during 2021/22.

Contingent Liabilities

Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI)

In 1993 the Council's insurers, MMI, ceased accepting new business. On 13th November 2012 the Directors of MMI triggered the Scheme of Arrangement. The Scheme provides that following the occurrence of a Trigger Event, a levy may be imposed on all those scheme creditors which, since the record date, have been paid an amount or amounts in respect of established scheme liabilities which, together with the amount of Elective Defence costs paid by MMI on its behalf, exceed £50,000 in aggregate.

The Scheme Administrator, Ernst & Young LLP had originally determined that a levy rate of 15% shall be applied to the value of claims paid since 30th September 1993. This levy was increased to 25% in 2015. Following the payments of the levy there remains a potential liability for a further £179,451. The trigger event related to the Supreme Court ruling on the 28th March 2012 which said that the insurer who was on risk at the time of an employee's exposure to asbestos was liable to pay compensation for the employee's mesothelioma.

There have not been any changes to this liability since.

NOTE 19. CAPITAL GRANTS RECEIPTS IN ADVANCE

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
	Amounts falling due within one year:	
0	Brownfield Land Release Fund	500
	S106 Station Road, Northiam, Northiam Cemetery	50
0	Total short term capital grants received in advance	550
	Amounts falling due after one year (all other bodies)	
884	S106 Unit 10 Ravenside, Bexhill-on-Sea	884
709	S106 Land off Pebsham Lane, Bexhill	709
218	S106 Station Road, Northiam	167
37	S106 The Saltings	37
266	S106 Barnhorn Road Willow Drive	266
0	S106 Worsham Farm	737
1	S106 Other	0
2,115	Total long term capital grants received in advance	2,800

On the 21 August 2012, the Council entered into an agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, with regard to a site at Ravenside Retail Park, Bexhill-on-Sea. The agreement resulted in a payment to the Council of £959,000 which was received for the provision and improvement of leisure facilities in Bexhill and the enhancement of shopping facilities in Bexhill town centre. The monies have to be expended within 15 years of the date of the agreement or they will have to be repaid to the property owner plus interest.

Purpose	£000
A new leisure centre	134
Maintenance of pitches	277
Creation of a Countryside Park	109
Arts and public realm	193
A community worker	28
Employment contribution	77
Total Receipts	818
Expenditure	
Coombe Valley Countryside Park	(109)
Balance	709

NOTE 20. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

2,311	2,311	Short Term Debtors	537	537
3,522	3,522	Trade accounts receivable	2,919	2,919
9,993	9,993	Bank deposits less than 3 months	9,999	10,003
13,514	14,054	Cash and bank accounts	31,817	32,371
29,340	29,880	Other financial assets at amortised cost	45,272	45,830
36,974	37,514	Total Financial Assets	54,665	55,223

The value of debtors and creditors reported in the table above are solely those amounts meeting the definition of a financial instrument. The balances of debtors and creditors reported in the balance sheet and Notes 16 and 17 also include balances which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, such as tax-based debtors and creditors.

31 March 2021			31 March 2022	
Book Value £,000	Fair Value £,000		Book Value £,000	Fair Value £,000
(1,397)	(1,397)	Short Term Creditors	(2,072)	(2,072)
(249)	(249)	Public Works Loan Board	(511)	(511)
(1,646)	(1,646)	Short Term Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(2,583)	(2,583)
(11,751)	(12,448)	Public Works Loan Board	(26,990)	(24,078)
(11,751)	(12,448)	Long Term Liabilities at amortised cost	(26,990)	(24,078)
(13,397)	(14,094)	Total Financial Liabilities	(29,573)	(26,661)

Valuation Techniques for Fair Values

The fair values valuations have been provided by the Council's Treasury Management advisor, Link Asset Services. This uses the Net Present Value (NPV) approach, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms. This is a widely accepted valuation technique commonly used by the private sector. The discount rate used in the NPV calculation should be equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender. This will be the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation, for an instrument with the same duration i.e. equal to the outstanding period from valuation date to maturity. The structure and terms of the comparable instrument should be the same.

