

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Department of the Chief Executive

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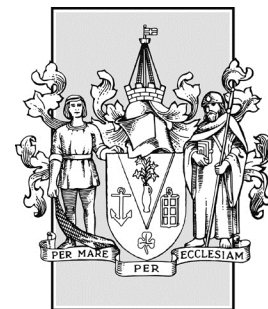
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Dear Councillor

AUDIT COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

Please find enclosed, for consideration at the next meeting of the Audit Committee taking place on Wednesday, 6th September, 2017 at 6.30pm, the following report(s) that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No.	Item
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4	<u>BDO: Audit Completion Report to the Audit Committee 2016/17 (Pages 1 - 40)</u>
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Report of the Chief Executive attached

5	<u>Statutory Statement of Accounts 2016/17 (Pages 41 - 206)</u>
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Report of the Chief Executive attached.

Yours faithfully

Robert Harris
Principal Democratic Services Officer
Legal & Democratic Services

**Report of the Chief Executive
to
Audit Committee
on
6th September 2017**

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

BDO: Audit Completion Report to the Audit Committee 2016/17
Executive Councillor – Councillor Moring
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises the results of the work completed to date for the 2016/17 financial year with regard to:
- the opinion on the Statement of Accounts
 - the conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee accepts the Report to the Audit Committee 2016/17.**

3. Background

- 3.1 A senior representative of BDO (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present this report to the Audit Committee and respond to Members' questions.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to Council's Aims and Priorities
This audit work contributes to the delivery of all the Council's Aims and Priorities.
- 4.2 Financial Implications
The fee for the audit work is set by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited and agreed with the Council before the start of the audit. Issues arising during the course of the audit can impact on the audit fee payable.
- 4.3 Legal Implications
The Council is required by statute to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice (the Code) issued by the National Audit Office. By considering this report, the Committee can satisfy itself that this requirement is being discharged.

4.4 People and Property Implications

None

4.5 Consultation

The contents of this report has been discussed and agreed with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources.

4.6 Equalities Impact Assessment

None

4.7 Risk Assessment

Periodically considering whether the external auditor is delivering the agreed Annual Audit Plan helps mitigate the risk that this statutory requirement is not met.

4.8 Value for Money

The report includes the auditor's conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion)

4.9 Community Safety Implications and Environmental Impact

None

5. Background Papers

None

6. Attachment: BDO Report to the Audit Committee 2016/17



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT

Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017
1 September 2017

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SUMMARY

AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Audit status	We have substantially completed our audit procedures in accordance with the planned scope and our objectives have been achieved, subject to resolution of matters set out in the outstanding matters section below.
Audit risks	No additional significant risks were identified during the course of our audit procedures subsequent to our audit plan and risk update that was presented to the Audit Committee on 28 June 2017.
Materiality	Our final materiality is £7.7 million. Our materiality levels have not required reassessment since our audit plan dated 21 March 2017, but have been updated to reflect the gross expenditure reported in the draft financial statements presented for audit. We set the clearly trivial threshold at £192,500.
Changes to audit approach	There were no significant changes to our planned audit approach nor were any restrictions placed on our audit.

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

Material misstatements	Our audit identified one material misstatement in respect of the indexation applied to council dwellings. This has increased net assets by £8.195m and unusable reserves by £7.582m and decreased the deficit on the provision of services by £0.613m. This has not impacted on the closing General Fund or Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reserve balances.
Adjusted misstatements	Our audit identified two immaterial misstatements regarding the calculation of the bad debt provision and the consolidation of schools income and expenditure, which management has amended in the final financial statements. This has increased net assets and decreased the deficit on the provision of services by £178,000. This has not impacted on the closing General Fund or Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reserve balances. A few other presentational changes have been made to the financial statements as a result of the audit.
Unadjusted audit differences	There are three unadjusted audit differences in respect of the prior period bad debt provision and the period in which income is recognised in. Correction of these would increase the reported deficit on the provision of services by £2.792m. Two of these differences have no impact on the cumulative retained deficit, as the bad debt provision should have been adjusted in the prior year and the income should have been included in the prior year. The final difference would increase net assets and decrease the deficit on the provision of services by £0.290m, if corrected. This would not have impacted on the closing General Fund or Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reserve balances.
Control environment	Our audit did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal controls.

SUMMARY

KEY MATTERS FROM OUR AUDIT OF USE OF RESOURCES

Sustainable finances	Our review of whether the Council has adequate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources is ongoing. We will provide an update to the Audit Committee on 6 September 2017.
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AUDIT OPINION

Financial statements	Subject to the successful resolution of outstanding matters set out on page 5, which are largely procedural, we anticipate issuing an unmodified opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017.
Annual governance statement	We have no exceptions to report in relation to the consistency of the Annual Governance Statement with the financial statements or our knowledge.
Use of resources	Subject to the successful resolution of outstanding matters set out on page 5, we anticipate issuing an unmodified opinion on the use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

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OTHER MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)	We will complete our review of the WGA Data Collection Tool (DCT), after we have completed our audit of the financial statements. We will issue our opinion on the consistency of the DCT return with the audited financial statements before the 29 September 2017 statutory deadline.
Audit independence	Our observations on our audit independence and objectivity and related matters are set out in Appendix IV. We confirm our independence.
Audit certificate	We will issue our audit certificate after we have completed our work on the financial statements, use of resources and whole of government accounts.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS REPORT

We present our Audit Completion Report to the Audit Committee, which details the key findings arising from the audit for the attention of those charged with governance. It forms a key part of our communication strategy with you, a strategy which is designed to promote effective two way communication throughout the audit process.

As auditors we are responsible for performing our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) which provide us with a framework which enables us to form and express an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management nor those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and use of resources. As the purpose of the audit is for us to express an opinion on the financial statements and use of resources, you will appreciate that our audit cannot necessarily be expected to disclose all matters that may be of interest to you and, as a result, the matters reported may not be the only ones which exist. As part of our work, we considered internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such that we were able to design appropriate audit procedures. This work was not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

This report has been prepared solely for the use of the Audit Committee. In preparing this report we do not accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person.

We would like to thank staff for their co-operation and assistance during the audit and throughout the period.

AUDIT QUALITY

BDO is totally committed to audit quality. It is a standing item on the agenda of BDO's Leadership Team who, in conjunction with the Audit Stream Executive (which works to implement strategy and deliver on the audit stream's objectives), monitor the actions required to maintain a high level of audit quality within the audit stream and address findings from external and internal inspections. BDO welcome feedback from external bodies and is committed to implementing necessary actions to address their findings.

We recognise the importance of continually seeking to improve audit quality and enhancing certain areas. Alongside reviews from a number of external reviewers, the AQR (the Financial Reporting Council's Audit Quality Review team), QAD (the ICAEW Quality Assurance Department) and the PCAOB (Public Company Accounting Oversight Board who oversee the audits of US firms), the firm undertake a thorough annual internal Audit Quality Assurance Review and as member firm of the BDO International network we are also subject to a quality review visit every three years. We have also implemented additional quality control review processes for all listed and public interest audits.

More details can be found in our latest Transparency Report at www.bdo.co.uk.

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

We have substantially completed our audit work for the year ended 31 March 2017, and anticipate issuing unmodified opinions on the financial statements and use of resources. The following matters are outstanding at the date of this report. We will update you on their current status at the Audit Committee meeting at which this report is considered:

- 1 Clearance of outstanding issues on the audit queries tracker currently with management, including:
 - Copy of the final accounts and audit completion report in respect of South Essex Homes

- 2 Completion of testing in respect of:
 - Use of Resources
 - Whole of Government Accounts

- 3 Completion of testing in respect of the Housing Benefits grant claim

- ∞ 4 Clearance of manager and partner review points

- 5 Subsequent events review

- 6 Approval of the financial statements

- 7 Management representation letter, as attached in Appendix VI, to be approved and signed

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

AUDIT RISKS

We assessed the following matters as audit risks as identified in our earlier Audit Plan dated 21 March 2017. Below we set out how these risks have been addressed and the outcomes of our procedures.

Key: ■ Significant risk ■ Normal risk

AUDIT AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
1 ■ Management override of controls	<p>Auditing standards presume that a risk of management override of controls is present in all entities and require us to respond to this risk by testing the appropriateness of accounting journals and other adjustments to the financial statements, reviewing accounting estimates for possible bias and obtaining an understanding of the business rationale of significant transactions that appear to be unusual.</p> <p>By its nature, there are no controls in place to mitigate the risk of management override.</p>	<p>Our response to this risk included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• testing the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements• reviewing accounting estimates for biases and evaluating whether the circumstances producing the bias, if any, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud• obtaining an understanding of the business rationale for significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual.	<p>Our audit work in relation to journals has not identified any significant issues.</p> <p>We have not found any indication of management bias in accounting estimates.</p> <p>Our views on significant management estimates in respect of property revaluations, the valuation of the pension scheme and the bad debt provision are included below.</p> <p>No transactions were identified which were considered unusual or outside of the normal course of business.</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

		AUDIT AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
10	2	Revenue recognition	Under auditing Standards there is a presumption that income recognition presents a fraud risk.	Our review of revenue recognition focused on testing the existence of fees and charges across all service areas within the CIES. We substantively tested an extended sample of fees and charges to confirm that income had been accurately recorded and earned in the year.	We identified that £1.006m of income which the Council had given to schools/colleges was incorrectly consolidated into the Council's CIES as external schools income. We identified 3 schools/colleges for which the income had been consolidated incorrectly. The amounts involved were individually immaterial with the only non-trivial amount being in relation to Seabrook College. The Council has adjusted for this error.
			In particular, we consider there to be a significant risk in respect of the existence (recognition) of fees and charges included as revenue in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (CIES).	We substantively tested an extended sample of year-end debtor balances to confirm that income has been accurately recorded and earned in the year. We reviewed the Council's policy to only accrue for items with a value of greater than £5,000 and made an assessment of whether this could lead to a material misstatement.	We identified two transactions included in 2016/17 income which related entirely to 2015/16 and had not been accrued at 2015/16 year-end. We were able to isolate one error to a specific population and concluded the total impact of the error to be trivial. The second error found could not be isolated and has been extrapolated to a misstatement of £507,000. We identified two transactions excluded from 2016/17 income which related either entirely or partially to 2016/17 and had not been accrued at 2016/17 year-end. We were able to isolate both errors to specific populations and concluded the total impact of one error to be trivial and the other has been extrapolated to a misstatement of £290,000. We conclude that the likelihood of the policy to only accrue for items with a value of greater than £5,000 resulting in a material misstatement is remote.


KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

AUDIT AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
<p>3</p> <p>Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations</p>	<p>Local authorities are required to ensure that the carrying value of property, plant and equipment (PPE) is not materially different to the fair value at the balance sheet date.</p> <p>The Code requires management to carry out a full valuation of its land and buildings on a periodic basis (at least every 5 years). In the intervening years, management is required to assess whether there has been a material change in the value of its assets which should be accounted for.</p> <p>As part of the 5 year rolling re-valuation programme, all car parks, clubs, bus stations, community centres, depots, libraries, museums, shelters, leisure centres, theatres, public conveniences and care homes along with the cemetery offices, the crematorium, investment properties, Porters, Southchurch Hall, the Cliff Lift and the Council administrative buildings have been re-valued in 2016/17. Upon review of the revaluation schedules for these assets, the upwards revaluations were seen to total £32m and downwards revaluations totalled £20m, plus indexation of assets totalled £24m. We concluded that there is a significant risk of material misstatement of asset values.</p> <p>2016/17 is also the first year in which the Council has used the current valuers, of which we have no prior experience, which increases the associated audit risk.</p>	<p>We reviewed the instructions provided to the valuer and reviewed the valuer's skills and expertise in order to determine if we could rely on the management expert.</p> <p>We confirmed that the basis of valuation for assets valued in year was appropriate based on their usage. We confirmed that an instant build modern equivalent asset basis has been used for assets valued at depreciated replacement cost.</p> <p>We reviewed the indices applied by the Council, and confirmed that the basis used for calculating them was appropriate.</p> <p>We reviewed valuation movements against indices of price movements for similar classes of assets and followed up valuation movements that appeared unusual against indices.</p>	<p>From our review of the instructions provided to the valuer and assessment of the expertise of the valuer, we are satisfied that we can rely on the majority of this work. We are not satisfied that we can place reliance on the indexation percentage calculated in respect of council dwellings, as detailed overleaf.</p> <p>For the sample of PPE assets and investment properties reviewed we are satisfied that the basis of the valuation for each asset is appropriate and that the revaluation movements have been correctly accounted for to within trivial amounts. Our review of the reasonableness of valuation assumptions applied concluded that the value of council dwellings was materially understated. The value of this understatement has not yet been quantified. Further detail is noted on the following page.</p> <p>We identified 27 assets which had not been revalued since 2011/12 and 12 assets which have never been revalued, none of which were initially revalued during 2016/17, which is inconsistent with the requirements of the Code to revalue all assets at least every 5 years. In response to this, the Council arranged for the 9 highest value assets to be revalued in the current year. This left 30 assets which had not been revalued with a total net book value of £1.657m. We assessed that the value of these assets would not move by a material amount if a revaluation had been undertaken. A recommendation has been raised in respect of this.</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES


Land, buildings, dwellings and investment property valuations

ESTIMATE	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT CONCLUSION
<p>Land and buildings are mostly valued by reference to existing use market values</p> <p>Dwellings are valued by reference to open market value less a social housing discount</p> <p>Investment properties are valued by reference to highest and best use market value</p> <p>Some specialist buildings are valued at depreciated replacement cost by reference to building indices</p>	<p>The Council engaged an external valuer to value the asset categories detailed on the previous page as at 1 April 2016 in line with the rolling revaluation policy. This resulted in a net upward revaluation movement of £13.008 m in the year for PPE and a gain of £2.411m for investment properties.</p> <p>We assessed the valuer's competence, independence and objectivity and determined we could largely rely on the management expert. We are not satisfied that we can place reliance on the indexation percentage calculated in respect of council dwellings, as detailed below.</p> <p>We reviewed the valuations provided and the valuation methodology applied and, in all cases excepting council dwellings, confirmed that the basis of valuation for assets valued in year is appropriate based on Code requirements for all properties. 19 dwellings included within the general fund were initially valued by reference to existing use market values, but were subsequently valued by reference to market value less a social housing discount. Our review of valuation by reference to market value less a social housing discount identified that such valuations were generally lower than expected. The valuations applied were subsequently reassessed in line with our expectations. The increase in valuation arising from this reassessment was concluded to be trivial.</p> <p>The valuer also confirmed that there was a material movement in valuation between the valuation date and year end. A net re-valuation gain of £24.252m has been recognised in respect of this. This movement has been calculated by applying a percentage increase to each of the categories of assets where an increase in value was assessed to have occurred. One of these percentages is a 3.5% uplift applied to council dwellings. Through review of property sales in Southend on the Land Registry website and specific public sector indices available to us, we consider that the uplift should be 6%. The 3.5% was therefore concluded to be understated, and has been amended in the final accounts. This has increased the value of council dwellings by £8.195m and the revaluation reserve by £7.582m. It has also decreased the deficit on the provision of services by £0.613k.</p>	<p>↓</p>  <p>PRUDENT AGGRESSIVE</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

AUDIT AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
4 Pension liability assumptions	<p>The pension liability comprises the Council's share of the market value of assets held in the Essex Pension Fund and the estimated future liability to pay pensions.</p> <p>An actuarial estimate of the pension fund liability is calculated by an independent firm of actuaries with specialist knowledge and experience. The estimate has regard to local factors such as mortality rates and expected pay rises along with other assumptions around inflation. Management has agreed the assumptions made by the actuary to support the estimate and these are disclosed in the financial statements.</p> <p>There is a risk the valuation is not based on accurate membership data or uses inappropriate assumptions to value the liability.</p> <p>This has been increased from a normal risk to a significant risk following a review of assumptions used by the actuary for the valuation of the present value liability to pay future pensions.</p>	<p>We agreed the disclosures to the information provided by the pension fund actuary.</p> <p>We requested assurance from the auditor of the pension fund over the controls for providing accurate membership data to the actuary.</p> <p>We checked whether any significant changes in membership data were communicated to the actuary.</p> <p>We reviewed the reasonableness of the assumptions used in the calculation against other local government actuaries and other observable data.</p>	<p>We did not identify any issues regarding the accuracy of the disclosures in the financial statements or the accuracy and completeness of data provided by the fund to the actuary.</p> <p>Our review of the reasonableness of assumptions used to calculate the present value of future pension obligations is noted in the following page.</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES					
Pension liability assumptions					
ESTIMATE	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT			AUDIT CONCLUSION	
The key assumptions include estimating future expected cash flows to pay pensions including inflation, salary increases and mortality of members; and the discount rate to calculate the present value of these cash outflows	The actuary has used the following assumptions to value the future pension liability:			<div></div>	
		Actual used	Actuary range		PwC assessment of actuary range to market expectations
	RPI increase	3.6%	3.5-3.6%		Top of expected range (as no deduction for inflation risk premium)
	CPI increase	2.7%	2.6-2.7%		Top of expected range (derived from RPI above)
	Salary increase	4.2%	--		Top of expected range (derived from RPI above)
	Pension increase	2.7%	2.6-2.7%		Top of expected range (derived from RPI above)
	Discount rate	2.7%	2.7-2.8%		Above expectations (does not reflect full shape of the underlying yield curve or timing of the benefit payment)
	Mortality - LGPS:				
	- Male current	24.3 years	23.5-26.6		Reasonable
	- Female current	26.9 years	26.5-28.3		Reasonable
- Male retired	22.1 years	21.4-24.4	Reasonable		
- Female retired	24.6 years	24.2-26.0	Reasonable		

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES	
Pension liability assumptions	
ESTIMATE	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT
Continued	<p>In response to the variation from the above expected range, we commissioned a separate review from an independent actuary (Broadstones) to review the strength of the assumptions applied and the potential impact on the calculation of the liability.</p> <p>Discount rates</p> <p>This review concluded that, while the discount rate range applied was high, the approach to obtain a single point from the yield curve is an acceptable method.</p> <p>A benchmarking exercise found that a rate up to 2.80% approached the 95th percentile (normal range 2.55% - 2.75%), and that the rate applied for this pension fund at 2.70% was above average but within a normal range.</p> <p>An increase of 0.1% in the discount rate would decrease the liabilities by £11.7m (2%).</p> <p>Inflation rates</p> <p>A review of the RPI inflation assumptions concluded that the rate applied was high, and followed the same methodology as the discount rate curve methodology in not adjusting for an inflation risk premium.</p> <p>A benchmarking exercise found that a rate up to 3.60% approached the 95th percentile (normal range 3.28% - 3.48%), and that the rate applied for this pension fund at 3.60% was above a normal range.</p> <p>A decrease of 0.1% in the discount rate would increase the liabilities by £11.9m (2%).</p>


KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

ESTIMATE	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT
Continued	<p>Overall impact of assumptions</p> <p>PwC concluded that overall Barnett Waddingham liabilities calculations tended to be generally ‘strong’ (i.e. placing a higher value on the liabilities) and that in combination the higher discount rate and higher inflation assumptions may result in an acceptable valuation.</p> <p>The Broadstones review concurred with this view and stated that reducing both the discount rate and inflation assumptions would bring these into line with general expectations, but would not lead to materially different liability calculation.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The impact of the higher discount rate and inflation rates tend to counteract each other and the overall liability calculation is reasonable.</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

AUDIT AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
5 Changes in presentation of the financial statements	<p>The Code requires a change to the presentation of some areas of the financial statements. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">change to the format of the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)change to the format of the Movement in Reserves Statementnew Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) notechange to the Segmental Reporting notenew Expenditure and Income analysis note. <p>These changes will require a restatement to the 2015/16 CIES.</p> <p>There is a risk that these presentational changes are not correctly applied in the financial statements.</p>	<p>We reviewed the draft financial statements and checked these against the CIPFA Disclosure Checklist to ensure that all of the required presentational changes have been correctly reflected within the financial statements.</p> <p>We confirmed that the analysis by service in the CIES is consistent with the internal reporting within the Council.</p> <p>We reviewed the restatement of the comparative 2015/16 information to ensure that this was presented consistently with the current year basis.</p>	<p>We identified that the methodology used in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Note was different between the current and prior periods. An adjustment has been made to the prior period comparatives to align the methodology. This has had no net impact on the position reported.</p> <p>No other issues have been identified regarding the disclosures made in respect of the changes in presentation of the financial statements.</p>

KEY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES		
ESTIMATE	HOW RISK WAS ADDRESSED BY OUR AUDIT	AUDIT CONCLUSION
Estimate of future write-off for uncollectable debt	Overall we concluded that the impairment allowances for receivables are materially correct, and have mostly been based on historical write off rates. Based on a review of historical write off rates we concluded that the overall provision is potentially overstated by £0.345m. An adjustment has been made for £0.178m of this potential overstatement.	 PRUDENT AGGRESSIVE
	Housing benefit overpayments	
	The impairment allowance at 31 March 2017 is £3.244m, a decrease of £1.046m from the prior year, against an overpayments balance of £6.344m. We compared this to the historical collection rates and estimate that this provision should be in the region of £3.267m.	
	Council tax arrears	
	The total impairment allowance for the Collection Fund at 31 March 2017 is £2.395m, an increase of £0.515m from the prior year, against total arrears of £4.789m. We compared this to the historical collection rates and estimate that this provision should be in the region of £2.395m.	
	Business rates arrears	
	The total impairment allowance for the Collection Fund at 31 March 2017 is £0.353m, an increase of £0.026m from the prior year, against total arrears of £1.729m. We compared this to the historical collection rates and estimate that this provision should be in the region of £0.353m.	
	The total impairment allowance for other receivables where it was felt appropriate to make a provision at 31 March 2017 was initially disclosed as £5.901m, a decrease of £60,000 from the prior year, against an outstanding balance of £10.934m. We compared this to the historical collection rates and estimate that this provision should be in the region of £5.536m. The provision has been adjusted to £5.723m.	

OTHER REPORTING MATTERS

We comment below on other reporting required to be considered in arriving at the final content of our audit report:

MATTER		COMMENT
19	6 The draft financial statements, within the Statement of Accounts, was prepared and provided to us for audit on 31 May 2017. As part of our planning for the audit, we prepared a detailed document request which outlined the information we would require to complete the audit.	We have no matters to report.
	7 We are required to review the draft Annual Governance Statement and be satisfied that it is not inconsistent or misleading with other information we are aware of from our audit of the financial statements, the evidence provided in the Council’s review of effectiveness and our knowledge of the Council.	We have no matters to report.
	8 We are required to read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to the financial statements to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit.	We have no matters to report.

CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

We are required to report to you, in writing, significant deficiencies in internal control that we have identified during the audit. These matters are limited to those which we have concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to you.

As the purpose of the audit is for us to express an opinion on the Council's financial statements, you will appreciate that our audit cannot necessarily be expected to disclose all matters that may be of interest to you and, as a result, the matters reported may not be the only ones which exist. As part of our work, we considered internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such that we were able to design appropriate audit procedures. This work was not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

We note that the Council's internal audit function has issued a number of observations and recommendations on the Council's control environment during 2016/17. We have not repeated these recommendations in this report unless we consider them to highlight significant deficiencies in control which we are required to report to you.

We are not aware of any significant deficiencies in the Council's internal controls in 2016/17.

We have identified other deficiencies in controls which have been discussed with management and included in the action plan at Appendix II.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS

We comment below on other reporting required:

MATTER	COMMENT
9 For Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) component bodies that are over the prescribed threshold of £350 million in any of: assets (excluding property, plant and equipment); liabilities (excluding pension liabilities); income or expenditure we are required to perform tests with regard to the Data Collection Tool (DCT) return prepared by the Authority for use by the Department of Communities and Local Government for the consolidation of the local government accounts, and by HM Treasury at Whole of Government Accounts level. This work requires checking the consistency of the DCT return with the audited financial statements, and reviewing the consistency of income and expenditure transactions and receivables and payable balances with other government bodies.	<p>Local authorities' were required to submit the unaudited DCT to HM Treasury and auditors by 7 July 2017. The Council met this deadline.</p> <p>Our review of the Council's WGA Data Collection Tool (DCT) is in progress.</p> <p>We will complete our review of the WGA Data Collection Tool (DCT), after we have completed our audit of the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>We will issue our opinion on the consistency of the DCT return with the audited financial statements before the 29 September 2017 statutory deadline.</p>

USE OF RESOURCES

We are required to be satisfied that proper arrangements have been made to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (value for money). This is based on the following reporting criterion:

In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

There are three sub criteria that we consider as part of our overall risk assessment:

- Informed decision making
- Sustainable resource deployment
- Working with partners and other third parties.