Fair values in the tables above are calculated in line with the levels described in Accounting Policy 1.9 above. The Fair value through the profit and loss assets are assessed at Level 1 (quoted price), while the others are at Level 2 (observable inputs other than quoted prices).

For loans from the PWLB, valued in line with level 2, new loan rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value.

Nature and Extent of Risks arising from financial instruments

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

- (i) credit risk - the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

- (ii) liquidity risk - the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- (iii) market risk - the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movement.

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and seek to minimise the potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Risk Management is carried out by the Financial Services Team in accordance with the policies laid out in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, which govern the maximum type of investment risk to which the Council can be exposed.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. The risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet minimum credit criteria using the Link Asset Services creditworthiness model. The model uses a sophisticated modelling approach which uses credit ratings from all three ratings agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's) overlaid with credit watches and outlooks, Credit Default Swap spreads and sovereign ratings. Deposits are not made with banks or financial institutions unless they are rated independently with a minimum score. The minimum score will depend on the type and length of investment as detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy. Credit limits are set for each institution where deposits are placed.

The credit criteria in respect of the financial assets held by the Council at 31 March 2022 are summarised below.

- i. All investments will be with approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch.
- ii. The total principal funds invested for up to 6 months is 50%
- iii. The total principal funds invested for up to 3 months is 50%
- iv. The total principal funds invested for up to 1 year is 30%
- v. The total principal funds invested for more than 1 year is £10m

A copy of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement Annual Investment Strategy is available on the Council's website.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on a review during 2021/22 of past experience:

The council does not generally allow credit for customers such that £652,000 is past due for payment. The past due not impaired is analysed as follows'

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
3	0 to 28 days	1
111	1st reminder - 29 to 42 days	20
70	2nd reminder - 43 to 55 days	4
664	Over 55 days	627
<hr/>		<hr/>
848	Total	652

Debtors include trade receivables of £2,919,000 as at 31 March 2022 (£3,522,000 as at 31 March 2021). The historical experience of default is 6.97% (31 March 2021 6.62%) with an estimated exposure to default of non-

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

collection of £203,000 (31 March 2021 £233,000). The Council has provided £203,000 (31 March 2021 £233,000) as a general impairment allowance for non-collection of this debt.



Deposits with Banks and Financial Institutions	Long Term Rating - Fitch	Amount at 31 March 2022	Historical Experience of Default	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2022
		£'000	%	£'000
Deposits more than 3 months				
None		0		0
		0		
Short-Term Deposits - less than 3 months (excluding accrued interest)				
Santander 31 Day Notice Account and call account	A+	5,001	0.05%	3
Barclays	A+	4,998	0.05%	2
Lloyds Bank Plc.	A+	32,357	0.05%	16
Customer Debtors		2,919	6.97%	203
Total		45,275		225

Gains and Losses

31 March 2021 £,000		31 March 2022 £,000
34	Impairment change (gain) (Gains)/losses on financial assets measure at fair value through profit and loss	(30)
113		(1,317)
147	Total	(1,347)

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a robust cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has access to borrowings from the Public Works Loans Board for long term funding and substantial reserves. Interest rate risk is managed through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy Reserve. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Liquidity Risk

31 March 2021 (Restated) £'000	PWLB	31 March 2022 £'000
540	Less than one year	1,063
818	Between one and two years	1,747
1,227	Between two and five years	2,621
2,044	Maturing in five to ten years	4,368
16,300	Maturing in more than ten years	33,919
20,929	Total	43,718

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Market Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its investments. Changes in interest rates on variable rate investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund balance. The average interest rate achieved by the council on its investments for the reported year was 0.72% (0.83% for 2020-21).

If interest rates had been 1% higher as at 31 March 2022 with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase or decrease in interest receivable on variable rate investments	466
Impact on Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	466

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance.