We reported our risk assessment, which included use of resources significant risks, in the 2016/17 Audit Plan issued in 21 March 2017. We have since undertaken a more detailed assessment of risk following our completion of the interim review of financial controls and review of the draft financial statements, and we have not included any additional significant risks.

We report below our findings of the work designed to address these significant risks and any other relevant use of resources work undertaken.

Key: ■ Significant risk ■ Normal risk

USE OF RESOURCES

23

RISK AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION AND WORK PERFORMED	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
1 Sustainable finances	<p>Government continues to reduce funding for local government, and combined with additional pressures arising from demographic and other service delivery changes, this will have a significant impact on the financial resilience of the Council in the medium term.</p> <p>We have reviewed the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which covers the four year period to 2020/21. The Council set a balanced budget for 2017/18 but this requires planned savings of £6.9m to be achieved. The MTFS forecasts a budget gap totalling £22.9m over the remaining three years which will need to be funded through either savings or additional revenue in order to maintain the current general fund position. This is a reduction from the MTFS published at the end of 2015/16 year which showed a budget gap of £28.1m. The two MTFS' cover different years and the reduction is due to the gap for 2020/21 in the current MTFS being lower than the budget gap for 2017/18 in the prior year MTFS. The budget gap is forecast to arise as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018/19: £10.3m (increased from £8.4m in the previous MTFS) • 2019/20: £5.1m (decreased from £7.3m in the previous MTFS) • 2020/21: £7.5m <p>Although the current budget gap is significant the Council is aware of the importance of finding sustainable savings or new revenue streams.</p> <p>We have reviewed the assumptions used in developing the MTFS and have found these to be reasonable. A prudent approach to expectations of future government funding has been adopted by the Council.</p>	<p>Whilst the Council has identified a significant funding gap, action is being taken to ensure the matter is addressed and the Council has a track record of achieving its financial plans.</p> <p>Sufficient reserves and balances are available to support the Council's services in the medium term, should there be under performance against savings plans.</p> <p>Therefore, while there is a recognised funding gap in the MTFS, we are satisfied that the Council has sufficient reserves available and is undertaking appropriate arrangements to manage the budget gap in a way that will ensure the Council remains financially sustainable over the period of the MTFS.</p>

RISK AREA	RISK DESCRIPTION AND WORK PERFORMED	AUDIT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION
	<p>The Council continues to maintain a level of balances and earmarked reserves in accordance with the plans set out in the MTFS. As at 31 March 2017, the General Fund balance was £11m which is within the Director of Finance and Resources recommended range of £10m to £12m. General Fund earmarked reserves were £64.0m compared to £58.5m at 31 March 2016 and £48.0m at 31 March 2015 . The Council's overall useable reserves, which include the General Fund, HRA, Earmarked Reserves (including schools), have increased by £7.9m in 2016/17.</p> <p>The Council has built this level of reserves through prudent financial management over recent years. The Director of Finance and Resources has recently undertaken a review of this position to ensure that holding reserves at these levels whilst making significant savings and increasing Council Tax and fees and charges is consistent with producing a sound and robust budget, and that sustainable plans are in place for the utilisation of reserves where appropriate. This review illustrated that there are plans in place to utilise elements of the reserves for one-off investments to support invest to save projects and capital investment, whilst maintaining some reserves to underpin long term value for money in the underlying budget, such as £9.6m in the pensions reserve to allow for forward funding of past service deficits, £6.2m in the insurance reserve that reduces the Council's annual insurance premiums and a further £4.4m that represents grants received but not yet spent. After these uses, the Council is forecast to retain £24.5m of General Fund reserves at the end of the MTFS period, while separately HRA reserves will increase from £22.7m at 31 March 2017 to £32.0m at 31 March 2021, to assist with the funding of future investment in the housing stock as part of the move to HRA self-financing.</p> <p>As part of budget setting the annual review of reserves should continue to ensure an appropriate level and utilisation of reserves is maintained in line with the requirement to set a robust and sustainable budget, alongside consideration of the level of council tax and fees and charges.</p>	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: AUDIT DIFFERENCES

We are required to bring to your attention audit differences identified during the audit, except for those that are clearly trivial, that the Audit Committee is required to consider. This includes: audit differences that have been corrected by management; and those that remain uncorrected along with the effect that they have individually, and in aggregate, on the financial statements.

ADJUSTED AUDIT DIFFERENCES

We identified one material misstatement in respect of the indexation adjustment applied to Council dwellings, which management has amended. This increased the value of council dwellings by £8.195m and the revaluation reserve by £7.582m. It also decreased the deficit on the provision of services by £0.613m.

We identified the following non-material misstatements in the draft financial statements, which management has also amended:

- An adjustment of £178,000 was made to reduce the value of the bad debt provision
- An adjustment of £1.006m was made to net down inter-company schools income and expenditure which had been recorded gross
- A classification adjustment of £4.777m from the other entities and individuals line of the debtors note to the central government bodies line of the debtors note
- An amendment of £2.032m was made to the consolidation adjustments made to the Group Balance Sheet.

Correction of these amendments in the revised financial statements decreased the deficit on the provision of services by £178,000.

UNADJUSTED AUDIT DIFFERENCES

There are three unadjusted audit differences identified by our audit work which would, if corrected, increase the deficit on the provision of services for 2016/17 by £2.792m.

Two of these differences have no impact on the cumulative retained deficit, as the bad debt provision should have been adjusted in the prior year and the income should have been included in the prior year. The final difference would decrease the deficit on the provision of services by £0.290m, if corrected.

You consider these identified misstatements to be immaterial in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole. We concur with this judgement however we are required to request that you correct them, even though not material.

APPENDIX I: AUDIT DIFFERENCES

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT OF PRIOR PERIOD UNADJUSTED DIFFERENCES

	£'000	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE / FUND ACCOUNT		COLLECTION FUND		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION / NET ASSETS	
		DR	CR	DR	CR	DR	CR
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Deficit on the provision of services before adjustments	34,539						
Surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services	2,575						
Surplus/(deficit) on the Collection Fund attributable to SBC	(888)						
DR / CR Bad Debt Expense		2,575			888		
CR Reserves							1,687
(1) Being the current year impact of our estimated bad debt provision adjustment for 2015/16 (projected). If the adjustment had been recorded in the prior year, the value of the current year bad debt expense would have been higher by the above amount. This would therefore have no impact on the retained deficit position cumulatively							

APPENDIX I: AUDIT DIFFERENCES

CURRENT YEAR UNADJUSTED DIFFERENCES

	£'000	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE / FUND ACCOUNT		COLLECTION FUND		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION / NET ASSETS	
		DR £'000	CR £'000	DR £'000	CR £'000	DR £'000	CR £'000
DR Cost of Services Income	507	507					
CR Reserves							507
(2) <i>Extrapolated element of overstatement of cost of services income due to income items relating to prior period being recognised in current year, as they were not accrued for in the prior period (projected). This has no impact on the cumulative retained deficit, as the income should have been included in the prior year</i>							
DR Short Term Debtors						290	
CR Cost of Services Income	(290)		290				
(3) <i>Extrapolated element of understatement of adult social care income due to income from client contributions relating to current period being recognised in 2017/18, as they were not accrued for in the current year (projected).</i>							
TOTAL UNADJUSTED AUDIT DIFFERENCES							
Effect on deficit on provision of services if adjustments accounted for	2,792						
Effect on surplus/(deficit) on the Collection Fund attributable to SBC if adjustments accounted for	(888)						

APPENDIX II: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS BROUGHT FORWARD

Key: ■ Significant deficiency in internal control ■ Other deficiency in internal control ■ Other observations

AREA	OBSERVATION AND IMPLICATION	RECOMMENDATION	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TIMING
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS					
Consolidation of Schools Income	<p>The Council consolidates all income privately generated by the schools and the Southend Adult College into their CIES. We identified that some of the income given to the schools had been consolidated into the Council's accounts.</p> <p>We identified 3 schools/colleges for which the income had been consolidated incorrectly. The amounts involved were individually immaterial with the only non-trivial amount being in relation to Seabrook College. The Council has amended for all errors identified. There is however a risk that income could be materially under or overstated as a result of this error if it were to occur again in future years.</p>	<p>Provide the schools and colleges guidance on what should be consolidated so that the returns provided include all of the relevant information to include in the Council's accounts. This was the same recommendation raised in 2015/16.</p>	Agreed	Ian Ambrose	March 2018

APPENDIX II: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT YEAR'S AUDIT

AREA	OBSERVATION AND IMPLICATION	RECOMMENDATION	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TIMING
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS					
Rolling Revaluation Policy	<p>It was identified that there were 18 assets which have not been revalued since 2011/12 and 12 assets which have never been revalued. As per the code, all assets should be revalued at least every 5 years, and therefore the failure to revalue these assets is out of line with code guidance.</p> <p>There is a risk that the value of these assets has changed significantly and is therefore materially misstated. The total net book value of the assets we are aware of is £1,657k. It is therefore considered unlikely that the revaluation of these assets would lead to a material adjustment.</p>	It is recommended that all assets where no revaluation has been performed in the last 5 years are revalued during 2017/18.	A list has been compiled of all assets which have not been revalued in the last 5 years and these assets have been included in the list of assets to be revalued in 2017/18.	Caroline Fozzard	March 2018
Useful Economic Lives	<p>The UELs are set by the valuers for each individual asset when the assets are revalued. We are aware of at least 3 assets where the UEL recorded on the fixed asset register does not match the UEL set by the valuers.</p> <p>There is a risk that depreciation is materially misstated as a result of the incorrect UELs being applied. Our initial assessment however suggests that the impact of these errors is trivial.</p>	A review of all the UELs applied on the fixed asset register should be undertaken and it should be confirmed that all are consistent with the values provided by the valuers.	This review will be undertaken as part of the 2017/18 Fixed Asset Register review.	Caroline Fozzard	March 2018

APPENDIX II: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

CONTINUED

AREA	OBSERVATION AND IMPLICATION	RECOMMENDATION	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TIMING
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS					
Journal Authorisation	A weakness in access controls over journals means that journals can be raised and authorised by the same person with no checks in place to prevent this. In addition, 3 users were identified who had access to post journals that should not have this access. It was noted that no journals had been posted by any of these 3 individuals.	The Finance Service should carry out a review of access rights to ensure that only appropriate individuals are able to post and approve journals.	The access to post journals for the 3 individuals who should not have access was removed as soon as the Council became aware of the issue.	Ian Ambrose	April 2017
			An annual review of access rights to approve journals will be undertaken	Ian Ambrose	October 2017 and on-going
	The Council's policy is that no journals are raised and authorised by the same person but there are no checks in place to ensure that this is followed. This deficiency means that it is possible for the accounts to be manipulated by raising fraudulent journals. This point was previously reported by internal audit.	The IT service should be tasked with a review of the journal authorisation process.	The Agresso Support Team will undertake a process review to determine whether further controls can be built into the journal authorisation process	Mike Miller	April 2018
		Additionally, a periodic review of journals should be carried out to ensure that there are no journals that have been raised and authorised by the same person.	The Agresso Support Team will develop a report on journal authorisation, for review by Finance Service management	Mike Miller	April 2018
				Ian Ambrose and Caroline Fozzard	April 2018 and on-going

APPENDIX II: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT YEAR'S AUDIT

AREA	OBSERVATION AND IMPLICATION	RECOMMENDATION	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TIMING
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS					
Disclosure Notes	<p>There were a small number of notes included in the financial statements which were immaterial and did not need to be included.</p> <p>There is a risk that time will be inefficiently spent preparing notes which the Council is not required to prepare.</p>	The Council performs a critical review of the financial statements next year and does not prepare any notes which are considered immaterial.	<p>A review will be undertaken of the notes which BDO asked to be removed in 2016/17, and consideration will be given as to whether they are required for 2017/18.</p> <p>That review will look at both materiality and contextual value to the user of the accounts in forming a judgement about continued inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts.</p>	Ian Ambrose and Caroline Fozzard	May 2018

APPENDIX III: MATERIALITY

MATERIALITY - FINAL AND PLANNING		
	FINAL	PLANNING
Materiality	7,700,000	8,600,000
Clearly trivial threshold	192,500	215,000
Planning materiality of £8,600,000 was based on 2% of gross expenditure, using the prior year signed accounts.		
We revised our materiality in order to reflect the actual value of gross expenditure in the draft financial statements received for audit.		

APPENDIX IV: INDEPENDENCE

We confirm that the firm complies with the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standards for Auditors and, in our professional judgement, is independent and objective within the meaning of those Standards.

In our professional judgement the policies and safeguards in place ensure that we are independent within the meaning of all regulatory and professional requirements and that the objectivity of the audit engagement lead and audit staff is not impaired. These policies include engagement lead and manager rotation, for which rotation is required after 5 years and 10 years respectively.

INDEPENDENCE - ENGAGEMENT TEAM ROTATION	
Senior team members	Number of years involved
Lisa Clampin - Audit engagement lead	3
Alison Langridge - Audit manager	5
Andrew Barnes - Audit manager (maternity cover)	1

We are not aware of any financial, business, employment or personal relationships between the audit team, BDO and the Council.

INDEPENDENCE - THREATS TO INDEPENDENCE AND APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS
We have provided services other than audit to the Council as set out in Appendix V.

We conclude that the provision of the services identified in Appendix V does not present a threat to our independence. We have not identified any other potential threats to our independence as auditors.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding this confirmation we would welcome their discussion in more detail.

APPENDIX V: FEES SCHEDULE

	2016/17 FINAL PROPOSED £	2016/17 PLANNED £	2015/16 FINAL £	EXPLANATION FOR VARIANCES
Code audit fee	142,816	142,816	144,246	£1,430 was charged in 2015/16 for challenge work carried out in respect of the audit
Housing benefits subsidy claim	21,284	21,284	22,226	N/A
TOTAL AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION FEES	164,100	164,100	165,042	
Reporting on government grants:				
• Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return	2,500	2,500	2,500	N/A
• Teachers' Pension return	8,000	8,000	9,500	N/A
Fees for other non-audit services	1,200	1,200	4,800	2016/17 fee relates to Audit Committee knowledge sharing session. 2015/16 fee relates to review of internal audit provision
NON-AUDIT ASSURANCE SERVICES	11,700	11,700	18,000	
TOTAL ASSURANCE SERVICES	175,800	175,800	183,042	

APPENDIX VI: DRAFT REPRESENTATION LETTER

TO BE TYPED ON CLIENT HEADED NOTEPAPER

BDO LLP
16 The Havens
Ransomes Europark
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP3 9SJ

[XX] September 2017

Dear Sirs

Financial statements of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2017

We confirm that the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Council's financial statements (the 'financial statements') for the year ended 31 March 2016 are made to the best of our knowledge and belief, and after having made appropriate enquiries of other officers and members of the Council.

The Director of Finance and Resources has fulfilled his responsibilities for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Statement of responsibilities of auditors and of audited bodies: local government issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), and in particular that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as of 31 March 2017 and of its income and expenditure and cash flows for the year then ended 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) and for making accurate representations to you.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities on behalf of the Council, as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, to make arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, to conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and approve the Annual Governance Statement, to approve the Statement of Accounts (which include the financial statements), and for making accurate representations to you.

We have provided you with unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence. In addition, all the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Council have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management and other meetings have been made available to you.

APPENDIX VI: DRAFT REPRESENTATION LETTER

In relation to those laws and regulations which provide the legal framework within which the Council’s business is conducted and which are central to our ability to conduct our business, we have disclosed to you all instances of possible non-compliance of which we are aware and all actual or contingent consequences arising from such instances of non-compliance.

There have been no events since the balance sheet date which either require changes to be made to the figures included in the financial statements or to be disclosed by way of a note. Should any material events of this type occur, we will advise you accordingly.

We are responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, designing, implementing and maintaining internal control, to, among other things, help assure the preparation of the financial statements in conformity with international financial reporting standards and preventing and detecting fraud and error.

We have considered the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud and have identified no significant risks.

To the best of our knowledge we are not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud involving councillors, management or employees. Additionally, we are not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud involving any other party that could materially affect the financial statements.

To the best of our knowledge we are not aware of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements that have been communicated by councillors, employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or any other party.

We attach a schedule showing accounting adjustments that you have proposed, which we acknowledge that you request we correct, together with the reasons why we have not recorded these proposed adjustments in the financial statements. In our opinion, the effects of not recording such identified financial statement misstatements are, both individually and in the aggregate, immaterial to the financial statements.

APPENDIX VI: DRAFT REPRESENTATION LETTER

We have disclosed to you the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware. We have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value and where relevant, the fair value measurement, or classification of assets or liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

We confirm that the fair value measurements and significant assumptions in relation to the following are reasonable and that there are no circumstances of which we are aware that would have a material impact on the values reported:

- current value of property, plant and equipment using the following indexation percentages:

- 3.37% - Crematoria
- 6.00% - Council Dwellings
- 6.37% - Care Homes
- 6.45% - Offices
- 6.54% - Theatres
- 6.94% - Libraries
- 7.01% - Function Rooms
- 7.31% - Leisure Centres
- 7.44% - Sports Halls
- 7.49% - Museums
- 8.87% - Schools
- 9.39% - Clubs
- 9.47% - Public Conveniences
- 10.04% - Day Centres

- assumptions underpinning the reported pension liability (details reported in note 37 to the main financial statements)

We consider that the Council is able to continue to operate as a going concern and that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

We have disclosed all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements and these have been disclosed in accordance with the requirements of accounting standards.

APPENDIX VI: DRAFT REPRESENTATION LETTER

We confirm that the above representations are made on the basis of enquiries of councillors, management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the above representations to you.

We confirm that the financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.

We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware. Each director and member has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

Joe Chesterton

Director of Finance and Resources

XX September 2017

Cllr Meg Davidson

Chairman of the Audit Committee

Signed on behalf of the Audit Committee

XX September 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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The matters raised in our report prepared in connection with the audit are those we believe should be brought to the attention of the organisation. They do not purport to be a complete record of all matters arising. No responsibility to any third party is accepted.

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Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

5

Report of the Chief Executive
to

Audit Committee

on

6 September 2017

Report prepared by: Ian Ambrose
Group Manager, Financial Management

Statutory Statement of Accounts 2016/17

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1 Purpose of Report

To adopt the Statement of Accounts 2016/17

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That following due consideration, that the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 be adopted and approved for publication.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that an Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts be formally adopted by the end of September, having been previously submitted to External Audit by the Chief Finance Officer by the end of June.
- 3.2 Adoption of the Accounts can only be undertaken by the Council as a whole, or a Council Committee to which the function has been delegated. At Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the Audit Committee has the delegated power to adopt the Accounts. In adopting the accounts, Audit Committee need to satisfy themselves that the process of drawing up the accounts is robust, and that all relevant guidance and standards have been satisfactorily followed: It is not the role of Audit Committee to pass comment on the financial outturn of the Authority per se, rather to ensure it is accurately reported.
- 3.3 Before adopting the Statement of Accounts 2016/17, Members need to understand how the structure of the accounts works. Appendix 1 guides Members through the various statements and the accompanying notes, drawing Members attention to any significant variances or changes year on year. The appendix therefore serves as an aid to Members' robust scrutiny of the Accounts prior to their adoption.

- 3.4 Members will also be mindful of the findings of the Council's external auditors BDO regarding the Accounts, as contained within their report elsewhere on this agenda. In particular Members will note that the auditor is anticipating issuing an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money) conclusion.
- 3.5 The Statement of Accounts is attached at Appendix 2. After due consideration, Members are invited to adopt them.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 Following adoption, the Statement of Accounts will be formally published on the Council's website.

5 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities
The accuracy, format and content of the Statement of Accounts are key determinants in maintaining the Council's reputation for financial probity and financial stewardship
- 5.2 Financial Implications
The Statement of Accounts is required to present a true and fair picture of the Council's financial position at 31 March 2017 and also the income and expenditure for the financial year.
- 5.3 Legal Implications
The Statement of Accounts is a statutory document required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations issued by the Secretary of State
- 5.4 People Implications
There are no people implications arising from this report
- 5.5 Property Implications
There are no property implications arising from this report
- 5.6 Consultation
There are no consultation implications arising from this report
- 5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment
There are no equalities implications arising from this report
- 5.8 Risk Assessment
There are no risk implications arising from this report
- 5.9 Value for Money
There are no value for money implications arising from this report

5.10 Community Safety Implications
There are no community safety implications arising from this report

5.11 Environmental Impact
There are no environmental implications arising from this report

6 Background Papers
Detailed working papers are held by Accountancy

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 Overview of the Statutory Statement of Accounts 2016/17

Annex 1 Southend-on-Sea Borough Council – Group Structure

Appendix 2 Statutory Statement of Accounts 2016/17

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Appendix 1

Overview of the Statutory Statement of Accounts 2016/17

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This overview summarises the contents of the accounts and draws Members' attention to the reasons for any significant variances in the 2016/17 position when compared to 2015/16.
- 1.2. The content and format of the Statement of Accounts have been prepared in accordance with "The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17" ("the Code") published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
- 1.3. The style of presentation and content of the Statutory Statement of Accounts are prescribed by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, together with the Code, as are the explanatory notes accompanying each of the major financial statements. There has not been any significant change to reporting requirements under the code as in previous years, nor has there been any need to restate the previous year's financial statements.

Format of the Accounts

2. Strategic Report (Page 7)

- 2.1. The Strategic Report (also known as the narrative report) has been expanded from the Explanatory Foreword of previous years to incorporate information about the Council's performance against its corporate priorities, and to set out the principal risks and uncertainties that the Council faces.
- 2.2. The Strategic Report therefore sets out to provide a brief understandable guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts. Any significant change impacting on the finances of the Authority or change in accounting requirements would be highlighted here. The purpose of the Strategic Report is not to comment on the policies of the authority, rather to explain the financial facts.
- 2.3. The Strategic Report shows a summarised revenue outturn position for the Council, comparing the position against the original budget set for 2016/17. This summarised information has already been reported and debated by the Cabinet when they considered the outturn in June 2017. The format shown here reflects the Portfolio Holder view of the accounts that will be more readily recognisable to Members than the statutory format used in the Statements proper.
- 2.4. A summarised schedule of capital expenditure and its financing is also shown.
- 2.5. Looking forward, the Strategic Report also draws attention to changes to the Council's financial environment during 2017/18 and beyond.

3. Statement of Responsibilities (Page 20)

- 3.1. This sets out the respective responsibilities of the Authority and the Director of Finance and Resources in relation to the production of the final accounts. The Council is responsible for making arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs, which it does through its Chief Finance Officer. It is also required to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, to safeguard its assets and to approve the Statement of Accounts.
- 3.2. The Director of Finance and Resources is required to produce the Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practice, and to certify that they present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council.
- 3.3. The approval of the Statement of Accounts, as witnessed by the Chair of Audit Committee is also incorporated here.

4. Annual Governance Statement (Page 21)

- 4.1. The Annual Governance Statement is a corporate document, signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. It was separately considered by this Committee at its last meeting, and has been incorporated into the Statement of Accounts prior to publication.

5. Auditor's Report (Page 35)

- 5.1. The external auditors will provide an independent opinion as to whether the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended. The proposed report is included elsewhere on this agenda and will be incorporated into the published accounts.

6. The Accounting Statements

- 6.1. The main statements are:
 - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – a summary of the resources generated and consumed by the authority in the year in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the ultimate amount falling to be met by taxation;
 - Movement in Reserves Statement – showing how the authority's usable and unusable reserves have moved during the year, including adjustments made as a result of statutory regulation and mitigations;
 - The Balance Sheet; and
 - The Cash Flow Statement.
- 6.2. Each of these core financial statements is discussed in turn below in sections 7 to 11.

7. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Page 40)

7.1. This statement is fundamental to the understanding of a local authority's activities, in that it reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which the authority is responsible, and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from general government grants and income from local taxpayers. It brings together expenditure and income relating to all of the Council's activities, including the HRA. It also includes grant income due in support of capital.

7.2. The statement is split into three distinct sections:

- Net Cost of Services which summarises the cost of each of the different services, net of any associated specific grants and income. The service costs have been adjusted so that they reflect the true economic pension cost of current and past service. The cost of services also includes charges for the use of assets through depreciation and impairment. Where capital expenditure takes place that does not deliver a fixed asset, so called revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute, then this too, alongside any associated grant income, also gets charged here. Unlike previous years, services are now presented in Portfolio groupings, making the statement more recognisable for Members and the public.
- The second section contains items of income and expenditure that relate to the authority as a whole rather than to an individual service. Amongst other things, this section contains further accounting adjustments for pensions, this time to reflect the performance of the fund, precepts paid to Leigh Town Council, and the payment of a proportion of the Councils' sale of council house receipts over to the Government. It also includes the interest payable and receivable by the Council and the principal sources of financing, that is government grants (including capital grants) and precepts. When added to the net cost of services, this section results in the surplus or deficit on provision of services.
- The final section shows other income and expenditure arising from essentially balance sheet activities, thereby resulting in the Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure for the year.

7.3. For this authority the 2016/17 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement results in a deficit of £43.752M. A surplus or deficit is disclosed before any appropriations to and from reserves, including statutory mitigations. This compares with a surplus of £49.636M in 2015/16.

7.4. Principal reasons for this £93M year on year movement relate to changes in asset values and actuarial assumptions on the value of the pension fund. These movements are set out in note 9 to the accounts, and include

- In relation to 2015/16, £57M net increases in asset valuation, £23M charge to the Housing Revenue Account relating to downward valuation of Council Housing and £18M relating to the write out of the book value of Cecil Jones School as it converted to academy status, and £25M actuarial gains on the pension fund

- In relation to 2016/17, £48M net increases in asset valuation. £46M loss in asset values following the academisation of 10 primary schools, and £58M actuarial losses on the pension fund

8. The Movement in Reserves Statement (Page 41)

- 8.1. This statement shows in summarised form how the Council's usable and unusable reserves have moved during the year, through any surplus or deficit on the provision of services and other income and expenditure, and by other adjustments driven by regulations, such as the reversal of depreciation.
- 8.2. The statement therefore shows the "bottom line" increases or decreases in the Council's usable reserves, as summarised below.

	Increase / (Decrease) £000	Closing Balance £000
General Fund	-	11,000
Housing Revenue Account	-	3,502
Earmarked Reserves, <i>of which</i>	7,872	93,001
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>5,487</i>	<i>64,014</i>
<i>HRA</i>	<i>5,689</i>	<i>22,830</i>
<i>Schools</i>	<i>(3,304)</i>	<i>6,157</i>
Capital Receipts	3,521	11,019
Major Repairs (HRA)	959	5,493
Capital Grants Unapplied	2,952	11,800
Total Usable Reserves	15,304	135,815

- 8.3. The Movement in Reserves statement is supported by a number of notes to the accounts, the most notable of which are 19 and 20.

9. Balance Sheet (Page 42)

- 9.1. The Balance Sheet sets out the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2017. The statement shows the balances and reserves at the Authority's disposal, its long-term indebtedness, and the long-term and net current assets employed. The significant movements on the balance sheet are described below.
- 9.2. **Property, Plant & Equipment.** The value at which Property, Plant & Equipment assets are carried in the balance sheet has increased by a net £6M. The movement has been made up as follows:

	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2016	711,764
Capital Investment in year	40,059
Increases in Valuation*	64,264
Decreases in Valuation*	(21,648)
Depreciation in year	(18,471)
Disposals*	(49,498)
Transfers	(142)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	726,328

* See the Unusable Reserves paragraph

The increases in valuation were mainly as a result of the rolling revaluation programme with a variety of assets re-valued as shown in note 21 to the accounts. This figure also includes an indexation increase applied to the council dwellings and other land and buildings to reflect the increase in value between the valuation date and the balance sheet date. The decreases in valuation were as a result of impairments identified as part of the rolling revaluation programme, a review carried out at the balance sheet date, and as a result of the regular review of the fixed asset register. The decreases related to various assets including car parks, libraries and leisure centres.

- 9.3. **Heritage Assets.** The value at which Heritage assets are carried in the balance sheet has increased by a net £0.7M. The movement has been made up as follows:

	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2016	37,383
Capital Investment in year	620
Increases in Valuation*	1,293
Decreases in Valuation*	(564)
Depreciation in year	(642)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	38,090

* See the Unusable Reserves paragraph

- 9.4. **Investment Property.** The value of investment properties has increased by a net £2M. The movement has been made up as follows;

	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2016	23,087
Capital Investment in year	0
Revaluations and Impairments	2,411
Transfers	(154)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	25,344

- 9.5. **Long Term Investments.** There has been an overall increase of £3M due to the further investment into and the increase in value of long term monies invested in property funds.
- 9.6. **Long Term Debtors.** This primarily represents the value of deferred payments in respect of Adult Social Care provision.
- 9.7. **Short Term Investments.** (This needs to be considered together with Cash and Cash Equivalents and Short Term Borrowing.) There has been an overall decrease of £8M in short term investments resulting from the maturity of a fixed term deposit of £5M and the redemption of the investment managed by the council's previous external fund manager, offset by the investment into an enhanced cash fund and two short dated bond funds. These investments were reported to Cabinet in November as part of the Mid Year Treasury Management Report for 2016/17.
- 9.8. **Short Term Debtors.** Debtors to the Council have barely changed year on year.
- 9.9. **Cash and cash equivalents.** There has been an overall decrease of £3.7M in cash and cash equivalents. This results mainly from a £3.9M decrease in the cash and cash equivalents held by schools.
- 9.10. The level of the investments deemed to be cash equivalents at 31 March 2017 is lower than the average of these funds managed internally during 2016/17 which is not unusual for a year end position.
- 9.11. The movement between the balance of cash in the council's main bank account, in investments deemed to be cash equivalents and in short term investments is a consequence of the normal day to day treasury management activities of minimising risk, maintaining liquidity and maximising return commensurate with that risk.
- 9.12. **Short term Borrowing.** (This needs to be considered together with Cash and Cash Equivalents and Short Term Investments.) Short term borrowing has decreased year on year by £10M reflecting the net of short term monies repaid and taken out for cash flow purposes.
- 9.13. **Creditors.** Creditors of the Council have barely changed year on year.
- 9.14. **Long term Borrowing.** Long term borrowing has increased year on year by a net £4.6M due to monies being drawn down from the Green Investment Bank loan relating to the LED Street Lighting project. The Cabinet report in June on Treasury Management gave the background to these treasury activities
- 9.15. **Other Long Term Liabilities - Pensions.** There has been a £62 million increase in the Council's pension liability, which is the amount by which future liabilities to pay pensions exceed the assets available. The total liability stands at £222.6 million. Statutory arrangements for the funding of the deficit, whereby the deficit will be made good by increased employer contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme's actuary, means that the financial position of the Council in this regard remains healthy.

9.16. The net increase is attributable to both an increase in scheme asset values and a increase in scheme liabilities, as set out below:

	£000
Liability as at 1 April 2016	160,653
Increase in Assets	(61,059)
Increase in Liabilities	123,023
Liability as at 31 March 2017	222,617

9.17. The increase in assets arises from the returns on investment and employer and employee contributions outweighing pension payments made to retired staff; the increase in liabilities arises from a change in the discount rate used by the actuary, plus the inherent difference between the growth in new liabilities from current scheme membership and the discharge of liabilities to existing pensioners.

9.18. **Usable Reserves.** The movement in usable reserves is set out under paragraph 7.2 above.

9.19. **Unusable Reserves.** These comprise the following reserves:

	Increase / (Decrease) £000	Closing Balance £000
Revaluation Reserve	34,371	225,896
Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve	(2)	4
Pensions Reserve	(61,964)	(222,617)
Capital Adjustment Account	(31,252)	251,982
Deferred Capital Receipts	(225)	0
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	350	3,780
Short-term Accumulating Compensated Absences Reserve	(334)	(1,445)
Total Unusable Reserves	(59,056)	257,600

9.20. The Revaluation Reserve increased by a net amount of £34 million as a result of the amounts identified for revaluation by the rolling programme or other sources and by an exercise to apply an indexation uplift to the council dwellings and other land and buildings, which were permitted by the accounting code to be applied to the reserve. This was offset by amounts written out of the reserve relating to disposals of non-current assets.

- 9.21. The Pension Reserve movement is the contra entries for the movement in the Pensions Liability set out in 9.15 above.
- 9.22. The Capital Adjustment Account has decreased by £31 million mostly due to the following: asset impairments and revaluations downwards identified as part of the revaluation rolling programme, a review carried out at the balance sheet date and as a result of the regular review of the fixed asset register; depreciation; disposals of non-current assets and the capital financing applied in the year.

10. Cash Flow Statement (Page 43)

- 10.1. This Statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for both revenue and capital purposes. The statement shows that there has been a net cash outflow of £3.7 million.

11. Notes to the Accounts (Page 45)

- 11.1. The notes provide additional information and explanation behind the main statements, to aid understanding of presented figures.
- 11.2. The notes proper start by setting out the Accounting Policies. The Council's accounting policies set out the technical methodologies for accounting for a wide variety of issues within its accounts. The notes are then grouped together as they support their respective primary statement.
- 11.3. There is a new series of notes (notes 6 - 8) in support of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that explains the transition from the "normal" view of the Council's accounts as set out in our budgeting format, to the statutory format required in our year end accounts. Essentially it shows how statutory adjustments relating mainly to pensions, assets and capital are overlaid to produce the statutory accounts. This set of notes also provides a complete subjective breakdown of the income and expenditure account, and a detailed breakdown of the level of fees, charges and other income generated by each Portfolio, that is not reported elsewhere in the accounts.

12. Housing Revenue Account and Notes (Pages 113)

- 12.1. The Housing Revenue Account is a record of revenue expenditure and income relating to the Council's own housing stock (the Landlord Function). Although strictly part of the overall General Fund, the HRA has a tight ring-fence around it that allows no general discretion to transfer sums into or out of the HRA. Expenditure and income relating to other housing functions, such as support to registered social landlords, rent rebates and homelessness, are chargeable to the General Fund proper.
- 12.2. Like the General Fund, the format of the HRA creates an Income and Expenditure Account, and a reconciling Statement of Movement on the HRA

Balance. The movement on the Housing Revenue Account Balance for 2016/17 was as follows:

	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2016	3,502
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	nil
Balance as at 31 March 2017	3,502

- 12.3. Despite the nil change in the HRA revenue balance, the HRA actually generated a surplus after statutory adjustments of £5.7 million. Rather than increase the main revenue reserve, this has been set aside into HRA earmarked reserves, principally to fund future capital investment.

13. Collection Fund (Page 122)

- 13.1. This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities such as Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to maintain a separate Collection Fund, which shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to non-domestic rates and the Council Tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to preceptors and the General Fund.
- 13.2. A deficit of £185,000 was generated on the Fund during the year, after the distribution of prior year surpluses to the tune of £1,184,000. When added to previous years accumulated fund surpluses, this means that there is now an accumulated surplus at the year-end of £2,305,000. This sum will be distributed between the three principal precepting authorities, including Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, and in the case of Business Rates to Central Government also, in future years. Southend's proportion of the accumulated surplus is £3,791,000.

14. Group Accounts (Page 128)

- 14.1. The group accounts, that merge the accounts of Southend Borough Council, its wholly owned company South Essex Homes Ltd, and its principal Trust Funds follow the same format as the council's own statements.
- 14.2. South Essex Homes made a deficit of £0.215M, on a turnover of £10.1M.
- 14.3. The other companies and trusts that the Council has control over are immaterial to the overall group and have therefore not been consolidated. It is anticipated that Southend Care Ltd, that started trading on 1 April 2017 will be consolidated into the 2017/18 group accounts.
- 14.4. A full list of owned companies, joint ventures and trusts are shown in Annex 1 to this Appendix.

15. Members Allowances (Page 142)

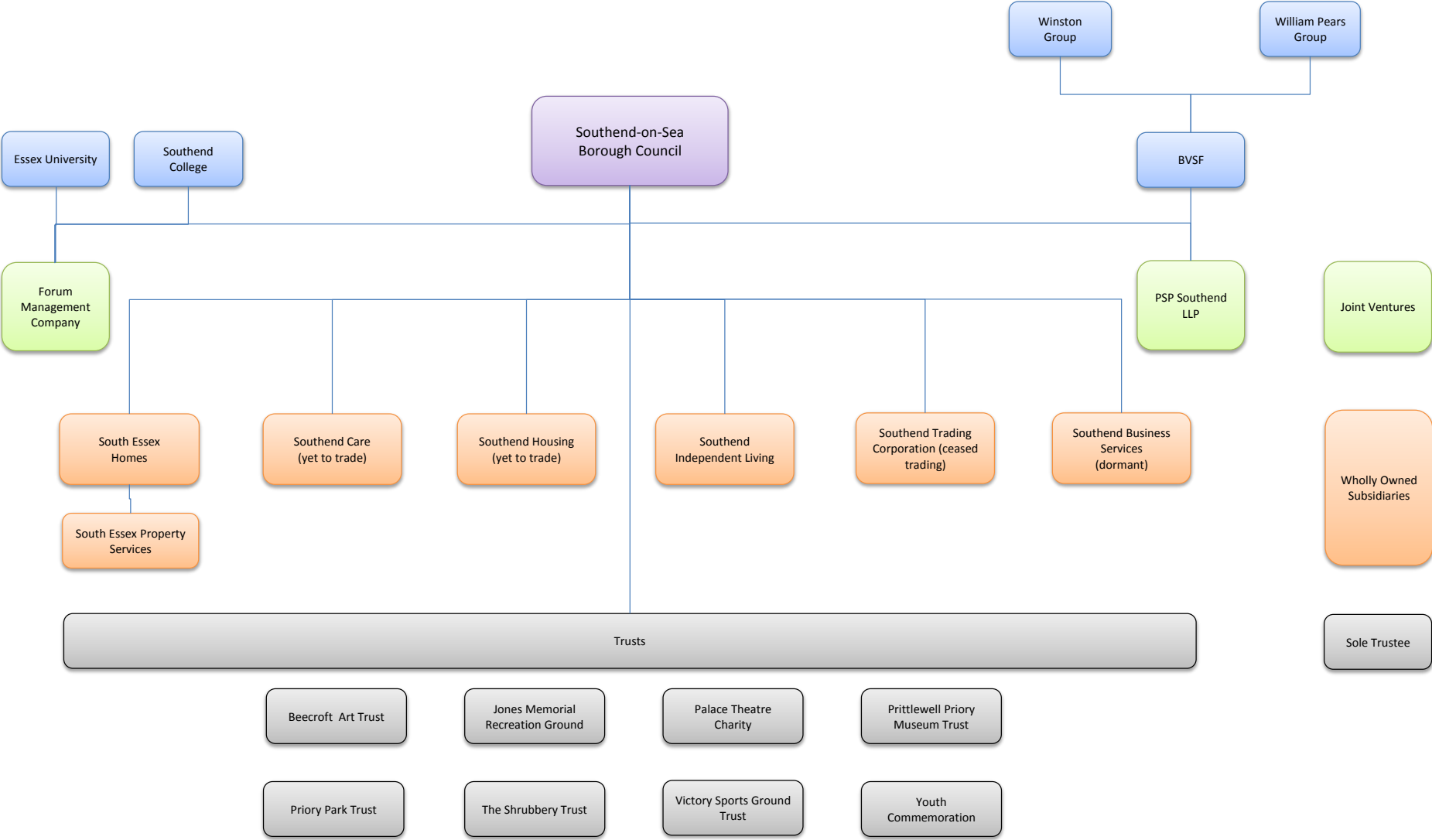
A schedule of allowances paid to Members and Co-opted Members is included in compliance with the requirement to publish these annually.

Annex 1 Southend-on-Sea Borough Council – Group Structure

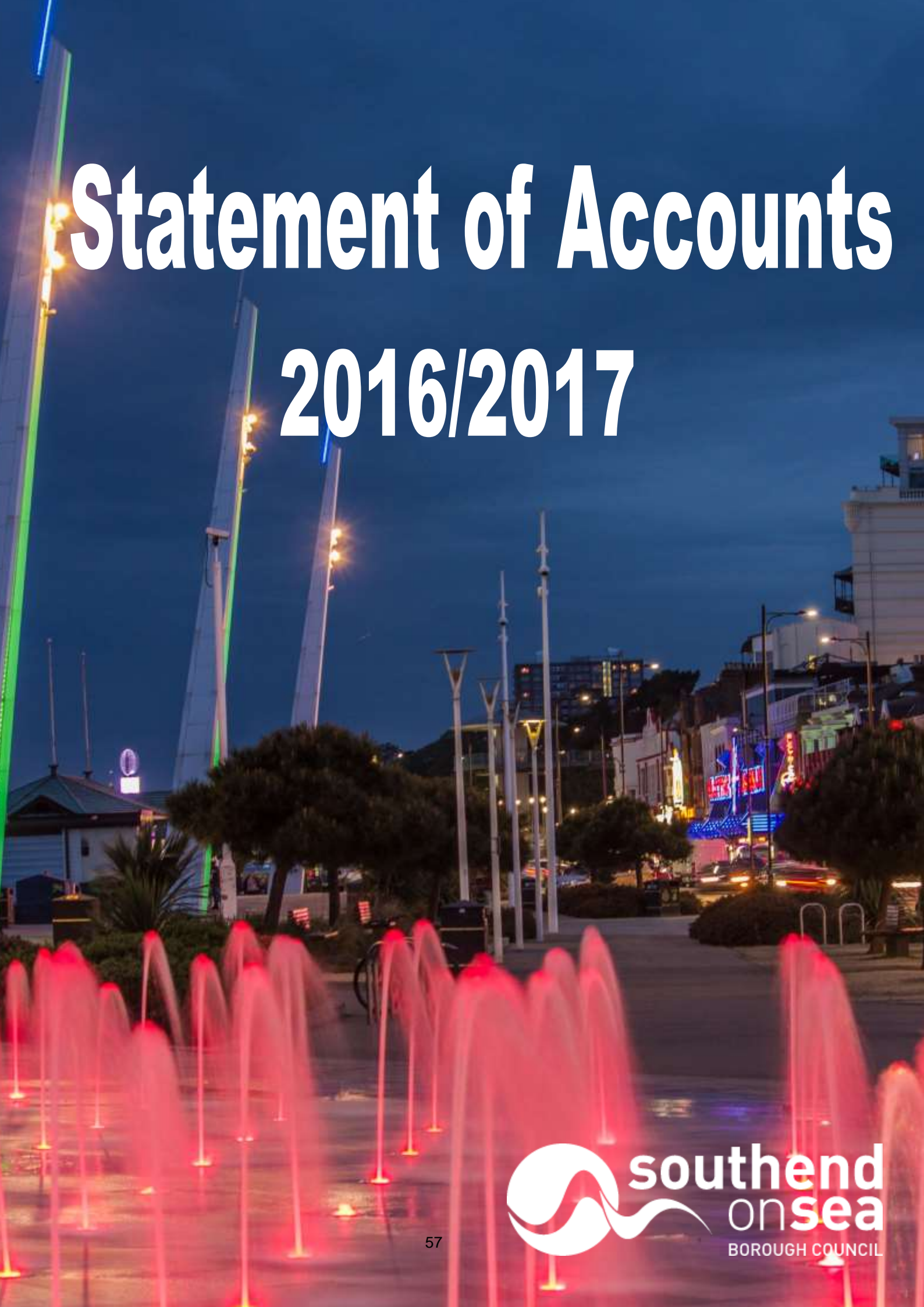
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Group Structure

Annex 1

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Statement of Accounts 2016/2017

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Back cover: Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Civic Offices. Clodagh Duffy

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2016/17

Mayor

Councillor Fay Evans

Leader of the Council

Councillor John Lamb

Chief Executive and Town Clerk

Alison Griffin

Director of Finance and Resources

Joe Chesterton

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Department of the Chief Executive – Finance and Resources

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Victoria Avenue

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Essex

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STRATEGIC REPORT

INTRODUCTION FROM THE LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This strategic report provides a narrative around the development and the performance of the Council over the past financial year, and sets out a commentary around the key financial and non-financial performance indicators.

2016/17 has been a year of achievements, including: the opening of the new seafront lagoon; significant progress with the £13.5m upgrade of all 14,000 streetlights with new energy-efficient LED units; investment in our libraries, roads and schools and work starting on the re-development of derelict offices along Victoria Avenue, the gateway to our town centre. In addition, there has been some fantastic work carried out by our staff, often in partnership with our community and partners, with ever declining resources.

These resources will see a further reduction of £11m from the budget this year, to meet a shortfall in Government grant. We also have to contend with the pressures of an ageing population, increasing demand for children's services and an anticipated loss from the reduction in Business Rates. On top of this, we will need to find the equivalent of £636,000 of further savings every month for the next three years (£22.9m in total) if Government spending reduction plans continue.

This is why we are investing in key areas, such as energy saving projects, the children's services improvement plan

and new models of social care as well as looking for commercial opportunities, to generate revenue and future savings.

Despite these financially austere times, we remain ambitious and committed to investing in the borough. An additional £78m is going into the capital programme for the next four years (£213m in total) for expanded secondary schools, a new social care campus, the Innovation Centre at Airport Business Park Southend, and further investment in council housing stock, the Pier, parks and car parks. In addition, pier entry, car parking and cemetery and crematorium charges have been frozen.

This will be the first time the Council will have a new Chief Executive in 12 years. The Council thanked Rob Tinlin for his outstanding contribution in transforming the Council by awarding him the Freedom of the Borough in February. It now begins a new chapter, with renewed energy, passion, intellect and ideas.

A new Government, as well as the current political climate, is likely to pose both real challenges and opportunities for the Council and the borough. However, we are confident that, as the Council has shown before, it can meet these challenges and continue to create a better Southend for its residents, visitors, businesses and partners.

Councillor John Lamb
Leader of the Council

Alison Griffin
Chief Executive

Council's Performance

CORPORATE PRIORITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 2016/17

The Council monitors a basket of key performance indicators throughout the year to assess performance against the Corporate Priorities. Further details on the Council's performance can be found on the Council's website.

Aim / Corporate Priority	Performance Measure	Target for 2016/17	Outturn for 2016/17	Outturn for 2015/16
Safe Create a safe environment across the town for residents, workers and visitors Work in partnership with Essex Police and other agencies to tackle crime Look after and safeguard our children and vulnerable adults	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (per 10,000 population) [Monthly Snapshot]	45.7- 52.3	58.9	49.2
	Number of Looked After Children (per 10,000 population) [Monthly Snapshot]	57.7- 68.3	71.9	68.3
	Adults in contact with secondary mental health services living independently, with or without support (expressed as a percentage) [quarterly survey]	66%	79%	67.5%
	Percentage of children reported to the police as having run away that receive an independent return to home interview (where parents' consent) [Cumulative]	85%	80.2%	69.05%
	Score against 10 British Crime Survey crimes; Theft of vehicle, theft from vehicle, vehicle interference, domestic burglary, theft or cycle, theft from person, criminal damage, common assault, woundings or robbery [Cumulative]	7,389	8,344	8,382
Clean Continue to promote the use of green technology and initiatives to benefit the local economy and environment Encourage and enforce high standards of environmental stewardship	Percentage acceptable standard of cleanliness: litter [Cumulative]	92%	94%	96%
	Number of reported missed refuse collections per 100,000 [Monthly Snapshot]	45	42	40
	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting [Cumulative]	54%	TBC	47.11%
Healthy Actively promote healthy and active lifestyles for all Work with the public and private rented sectors to provide good quality housing Improve the life chances of our residents, especially our vulnerable children and adults, by working to reduce inequalities and social deprivation across our communities	Proportion of people who use services who receive Direct payments [year to date Snapshot]	30%	30%	NEW
	Proportion of older people 65 and over who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to rehabilitation [Rolling Quarter]	86%	75.3%	87.4%
	Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment [Quarterly Snapshot]	10%	10.3%	10.2%
	Delayed transfers of care from hospital for social care per 100,000 population [Average]	1.43	1.97	NEW
	Number of Children having participated in an Early Help Assessment (cumulative)	2,000	2,369	NEW
	Number of attendances at Council run or affiliated arts and sports events and facilities [Cumulative]	4,000,000	4,368,438	4,321,179

Aim / Corporate Priority	Performance Measure	Target for 2016/17	Outturn for 2016/17	Outturn for 2015/16
	Number of people successfully completing 4 week stop smoking course [Cumulative]	1,300	950	1,300
	Take up of the NHS Health Check programme – for those eligible [Cumulative]	5,673	4,633	6,617
	Number of Southend employers signed up to the Public Health Responsibility Deal [Cumulative]	40	48	43
Prosperous Maximise opportunities to enable planning and development of quality, affordable housing Ensure residents have access to high quality education to enable them to be lifelong learners and have fulfilling employment Ensure the town is 'open for business' and that new, developing and existing enterprise is nurtured and supported Ensure continued regeneration of the town through a culture led agenda	Percentage of Children in good or outstanding schools	80%	84.71%	83.08%
	Major planning applications determined in 13 weeks [Cumulative]	79%	93.54%	90.9%
	Minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks [Cumulative]	84%	90.00%	90.77%
	Other planning applications determined in 8 weeks [Cumulative]	90%	94.71%	95.48%
	Current Rent Arrears as percentage of rent due [Monthly Snapshot]	1.7%	1.35%	1.59%
	Percentage of Council Tax for 2015/16 collected in year [Cumulative]	97.2%	97.5%	97.2%
	Percentage of Non-Domestic Rates for 2014/15 collected in year [Cumulative]	97.8%	98.0%	97.8%
Excellent Work with and listen to our communities and partners to achieve better outcomes for all Enable communities to be self-sufficient and foster pride in the town Promote and lead an entrepreneurial, creative and innovative approach to the development of our town	GovMetric measurements of satisfaction (3 channels – Phones, Face 2 Face & Web) [Cumulative]	80%	85.84%	91.98%
	Number of payments made online [Cumulative]	50,000	64,393	58,494
	Number of volunteers hours delivered within cultural services [Cumulative]	13,000	17,277	18,304
	Working days lost per FTE due to sickness – excluding school staff [Cumulative]	7.2	7.30	6.99

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2016/17

REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND SERVICES PROVIDED

Revenue spending covers the day to day running costs of the Council's services, such as schools, social services and leisure. This spending is financed by government grants, Council Tax, retained Business Rates and other income such as fees and charges. The Council agreed a council tax requirement, including Leigh-on-Sea Town Council precept, of £67.6m for 2016/17 (£63.7m for 2015/16).

In setting this budget, the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council element of Council tax for Band D amounted to £1,205.82, (£1,159.56 in 2015/16).

The following table shows the final outturn position for 2016/17 on a net expenditure basis. The analysis of the actual costs reflects the way the Council's finances are managed, as opposed to the statutory required analysis used in the Statement of Accounts itself.

	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Portfolios			
Leader	3,880	2,434	(1,446)
Corporate & Community Support Services	2,666	(2,718)	(5,384)
Culture, Tourism & the Economy	14,261	13,521	(740)
Transport, Waste & Cleansing	23,127	21,552	(1,575)
Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services	10,747	7,690	(3,057)
Children & Learning	30,770	31,640	870
Health & Adult Social Care	32,971	30,247	(2,724)
Technology	110	(12)	(122)
Contingencies etc	5,616	(141)	(5,757)
Net Cost Of Services	124,148	104,213	(19,935)
Capital Financing Removed	(18,642)	(2,972)	15,670
Other Statutory Adjustments	(4,782)	(4,529)	253
Adjusted Net Cost Of Services	100,724	96,712	(4,012)
Levies	585	555	(30)
Leigh Parish Precept	391	391	0
Financing Costs, Interest etc	19,088	16,357	(2,731)
Net Operating Expenditure	120,788	114,015	(6,773)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	8,648	3,547	(5,101)
General Government Grants	(4,252)	(4,058)	194
Contribution to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(1,587)	11,176	12,763
Contribution to / (from) General Reserves	0	0	0
Total to be Funded from Council Tax and Formula Grant	123,597	124,680	1,083
Funding from Council Tax and Formula Grant			
Revenue Support Grant	(21,412)	(21,412)	0
Retained Business Rates	(33,628)	(34,711)	(1,083)
Collection Fund Surplus	(1,000)	(1,000)	0
Council Tax	(67,557)	(67,557)	0
Contribution (to) / from General Reserve	0	0	0

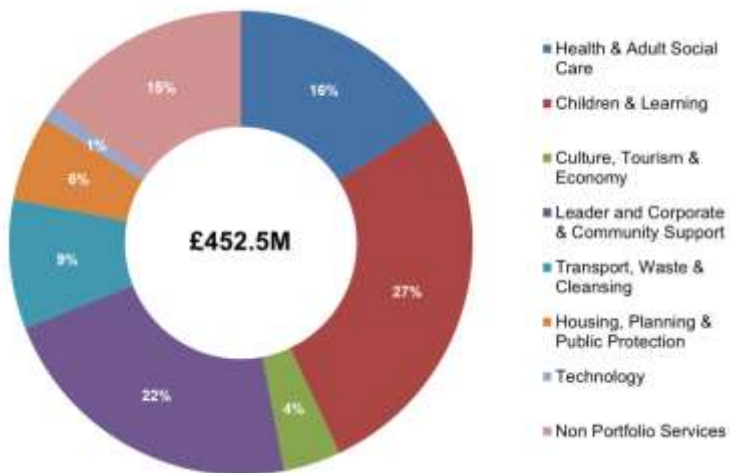
The table below reconciles the analysis on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 41) to the outturn summary on the previous page.

Reconciliation of Gross Expenditure to Transfer to General Fund	2016/17 £000
Gross Expenditure on Services	452,450
Gross Income on Services	(418,702)
Net Expenditure on Services	33,748
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation	(41,620)
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves and HRA	7,872
Contribution (to) / from the General Reserve	0

The “Transfer (to) / from the General Reserve” of nil is common throughout, regardless of the format of the information.

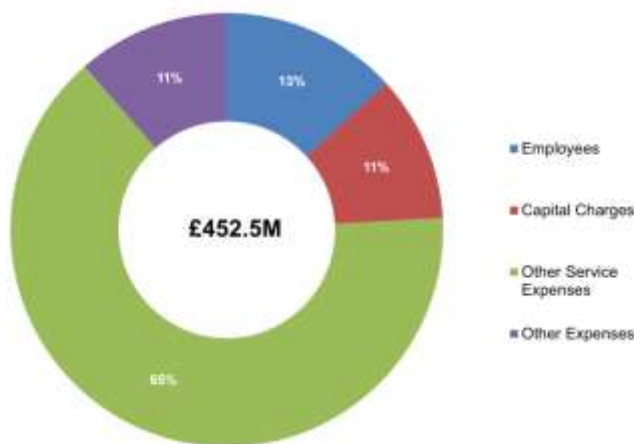
Gross expenditure on services amounted to £452.5m. The charts on the following page show in broad terms the services provided for this expenditure, how this money was spent, and the sources of income that funded it.

Gross Expenditure by Service Area



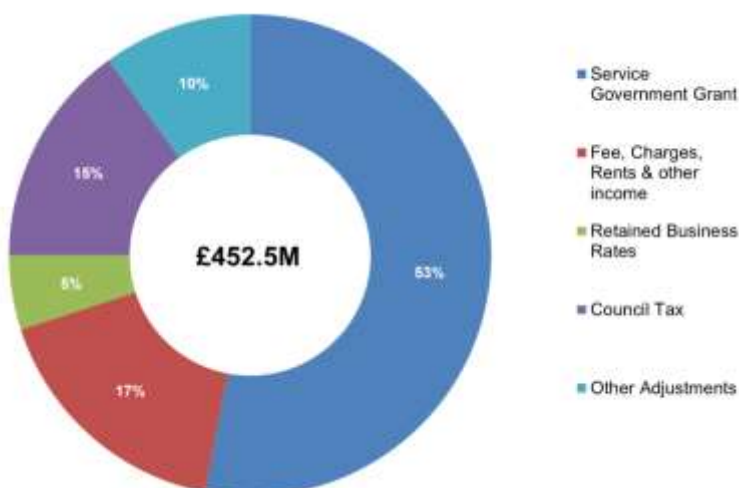
This diagram sets out how gross expenditure is split across the various portfolios of services the Council operates under. Corporate and Community Support includes the £90M cost of housing benefit payments made, and Children & Learning includes the passing on of dedicated schools grants and other payments to the Council's maintained schools. Non portfolio services include interest payable and the write out of the asset value of schools converted to academies in year.

Gross Expenditure by Type



This diagram sets out how gross expenditure is split by type. Other service expenses cover the running costs of services excluding employees, and therefore include the cost of suppliers and contractors, together with monies paid out to schools and benefit claimants. Other expenses covers a number of accounting charges put through the income and expenditure statement, only to be reversed under statutory regulations.

Revenue Funding Sources



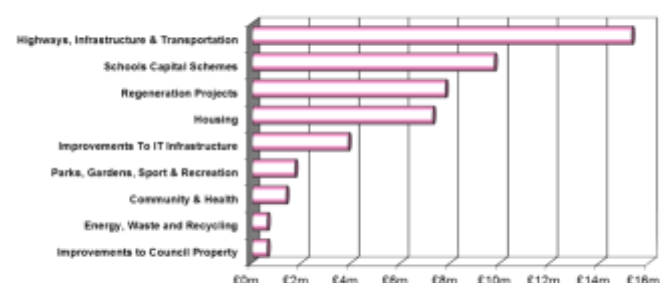
This diagram sets out how gross expenditure is funded. The largest source of income is still government grants (note 18 sets out a full description). Other adjustments includes the statutory reversals referred to above

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital spending can generally be defined as that spending which generates assets that have a life of more than one year. This includes the acquisition or construction of new assets and expenditure that improves, and not merely maintains, the value of existing assets.

In 2016/17 the Council spent £48.3m (£40.4m in 2015/16) on capital projects broadly categorised as follows:

Capital Expenditure

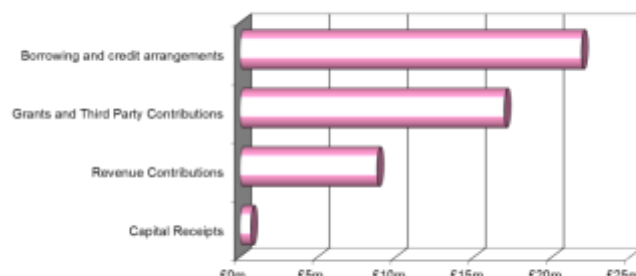


The table below describes some of the larger capital projects that the Council has undertaken this year.

	2016/17 £000
Investment in Highways Infrastructure	8,042
Investment in Housing Stock	7,278
Street Lighting Renewal	6,542
School Improvement & Provision for School Places	6,985
Airport Business Park	2,446
Three Shells Lagoon	1,942
ICT Core Infrastructure	1,749
Liquid Logic Case Management System	902
Disabled Facilities	790
St Helens Primary School	660
Southend Pier	559
St Marys Primary School	415

The external funding of the capital programme comes from a number of sources, including government funding, third party (private sector) contributions, capital receipts from the sale of assets, and borrowing. The following diagram shows how the £48.3m capital expenditure was funded for the 2016/17 year.

Financing of Capital Expenditure



Borrowing is kept within affordable levels, with the total accumulated loans owed to external lenders amounting to £242.0m at 31 March 2017 (£247.3m at 31 March 2016).

The Council also owes money to Essex County Council in respect of assets transferred to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in 1998 as part of the Local Government Re-organisation. The amount is £12.5m at 31 March 2017 (£13.1m at 31 March 2016).

The Council's operational upper limit for borrowing has been set at £280m (excluding transferred debt) (£270m in 2015/16). Taking into account the borrowing outlined above, this leaves headroom of £38.0m (£22.7m in 2015/16).

This level of debt should also be viewed in relation to the Council's long term assets which have a net book value of £813.0m at 31 March 2017 (£790.2m at 31 March 2016).

LONG TERM ASSETS

The Council's long term assets are those expected to provide benefits beyond 12 months and consist of Property, Plant & Equipment, Heritage Assets, Investment Property, Intangible Assets, Long Term Investments and Long Term Debtors. At 31 March 2017 the total net book value of these long term assets was £813.0m (£790.2m at 31 March 2016).

As a result of the Government's policy on the transfer of schools to academy status it is likely that most schools will transfer over the next few years, with eight schools expected to do so in the forthcoming year. Although the total value of the schools transferring is not yet known, this would reduce the current net book value of the long term assets held of £74.5m for schools on the Council's Balance Sheet.

PENSION SCHEME

Accounting Standard IAS 19 requires the full recognition of pension fund costs and liabilities to be disclosed in the accounts. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is a

member of the Essex Pension Fund and the actuaries for this fund have estimated that the fund is currently in a net deficit position. The Council's share of this deficit, taking into account assets, investments and current and future liabilities has been estimated by the actuaries to be £222.6m as at 31 March 2017 (*£160.7m as at 31 March 2016*). All disclosures as required by IAS 19 are included in Note 37 to the Accounts.

HOUSING

On 24 October 2005, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council transferred responsibility for the management of its housing stock to South Essex Homes Limited, an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), controlled by the Council. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council retains ownership of the housing stock and the statutory responsibility for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Council is required by statute to maintain the HRA in overall surplus, which includes balances brought forward from the previous year.

For the 2016/17 year the HRA has a balance carried forward of £3.5m (*£3.5m 2015/16*), having broken even again. Council rents for general needs properties were decreased by 1% in 2016/17 (*increased by 4.45% in 2015/16*) in line with government guidelines.

In 2016/17 average rents for general needs properties (excluding service charges) were £89.27 per week, and £77.53 for sheltered accommodation.

The full financial performance of the HRA is reported on pages 113 to 119 of this document.

GROUP PERFORMANCE

Local Authorities with subsidiary companies, associated companies and joint ventures are required to prepare group accounts. As a wholly owned subsidiary, South Essex Homes Limited prepares and publishes its own accounts, which are then consolidated with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. The accounts for South Essex Homes Limited report a pre-tax loss of £0.215m.

In addition, the Council has five other subsidiary companies and is party to two joint ventures, none of which are material to these accounts. The Council is also sole trustee for a number of Trusts. Where the Trusts are financially significant in their operation, these too have been consolidated as part of the Group Accounts.

OUTLOOK FOR 2017/18 AND BEYOND

For 2017/18, the Council had to meet a total savings requirement of over £6.9m due to, among other matters, reduced government funding, capital financing costs, increases in service demands and inflation (contractual and employee).

The Council Tax Budget Requirement for 2017/18 has been set at £72.1m for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and £0.4m for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. The Council tax for a Band D property for 2017/18 has been set at £1,265.94 for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council plus an additional £45.99 for the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council area. Additional charges are made in respect of Essex Police Authority and Essex Fire Authority.

The Council by law must set a balanced budget, and live within its available resources. We will manage our cash flows accordingly.

Alongside the wider community of Southend, the Council continues to face financial challenges arising from the ongoing Government fiscal consolidation. As part of our financial planning we have made preparations to help protect the Council's financial position and as a consequence protect the provision of frontline services to the public. However we are very aware that as central government tackles the national budget deficit, resources for local government are likely to reduce significantly over coming years.

In November 2016 the Government's Autumn Statement set out the strategic direction for public expenditure. This outlined a number of significant changes to the local government funding regime which will have a significant impact on the Council's finances over time. These included:

- Providing local authorities with the power to continue to levy increases on Council Tax to fund social care. For Southend-on-Sea, this equates to an additional £3.4m of revenue in 2017/18;
- It is current government policy to move to a position where local government will retain 100% of business rate revenues to fund local services, in addition the Uniform Business Rate will be abolished and any local area will be able to cut business rates as at their discretion. The timing of these reforms remains uncertain;

The Council's medium term modelling has been updated to reflect the provisional three-year Funding Settlement announced in December 2016. This also takes into account inflation (both pay and contract), superannuation, increasing capital financing pressures and national insurance changes as well as allowances for specific and general risks. The current estimated overall funding gap is £22.9m over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21. There is, however, a degree of uncertainty around these figures as pressures and new burdens are not yet sufficiently clear.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Council's Corporate Risk Register sets out the key risks to the successful delivery of the Council's corporate aims and priorities and outlines the key controls and actions to mitigate and reduce risks, or maximise opportunities. The Corporate Management Team have identified the following areas to be included in, and then reviewed, as part of the Corporate Risk Register for 2017/18. These were formally considered by the Council's Audit Committee on 28 June 2017.

Risk	Impact
Budget for 2018-21	Risk that the scale of predicted funding reductions for 2018-21 budgets will result in significant adverse impact on council services
Recruiting and retaining staff	Risk that failure to retain or recruit staff with the required skills and experience will result in an inability to deliver key projects or services to meet expectations of residents, members, businesses and partners
Partnership arrangements	Risk that the impact of, or a failure to take advantage of, a new Government agenda, changes to senior personnel and the lead up to Brexit may hamper the ability of the Council to achieve key priorities
Housing Policy	Risk that changes to government housing policy (such as selling off high value council properties) and increasing levels of housing need (notably homelessness) results in further significant pressure on council budgets
Local Infrastructure	Risk that failure to maintain access to future rounds of the Regional Growth Fund and Department for Transport Challenge Fund will significantly restrict future infrastructure improvements
Alternative service delivery models	Risk that failure to effectively manage (staffing, relationships, contracts) the transition to alternative service delivery models results in the organisation not meeting its statutory responsibilities to residents/customers
Health and Social Care Integration	Risk that failure to integrate health and social care effectively (inc Pioneer, Better Care Fund and Care Act) will harm the ability of the health and care system to operate at optimal levels, adversely affecting service provision and council finances
Contract Management	Risk that failure to embed effective contract management, combined with contract price inflation, across the authority will result in a loss of value for money, saving opportunities and/or quality of service provision
Secondary education and school places	Risk that failure to provide the required number of school places and to narrow the gap in results at secondary schools will lead to an undesirable level of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) and significant reputational damage for the Council
Flooding / Cliff Slip	Risk that surface water flooding, breach of sea defences and/or seafront cliff movement will result in significant damage to property, infrastructure as well as significant disruption
Information Management	Risk that a failure to ensure the Council has a coherent and comprehensive approach to Information Management, and is sufficiently prepared for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), will result in significant financial and reputational damage to the Council
Ofsted Joint Inspection	Risk that the actions and expected outcomes from the Children's Services Improvement Plan are not achieved within expected timescales, resulting in a failure to achieve a rating of 'Good' in future Ofsted inspection
Waste Management	Risk of contractor failing to meet contractual requirements to effectively manage waste contractual arrangements results in additional financial liability for the Council and loss of service quality

Risk	Impact
Health Lifestyles	Risk that continued pressure on the health system including Public Health funding results in a failure to adequately address lifestyle behaviours and reduce health inequalities
Major Developments	Risk that failure of partners to progress major infrastructure developments (e.g. Seaways, Airport Business Park and Queensway) will result in significant financial and reputational damage to the Council

More information on the principal risks and uncertainties, and the mitigations that the Council has in place can be found on the Council's website.

In addition, the implications of the outcome of the 2016 EU Referendum, combined with the election of a minority government in 2017, continues to present potential financial risks to the Council on numerous fronts. Although the Council has virtually no exposure to exchange rate risks, the depreciation of the value of sterling has led to higher domestic inflation, adding pressures to the Council's budgets. The Council currently benefits from EU grant funding for a number of its projects, the future of which is uncertain. In addition, the volatility displayed in the financial markets, if persistent, also has the potential to reduce the returns the Council derives from its investments. The election result meanwhile has raised questions about the continuance of the previous government's austerity measures and the planned introduction of 100% business rate retention in 2019 is clearly delayed. There may therefore be changes to the provisional future financial settlements for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The information provided in this publication presents the financial position of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council as at 31 March 2017, and the financial results for the financial year 2016/17. As a large and diverse organisation, these accounts will by their nature be both technical and complex and the purpose of this foreword is to provide a guide to the accounting information and statements that follow and summarise the Council's performance for the year.

Since the introduction of IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) for local government accounting in 2010/11, the core financial statements comprise:

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

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council. The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for Council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes. The Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

The Balance Sheet shows the value, as at the Balance Sheet date, of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The

first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

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

These four Statements are then followed by notes providing more detailed information of various elements within the statements.

The main Statements and their notes are supplemented by three further sections:

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reports separately on the Council's landlord activities, which are consolidated into the main accounts. Detailed notes follow these statements to expand on the information provided.

The Collection Fund reports separately on the collection and distribution of non-domestic rates and Council tax.

Group Accounts consolidate the Council's main accounts with those of its Subsidiary and Associated Companies, and Charitable Trusts.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council is required to:

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Director of Finance and Resources.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Finance and Resources 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 Director of Finance and Resources 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 Director of Finance and Resources has also:

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

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & RESOURCES' CERTIFICATE

I certify that these accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Joe Chesterton, CPFA
Head of Finance and Resources
6 September 2017

APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, I confirm that the Statement of Accounts was approved by resolution of the Audit Committee of Southend on Sea Borough Council on 6 September 2017.

Councillor Davidson
Chair of Audit Committee
6 September 2017

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council 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, the Council is responsible for ensuring the proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk, are in place. This responsibility extends to satisfying itself that any wholly owned subsidiary companies also have robust governance arrangements in place. To this end South Essex Homes has produced its own Annual Governance Statement which is included as part of this statement.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Governance (the Code), which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. A copy of the Council's code is part of the Council's constitution and is available on the Council's website at www.southend.gov.uk/constitution or can be obtained from the Policy, Engagement and Communications Team, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, SS2 6ER.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to the production and publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and its activities through which it is accountable to, engages with, and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed 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, and not absolute, assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies,

aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, to evaluate the impact should they be realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The main governance framework has been in place at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and statement of accounts.

THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The governance framework ensures the Council's vision and key priorities are effectively promoted and progressed through its corporate governance arrangements and business planning processes. The key elements of the governance framework are as follows:

- Community engagement
- Business strategy and planning
- Financial reporting including budgetary control and asset management
- Policy framework
- Risk management including fraud and corruption
- Health and safety
- Business continuity
- Asset management
- Performance management
- Data quality
- Information management and security
- Value for money
- Procurement
- Project management
- Complaints
- Ethical governance – including codes of conduct for members and staff
- Workforce management
- The operation of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit Committee and the Standards Committee.

These areas form the main sources of assurance to be considered in any review of the Council's governance arrangements.

The Chief Executive has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of 'The Code', through a process which includes:

- Regular reports to the Corporate Management Team and the Audit Committee which set out:
 - weaknesses identified in the governance arrangements and
 - any corrective action necessary to resolve concerns identified;
- An annual review of the governance framework supported by officer assurance statements certified by Directors and Deputy Chief Executives;
- An annual report to the Corporate Management Team and the Audit Committee on the adequacy of governance arrangements; and

- An annual review of 'The Code', with any significant amendments being reported to the Audit Committee, endorsed by Cabinet and approved by Council.

The Council's key governance and business planning processes are also subject to audit on a risk basis. Such work completed during the year forms part of the evidence in support of the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control.

Key elements of the Local Code of Governance are outlined below:

The Council's Monitoring Officer is responsible for the maintenance of the Constitution and for reviewing its relevance and effectiveness, ensuring that it is fit for purpose at all times. Any changes to the Constitution are approved by full Council.