Price Risk

The Council held at 31st March 2022 an investment in the Local Authorities' (CCLA) Property Fund valued at £5.6m. A shift of 1% in the market value of the fund would therefore have resulted in a gain or loss of £56,674

The Council held at 31st March 2022 an investment in the Hermes Property Fund valued at £3.2m. A shift of 1% in the market value of the fund would therefore have resulted in a gain or loss of £32,504.

NOTE 21. AGENCY EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

During the financial year the Council acted as the lead authority for one arrangement: the Rother and Wealden Environmental Health Shared Service.

Under the arrangement all expenditure is initially incurred by this Council and is subsequently recharged to Wealden District Council. Rother employs and manages staff who operate in both local authority areas. The cost of support services charges associated with the running of the partnership is excluded from total expenditure in the relevant columns shown below. Income from fees and charges is accounted for by each of the councils separately and does not feature in the table below.

In previous financial years Rother District Council led on two other partnership arrangements.

The Joint Waste Partnership is not a legal entity in its own right and involves Rother District Council, Hastings Borough Council and Wealden District Council. The three Councils have a joint contract with Biffa for the provision of waste collection, recycling and street & beach cleaning. The contract has been in place since 29 June 2019.

The lead authority employs staff to provide an overarching contract administration function and acts as by paymaster, collecting payments from the other Councils and making payments to the contractor based on invoices received. Each Council is responsible for the day to day management of Biffa operations in their areas.

From 1 April 2021 the Joint Waste Office has been based at Wealden District Council after the relevant staff transferred under TUPE.

The third arrangement, the Sussex Training Consortium which organised training sessions on behalf of a number of local authorities was transferred to Arun District Council in the course of the previous financial year.

The tables below summarise the transactions for the year. The amounts shown as recharged to partner Councils are treated as agency expenditure and therefore not included within this Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

2020-21				
	Joint Waste	Environmental Health	Sussex Training Consortium	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total expenditure	13,482	219	3	13,704
Income	0	(30)	(3)	(33)
Net Cost	13,482	189	0	13,671
Recharged to Rother District Council	(5,132)	663	0	(4,469)
Recharged to partner councils	(8,395)	(852)	0	(9,247)
Total recharges	(13,527)	(189)	0	(13,716)
Net Cost	(45)	0	0	(45)

2021-22				
	Joint Waste	Environmental Health	Sussex Training Consortium	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total expenditure	0	1,367	0	1,367
Income		(47)	0	(47)
Net Cost	0	1,320	0	1,320
Recharged to Rother District Council	0	(505)	0	(505)
Recharged to partner councils	0	(815)	0	(815)
Total recharges	0	(1,320)	0	(1,320)
Net Cost	0	0	0	0

NOTE 22. LEASES

Council as a Lessee

Vehicles and equipment have been acquired through operating leases. The minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
38	Not later than one year	40
56	Later than one year and not later than five years	92
<u>94</u>		<u>132</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Council as Lessor:

Operating Lease

The Council leases out property, a number of industrial and commercial units, land and other buildings under operating leases. The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31 March 2021 £'000		31 March 2022 £'000
1,518	Not later than one year	1,603
4,982	Later than one year and not later than five years	4,778
23,575	Later than five years	23,117
<u>30,075</u>		<u>29,498</u>

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews. In 2021/22 the Council received £267,407 in contingent rents, compared to £268,023 (restated) in 2020/21.

Finance Lease

The council has leased out land at Hoads Wood, Fairlight and the Royal Oak Inn, Pett on finance leases with the term of 999 years.

The council has a gross investment in the lease, made up of minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining term. The minimum lease payments comprise settlement of the long-term receivable for the interest in the property acquired by the lessee and finance income earned by the Council.