The Council operates a Leader and Cabinet model of governance, with the Leader (who is appointed by Full Council for a four year term) appointing up to 9 other Councillors to form the Cabinet. Cabinet is responsible for the majority of functions of the Council within the budget and policy framework set by full Council. Executive decisions are taken by the Cabinet collectively or by officers acting under delegated powers, depending upon the significance of the decision being made. For urgent issues, the chief officer can take a decision in conjunction with the portfolio holder.

The Council has three Scrutiny Committees which review and scrutinise proposed decisions in their respective areas of responsibility – People, Place and Policy & Resources. The committees will review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions. In accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the People Scrutiny Committee also scrutinises health matters.

Decisions made by the Cabinet may be called in to a Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules. A decision made by Cabinet can be called in by any two Members with written notice given to the Chief Executive within five working days from the date of publication of the digest.

Since May 2012 the Council has operated a pre-Cabinet scrutiny system where scrutiny and opposition Members are given opportunities to contribute to and offer advice on key decisions prior to consideration by Cabinet. This is achieved by reports to Scrutiny Committees and the outcomes of cross party working groups.

The Council has a Standards Committee to promote and maintain high ethical standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Members. A key role of the Committee is to help elected and co-opted Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct and to monitor the effectiveness of the Members' Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee also deals with formal complaints against Members.

The Council operates a development and training programme for Members to help support them in their strategic roles.

A local authority has a duty to ensure that it is fulfilling its responsibility for adequate and effective risk management, control and governance. To this end, the Council has in place an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has a key role in overseeing and assessing the risk management, control, and corporate governance arrangements and advising the governing body on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

The Council's major policy objectives and priorities are detailed in the Corporate Plan and Annual Report. The plan articulates the Council's vision, is subject to regular progress review, and is approved by the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet, and Council.

The Corporate Plan and Annual Report is underpinned by detailed service plans which are monitored monthly by Departmental Management Teams. In addition, a monthly performance report outlines key performance indicators that underpin the Council's corporate priorities and corporate priority actions. This is monitored by the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet, and each Scrutiny Committee.

Financial monitoring reports are produced on a monthly basis and form part of the Council's Monthly Performance Report. Reports detail explanations of variance from budget and identify a projected outturn for the year and are considered by Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees. A three year Medium Term Financial Strategy is refreshed annually and is driven by the priorities agreed by the Council and outlined in the Corporate Plan and Annual Report. The Council runs an annual budget process, which is subject to scrutiny by Scrutiny Committees, prior to decision by full Council in February, enabling costed, balanced, budgets, which have been consistently within government 'capping' thresholds.

The Corporate Risk Register is formally reviewed each quarter by the Corporate Management Team and the Audit Committee half yearly. Departmental risk registers are reviewed regularly by Departmental Management Teams.

The Council engages with its communities and its arrangements are formulated within a consultation and engagement framework. Consultation and engagement activity and the results of this activity are integrated into service planning and delivery and recorded and co-ordinated on the Council's consultation portal.

The Council has a Health and Safety Policy, with an accompanying action plan that is reviewed each year and overseen by the Strategic Health and Safety Group, chaired by a Corporate Director, which has assisted the Council in reaching Level 5 out of 5 on the RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) assessment.

A complaints procedure and a whistle-blowing policy are maintained and kept under review to enable issues to be

raised by public, staff, Councillors and co-opted Members, when they feel appropriate standards have not been met. A report analysing complaints, comments and compliments is submitted to Cabinet and Council annually.

Role of the Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) occupies a key position in managing the Councils' finances and ensuring that resources are used wisely to secure positive results. In order to support the post holder in the fulfilment of their duties, and ensure that the Council has access to effective financial advice, in 2016 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) issued a Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government. The statement:

- Sets out how the requirements of legislation and professional standards should be fulfilled by CFOs in the carrying out of their role; and
- Includes five key principles that define the core activities and behaviours that belong to the role of the CFO in public service organisations and the organisational arrangements needed to support them.

These principles are:

- The CFO in a local authority is a key member of the leadership team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the authority's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;
- The CFO in a local authority must be actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and aligned with the authority's overall financial strategy;
- The CFO in a local authority must lead the promotion and delivery by the whole authority of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently, and effectively;
- The CFO in a local authority must lead and direct a finance function that is resourced to be fit for purpose; and
- The CFO in a local authority must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced.

The Council has the necessary arrangements and procedures in place which ensure that these principles are complied with. This is through a combination of direct compliance by the CFO and, where not directly complied with, ensuring there are alternative procedures in place to make sure that the necessary outcomes and objectives are still achieved and suitable controls are in place. For example, this may include deputising arrangements and delegated authority for financial management in the clearance of relevant Member reports.

Review of Effectiveness

The Council 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 Deputy Chief Executives and Service Directors within the Council (who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment); the Head of Internal Audit's annual report; by comments made by external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates and by a governance self-assessment reviewed by the Good Governance Group.

Change of Administration: The May 2016 Council elections resulted in a transfer of power from a four way joint administration of Independent, Labour, Southend Independence Group and Liberal Democrats to a minority Conservative administration. While this was the third new administration in as many years the transfer of power, as in previous years, was achieved with minimal disruption to day to day workings of the Council and with a maintenance of momentum on key improvement projects and areas of work.

Changes to Senior Management structures: The Council undertook the most significant changes to its senior management structures and departmental arrangements since 2006. The changes, introduced from October 2016, aimed to consolidate and align public health functions within the wider Council structure and to position the Council's senior management arrangements to address future budget and social challenges, Council priorities, and to assist in the planning for recruitment, retention and succession planning. These issues had been highlighted as part of the LGA Corporate Peer Review, in October 2015 which, while very complimentary about the leadership of the organisation, raised some issues for consideration.

The revisions to the senior management structure put in place a more streamlined and strategic form, comprising three departments – those of the Chief Executive, People and Place – with a re-designation of Corporate Directors as 'Deputy Chief Executives', and Heads of Service as 'Directors'.

The Department for the Chief Executive comprises existing divisions of Legal & Democratic Services and Finance & Resources along with a new division for Transformation (the latter incorporating customer service functions and organisational development and human resources).

The Department for People retained its divisions for Learning, Adult Services & Housing, Strategy and Commissioning and Children and incorporated the Public Health function to promote wider integration, particularly aligning with children's and adult services, housing, other health activity and commissioning, getting greater efficiency and synergy with other like activity and leadership support.

In addition, Strategy and Commission, already responsible with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for joint commissioning, consolidated responsibility for commissioning of services for public health alongside their other health and social care services commissioning activities.

The Department for Place retained the divisions for Planning & Transport and Public Protection and reconfigured divisions for Culture, Tourism & Property. However, the Council also agreed that the existing ICT support and development for the organisation, in Corporate Services, be relocated to the Department for Place to form a new division focused specifically on digital futures for the borough along with organisational ICT support and development.

The revisions of the leadership structure are also built on, and designed to support, other activity such as the creation of an education board, devolution proposals, sub-regional activity (eg the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), South Essex Growth Partnership and the Thames Estuary Commission – for which a new Director of Regeneration & Business Development is responsible), health and social care integration, investment and commissioning for digital infrastructure.

The organisation also agreed the need to move to a structure which will allow directors to delegate to, and utilise, a wider range of leaders for strategic matters, whilst also giving a number of 'middle managers' greater breadth of responsibility to develop leadership capacity in this area.

In addition to these structural amendments, the Council also saw the most significant changes to senior personnel for a decade, with the Chief Executive and a Corporate Director and the Heads of Service for Public Protection, Culture and Health Development leaving. Recruitment to the Chief Executive post was undertaken successfully, as were arrangements to fill the other senior positions.

The Council's Senior Leadership Team won the Municipal Journal's (MJ) 2016 Senior Leadership Team award. The judges stated that the team was delivering *'brehtaking changes to their landscape and to the community', and that they evidenced 'a real passion for ensuring their work was connected and relevant and the culture was embodied throughout the organisation'*.

Ofsted Inspection – Children's Services: An Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) was undertaken in April-May 2016. The inspection was based on the Ofsted single inspection framework which covers all service areas from Early Help, First Contact (referrals), Children in Need, Children subject to Child Protection Plans, Looked after Children and Care Leavers, Fostering and Adoption services.

The Ofsted report set out the key judgements on the Council's Children's Services as: "Overall, Children's services in Southend-on-Sea require improvement to be good". Individual judgements were:

- Children who need help and protection - Requires improvement (nationally 56% rated as requires improvement)
- Children looked after & achieving permanence - Requires improvement (nationally 56% rated as requires improvement)
- Adoption performance – Good (nationally 47% rated as good)
- Experiences and progress of care leavers – Good (nationally 33% rated as good)
- Leadership, management and governance - Requires improvement (nationally 48% rated as requires improvement)

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) was also reviewed during the inspection and deemed to 'require improvement'.

The Council has put in place a detailed Improvement Plan, overseen by an Improvement Board consisting of senior Members, officers, an experienced senior manager independent of the Council, the chair of the LSCB and key partners to ensure robust delivery. In addition, a scrutiny panel reporting to the People Scrutiny Committee, to provide challenge and oversee the progress of the plan, has been established and progress on the Improvement Plan is reviewed as part of the Corporate Risk Register.

The **Good Governance Group** of senior managers continued to meet quarterly to review the Council's governance arrangements to assess whether they are fit for purpose, comply with good practice requirements and ensure that sufficient assurance is available to support the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

The group oversaw the Delivery of **Ethical Governance** training ('Do the right thing!') for all managers, highlighting good governance practice, the launch of the new Employee Code of Conduct, plus a 'How it Works – A Guide for Managers' and 'A Guide to Southend Borough Council'.

The Council further progressed its culture change programme, **The Southend Way**, which is focussed on three areas of:

- Engaging Leadership
- Focused Performance
- Resilience and Growth

In March 2017 the Council was re-accredited for three years as a Gold standard Investors in People employer following an assessment of how well the Council manages its staff. Feedback was very positive in relation to many areas including: development of staff and leaders; levels of staff engagement; significant investment in cultural, leadership and management

programmes; the thread between corporate, service, team plans and personal objectives; a developing entrepreneurial spirit and culture of 'continuous improvement' among many others. Areas for further development were also identified including: undertaking more commercial management training; morale in some customer facing departments, ensuring staff appraisals are used effectively and promoting the Council's values more effectively.

The Council established **Southend Care Ltd** as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) comprising adult social care services, which was ready to start trading from 1 April 2017, to manage Delaware House and Priory House adult care homes and Viking Day Centre with further services to be transferred to the LATC during 2017/18.

The Company will have a turnover of £7.6 million with over 300 staff (about 180 full time equivalent) transferring employment from the Council. The Company is managed by a Board of Directors which will be responsible to the Council, with the majority of support services provided by the Council via Service Level Agreements.

The **Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)** has continued to build on its response to recommendations from a Local Government Association (LGA) 'follow up' Peer Review in July 2015. In particular:

- Southend's HWB Chair now joins the Thurrock and Essex HWB Chairs in regularly meeting with the Independent Chair of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) to enable input into the STP programme which is developing proposals for the reconfiguration of hospitals in South Essex.
- The Council's officer Health Transformation Board (HTB) has reviewed its membership to reflect a broader organisational approach towards approaching operational health and care related issues.
- Quarterly Strategic Safeguarding and Community Safety meetings bring together the Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Boards and Health and Wellbeing Board, along with related colleagues and partners from the Police, Social Care and Health. The group promotes communication between the strands and ensures a co-ordinated approach to addressing complex issues. A revised structure has been agreed which reflects strategic ownership for the numerous high level issues covered by the three strands.

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) continues to oversee the development of the early years 'A Better Start Southend' which underwent a re-design of its operating arrangements, saw a new Partnership Board put in place and a fresh approach to co-production. An interim programme management team, tasked with reviewing the work programme, has now successfully completed its work to place the programme on a secure

footing. In addition, the Council took formal responsibility, with the Pre-School Learning Alliance, for the strategy development of ABSS, following a request from The Big Lottery, who fund the programme.

Procurement – The Council has adopted a collaborative approach to procurement, with the Procurement Team leading and supporting the organisation through a rapid period of change aimed at improving contract management and delivering greater savings and improving the commissioning of services generally.

The Council has moved from an operational function influencing 30% of spend to one that influences 85%. In the process it has supported the redesign of controls and systems, improved the quality of contract management and improved the skills of staff. The annual procurement plan (including 115 Procurements) delivered savings of £1.58m (annualised) and £1.15m one-off savings in 2016/17.

Some of the significant changes are:

- Updated Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules were aligned and updated in the Constitution
- The Procurement Strategy and Toolkit were updated (up to 2019)
- All tenders over £75,000 are tendered through an e-procurement system
- All contracts (and associated documents) with a value of £75,000 and above are recorded on an e-procurement register
- All ICT contracts and associated contract documents are recorded on the e-procurement register regardless of value
- Monitor and challenge compliance, routes of non-compliance have been closed, all exceptions to standard P2P (Procure to Pay Processes) have to gain approval (i.e. Payment without Purchase Order and Tender Exemption);
- Identified and addressed Contract Opportunities including non-performance, improving outcomes, e.g. the new print contract, parking, cleaning and security;
- Enhanced capacity by developing contract management principles; identifying critical contracts and opportunities and targeting procurement resource; and
- Adopted our own contract management training - tailored specifically for contract managers to negotiate and understand all the elements of managing good contracts

The significant changes delivered have been recognised nationally with the Procurement Team winning the National Go Procurement Team of the Year award 2017/18.

Better Queensway – Internal Audit have worked with the Project Board during the year and have identified a number of issues, which are being addressed to ensure robust arrangements are in place, as the project moves

from concept to delivery stage. As part of this process formal management responsibility moved to the Director of Regeneration and Business Development. Management arrangements for the **Airport Business Park Project** (overseeing a £20m investment programme) were reviewed and found to be sound, with a 'well defined' governance structure and a project plan in place.

Devolution - While devolution proposals for Essex stalled following a decision of Essex local authorities, the Council continued to pursue its agenda for economic growth through the LEP and Opportunity South Essex (the federated board of the LEP) in particular. It continued to explore potential partnership opportunities with other Councils in south Essex.

Success Regime - The Council continued to play an active part in the Essex Success Regime, one of three such areas in the country identified as having systemic pressures in the field of health and social care. Proposals under the Success Regime were developed and the Council has had significant engagement on these through the Health and Wellbeing Board, Scrutiny Committee and through the Success Regime Project Board (at which senior officers are present). Final options are being developed, and it is likely that formal consultation on these will start in September 2017, presenting both potential opportunities and risks.

Four issues were subject to pre-Cabinet scrutiny through reports being considered by a **Scrutiny Committee** during 2016/17, with other issues (such as future provision of secondary school places) considered through working parties. All budget items were referred directly to the three scrutiny committees. There were 11 'call-ins' from Cabinet to the Policy & Resources, 15 to the People and 17 to the Place scrutiny committees – a reduction of 16 compared to 2015/16. Two 'in-depth' scrutiny reviews were undertaken: *'Alternative provision – off site education provision for children and young people'* and joint project by Place & People Scrutiny Cttee on *'To investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend'*.

The **member development programme** for 2015/16 was continued for 2016/17, with an extensive induction programme for new members. The member induction included sessions on service areas, getting the most from ICT, a bus tour of the borough and one to one briefings on the Member Code of Conduct with the Monitoring Officer. Information packs with key sources of information were also made available, along with a DVD outlining the role of a councillor, and key information available via the Council's e-learning portal (SPARK).

In total, 31 member training sessions were held during the year on a range of subjects, which included achievement data, commercial property market, merger of mental health bodies and the airport business park.

Cabinet agreed an updated **Information Management Strategy** in June 2016. The strategy agreed a series of

principles and actions promoting better, more creative, use of information, encouraging appropriate sharing and transparency while ensuring data security and compliance. It also highlighted the impending General Data Protection Regulation, for which the Council began preparations.

The Council's approach to information management is reviewed each year in respect of completing the Health and Social Care Information Centre **Information Governance toolkit**, enabling organisational assessment against Department of Health information governance policies and standards. The Council again achieved level 3 (the highest possible) in 24/28 requirements (compared to 17/28 in 2015/16) and level 2 in the remaining four against the required standards. The Information Commissioner's Office continues to use the Council as a reference authority in relation to its work in processing Subject Access Requests.

The Council established an **Education Board** (replacing the previous Schools Forum) with a view to enabling the council to play a role in future school improvements and improve engagement between the council, its schools and academies. With representation across all sectors, it draws together education professionals to act as a strategic vehicle on education matters and will embed school to school support (alongside residual LA statutory functions) in Southend. The Council was a finalist for the 2017 MJ Awards Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category in relation to the establishment of the Board.

Officers have dealt with all outstanding recommended actions contained in the Internal Audit report on the **Council's payroll system** in 2015, including those that were amended with the agreement of Internal Audit, due to functionality limitations of the payroll system.

Following the review of the Council's corporate **risk management arrangements**, and subsequent updated corporate policy and toolkit, an Internal Audit review of the Council's corporate, service plan and project risk process was undertaken resulting in a number of recommendations, which are being taken forward in 2017/18.

Regular reviews of Internal Audit recommendations are addressed by the relevant Directors and Departmental Management Teams.

Progress on actions to enhance governance arrangements arising from the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement were reported to Audit Committee during the 2016/17 financial year, with relevant outcomes against the action. (See progress against the Council's Corporate Governance Action Plan 2015/16 below).

The Council worked with research partner, OPM, to deliver a community engagement programme of work – 'Our Town, Our Future', which is linked to related internal transformation and community development initiatives. A range of workshops were delivered to identify areas of

potential co-production with residents and inform a revised local vision for the borough. These included sessions with parents, older people, voluntary and community sector organisations, Southend Youth Council and council senior managers and staff.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The annual risk based Audit Plan was prepared in consultation with Directors, Deputy Chief Executives and the Chief Executive. It was approved (but not directed) by the Audit Committee. Terms of Reference and reports are discussed with relevant Directors, Deputy Chief Executives or the Chief Executive before being finalised. The recommended actions required to mitigate risks audited are summarised in an action plan.

Internal Audit revisits action plans where the original report's opinion was either partial or minimal assurance. These actions are retested and the results of this work reported to the Corporate Management Team and Audit Committee as part of the Quarterly Performance Report.

The Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and opinion for 2016/17 was considered by the Corporate Management Team and the Audit Committee in June 2017. This stated that:

'As discussed with senior management, it would be timely to undertake a review of the Council's governance and assurance framework to ensure it remains fit for purpose and supports the delivery of service objectives across the Council.

This is particularly the case for the organisational processes that enable any business to be managed effectively. The work completed to develop the understanding of risk management, and planned to fully integrate this into the governance framework, should help with this significantly.

This, in conjunction with the planned training on "How it Works, A guide for managers to help the Council run effectively", will help those managers or team leaders who do not:

- fully understand the objectives of and risks relating to the services they are delivering
- obtain appropriate evidence that these processes are designed and / or being applied properly by their staff, consistently throughout the year.

Particular consideration needs to be given to ensuring clarity around roles and responsibilities where processes or activities cross team, service, departmental or organisational boundaries. Without clear accountabilities, processes may not operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Further work is required in order to ensure that performance management processes designed to monitor that actions arising from audits are implemented properly and in a timely manner, are effective.

Internal Audit continues to work proactively with services to help ensure that action plans arising from children's services, adult services or domestic homicide case reviews or inspections are SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely) and address the cause of the issue not the symptom. Developing a more corporate approach to training staff in these skills and / or ensuring such support is consistently available in such circumstances would be beneficial.

Otherwise the design and operation of the Council's risk management, control and governance framework continues to be satisfactory.

Compliance with Professional Standards, Head of Internal Audit Opinion. The in-house service has substantially conformed to the relevant professional standards throughout the year. I have obtained assurance from external suppliers regarding their conformance with relevant professional standards, but have not independently confirmed this with regards to audit work completed at the Council.

The only area where the Council has chosen not to implement the Standards relates to the appointment and removal of the Head of Internal Audit, as the Council's existing human resources practices would already mitigate this perceived potential risk.

External audit has confirmed it can rely on Internal Audit's work where it was relevant to its audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts.

ISSUES FOR THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

No issues have come to my attention this year, other than those already disclosed, that I believe need including in the Council's Annual Governance Statement'

EXTERNAL INSPECTIONS

Assurance over the control environment is also obtained from external inspections and assessments of service areas. External assessments for 2016/17 included:

- Ofsted inspection of Children's Services – 'requires improvement'
- 10 Ofsted primary school inspections (1 outstanding, 7 'good', 1 requires improvement, 1 'Inadequate').
- 1 Ofsted secondary school inspection ('good').
- CQC - School Nursing Service (no rating provided).

These along with other external assessments, provide further independent assurance of governance arrangements and the quality of service provision. The Council is also regularly recognised through industry awards such as:

- The Council's Senior Leadership Team won the Municipal Journal's (MJ) 2016 Senior Leadership Team award.
- The Council's procurement team won Procurement Team of the Year at the National Government

Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards.

- Winner of three excellence awards Public Service People Managers Association (PPMA), 2017: Sustainable transformation; transforming the working environment and PPMA President's Award for special contribution to the Director of Transformation.
- 'Training Journal Awards Winner 2016' for the Council's Organisational Development Programme and runner up for Coaching Programme.
- The Council was a finalist in the MJ Awards (2017) Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category (in relation to the establishment of the Education Board).
- The National CCTV User Group awarded Southend's CCTV two awards, for 'management and innovation' and best 'CCTV team'.
- The Council's Insurance Manager won the UK Risk Manager of the Year – Continuity Insurance and Risk Awards, and was highly commended in the ALARM Professional of the Year award.

CONCLUSION

We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Audit Committee and that the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

Actions to further strengthen the Council's Governance Arrangements are:

- Further embedding risk management
- Information management, including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data sharing, data quality, information security
- Business continuity planning
- Governance and assurance framework

Proposed actions in 2017/18 to address these areas are outlined on page 30. Progress on actions for 2016/17 are set out on page 31.

South Essex Homes Limited

Scope of responsibility

South Essex Homes (SEH), formed in October 2005, is the Arm's Length Management Organisation of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, responsible for the management and maintenance of the Council's homes. It was financed by a Management Fee in 2016/17, from the Council, of £5,877k, a Service Charge Fee of £3,382k together with income from external organisations of £652k.

There is a formally binding Management Agreement between the Council and SEH and this clearly sets out the governance arrangements that should apply between the two parties. This complies with national best practice.

SEH is managed by a Board comprising three Council nominees, three tenants and five independent members. The Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that SEH establishes and maintains a sound system of internal control appropriate to the various business environments in which it operates. Committees reporting to the Board include Audit Committee and Personnel and Remuneration Committee. In addition, the commercial subsidiary – South Essex Property Services Ltd (formerly Atilius Limited) reports directly to its parent company.

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship, good public engagement, and ultimately good outcomes for citizens and service users. Good governance enables the Company to pursue its vision effectively, as well as underpinning that vision with mechanisms for control and management of risk.

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values, by which the Company is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and serves the community. It enables the Company 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 designed to manage risk to an acceptable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Company's policies, aims and objectives; to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised; and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Governance Framework

The Key elements of the Governance Framework are:

Consultation and Engagement

Business Planning and Strategy

Financial Reporting including budgetary management

Asset Management

Risk Management including Anti-fraud and Corruption, Whistle blowing and health and safety

Business Continuity

Performance Managing, service delivery and people

Information Management Security

Procurement

Project Management

Complaints

Ethical Governance including Codes of Conduct

Data Quality

Workforce Management

- Corporate governance arrangements which are outlined in The Articles of Association, Code of Governance and Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation.
- The employment of suitably qualified and experienced staff to take responsibility for key areas of the business. This is supported by a formal appraisal system.
- The preparation of forecasts and budgets that allow the Committees and the executive officers to monitor the key business risks and financial objectives and identify variances arising during the monthly reporting cycle.
- Business planning that cascades through the organisation, supporting Service Plans and key actions to enable SEH to achieve its ambitions and aspirations as set out in the Vision 2022 Business Plan.
- The regular reporting and review by senior management and the Board of performance against objectives and targets detailed in service plans.
- The Board has two Committees which review and scrutinise delegated work from the Board in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- The Company operates a development and training programme for the Board Directors developed from appraisals and one to ones and Committee self-assessment which are carried out annually.
- South Essex Homes ensures that the Board of Directors are fulfilling their responsibility under Companies Act 2006 for adequate risk management, control and governance. The Audit Committee has a key role in overseeing and assessing the risk management arrangements and reporting to the Board on an exception basis

Review of Effectiveness

South Essex Homes is responsible 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, Executive Director, the Director of Finance and Group Managers within the Company who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and also by comments made by external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The Council's processes to review on-going effectiveness of SEH include Council officers meeting with SEH officers on a monthly basis to review performance against a suite

of performance indicators and its strategic aims as follows;

- Deliver Value to the Council
- Empower Residents
- Manage High Quality Homes
- Provide Excellent Services
- Engage with Communities
- Develop our Commercial Activities

SEH's internal arrangements for ensuring the effectiveness of its governance arrangements consist of;

- The SEH Board receiving monthly performance reports across operational, human resources and value for money indicators;
- The Audit Committee undertaking a review of the Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register to ensure that risks are relevant and applicable and that the Board Members are responsible for ensuring that Risks are monitored effectively by the Senior Management Team.
- The Audit Committee undertakes a review of both its effectiveness as well as the operational arrangements.
- The production and approval of annual Manager Assurance Statements by service managers and Group Managers to assess compliance with key governance processes throughout the year;
- The Group Manager for Resources and Business Development then independently checking that the evidence supports the service manager's assessment of how well each of the business management processes have operated in their area.
- The Company undertaking a review of Tenancy Services, Careline Services and Property Services during 2016/17. A number of actions were identified to improve the service and the Board receive an update on exceptions at each meeting on progress against actions.
- South Essex Homes continuing to review and adjust staffing structures aligning them with the services provision and the Business Plan Vision 2022.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit is delivered through a Service Level Agreement with the Council's Internal Audit Service. The Charter, Strategy and risk based Audit Plan is prepared in consultation with The Executive Management Team and approved by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Plan was delivered with reports issued to senior managers at the conclusion of each audit highlighting internal control weaknesses identified and the actions required to address them. Action plans from audit reports were revisited if the control weaknesses identified were more significant (e.g. where a partial or minimal assurance opinion was given). A quarterly performance report was taken to each Audit Committee.

The Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and opinion for 2016/17 was considered by senior management and the Audit Committee in May 2017. This stated that:

Overall, the risk management, control and governance framework designed by the company to deliver its objectives; and operated throughout the year, has remained satisfactory.

The opportunity to strengthen the arrangements for letting and managing contracts, has been identified and is being addressed by the company".

The Head of Internal Audit also concluded that the company's Internal Audit service had substantially conformed to the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards throughout the year.

Internal Audit continues to make available its work as required to support the external audit of the company's Statement of Accounts.

The company attends the Council's June Audit Committee each year to present the following evidence with regard to its governance arrangements:

- Head of Internal Audit Annual Report
- Audit Committee Annual Report
- Annual Governance Statement

External Audit

The External Audit of the annual financial statements was undertaken by Scrutton Bland with the view to expressing an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

In carrying out the audit work Scrutton Bland considered whether the financial statements were free from 'material misstatement'. Materiality is an expression of the relative significance of a particular matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. An item will normally be

considered material if its omission would reasonably influence the decisions of those using the financial statements.

Scrutton Bland issued a report to management at the conclusion of the audit work. This included a management letter containing comments and recommendations for improvements in operations and internal control in respect of the Company. This was discussed with management prior to the issue of the final report. The report also includes details of significant adjusted and unadjusted items that arose as a result of the audit work.

The Audit Committee considers the external auditor's report and recommends adoption of the financial statements to the Board.

Key Governance Issues

The main areas for further work identified through the Governance Assurance Process in 2016/17, and which should be disclosed in the Governance Statement Action Plan are;

- South Essex Property Services - To review the arrangements between South Essex Homes and South Essex Property Services and update the Inter Company agreement to reflect the implementation of the employee hosting arrangements between the two organisations.
- General Data Protection Relation Act (due for implementation April 2018) – To develop the Policies and Procedures to align our business arrangements to full compliance with the amended Data Protection Act.
- Contract Management –To strengthen and develop the procedures for letting and managing the contracts and where appropriate, provide additional training in order to enhance skills and knowledge in this area.

Further Actions to strengthen the Council's Governance Arrangements for 2017/18

No.	Governance Issues	Action	Date of Implementation	Responsible Officer
1.	Further embedding risk management	Develop further and align work on risk across the Council so that the approach to risk management is better embedded across the organisation, supports the governance framework and the transformation agenda and is better integrated into decision making.	March 2018	Chief Executive
2.	Information Management, including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data sharing, data quality and information security.	Ensure the Council's information management arrangements are developed so they are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation, promote information and data sharing, ensure the quality of data used is sound and the Council has robust arrangements in relation to cyber security	March 2018	Deputy Chief Executive (People)
3.	Business Continuity Planning	To undertake actions in the BCP project plan, including recommendations and management actions arising from the Internal Audit review of the Council's BCP arrangements.	March 2018	Director of Transformation
4.	Governance and Assurance Framework	Undertake a review of the Council's governance and assurance framework to ensure it remains fit for purpose and supports the delivery of service objectives across the Council'	March 2018	Corporate Management Team

Further Actions to strengthen South Essex Homes' Governance Arrangements for 2017/18

No.	Governance Issues	Action	Date of Implementation	Responsible Officer
1.	South Essex Property Services	Ensure that governance arrangements between South Essex Homes and South Essex Property Services are compliant with the Articles of Association and that the Inter-Company Agreement is robust and gives the parent assurance	September 2017	Director of Business Development (SEH)
2.	South Essex Homes - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) data sharing, data quality and information	Ensure the Company's information management arrangements are developed so they are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation, promote information and data sharing, ensure the quality of data used is sound and South Essex Homes has robust arrangements in relation to ICT	May 2018	Group Manager Resources and Business Development (SEH)
3.	Contract Management	To strengthen and develop the procedures for letting and managing the contracts, and where appropriate provide additional training in order to enhance skills and knowledge in this area	December 2017	Executive Director (SEH)

Council's Corporate Governance Action Plan 2016/17

No	Governance Issue	Action	Responsible Officer	Comment on Progress
1	Payroll system	To implement all outstanding audit recommendations relating to the Payroll system	Joanna Ruffle - Director of Transformation	All outstanding recommendations have now been implemented. Some of the actions have been amended, with the agreement of Internal Audit, due to functionality limitations of the payroll system. Where this is the case alternative audit controls/assurances have been developed, implemented and agreed with internal audit. Payroll was audited at the end of May 2017 to provide further assurance, with the findings yet to be published.
2	Combined authority and joint working	To play an active part in on-going discussions with neighbouring local authorities on joint working (including devolution deals) which will promote the Council's economic growth agenda and other interests, challenging options for a directly elected mayor, developing the South Essex growth agenda and contributing to the Thames Estuary Commission.	Chief Executive and Town Clerk	<p>In May 2016 the 15 councils in Essex voted against pursuing a devolution bid which involved a directly elected mayor. Southend Council voted against. All 15 Councils voted to continue to pursue devolution opportunities.</p> <p>South Essex Chief Executives and Leaders have regular discussions to enhance joined up working and focus on issues of common interest.</p>
3	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services	To implement any recommendations arising from the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in April-May 2016.	Simon Leftley - Deputy Chief Executive	<p>The Council has put in place a detailed Improvement Plan, overseen by an Improvement Board of senior Members, officers, an experienced senior manager independent of the Council, the chair of the LSCB and key partners to ensure robust delivery. In addition, a scrutiny panel reporting to the Peoples Scrutiny Committee, to provide challenge and oversee the progress of the plan, has been established and progress on the Improvement Plan is reviewed as part of the Corporate Risk Register.</p> <p>Good progress is being made against the Improvement Plan milestones, although further work is required to ensure the Council is in a position to secure a 'good' rating from Ofsted.</p>

South Essex Home's Corporate Governance Action Plan 2016/17

No	Governance Issue	Action	Responsible Officer	Comment on Progress
1.	Value for Money	To complete a self-assessment based on HCA formula To produce the Value for Money Strategy and to complete a framework of performance measures to be monitored on an annual basis	David Lincoln Director of Finance	The South Essex Homes Board agreed on 17 November 2016 the reviewed and amended Value for Money Strategy which aligns itself with the HCA assessment framework

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above 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.

Signed on Behalf of the Council

Alison Griffin
Chief Executive &
Town Clerk
6 September 2017

Councillor John Lamb
Leader of the Council
6 September 2017

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHEND-
ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Lisa Clampin

for and on behalf of BDO LLP, Appointed Auditor

Ipswich, UK

xx September 2017

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127)

MAIN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2015/16 Restated				2016/17			
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Notes	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
(1,998)	(36)	(2,034)	Leader		(6,853)	(331)	(7,184)
109,099	(103,851)	5,248	Corporate and Community Support Services		107,903	(102,376)	5,527
19,838	(4,780)	15,058	Culture, Tourism and the Economy		19,509	(4,468)	15,041
37,179	(12,105)	25,074	Transport, Waste and Cleansing		39,275	(13,044)	26,231
11,485	(2,699)	8,786	Housing, Planning and Public Protection Services		10,611	(2,448)	8,163
140,088	(106,904)	33,184	Children and Learning		123,026	(87,242)	35,784
74,156	(30,880)	43,276	Health and Adult Social Care		73,252	(28,674)	44,578
661	(661)	0	Technology		748	(748)	0
390,508	(261,916)	128,592	Net Cost of General Fund Services		367,471	(239,331)	128,140
21,465	(34,687)	(13,222)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)		18,644	(30,313)	(11,669)
23,027	0	23,027	Exceptional cost of Local Authority Housing impairment	9	0	0	0
44,492	(34,687)	9,805	Net Cost of Housing Revenue Account Services		18,644	(30,313)	(11,669)
435,000	(296,603)	138,397	Cost of Services		386,115	(269,644)	116,471
17,293	0	17,293	Other Operating Expenditure	10	46,628	0	46,628
18,700	(6,454)	12,246	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	11	19,707	(7,354)	12,353
0	(135,848)	(135,848)	Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	12	0	(141,704)	(141,704)
470,993	(438,905)	32,088	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services		452,450	(418,702)	33,748
Items that will not be reclassified to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services							
(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets							
(56,982)							
(24,739) Re-measurement of Net Pension Liability							
9							
9							
(81,721)							
Items that may be reclassified to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services							
(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Available for							
(3) Sale Financial Assets							
2							
(3)							
2							
(81,724) Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure							
10,004							
(49,636) Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure							
43,752							

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Note	Revenue Reserves			Capital Reserves			Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves							Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied		Revaluation Reserve	Available for Sale Financial Instruments	Pensions Reserve	Capital Adjustment Account	Deferred Capital Receipts	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	Accumulated Absences Account		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2015	11,000	3,502	68,905	9,253	6,873	13,661	113,194	139,096	3	(176,286)	309,782	0	3,322	(1,580)	274,337	387,531
Movement in Reserves during 2015/16																
Surplus (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(19,237)	(12,851)	0	0	0	0	(32,088)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(32,088)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56,982	3	24,739	0	0	0	0	81,724	81,724
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(19,237)	(12,851)	0	0	0	0	(32,088)	56,982	3	24,739	0	0	0	0	81,724	49,636
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	19 28,052	20,260	0	(1,755)	(2,339)	(4,813)	39,405	(4,553)	0	(9,106)	(26,548)	225	108	469	(39,405)	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to earmarked reserves	8,815	7,409	0	(1,755)	(2,339)	(4,813)	7,317	52,429	3	15,633	(26,548)	225	108	469	42,319	49,636
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	20 (8,815)	(7,409)	16,224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / Decrease in 2015/16	0	0	16,224	(1,755)	(2,339)	(4,813)	7,317	52,429	3	15,633	(26,548)	225	108	469	42,319	49,636
Balance at 31 March 2016	11,000	3,502	85,129	7,498	4,534	8,848	120,511	191,525	6	(160,653)	283,234	225	3,430	(1,111)	316,656	437,167
Movement in Reserves during 2016/17																
Surplus (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(43,393)	9,645	0	0	0	0	(33,748)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(33,748)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,753	(2)	(57,755)	0	0	0	0	(10,004)	(10,004)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(43,393)	9,645	0	0	0	0	(33,748)	47,753	(2)	(57,755)	0	0	0	0	(10,004)	(43,752)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	19 45,576	(3,956)	0	3,521	959	2,952	49,052	(13,382)	0	(4,209)	(31,252)	(225)	350	(334)	(49,052)	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to earmarked reserves	2,183	5,689	0	3,521	959	2,952	15,304	34,371	(2)	(61,964)	(31,252)	(225)	350	(334)	(59,056)	(43,752)
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	20 (2,183)	(5,689)	7,872	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / Decrease in 2016/17	0	0	7,872	3,521	959	2,952	15,304	34,371	(2)	(61,964)	(31,252)	(225)	350	(334)	(59,056)	(43,752)
Balance at 31 March 2017	11,000	3,502	93,001	11,019	5,493	11,800	135,815	225,896	4	(222,617)	251,982	0	3,780	(1,445)	257,600	393,415

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2016			31 March 2017
£000			£000
711,764	Property, Plant & Equipment	21	726,328
37,383	Heritage Assets	22	38,090
23,087	Investment Property	23	25,344
4,052	Intangible Assets		4,936
12,748	Long Term Investments	24	15,893
1,191	Long Term Debtors	24	2,367
790,225	Long Term Assets		812,958
37,906	Short term Investments	24	30,231
54	Assets Held for Sale		154
22	Inventories		166
32,672	Short Term Debtors	25	33,118
43,596	Cash and Cash Equivalents	24, 26	39,871
114,250	Current Assets		103,540
(16,298)	Short Term Borrowings	24	(6,356)
(38,599)	Short Term Creditors	27	(38,905)
(7,579)	Provisions	28	(6,761)
(62,476)	Current Liabilities		(52,022)
(40)	Long Term Creditors		(327)
(230,994)	Long Term Borrowing	24	(235,620)
(160,653)	Other Long Term Liabilities - Pensions	37	(222,617)
(13,145)	Other Long Term Liabilities - Other	24	(12,497)
(404,832)	Long Term Liabilities		(471,061)
437,167	Net Assets		393,415
120,511	Usable Reserves	29	135,815
316,656	Unusable Reserves	30	257,600
437,167	Total Reserves		393,415

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2015/16 £000	Notes	2016/17 £000
32,088 Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		33,748
Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for (65,222) non-cash Movements	40	(72,162)
Adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the 5,115 Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	41	18,604
(28,019) Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(19,810)
41,492 Investing Activities	42	18,889
(4,847) Financing Activities	43	4,646
8,626 Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,725
(52,222) Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Reporting Period		(43,596)
(43,596) Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Reporting Period	26	(39,871)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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Note 1. Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2017. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which requires the Accounts 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 2016/17 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2016/17, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act.

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.

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount

is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

- Where it does not materially affect the accounts, and a full year's income and expenditure is recorded, an accrual need not be raised.

Accruals are not made for items under £5,000, except where in the opinion of the Director of Finance and Resources the absence of an accrual for a lesser amount would lead to a misrepresentation of the cost of a service.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

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.

Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

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

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance.

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

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

There are no changes to accounting policies in 2016/17 which require restatement of prior periods.

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 fixed assets attributable to the service.

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

Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates

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

Accounting for Council Tax and NDR

The council tax and NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. However, regulations determine the amount of council tax and NDR that must be included in the

Council's General Fund. Therefore, the difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Employee Benefits

Post Employment Benefits

Different groups of employees of the Council are members of three separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).
- The NHS Pension Scheme.
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Essex County Council.

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

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Essex 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 2.7%. The discount rate is the annualised yield at the 19 year point on the Merrill Lynch AA rated corporate

bond curve which has been chosen to meet the requirements of IAS19 and with consideration of the duration of the Employer's liabilities. This is consistent with the approach used at the last accounting date.

- The assets of Essex 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
 - unitised securities – current bid price
 - property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:
 - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked
 - past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
 - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - the expected return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure
 - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with

assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

- contributions paid to the Essex 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 (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the measurement date

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

Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing

and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost.

Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the relevant service (for receivables specific to that service) or the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

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

Available-for-Sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets 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. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g. dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following principles:

- instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis
- equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations.

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/ loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets. The exception is

where impairment losses have been incurred – these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain or loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Available-for-Sale Reserve. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

Government Grants and Contributions

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants

and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Heritage Assets

Tangible and Intangible Heritage Assets (described in this summary of significant accounting policies as heritage assets).

The Council's Heritage Assets consist of historic seaside assets, heritage land and buildings, antiques/collectables, museum collections and memorials/statues. These assets are held by the reporting entity in pursuit of its overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of the heritage. Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment (PPE). However, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets as detailed below. The accounting policies in relation to heritage assets that are deemed to include elements of intangible heritage assets are also presented below. The Council's heritage assets are accounted for as follows.

Historic Seaside Assets

- The historic seaside assets comprise the pier, the cliff lift and the cliff bandstand. These assets are considered to be part of the fabric of the town as an historic seaside resort, and are treated in accordance with the Council's policies for PPE assets.

Heritage Land and Buildings

- These consist of the official mayor's residence, Porters, and Southchurch Hall, a grade I listed medieval manor house. These assets are considered to be part of the heritage of the town and are intended to be preserved for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations. These

are treated in accordance with the Council's policies for PPE assets.

Antiques / Collectables

- These comprise furniture and furnishings, panelling, carpets, textiles, clocks, silver, plated wares and gold, works of art, ceramics and glass, books, pictures and presentation and commemorative wares. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values. These assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.
- The collection is relatively static and acquisitions and donations are rare. Where they do occur acquisitions are initially recognised at cost and donations are recognised at valuation.

Museum Collections

- The Council considers that obtaining valuations for the items that are exhibited within the borough's museums would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the Council's financial statements. This is because of the diverse nature of the assets held and the lack of comparable values. The Council does not recognise these exhibits on the Balance Sheet.
- The Saxon King artefacts form part of the Council's heritage assets and have been valued by a specialist in archaeology. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at this valuation which is based on sale prices of comparable material and museum valuations for loan purposes, where relevant. These assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation.

Memorials and Statues

- These are a statue of Queen Victoria and a War Memorial. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the items due to the lack of comparable market values. Consequently, the Council does not recognise these assets on the Balance Sheet.

Heritage Assets – General

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment for heritage assets, e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the

Council's general policies on impairment – see "Property, Plant and Equipment" in this summary of significant accounting policies. The proceeds of any disposals are accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts (again see "Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute" and "Property, Plant and Equipment" in this summary of significant accounting policies).

Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has material interests in wholly owned companies and trusts that have the nature of subsidiaries which require it to prepare group accounts. In the Council's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses.

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, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's-length. Investment 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not 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.

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.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

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

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

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

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated

to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, 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.

Overheads and Support Services

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

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. For schools, capitalisation takes place for community and foundation schools only. Capital expenditure on voluntary aided schools, foundation trust schools or academies is treated as Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute.

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

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

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

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

- infrastructure, community assets, vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment, and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH)
- all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued or have indexation adjustments applied sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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.

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss.

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 (ie freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (ie assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in

the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer

- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 25 years, or other useful life agreed as reasonable

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

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

Disposals

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

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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 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.

Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in

Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

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

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

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

Schools

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

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.

Note 2. Accounting Standards that have been Issued but have not yet been Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2017/18 Code:

- Amendment to the reporting of pension fund scheme transaction costs
- Amendment to the reporting of investment concentration

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2017. It is not anticipated that these accounting changes will have any impact on the Council's Statement of Accounts as they apply to Pension Fund Accounts only.

Note 3. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

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

- There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government, particularly in light of the June 2017 General Election, the Fair Funding review and the outcome of the Brexit negotiations. However, the Council has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Council might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.
- All community schools are owned by the Council and the land and buildings used by the schools are included on the Council's Balance Sheet. For the foundation schools the control of the land and buildings is vested with the Governing Body and so they are included on the Councils' Balance Sheet. For the foundation trust schools the land and buildings are vested with the trust so they are not included on the Council's Balance Sheet. For the Voluntary Aided schools the two Dioceses own the title to the assets, the schools use the assets under "mere" licences which pass no interest to the school and the Dioceses have not ceded control of the assets to the school, so the land and buildings used by the schools are not included on the Council's Balance Sheet. Academies are not considered to be maintained schools in the Council's control so the land and building assets are not owned by the Council and not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

Note 4. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

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

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
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, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	As examples, an increase in life expectancy of retired employees of 1 year would increase the net pension liability by £24.5M, and an increase in the discount rate of 0.1% would decrease the net pension liability by £11.7M. The full effects on the net pensions liability are fully disclosed in note 37 to the Accounts.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment Revaluations	The uncertainties arise as a result of the estimations used by the valuer. The basis of these estimations is set out in note 21 but different valuers could arrive at different results whilst still using the same basis for those estimations.	The actual value of the asset only becomes apparent when it is sold. The accounting treatment is set out in the disposals paragraph of the Property, Plant and Equipment section of Note 1.

Note 5. Events after the Balance Sheet date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance and Resources on 01 September 2017. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2017, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

On 1 April 2017 the management of the Council's two remaining residential care homes was transferred to the Council's subsidiary company Southend Care Limited, alongside the management of certain adult learning disability services. No assets were involved in the transfer.

On 1 July 2017 Seabrook school changed to academy status with the long term assets transferring to an academy trust. This will have the effect of reducing the net book value of schools long term assets by £2.1m.

On 1 August 2017 Richmond Primary and Bournes Green Junior schools changed to academy status with the long term assets transferring to academy trusts. This will have the effect of reducing the net book value of schools long term assets by £2.7m and £1.9m respectively.

On 1 September 2017 Kingsdown, Lancaster and St Nicholas schools changed to academy status with the long term assets transferring to academy trusts. This will have the effect of reducing the net book value of schools long term assets by £7.3m, £3.8m and £3.9m respectively.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Note 6. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	2015/16 Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Notes	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances	2016/17 Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
80	(2,114)	(2,034)	Leader	(2,348)	(4,836)	(7,184)
(3)	5,251	5,248	Corporate & Community Support Services	(2,718)	8,245	5,527
13,838	1,220	15,058	Culture, Tourism & the Economy	13,521	1,520	15,041
24,011	1,063	25,074	Transport, Waste & Cleansing	21,552	4,679	26,231
8,074	712	8,786	Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services	7,690	473	8,163
32,071	1,113	33,184	Children & Learning	31,640	4,144	35,784
41,105	2,171	43,276	Health & Adult Social Care	43,198	1,380	44,578
(75)	75	0	Technology	(12)	12	0
119,101	9,491	128,592	Net Cost of General Fund Services	112,523	15,617	128,140
(10,578)	(2,644)	(13,222)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(7,844)	(3,825)	(11,669)
0	23,027	23,027	Exceptional cost of Local Authority Housing impairment	0	0	0
(10,578)	20,383	9,805	Net Cost of Housing Revenue Account Services	(7,844)	(3,825)	(11,669)
108,523	29,874	138,397	Net Cost of Services	104,679	11,792	116,471
18,338	11,201	29,539	Other Income and Expenditure	19,610	39,371	58,981
(126,861)	(8,987)	(135,848)	Taxation and non-specific Grant Income	(124,289)	(17,415)	(141,704)
(108,523)	2,214	(106,309)	Other Income and Expenditure	(104,679)	21,956	(82,723)
0	32,088	32,088	(Surplus) or Deficit	0	33,748	33,748
14,502			Opening General Fund and HRA Balance	14,502		
0			Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	0		
14,502			Closing General Fund and HRA Balance	14,502		

The adjustments required to convert the accounts from the funding basis to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement are set out below.