	31 March 2022 £'000
Finance Lease receivable	
Current	1
Non-Current	45
Interest	49
Total	<u>95</u>

	31 March 2022 £'000
Gross investment in lease	
Not later than one year	3
Later than one year and not later than five years	10
Later than five years	705
Total	<u>718</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

	31 March 2022
	£'000
Minimum lease payments	
Not later than one year	1
Later than one year and not later than five years	3
Later than five years	42
Total	46

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

NOTE 23. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Allowances and expenses paid to Councillors during the year were:

2020-21	2021-22
£'000	£'000
217 Members Allowances	224
0 Travelling Expenses	2
217	226

NOTE 24. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION AND EXIT PACKAGES

Senior Officer Remuneration

The Council's Senior Employees' remuneration and expenses was as follows:

Post holder information (Post title)	Salary (Inc. fees & Allowances)	Expense Allowance	Compensation for loss of office	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£	£
Financial Year: 2020-21					
Chief Executive	106,974	0	0	19,468	126,442
Deputy Chief Executive (II)	0	0	0	0	0
Chief Finance Officer	0	0	0	0	0
Executive Director (I)	64,533	0	121,078	8,741	194,352
Assistant Director Resources	85,874	0	0	15,066	100,940
Service Manager Strategy and Planning	68,576	0	0	11,892	80,468
Head of Service Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	68,576	0	0	11,892	80,468

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Service Manager Environmental Services	68,576	0	0	11,892	80,468
Head of Service Housing and Community	68,576	0	0	11,892	80,468
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services (note II)	53,747	0	0	10,236	63,983

Post holder information - Post title	Salary Inc. fees & Allowances	Expense Allowance	Compensation for loss of office	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£	£
Financial Year: 2021-22					
Chief Executive	123,256	0	0	21,926	145,182
Deputy Chief Executive (ii)	18,086			3,176	21,262
Chief Finance Officer (II)	57,059			9,871	66,930
Executive Director (I)	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant Director Resources (III)	67,717	0	79,179	11,444	158,340
Service Manager Strategy and Planning (III)	36,099	0	79,690	4,996	120,785
Head of Service Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration	70,643	0	0	12,271	82,914
Service Manager Environmental Services	69,492	0	0	12,267	81,759
Head of Service Housing and Community	59,492	0	0	12,060	71,552
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services	66,574	0	0	10,757	77,331
I. post made redundant in 2020-2021					
II. new post created in 2021-2022					
III. post made redundant in 2021-2022					

Remuneration of over £50,000

Remuneration includes the cost of compensation for loss of office.

The number of employees (including senior employees) whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions, was £50,000 or more in bands of £5,000 were:

2020-21		2021-22
8	£50,000 - 54,999	6
2	£55,000 - 59,999	1
2	£60,000 - 64,999	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

4	£65,000 - 69,999	4
0	£70,000 - 74,999	1
0	£75,000 - 79,999	0
0	£80,000 - 84,999	0
1	£85,000 - 89,999	1
0	£90,000 - £94,999	0
0	£95,000 - £99,999	0
0	£100,000 - £104,999	0
1	£105,000 - £109,999	0
0	£110,000 - £119,999	0
0	£120,000 - £124,999	1
0	£130,000 - £134,499	1
0	£165,000 - £169,999	1
1	£185,000 - £189,999	0
<u>19</u>		<u>16</u>

Exit Packages

2020-21				Banding	2021-22			
Number of exit packages			Cost		Number of exit packages			Cost
Compulsory Redundancies	Other departures	Total exit packages	Total		Compulsory Redundancies	Other departures	Total exit packages	Total
			£					£'000
0	1	1	20	£0 - 20,000	3	0	3	25
0	0	0	0	£20,001 - 40,000	1	0	1	25
0	0	0	0	£40,001 - 60,000	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	£60,001 - 80,000	2	0	2	159
0	0	0	0	£80,001 - 100,000	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	121	£100,001 - 140,000	0	0	0	0
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>141</u>		<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>209</u>

NOTE 25. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

Fees were payable to Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors as follows:

2020-21		2021-22
£'000		£'000
60	External audit services	71
13	Other services	15
<u>73</u>		<u>86</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

NOTE 26. RELATED PARTIES

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

Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and subsidies and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. housing benefits). Grants received from the Government are set out in Note 9 (Income from Grants and Contributions).