2015/16				2016/17			
IAS 19 Pension Adjustments £000 a	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000 b	Other Differences £000 c	Total Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000 Notes	IAS 19 Pension Adjustments £000 a	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000 b	Other Differences £000 c	Total Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000
(2,505)	375	16	(2,114) Leader	(4,828)	31	(39)	(4,836)
560	511	4,180	5,251 Corporate & Community Support Services	273	3,928	4,044	8,245
795	1,309	(884)	1,220 Culture, Tourism & the Economy	523	2,207	(1,210)	1,520
393	670	0	1,063 Transport, Waste & Cleansing	227	4,453	(1)	4,679
608	0	104	712 Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services	346	39	88	473
1,651	798	(1,336)	1,113 Children & Learning	972	243	2,929	4,144
1,995	176	0	2,171 Health & Adult Social Care	1,184	196	0	1,380
0	75	0	75 Technology	0	13	(1)	12
3,497	3,914	2,080	9,491 Net Cost of General Fund Services	(1,303)	11,110	5,810	15,617
0	(2,666)	22	(2,644) Local Authority Housing (HRA)	0	(3,930)	105	(3,825)
0	23,027	0	23,027 Exceptional cost of Local Authority Housing impairment	0	0	0	0
0	20,361	22	20,383 Net Cost of Housing Revenue Account Services	0	(3,930)	105	(3,825)
3,497	24,275	2,102	29,874 Net Cost of Services	(1,303)	7,180	5,915	11,792
5,609	19,147	(13,555)	11,201 Other Income and Expenditure	5,513	60,922	(27,064)	39,371
0	(4,681)	(4,306)	(8,987) Taxation and non-specific Grant Income	0	(12,616)	(4,799)	(17,415)
9,106	38,741	(15,759)	32,088 (Surplus) or Deficit	4,210	55,486	(25,948)	33,748

a IAS19 Pension Adjustments

Net change for the removal of actual pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* pension related expenditure and income:

For **services** this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

For **financing and investment income and expenditure** — the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

b Adjustments for Capital Purposes

Adjustments for capital purposes – for **services** this column adds in impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line and consolidates out interest payments and income for the HRA, and for:

Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.

Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing ie Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. The Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

c Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

For **services** this column adjusts for the accrued value of holiday entitlements not taken as at the balance sheet date, consolidates in the in year activity of maintained schools and moves the value of traded services and investment properties to **financing and investment income and expenditure**.

The charge under **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

Note 7. Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

The Council's expenditure and income as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is analysed as follows.

	Notes	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Income			
Fees, Charges and other Service Income	8	(73,243)	(77,942)
Interest and Investment Income	11	(1,277)	(1,060)
Gains on Revaluation		(10,278)	(7,956)
Income from Council Tax	12	(69,574)	(65,735)
Income from Non-domestic Rates	12	(22,793)	(21,170)
Government Grants and Contributions	18	(241,537)	(265,042)
Total Income		(418,702)	(438,905)
Expenditure			
Employee Benefits Expenses		59,888	63,674
Other Service Expenses		291,557	318,127
Support Service Recharges (net)		(426)	(861)
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment		38,147	56,032
Interest Payments	11	11,143	11,119
Pensions Interest and Expected Return	11	5,513	5,609
Precepts and Levies	10	946	880
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	10	557	562
Losses on the disposal of Assets	10	45,125	15,851
Total Expenditure		452,450	470,993
Surplus or Deficit on the Provsn of Services		33,748	32,088

Note 8. Segmental Income

Fees, charges and other Income generated on a portfolio service basis is analysed as follows

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Leader	5	(5)
Corporate & Community Support Services	(8,711)	(9,004)
Culture, Tourism & the Economy	(2,668)	(3,006)
Transport, Waste & Cleansing	(8,972)	(8,740)
Housing, Planning & Public Protection Services	(1,531)	(1,365)
Children & Learning	(5,213)	(6,765)
Health & Adult Social Care	(12,281)	(11,585)
Technology	(746)	(679)
Total Income from General Fund Services	(40,117)	(41,149)
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(28,072)	(31,401)
Total Income from Housing Revenue Account Services	(28,072)	(31,401)
Total Income from Services	(68,189)	(72,550)
Other Income and Expenditure	(5,054)	(5,392)
Total Income	(73,243)	(77,942)

Note 9. Material Items of Income and Expense

In relation to 2016/17:

- The Surplus on Revaluation of non-current assets of £47.753m consists of £57.231m of revaluation gains from the increase in the value of Property Plant and Equipment, £1.222m of revaluation gains from the increase in the value of Heritage Assets, and £10.700m of accumulated revaluation gains lost as a result of downwards revaluation and impairment losses.
- During the year ten schools transferred to academy status. As a result the carrying amount of the assets of £45.895m has been written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal
- Despite a large increase in the underlying value of scheme assets, the performance of the Essex Pension Fund during 2016/17 was worse than anticipated, following a change in actuarial assumptions underpinning the scheme. This has led to a net actuarial loss passing through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account of £57.755m.

In relation to 2015/16:

- The Surplus on Revaluation of non-current assets of £56.982m consists of £70.331m of revaluation gains from the increase in the value of Property Plant and Equipment, and £13.349m of accumulated revaluation gains lost as a result of downwards revaluation and impairment losses.

- As part of the revaluation rolling programme various Housing Revenue Account assets were revalued at 1 April 2015. For Council Dwellings this led to the upward revaluation of some properties totalling £36.300m and downward revaluation of other properties totalling £34.227m. Of this downward revaluation £11.200m has been written down against the Revaluation Reserve. £23.027m has been written down against the Local Authority Housing service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as there was insufficient balance on the Revaluation Reserve.
- On 1 September 2015 Cecil Jones Foundation School transferred to academy status. As a result the carrying amount of the asset of £17.643m has been written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal.
- The performance of the Essex Pension Fund during 2015/16 was better than anticipated following a change in the actuarial assumptions underpinning the scheme. This has led to an actuarial gain passing through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account of £24.739m

Note 10. Other Operating Expenditure

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Leigh Town Council Precept and Grant	406	381
Levies	540	499
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	557	562
Losses on the Disposal of Non-current Assets	45,125	15,851
Total	46,628	17,293

Note 11. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	11,143	11,119
Interest on net pension liability	5,513	5,609
Interest Receivable and Similar Income	(1,277)	(1,060)
Income and Expenditure in relation to Investment Properties and changes in their Fair Value	(4,147)	(4,202)
Deficit on Traded Services	1,121	780
Total	12,353	12,246

See also note 23 for more information on Investment Properties.

Note 12. Taxation and Non Specific Grant Incomes

	2016/17 £000	Restated 2015/16 £000
Council Tax Income	69,574	65,735
Retained Business Rates	22,793	21,172
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	36,721	44,261
Capital Grants and Contributions	12,616	4,680
Total	141,704	135,848

The retained business rates and non-ringfenced government grants for 2015/16 have been restated to move the £11.695m of business rate related top-up and s31 grants from business rates income into grants, to give clarity of actual business rate income from local businesses.

Note 13. Pooled Budgets

The Better Care Fund, an annual agreement between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group, came into place for the 2015/16 financial year. The purpose of the fund is to encourage the integration of Health and Adult Social Care commissioning. The agreement is made in accordance with Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and any surplus or deficit generated will be the responsibility of the respective partner to whom it is attributable. The pooled budget is hosted by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council on behalf of the two partners in line with the agreement.

The Contributions into the pool are the minimum requirements under rules set by the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The expenditure by each of the partners is negotiated between them each year, and set within the Section 75 agreement referred to above.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Funding provided to the pooled budget		
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	(1,193)	(1,153)
Southend Clinical Commissioning Group	(11,938)	(11,689)
Total Funding	(13,131)	(12,842)
Expenditure met from the pooled budget		
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	6,842	6,671
Southend Clinical Commissioning Group	6,289	6,171
Total Expenditure	13,131	12,842
Net Pooled Budget	0	0
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council share	0	0

Note 14. Members' Allowances

The Council paid the following amounts to Members of the Council during the year.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Basic Allowances	447	440
Special Allowances	187	187
Travel & Subsistence	1	1
Total Members Allowances	635	628

A full list of the Members' allowances, including their travel and subsistence, is published in the Additional Financial Information Section and on the Council's website (<http://www.southend.gov.uk>).

Note 15. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Council's senior employees is as follows:

2016/17						
Post holder information (Post title)	Salary (Including fees & Allowances) £	Compensation for loss of employment £	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowance) £	Total Remuneration excluding pension contributions 2016/17 £	Pension contribution £	Total Remuneration including pension contributions 2016/17 £
Chief Executive - Rob Tinlin <i>annualised as reduced hours</i>	121,499	0	0	121,499	0	121,499 151,874
Deputy Chief Executives						
People	126,520	0	0	126,520	18,219	144,739
Place	115,435	0	0	115,435	16,623	132,058
Directors						
Legal & Democratic Services <i>annualised as reduced hours</i>	77,148	0	0	77,148	11,109	88,257 110,321
Finance & Resources	93,695	0	1,395	95,090	12,361	107,451
Transformation	88,923	0	0	88,923	12,805	101,728
Public Health	121,368	0	0	121,368	10,866	132,234
Public Health Improvement	83,250	0	0	83,250	7,453	90,703
Strategy & Commissioning	93,749	0	212	93,961	13,500	107,461
Adult Services & Housing	85,850	0	0	85,850	12,362	98,212
Children's Services	76,384	0	0	76,384	10,999	87,383
Learning	77,124	0	0	77,124	11,105	88,229
Public Protection to 12th March 2017 <i>annualised</i>	84,935	0	0	84,935	12,134	97,069 102,696
Planning & Transport	75,087	0	0	75,087	10,813	85,900
Culture, Tourism & Property	69,927	0	0	69,927	10,070	79,997
Regeneration & Business Development from 1st November 2016 <i>annualised</i>	28,227	0	0	28,227	4,065	32,292 77,500
Digital Futures	88,749	0	0	88,749	12,780	101,529
Posts declared redundant during the year						
Corporate Director - Corporate Services to 29th September 2016	59,679	165,700	0	225,379	8,594	233,973
Head of Service - Culture to 30th September 2016	58,992	141,936	0	200,928	6,505	207,433

2015/16					
Post holder information (Post title)	Salary (Including fees & Allowances) £	Benefits in Kind (e.g. Car Allowance) £	Total Remuneration excluding pension contributions 2015/16 £	Pension contribution £	Total Remuneration including pension contributions 2015/16 £
Chief Executive - Rob Tinlin <i>annualised as reduced hours</i>	120,296	635	120,931	0	120,931 151,164
Corporate Directors					
Corporate Services	117,658	0	117,658	16,943	134,601
People	125,343	0	125,343	18,049	143,392
Place	114,292	0	114,292	16,458	130,750
Public Health	121,368	0	121,368	10,866	132,234
Heads of Service					
Legal & Democratic Services	95,504	0	95,504	13,753	109,257
Finance & Resources	92,843	1,892	94,735	12,992	107,727
People & Policy	87,870	0	87,870	12,653	100,523
Customer Services	87,870	0	87,870	12,653	100,523
Joint Associate Director of Integrated Care Commissioning	92,870	212	93,082	13,373	106,455
Adult Services to 29 May 2015	23,800	0	23,800	0	23,800
<i>annualised</i>					147,237
Adult Services from 13 April 2015	87,167	0	87,167	11,220	98,387
<i>annualised</i>					101,444
Children's Services	75,628	0	75,628	10,890	86,518
Learning to 9 August 2015	31,416	613	32,029	4,524	36,553
<i>annualised</i>					101,846
Learning from 1 January 2016	18,625	0	18,625	2,682	21,307
<i>annualised</i>					85,462
Culture	87,870	0	87,870	12,653	100,523
Public Protection	87,870	0	87,870	12,653	100,523
Planning & Transport	74,344	1,467	75,811	10,706	86,517
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism	69,235	0	69,235	9,970	79,205
Public Health	83,250	0	83,250	7,453	90,703

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

	2016/17			2015/16		
	Number of Staff			Number of Staff		
	Council	Schools	Total	Council	Schools	Total
£50,000 to £54,999	33	17	50	31	23	54
£55,000 to £59,999	24	12	36	20	16	36
£60,000 to £64,999	4	9	13	3	15	18
£65,000 to £69,999	6	8	14	8	5	13
£70,000 to £74,999	1	6	7	1	6	7
£75,000 to £79,999	1	3	4	1	6	7
£80,000 to £84,999	0	5	5	0	3	3
£85,000 to £89,999	0	2	2	0	3	3
£90,000 to £94,999	0	1	1	0	2	2
£95,000 to £99,999	0	1	1	0	1	1
£100,000 to £104,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
£105,000 to £109,999	0	1	1	0	0	0
£110,000 to £114,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
£115,000 to £119,999	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	69	65	134	64	81	145

Remuneration includes all sums paid to or receivable by employees, expense allowances chargeable to tax, severance payments and the money value of benefits.

Exit package cost band including special payments

	Total number of exit packages by cost band						Total cost of exit packages	
	2016/17			2015/16			2016/17	Restated 2015/16
	Compulsory	Other	Total	Compulsory	Other	Total		
Council Staff							£	£
£0 - £19,999	8	9	17	5	16	21	170,674	226,592
£20,000 - £39,999	2	4	6	2	11	13	173,561	372,463
£40,000 - £59,999	1	3	4	0	2	2	206,884	99,943
£60,000 - £79,999	2	0	2	0	2	2	146,417	126,026
£80,000 - £99,999	0	2	2	0	0	0	178,812	0
£100,000 - £149,999	0	1	1	1	2	3	141,936	353,036
£150,000 - £199,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	165,700	0
Total	13	20	33	8	33	41	1,183,984	1,178,060
School Staff								
£0 - £19,999	9	6	15	11	6	17	86,425	89,974
£20,000 - £39,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£40,000 - £59,999	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	140,050
£60,000 - £79,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	68,482	0
Total	9	7	16	13	7	20	154,907	230,024
Total	22	27	49	21	40	61	1,338,891	1,408,084

2015/16 has been restated to include the cost of any pension strain payable to the pension fund arising from redundancies.

Note 16. External Audit Costs

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Fees payable with regard to external audit services	144	143
Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns	34	32
Fees payable in respect of other services provided	0	6
Total Audit Costs	178	181

Note 17. Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Department for Education, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An element of DSG is recouped by the Department to fund academy schools in the Council's area. DSG is ring fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable are as follows:

	2016/17 Central Expenditure £000	2016/17 Individual Schools Budget £000	2016/17 Total £000	2015/16 Total £000
Final DSG before academy recoupment			139,546	137,014
Early Years Adjustment			200	331
Academy figure recouped			(73,464)	(57,126)
Total DSG after academy recoupment			66,282	80,219
Plus: Brought forward from prior year			1,594	1,606
Less: Carry forward to following year, agreed in advance			(788)	(1,187)
Total DSG available			67,088	80,638
Agreed initial budgeted distribution	2,094	78,174	80,268	91,199
In year adjustments (early years, academy recoupment and NNDR adjustments)	37	(13,428)	(13,391)	(10,561)
Final budget distribution	2,131	64,746	66,877	80,638
Less: Actual central expenditure	(1,982)		(1,982)	(12,190)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools		(65,357)	(65,357)	(68,041)
Carry forward to following year	149	(611)	(462)	407
Plus: Carry forward agreed in advance			788	1,187
Total DSG Carried Forward			326	1,594

Note 18. Grant Income

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2016/17.

	2016/17 £000	Restated 2015/16 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants		
Revenue Support Grant	21,411	28,728
Business Rates Top Up & S31 Grants	11,252	11,695
Education Support Grant	1,374	1,791
New Homes Bonus	2,634	1,973
Other non-ringfenced government grants	50	74
	36,721	44,261
Capital Grants and Contributions		
Highways Infrastructure	5,789	3,231
Airport Business Park	3,205	0
Street Lighting Renewal	2,341	1,397
Schools	1,033	(699)
Other	248	751
	12,616	4,680
Total	49,337	48,941

2015/16 has been restated to include the business rates related grants previously included as business rate income (see also note 12).

The capital grants and contributions relating to schools are shown as a negative figure in 2015/16. This is due to amounts recognised in the 2014/15 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as Non-Specific Grant Income being reclassified as REFCUS grants credited to services in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2016/17 £000	Restated 2015/16 £000
Credited to Services		
Housing Benefits	86,597	90,422
Dedicated Schools Grant	66,282	80,219
Public Health Grant	9,957	8,832
REFCUS	7,275	6,792
Funding from Clinical Commissioning Groups	5,884	5,935
Pupil Premium	4,250	5,632
Education Funding Agency	3,405	3,907
Skills Funding Agency	2,144	1,989
Housing Benefit Administration	1,132	1,393
Other Service Grants and Contributions	5,274	10,980
Total	192,200	216,101

The Council has recognised all of the grants and contributions received as income through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as any conditions attached to the grants and contributions that may have required the monies or property to be returned to the giver have been met.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

Note 19. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

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

General Fund Balance

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

Housing Revenue Account Balance

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

Major Repairs Reserve

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

Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Capital Grants Unapplied

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

2016/17	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	13,513	5,600	-	-	-	(19,113)
Revaluation and impairment losses on property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	4,952	(531)	-	-	-	(4,421)
Movements in the market value of investment properties	(2,339)	(72)	-	-	-	2,411
Amortisation of intangible assets	892	-	-	-	-	(892)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(9,405)	1,314	-	-	3,650	4,441
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	5,733	126	-	-	-	(5,859)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	47,819	1,875	-	-	-	(49,694)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(6,484)	-	-	-	-	6,484
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	(2,319)	(1,835)	-	-	-	4,154
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(9,983)	(1,817)	-	-	11,800	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	-	-	(12,498)	12,498
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reverse MRA credited to HRA	-	(5,600)	-	-	-	5,600
Reversal of HRA Depreciation credited to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-	-	5,600	-	(5,600)
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	(4,641)	-	4,641
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Account						
Transfer of deferred capital receipt recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	-	-	225	-	-	(225)

2016/17	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(1,553)	(3,016)	4,569	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve to repay borrowing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	(716)	-	-	716
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve to finance the payments to the government capital receipts pool	557	-	(557)	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (see note 37)	12,929	-	-	-	-	(12,929)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(8,720)	-	-	-	-	8,720
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Amount by which council tax and business rate income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax and business rate income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(350)	-	-	-	-	350
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	334	-	-	-	-	(334)
Total Adjustments	45,576	(3,956)	3,521	959	2,952	(49,052)

2015/16 Comparative Figures	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	13,091	5,042	-	-	-	(18,133)
Revaluation and impairment losses on property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	1,213	20,687	-	-	-	(21,900)
Movements in the market value of investment properties	(2,202)	13	-	-	-	2,189
Amortisation of intangible assets	711	-	-	-	-	(711)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(4,221)	1,615	-	-	(4,458)	7,064
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	9,278	240	-	-	-	(9,518)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	17,738	1,486	-	-	-	(19,224)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(4,442)	-	-	-	-	4,442
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA Balances	(3,765)	-	-	-	-	3,765
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(7,291)	(1,557)	-	-	8,848	-
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the capital adjustment account	-	-	-	-	(9,203)	9,203
Adjustments primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
Reverse MRA credited to HRA	-	(5,042)	-	-	-	5,042
Reversal of HRA Depreciation credited to the Major Repairs Reserve	-	-	-	5,042	-	(5,042)
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	-	(7,381)	-	7,381
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Account						
Transfer of deferred capital receipt recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	(225)	-	-	-	-	225

2015/16 Comparative Figures	Usable Reserves					
	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(924)	(2,224)	3,148	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve towards administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of the capital receipts reserve to repay borrowing	-	-	(3,900)	-	-	3,900
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	-	-	(441)	-	-	441
Contribution from the capital receipts reserve to finance the payments to the government capital receipts pool	562	-	(562)	-	-	-
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve						
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement (see note 37)	17,559	-	-	-	-	(17,559)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(8,453)	-	-	-	-	8,453
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account						
Amount by which council tax income credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(108)	-	-	-	-	108
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account						
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(469)	-	-	-	-	469
Total Adjustments	28,052	20,260	(1,755)	(2,339)	(4,813)	(39,405)

Note 20. Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in 2016/17.

Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000	Transfers To £000	From £000	Balance at 31 March 2016 £000	Transfers To £000	From £000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £000
Schools Balances	11,152	0	(1,691)	9,461	0	(3,304)	6,157
General Fund Reserves							
Capital Investment Reserves	7,298	1,711	0	9,009	1,325	(1,161)	9,173
Insurance Reserves	4,034	899	0	4,933	1,300	0	6,233
Corporate Reserves	13,484	10,804	(2,498)	21,790	9,440	(2,699)	28,531
Service Reserves	17,256	2,092	(2,327)	17,021	5,699	(6,975)	15,745
Grants Reserves	5,898	2,365	(2,542)	5,721	1,035	(2,477)	4,279
Monies held in Trust	53	0	0	53	0	0	53
Total GF Reserves	48,023	17,871	(7,367)	58,527	18,799	(13,312)	64,014
HRA Service Reserves	9,730	7,486	(75)	17,141	7,524	(1,835)	22,830
Total Earmarked Reserves	68,905	25,357	(9,133)	85,129	26,323	(18,451)	93,001

Schools Balances

The schools balances for both revenue and capital are all committed to be spent on the education service. The amounts disclosed in the balance sheet represent an amalgamation of unspent and overspent balances.

Capital Investment Reserves

Amounts set aside to fund future capital projects.

Insurance Reserve

A reserve that covers potential claim liabilities arising from the Employers' Liability, Public Liability, Property and other insurable risks retained by the Council.

Corporate Reserves

Amounts set aside to fund the costs of corporate, non-service specific activities, such as business transformation, interest equalisation and pensions.

Service Reserves

Amounts set aside to fund the costs of service specific activities, such as waste management and benefits subsidy. Separate service reserves are held for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account services.

Grants Reserves

In compliance with Recommended Practice, service grant income received in the year has been fully recognised, even where it has not necessarily been or planned to be spent. In these cases the spending power of the grant has been preserved through the use of earmarked reserves.

Monies held in Trust

The Council holds monies in respect of two trust funds (see note 46) and on behalf of a number of children pending them reaching the age of 18.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE BALANCE SHEET

Note 21. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2016/17	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2016	329,954	313,838	14,565	121,880	1,411	640	2,630	784,918
Additions	7,040	11,219	3,542	15,567	245	0	2,446	40,059
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	17,817	23,945	0	0	(384)	163	0	41,541
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	501	(9,176)	(1,871)	(1,604)	(534)	275	0	(12,409)
Disposals	(1,932)	(51,853)	(359)	0	0	0	0	(54,144)
Transfers	348	(152)	0	0	0	0	(348)	(152)
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2017	353,728	287,821	15,877	135,843	738	1,078	4,728	799,813
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2016	(4,873)	(20,778)	(7,637)	(39,861)	0	(5)	0	(73,154)
Depreciation	(5,391)	(6,201)	(1,001)	(5,870)	0	(8)	0	(18,471)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	15	4,970	0	0	0	5	0	4,990
Written out to the CIES	5	5,557	1,755	1,176	0	1	0	8,494
On Disposals	57	4,478	111	0	0	0	0	4,646
On Transfers	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2017	(10,187)	(11,964)	(6,772)	(44,555)	0	(7)	0	(73,485)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	325,081	293,060	6,928	82,019	1,411	635	2,630	711,764
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	343,541	275,857	9,105	91,288	738	1,071	4,728	726,328

Movements in 2015/16	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2015	331,069	309,146	13,577	114,097	1,522	426	1,788	771,625
Additions	6,981	12,187	1,140	8,303	0	0	842	29,453
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	23,142	10,379	0	0	0	(71)	0	33,450
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(28,165)	(1,361)	(152)	(520)	(111)	(419)	0	(30,728)
Disposals	(1,508)	(18,531)	0	0	0	0	0	(20,039)
Transfers	(1,565)	2,018	0	0	0	704	0	1,157
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2016	329,954	313,838	14,565	121,880	1,411	640	2,630	784,918
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2015	(31,221)	(16,728)	(6,757)	(34,649)	(18)	(19)	0	(89,392)
Depreciation	(4,839)	(6,432)	(905)	(5,327)	0	(4)	0	(17,507)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	23,045	479	0	0	0	8	0	23,532
Written out to the CIES	8,035	1,138	25	115	18	45	0	9,376
On Disposals	22	793	0	0	0	0	0	815
On Transfers	85	(28)	0	0	0	(35)	0	22
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2016	(4,873)	(20,778)	(7,637)	(39,861)	0	(5)	0	(73,154)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2015	299,848	292,418	6,820	79,448	1,504	407	1,788	682,233
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	325,081	293,060	6,928	82,019	1,411	635	2,630	711,764

Depreciation

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

2015/16 Useful Economic Life Years	Fixed Asset Category	2016/17 Useful Economic Life Years
Between 2 and 60	Council Dwellings	Between 10 and 60
Between 2 and 90	Other Land & Buildings	Between 1 and 60
Between 2 and 40	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	Between 1 and 35
Between 5 and 50	Infrastructure Assets	Between 2 and 45
Between 25 and 60	Community Assets	Nil
Between 10 and 46	Surplus Assets	Between 25 and 50
Nil	Assets Under Construction	Nil

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. Valuations were carried out using external valuers. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Valuations of vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

A variety of assets were revalued this year, some as part of the 5 year rolling programme. The main assets were car parks, clubs, the bus station, community centres, depots, libraries, museum, shelters, leisure centres, theatres, public conveniences, care homes, cemetery offices, crematorium, Porters, Southchurch Hall, the Cliff Lift and the council administrative buildings. The significant assumptions applied in estimating their current values were:

- The data provided by the Council was accurate at 1 April 2016;
- The Council has good title to the asset, free from onerous covenant and other encumbrances;
- There are no planning proposals that are likely to have an effect on the value of the properties;
- All properties are at a suitable level of condition for service provision and that all internal and external repairs and maintenance have been carried out;
- No contaminative or potentially contaminative uses have ever been carried out on the property;
- The use of relevant data from the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS).