Rother DC Housing Company Ltd

In October 2020, the Council's wholly owned company, Rother DC Housing Company Ltd was formed. The directors of the Board are 4 councillors appointed by the Council. As at 31 March 2022, the company owed the Council almost £69,000 for initial set up costs and for officer time. However, this was more than offset by £86,500 Rother owed to the company for the government grant funded spine road paid by the company to its contractor. As a result RDC owed the company the net figure of just under £18,000.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. During 2021/22 related party transactions to the value of £2,149,208 as shown below, took place with organisations in which Members had a related party interest. Where applicable, Covid grant funding from the Council has been included within the sums disclosed.

2020-21		2021-22
£		£
9,965	Rother DC Housing Company	400,000
8,000	Battle Pre-school	6,153
10,000	Brede Parish Council	22,615
9,000	Battle Chamber of Commerce	9,000
3,130	St Mary the Virgin Battle	0
720,124	De La Warr Pavilion Charitable Trust	654,765
1,334	Digilicious Ltd	7,352
310,082	East Sussex County Council	415,062
129,245	Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board	131,796
0	Action in Rural Sussex	100,000
85,000	Rother District Citizens Advice Bureau	105,000
63,730	Rother Voluntary Action	48,500
19,000	Hastings Advice & Representation Centre	19,000
9,188	Local Government Association	9,471
9,400	Hastings and Rother Mediation Service	9,400
5,600	South East Employers	6,421
43,660	Bexhill Museum Association	10,000
4,000	Sussex Wildlife Trust	55,500
65,058	Hastings Furniture Service Ltd	10,701
790	Sea Change Sussex	0
957	District Councils Network	1,448
25,000	Robertsbridge Childrens Services	30,000
1,895	Sedlescombe Parish Council	9,939
17,000	Light Up Bexhill CIC	15,500
10,808	Etchingham Trust for Sport and Recreation	0

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

0	Bexhill Caring Community	1,165
0	Bexhill in Bloom	750
0	Rye and District Chamber of Commerce	1,281
0	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	20,561
0	Attwood Academies	9,000
0	Battle Town Council	138,829
<u>1,561,966</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2,249,209</u>

Officers

During 2021/22 officers with pecuniary interests made appropriate declarations during Committee meetings and took no part in decision making. Interests are recorded in the minutes of the relevant meetings and are available at www.rother.gov.uk. There was only one related party transaction in the year between the Council and officers apart from those already disclosed in Officers Remuneration (note 24). The transaction was with Rother DC Housing company and the value is disclosed already in the above table.

East Sussex County Council pension fund

The Council made payments totalling £1,863,000 during 2021/22 to East Sussex County Council as the administering body for the East Sussex Local Government pension fund, compared to £1,978,000 in 2020/21. Note 8 provides further information on the Council's pension arrangements.

NOTE 27. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET

The financial statements were authorised by the Chief Finance Officer on 24 November 2023. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements.

Adjusting event

Where events taking place before 24 November 2023 provided further information about conditions existing after 31 March 2022, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

One such event was the signing in July 2022 of two options agreements relating to two of the three parts of Land at Mount View Street – Phase 1 and Phase 2. Options agreements were signed for 5 years with Rother receiving specified payments on each anniversary of the agreement for holding the land. As a result these plots were reclassified on the balance sheet as a current asset for sale and a non-current asset for sale and valued at £2,053,000 and £877,000 respectively as of 31 March 2022. Phase 1 was subsequently sold for £2,836,522 to Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in February 2023. The difference of £310,000 between the valuation and the actual price was disclosed as a valuation gain on the 2022-2023 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Non-adjusting event

There are no material non-adjusting events after the Balance Sheet requiring disclosure.

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT AND NOTES

2020-21 £'000		2021-22 £'000
	<u>Council Tax</u>	
	INCOME	
(77,200)	Income from Council Taxpayers	(81,767)
	Apportionments of previous year deficit	
0	East Sussex County Council	(294)
0	Sussex Police Authority	(39)
0	East Sussex Fire Authority	(19)
0	Rother District Council	(49)
(675)	Transfer from General Fund-S13(1)(c) Discounts	(21)
(77,875)		(82,189)
	EXPENDITURE	
	Precepts and demands on Collection Fund	
56,883	East Sussex County Council	58,066
7,621	Sussex Police Authority	8,082
3,642	East Sussex Fire Authority	3,664
9,479	Rother District Council	9,939
	Apportionments of previous year surplus	
545	East Sussex County Council	0
72	Sussex Police Authority	0
36	East Sussex Fire Authority	0
91	Rother District Council	0
	Bad & Doubtful Debts	
25	Write offs of uncollectable income	152
737	Provision for uncollectable income-addition	541
79,131		80,444
1,256	Movement on Fund Balance - (surplus)/deficit	(1,745)
	FUND BALANCE FOR COUNCIL TAX	
(471)	Balance brought forward	785
1,256	Deficit/(Surplus) for year	(1,745)
785	Balance - (surplus)/deficit carried forward	(960)

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT AND NOTES

2020-21 £'000		2021-22 £'000
	<u>Non-Domestic Rates</u>	
	INCOME	
(8,035)	Income from Ratepayers (note 3)	(12,453)
	Apportionments of previous year deficit	
0	Government	(5,529)
0	East Sussex County Council	(1,078)
0	East Sussex Fire Authority	(128)
0	Rother District Council	(4,516)
(5)	Transitional relief	(26)
(8,040)	Total	(23,730)
	EXPENDITURE	
	Precepts and demands on Collection Fund	
8,946	Government	9,048
1,610	East Sussex County Council	1,629
179	East Sussex Fire Authority	181
7,157	Rother District Council	7,239
	Apportionment of previous year surplus	
775	Government	0
263	East Sussex County Council	0
41	East Sussex Fire Authority	0
758	Rother District Council	0
	Bad & Doubtful Debts	
4	Write offs of uncollectable income	0
237	Provision for uncollectable income	304
	Impairments resulting from appeals	
0	Write offs of uncollectable income	0
(248)	Provision for uncollectable income	(155)
153	Transfer to General Fund - Cost of Collection Allowance	155
19,875		18,401
11,835	Movement on Fund Balance - (surplus) / deficit	(5,329)
	FUND BALANCE FOR NON-DOMESTIC RATES	
(1,452)	Balance brought forward	10,383
11,835	(Surplus) / deficit for year	(5,329)
10,383	Balance - (surplus) / deficit carried forward	5,054
	TOTAL COLLECTION FUND BALANCE	
(1,923)	Balances brought forward	11,168
13,091	(Surplus) / deficit for year	(7,074)
11,168	Balance – (surplus)/deficit carried forward	4,094

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT AND NOTES

NOTE 1. GENERAL

These accounts represent the transactions of the Collection Fund (accounting separately for income relating to council tax and non-domestic rates), which is a statutory fund separate from the main accounts of the Council, although the elements relating to this Council are included within its accounting statements and notes. The account has been prepared on the accruals basis. The costs of administering collection are accounted for within Central Services in the Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

NOTE 2. COUNCIL TAX

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

Band & Value	Number of Chargeable Dwellings Total	Relationship to Band D	Band D Equivalent
Band A - up to £40,000 (disabled)	3.7	5/9	2.1
Band A - up to £40,000	3,025.3	6/9	2,016.7
Band B - over £40,000 up to £52,000	4,802.2	7/9	3,735.1
Band C - over £52,000 up to £68,000	7,670.1	8/9	6,817.7
Band D - over £68,000 up to £88,000	7,805.4	9/9	7,806.3
Band E - over £88,000 up to £120,000	6,563.8	11/9	8,022.6
Band F - over £120,000 up to £160,000	3,623.1	13/9	5,233.7
Band G - over £160,000 up to £320,000	2,497.7	15/9	4,163.0
Band H - over £320,000	230.0	18/9	459.9
	36,221.2		38,257.1

The Council Tax Base is shown in the final column above before a collection rate of 98.3% has been applied to it.

NOTE 3. INCOME FROM BUSINESS RATEPAYERS

Under the arrangements for business rates, the Council collects non-domestic rates for its area, which are based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate. The national multipliers for 2021/22 were:

- 49.9p for qualifying Small Businesses (49.9p in 2020/21)
- 51.2p for other businesses (51.2p in 2020/21) – the standard multiplier

The rateable value as at the 31st March 2022 was £56,286,966 (£56,330,428 as at 31 March 2021).

NOTE 3 - INCOME FROM RATEPAYERS

2020-21		2021-22
£'000		£'000
(27,851)	Gross rates payable	(26,796)
7,759	Mandatory business rate reliefs	8,152
11,336	Retail discount relief (coronavirus)	4,495
0	COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)	1,123
54	Nursery relief (coronavirus)	0

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT AND NOTES

667	Other business rate reliefs	573
<u>(8,035)</u>	Total	<u>(12,453)</u>

GLOSSARY

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACTUARIAL GAINS & LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses), or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

AMORTISATION

The practice of reducing the value of intangible assets to reflect their reduced worth over time.

BUDGET

The Council's plan expressed in financial terms for a specified period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the provision and improvements of lasting assets such as land, buildings, vehicles and equipment. The Council may also incur capital expenditure on assets that it does not actually own (see Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute).

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

The proceeds from the sale of fixed assets.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash equivalents are investments that mature three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING

Standards issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to prescribe approved accounting methods.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, which have no determinable useful life and have restrictions on their disposal. Examples include parks and open spaces.

CONTINGENCY

A condition which exists at the Balance Sheet date and where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events.

CREDITORS

Amounts owed by the Council but not paid at the date of the balance sheet.

DEBTORS

Amounts owed to the Council but unpaid at the date of the balance sheet.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension scheme under which benefits are payable under regulations, in which the benefits are not directly related to the scheme investments. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful economic life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, passing of time or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

GLOSSARY

EARMARKED RESERVES

Internal reserves set aside to finance future expenditure for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another. In simple terms it covers both financial assets and financial liabilities such as trade debtors and trade creditors and derivatives and embedded derivatives.

GENERAL FUND

The main revenue account of the Council which collects the revenue income and expenditure of all services provided.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Central Government contributions towards local authority expenditure. Examples are New Homes Bonus and Housing Benefit Subsidy.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Long-Term Assets that are inalienable, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. An example is the sea wall and promenade.

INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Identifiable non-monetary assets such as software licences.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.

LEASE

An agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee, in return for a payment or a number of payments, the right to use an asset (property, plant and equipment, investment properties, non-current assets available for sale or intangible assets) for an agreed period of time.

PAST SERVICE COST

Discretionary pension benefits awarded on early retirement are treated as past service costs. This includes added years and unreduced pension benefits awarded before the 85 year rule.

PRECEPT

The amount of money the County Council, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have instructed the Council to collect and pay out of council tax receipts held in the Collection Fund. The Council also pays from its General Fund precepts issued by parish and town councils within the district.

PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Tangible assets that yield up benefit to the Council over more than one accounting period, e.g. Land and Buildings.

PROVISIONS

Sums set aside for any liabilities or losses which are likely to be incurred, but uncertain as to the dates on which they will arise.

GLOSSARY

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

A Government body, which provides a source of long term borrowing for local authorities.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Day to day expenditure on the running of services. It includes staff costs, utility charges, rent & business rates, IT & communications and office expenses.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Legislation in England and Wales allows certain expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as a non-current asset, for example Disabled Facility Grants.

SURPLUS ASSETS

Items of Property Plant and Equipment that are currently not being used to deliver council services, and are not being actively marketed.

UNUSABLE RESERVES

These are reserves, including those offsetting non-current assets and the negative reserve that offsets the long term pension liability, that are not immediately available to support revenue or capital expenditure.

USABLE RESERVES

These reserves are available to support the Council's expenditure, although the Capital Receipts Reserve and the Capital Grants and Contributions Reserve may only be used for capital purposes.