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

Year of Rolling Programme	Internal/ External Valuation	Valuer	Assets Revalued
2012/2013	External	Wilks Head & Eve	Schools
2013/2014	External	Wilks Head & Eve	Theatres, parks, pier assets (excluding structure), Southend Adult Community Centre and General Fund council dwellings
2014/2015	External	Wilks Head & Eve	Investment properties, foundation schools, pier structure and the Forum
2015/2016	External	Wilks Head & Eve	Housing Revenue Account council dwellings, investment properties, garages and hostels
2016/2017	External	Whybrow and Dodds	Car parks, clubs, bus station, community centres, depots, libraries, museum, shelters, leisure centres, theatres, public conveniences, investment properties, care homes, cemetery offices, crematorium, Porters, Southchurch Hall, the Cliff Lift and council administrative buildings

The basis for valuation is set out in the statement of accounting policies.

Note 22. Heritage Assets

The Council's Heritage Assets consist of historic seaside assets, heritage land and buildings, antiques/collectables, museum exhibits and memorials/statues.

Historic Seaside Assets

The historic seaside assets comprise the pier, the cliff lift and the cliff bandstand. These assets are considered to be part of the fabric of the town as an historic seaside resort.

Heritage Land and Buildings

These consist of the official mayor's residence, Porters, and Southchurch Hall, a grade I listed medieval manor house. These assets are considered to be part of the heritage of the town and are intended to be preserved for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historical associations.

Antiques / Collectables

These comprise furniture and furnishings, panelling, carpets, textiles, clocks, silver, plated wares and gold, works of art, ceramics and glass, books, pictures and presentation and commemorative wares. These antiques/collectables date from between the 16th Century and the 20th Century.

Museum Collections

The Council considers that obtaining valuations for the items that are exhibited within the borough's museums would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the Council's financial statements. This is because of the diverse nature of the assets held and the lack of comparable values. The Council does not recognise these exhibits on the Balance Sheet.

The exception is the Saxon King artefacts which form part of the Council's heritage assets and have been valued by a specialist in archaeology. These items are reported in the Balance Sheet at this valuation which is based on sale prices of comparable material and museum valuations for loan purposes, where relevant. The valuations also take into account the condition of the objects, their rare or unique nature and their relationship to material from other high-status burial contexts such as Sutton Hoo and Taplow. These assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation. Of these items, £748,000 worth are currently in storage within the borough with the remainder on loan to a museum in London.

Memorials and Statues

These are a statue of Queen Victoria which was presented to the town to mark the Queens Jubilee in 1897, and a Lutyens War Memorial to commemorate lives lost in the First World War which was built in 1920. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the items due to the lack of comparable market values. Consequently, the Council does not recognise these assets on the balance sheet.

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

	Historic Seaside Assets £000	Heritage Land & Buildings £000	Antiques and Collectables £000	Museum Collections £000	Total Heritage Assets £000
Movements in 2016/17					
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2016	35,663	914	665	1,501	38,743
Additions	561	3	0	56	620
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	71	1,045	0	0	1,116
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(568)	2	0	0	(566)
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2017	35,727	1,964	665	1,557	39,913
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2016	(1,274)	(86)	0	0	(1,360)
Depreciation	(600)	(42)	0	0	(642)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	22	84	0	0	106
Written out to the CIES	73	0	0	0	73
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2017	(1,779)	(44)	0	0	(1,823)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	34,389	828	665	1,501	37,383
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	33,948	1,920	665	1,557	38,090

	Historic Seaside Assets £000	Heritage Land & Buildings £000	Antiques and Collectables £000	Museum Collections £000	Total Heritage Assets £000
Movements in 2015/16					
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2015	35,663	914	665	1,501	38,743
Additions	501	0	0	0	501
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(501)	0	0	0	(501)
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2016	35,663	914	665	1,501	38,743
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2015	(670)	(64)	0	0	(734)
Depreciation	(604)	(22)	0	0	(626)
Written out to the CIES	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2016	(1,274)	(86)	0	0	(1,360)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2015	34,993	850	665	1,501	38,009
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	34,389	828	665	1,501	37,383

Basis of valuation

Asset	Date of last valuation	Valuer	Qualification	Method of valuation
Cliff Lift	01/04/2016	Whybrow and Dodds	MRICS	Existing use value
Porters	01/04/2016	Whybrow and Dodds	MRICS	Depreciated replacement cost
Porters contents	01/03/2005	Webb Valuations Fine Art Ltd	FRICS	Current replacement cost
Southchurch Hall	01/04/2016	Whybrow and Dodds	MRICS	Depreciated replacement cost
Pier	01/04/2014	Wilks Head and Eve	MRICS	Depreciated replacement cost
Bandstand	01/04/2011	David Heales - Internal Valuer	MRICS	Existing use value
Saxon King artefacts	01/10/2009	Lesley Webster FSA - Society for Medieval Archaeology	FSA	Current replacement cost

Note 23. Investment Properties

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at start of the year	23,087	22,135
Additions:		
Subsequent Expenditure	0	26
Transfers:		
(to) / from Property, Plant and Equipment	0	(1,233)
(to) / from Assets Held for Sale (<1 yr)	(154)	0
(to) / from Intangibles	0	(30)
Revaluations and impairments	2,411	2,189
Balance at end of the year	25,344	23,087

All the Council's investment properties are categorised as commercial.

The fair value of these assets has been measured using the income approach, by means of the discounted cash flow method, where the expected cash flows from the properties are discounted (using a market-derived discount rate) to establish the present value of the net income stream.

Third party resources have been used to value these assets. Typical valuation inputs which have been analysed in arriving at the fair valuations include:

- rental incomes;
- CBRE UK Property Investment Yields;
- external valuers' professional judgement on yields.

The Council's investment properties are therefore categorised as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as the measurement technique uses significant unobservable inputs to determine the fair value measurements (see the accounting policy for Fair Value Measurement in note 1). There is no reasonably available information that indicates that market participants would use different assumptions.

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

Note 24. Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long-term		Current	
	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Investments, Cash and Cash Equivalents				
Loans and Receivables	34	37	26,948	34,948
Available for sale Financial Assets	15,859	12,711	43,154	46,554
Total Investments	15,893	12,748	70,102	81,502
Debtors				
Loans and Receivables	2,367	1,191	23,674	25,413
Total Debtors	2,367	1,191	23,674	25,413
Borrowings				
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	248,117	244,139	6,356	16,298
Total Borrowings	248,117	244,139	6,356	16,298
Creditors				
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	7	24,590	26,146
Total Creditors	0	7	24,590	26,146

Reclassifications

There were no reclassifications of financial instruments in 2016/17.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

2016/17	Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Financial Assets: Available for Sale	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense	11,096	0	0	11,096
Fee Expense	29	0	127	156
Total Expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	11,125	0	127	11,252
Interest Income	0	(60)	(1,217)	(1,277)
Total Income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(60)	(1,217)	(1,277)
Gains on Revaluation	0	0	5	5
Amounts Recycled to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services after Impairment	0	0	(7)	(7)
Surplus / Deficit arising on Revaluation of Financial Assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	(2)	(2)
Net Gain / (Loss) for the year	11,125	(60)	(1,092)	9,973

2015/16 Comparative Figures	Financial Liabilities measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables Restated	Financial Assets: Available for Sale Restated	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Interest Expense	11,084	0	0	11,084
Fee Expense	79	0	367	446
Total Expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	11,163	0	367	11,530
Interest Income	0	(170)	(889)	(1,059)
Total Expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(170)	(889)	(1,059)
Gains on Revaluation	0	0	7	7
Amounts Recycled to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services after Impairment	0	0	(3)	(3)
Surplus / Deficit arising on Revaluation of Financial Assets in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	4	4
Net Gain / (Loss) for the year	11,163	(170)	(518)	10,475

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2017 of 1.03% to 2.80% for loans from the PWLB based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised
- where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The fair values calculated are the same as the carrying amount except where shown below:

The fair value of the financial liabilities are categorised as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as the measurement technique uses inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the loans.

The financial liabilities where the fair value differs from the carrying value are held with PWLB and market lenders. All of these borrowings were not quoted on an active market and a Level 1 valuation is not available. To provide a fair value which provides a comparison to the carrying amount a financial model valuation has been used. This valuation applies the net present value approach, which provides an estimate of the value of payments in the future in today's terms as at the balance sheet date. Our accounting policy uses new loan borrowing rates to discount the future cash flows.

	31 March 2017		31 March 2016	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities	279,062	342,660	286,583	339,711
Long Term Creditors	0	0	7	7

The fair value of the liabilities is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2017) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
	£000	£000
Loans and Receivables	109,669	119,663
Long Term Debtors	2,367	1,191

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

Available for sale assets are carried in the Balance Sheet at their fair value. The fair value of the property funds have been measured using the quoted price of units plus the distribution to be reinvested as notified by each fund. These assets have therefore been categorised as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as they have inputs other than quoted prices that are observable.

The fair value of the short dated bond funds, the enhanced cash fund and the money market funds have been measured using the quoted price of units. These assets have therefore been categorised as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy as they have unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date. The table below sets out the input level in the fair value hierarchy and the valuation techniques for each type of fund.

Recurring Fair Value Measurements	Input level in Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation Technique used to Measure Fair Value	Source of Prices or Inputs	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Available for Sale:					
Money Market Funds	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets	Unit price of fund	23,007	24,015
Enhanced Cash Fund	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets	Unit price of fund	5,022	22,539
Short Dated Bond Funds	Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets	Unit price of fund	15,125	0
Property Funds	Level 2	Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable	Unit price of fund, adjusted for fund manager's estimate of income distribution for quarter four	15,859	12,711
Total Available for Sale				59,013	59,265

Note 25. Debtors

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Central government bodies	12,897	13,675
Local authorities	2,486	2,136
NHS bodies	1,747	1,026
Public corporations and trading funds	0	1
Other entities and individuals	15,988	15,834
Total Debtors	33,118	32,672
Value of impairment included above	(11,715)	(12,456)

Note 26. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Cash and cash equivalents held by the Council	30,216	30,008
Bank Current Accounts	9,655	13,588
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	39,871	43,596

Note 27. Creditors

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Central government bodies	6,611	7,101
Other local authorities	5,237	3,537
NHS bodies	695	379
Public corporations and trading funds	26	0
Other entities and individuals	26,336	27,582
Total Creditors	38,905	38,599

Note 28. Provisions

	Insurance	Redundancy	Business Rate Appeals	Other Provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April 2015	4,661	754	1,261	1,646	8,322
Additional provisions made in year	(637)	1,500	1,660	0	2,523
Amounts used in year	(155)	(1,248)	(1,043)	(820)	(3,266)
Balance at 1 April 2016	3,869	1,006	1,878	826	7,579
Additional provisions made in year	0	1,500	739	0	2,239
Amounts used in year	(1,195)	(1,257)	(367)	(238)	(3,057)
Balance at 31 March 2017	2,674	1,249	2,250	588	6,761

Insurance Provision

This reflects the total value of claims outstanding at the year-end for which the Council has a future liability of uncertain timing. In addition the Council keeps an insurance reserve (shown in Note 20) to mitigate against the risk of potential claims arising in the future.

Redundancy

Estimated payments to be made in 2017/18 as a result of organisational management decisions taken during 2016/17, relating to redundancy, and therefore properly chargeable to 2016/17.

Business Rates Appeals Provision

This reflects the Council's share of the potential for successful appeals by local businesses against the rateable value of the premises they use, and therefore the potential need for the Council to refund rates paid in 2016/17 and prior years. The overall liability is shared with Central Government and the Essex Fire Service.

Note 29. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Notes 19 and 20.

Note 30. Unusable Reserves

Movements in the Council's unusable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement and in the individual tables below.

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	2016/17	2015/16
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	191,525	139,096
Upward revaluation of assets	58,453	70,331
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the provision of services	(10,700)	(13,349)
Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the provision of services	47,753	56,982
Difference between fair value and historical cost depreciation	(3,118)	(2,491)
Balance attributable to disposal/write offs	(10,264)	(2,062)
Amount written off to the capital adjustment account	(13,382)	(4,553)
Balance at 31 March	225,896	191,525

Capital Adjustment Account

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

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

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

Note 19 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2016/17		2015/16
	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		283,234	309,782
<i>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement</i>			
Charges for depreciation and revaluation gains and losses and impairment losses on non-current assets	(23,534)		(40,033)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(892)		(711)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(5,859)		(9,518)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement	(49,694)		(19,224)
		(79,979)	(69,486)
Adjusting amounts written out of the revaluation reserve		13,382	4,553
Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		(66,597)	(64,933)
<i>Capital financing applied in the year</i>			
Use of the capital receipts reserve to finance new capital expenditure	716		441
Use of the major repairs reserve to finance new capital expenditure	4,641		7,021
Capital grants and contributions credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement that have been applied to capital financing	16,939		16,627
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the general fund and HRA balances	6,484		4,442
Use of the capital receipts reserve to repay borrowing	0		3,900
Capital expenditure charged against the general fund and HRA balances	4,154		3,765
		32,934	36,196
Movements in the market value of investment properties debited or credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		2,411	2,189
Balance at 31 March		251,982	283,234

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the 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.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	(160,653)	(176,286)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(57,755)	24,739
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(12,929)	(17,559)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	8,720	8,453
Balance at 31 March	(222,617)	(160,653)

Note 31. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	40,059	29,453
Investment Assets		26
Intangible Assets	1,791	907
Heritage Assets	620	501
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	5,859	9,518
Total Capital Investment	48,329	40,405
Sources of Finance		
Usable Capital Receipts	716	441
Government Grants and other Contributions	16,939	16,627
Sums set aside from Revenue:		
Direct Revenue Contributions	4,154	3,765
Major Repairs Reserve	4,641	7,021
Total Financing from Internal Resources	26,450	27,854
Credit arrangements	476	0
Un-supported Capital Borrowing	21,403	12,551
Total Financing from Borrowing / Credit Arrangements	21,879	12,551
Total Capital Financing	48,329	40,405

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	288,516	283,646
Explanation of Movements in Year		
Borrowing (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	21,403	12,551
Assets acquired under Finance Leases	476	0
Capital receipts used to repay borrowing	0	(3,900)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(5,836)	(3,781)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	304,559	288,516
of which		
General Fund CFR	205,819	189,776
Housing Revenue Account CFR	98,740	98,740
	304,559	288,516

Note 32. Leases

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired IT equipment and a minibus for schools, grounds maintenance vehicles and equipment under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet.

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

With effect from 30 September 2013 the Council leased a proportion of the library and education centre at The Forum from the Forum Management Company Limited on a finance lease, based on the gross internal area used. There was no premium paid and the rent is a peppercorn so there are no minimum lease payments to disclose.

On 1 January 2014 the Council leased the Darlington Children's Centre from the Darlington School Academy Trust on a finance lease. There was no premium paid and the rent is a peppercorn so there are no minimum lease payments to disclose.

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired vehicles for social care, vehicles for South Essex homes, our haulage pool and grounds maintenance equipment and photocopiers for schools under operating leases, which have typical lives of 5 to 7 years.

Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

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

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

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

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Not later than one year	1,739	1,588
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,186	5,748
Later than five years	73,955	69,021
	81,880	76,357

The minimum lease payments receivable do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as rental payments that vary with turnover. In 2016/17 £30,000 contingent rents were estimated to be receivable by the Council (2015/16 £136,000 estimated).

Finance Leases

On 14 August 2013 the Council leased the Belfairs Woodland Centre to Essex Wildlife Trust Limited on a finance lease with a term of 25 years. There was no premium paid and the rent is a peppercorn so there are no minimum lease payments to disclose at 31 March 2017. The Council has a gross investment in the lease of £318,000, as there are no minimum lease payments and the residual value is anticipated to be half the net book value of the asset, as the lease term is half the estimated useful economic life. The gross investment is expected to be received at the end of the lease.

With effect from 30 September 2013 the Council leased the library and education centre at The Forum to the Forum Management Company Limited on a finance lease with a term of 98½ years. There was no premium paid and the rent is a peppercorn so there are no minimum lease payments to disclose. The Council does not have any gross investment in the lease, as there are no minimum lease payments and no residual value anticipated for the property.

On 1 January 2014 the Council leased Darlington School to the Darlington School Academy Trust under a finance lease with a term of 125 years. There was no premium paid and the rent is a peppercorn so there are no minimum lease payments to disclose. The Council does not have any gross investment in the lease, as there are no minimum lease payments and no residual value anticipated for the property.

Note 33. Downward Revaluation and Impairment Losses

Various assets were revalued at 1 April 2016 which led to a downward valuation or impairment loss, the most significant of which were car parks (£9.353M) and libraries (£1.501M).

Following the completion of new houses at Shoeburyness the properties were valued and brought into use as Council Dwellings in the Housing Revenue Account. The application of the social housing discount to the open market value led to a downward valuation of £1.145M.

An impairment review was also undertaken of capital additions of which £1.818M was considered not to increase the asset value and therefore was impaired.

As a result of the regular review of the fixed asset register small downward revaluations and impairments were identified within the Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment (£0.114M) and Infrastructure (£0.190M) categories of assets.

Note 34. Capitalisation of Borrowing Costs

The Council has not capitalised any of its borrowing costs.

Note 35. Termination Benefits

The Council continues to undergo a significant programme of cost reduction involving, amongst other things, a reduction in the number of employees. This has given rise to a number of redundancy payment obligations that, although not actually paid in 2016/17, can be accommodated with the redundancy provision (see note 28).

Note 36. Pension Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

In 2016/17 the Council paid £3.5m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 16.48% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2015/16 were £4.4m and 14.1% (16.48% from 1 September 2015) respectively. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

The Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis. There were added years payments of £4,827 awarded in respect of the teachers' pension scheme in 2016/17 (2015/16 nil).

It is estimated that the Council will pay £2.5m to the TPS in 2017/18. The payment is declining as more schools convert to academy status and therefore are no longer part of the Council.

NHS Staff Pension Scheme

A number of NHS staff transferred to the Council as of 1 April 2013 as part of the transfer of Public Health from the NHS. These staff have maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. However, the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2016/17, the Council paid £209,000 (2015/16 £125,000) in respect of retirement benefits to NHS Pensions in respect of staff who have transferred into the Council from the NHS, representing 14% of pensionable pay. It is estimated that the Council will similarly pay £200,000 to NHS Pensions in 2017/18.

Note 37. Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pensions Schemes

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

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by Essex County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

Transactions relating to post-employment benefits

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against Council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services		
Current Service Cost	12,258	14,472
(Gain) / Loss from Settlement	(5,720)	(3,194)
Cost of Curtailments	725	496
Administration Expense	153	176
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Net Interest Expense	5,513	5,609
Total post-employment benefit charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services	12,929	17,559
Other post-employment benefit charged to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement		
Return on plan assets in excess of interest	(57,173)	3,271
Other actuarial gains on assets	(1,313)	0
Change in financial assumptions	126,441	(27,878)
Change in demographic assumptions	(9,957)	0
Experience gain on defined benefit obligation	(243)	(132)
Remeasurements and Other Comprehensive Income	57,755	(24,739)
Total post-employment benefit (credited) / charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	70,684	(7,180)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit for the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	(70,684)	7,180
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for Pensions in the year		
Employer's contributions payable to scheme	8,720	8,453

Pension Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

Actuarial Gains/(Losses)	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Present Value of the defined benefit obligation	647,083	524,060
Fair Value of Plan Assets	(424,466)	(363,407)
Net Liability arising from defined benefit obligation	222,617	160,653

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	524,060	536,207
Current Service Cost	12,258	14,472
Interest Cost	18,405	17,408
Contributions by Scheme Participants	3,299	3,524
Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(9,957)	0
Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	126,441	(27,878)
Other	(243)	(132)
Losses on Curtailments	725	496
Benefits Paid	(16,604)	(15,356)
Liabilities extinguished on Settlements	(11,301)	(4,681)
Closing Balance at 31 March	647,083	524,060

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	363,407	359,921
Interest Income	12,892	11,799
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	57,173	(3,271)
Other Actuarial Gains	1,313	0
Employer Contributions	8,720	8,453
Contributions by Scheme Participants	3,299	3,524
Benefits Paid	(16,604)	(15,356)
Payment of Bulk Transfer Value	(5,581)	(1,487)
Administrative Expense	(153)	(176)
Closing Balance at 31 March	424,466	363,407

Local Government Pension Scheme assets

The estimated asset allocation as at 31 March is as follows:

	2016/17		2015/16	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equity Investments	289,920	68	245,959	68
Government Bonds	16,059	4	10,714	3
Other Bonds	17,251	4	17,443	5
Property	41,295	10	43,277	12
Cash / Liquidity	12,776	3	11,805	3
Alternative Assets	28,309	7	16,157	4
Other Managed Funds	18,856	4	18,052	5
	424,466	100	363,407	100

Of the equities allocation, 12% are UK investments and 88% are overseas investments. 100% of the equities are listed.

The Government Bonds allocation consists entirely of UK index linked government securities.

The Other Bonds allocation consists entirely of UK corporate bonds.

Of the Property allocation, 63% is listed

The Alternative Assets allocation is made up of 50% in Private Equity, 33% in Infrastructure and 17% in Timber.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

The Pension Fund liabilities have been assessed by Barnett Waddingham, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates being based on the last full revaluation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	2016/17	2015/16
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for Current Pensioners		
Men	22.1	22.9
Women	24.6	25.3
Longevity at 65 for Future Pensioners		
Men	24.3	25.2
Women	26.9	27.7
Rate of Inflation (RPI)	3.6%	3.2%
Rate of Inflation (CPI)	2.7%	2.3%
Rate of increases in salaries	4.2%	4.1%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.7%	2.3%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7%	3.6%

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

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	Increase in Assumption £000	Decrease in Assumption £000
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	24,503	(23,580)
Rate of inflation (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	10,347	(10,154)
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	1,535	(1,522)
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	10,347	(10,154)
Rate of discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	(11,666)	11,892

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

One of the objectives of the scheme is to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 8 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed as at 31 March 2019.

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

The Council anticipates paying a £19.272M contribution to the scheme in 2017/18. The amount is higher than usual as the Council is choosing to pay three years' worth of deficit payments upfront, being a better value for money option.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 19 years (18 years 2015/16).

Note 38. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

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

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the Council in the annual Treasury Management Strategy. The Council provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. The risk with banks and financial institutions is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, the credit ratings being set by Moody, Standard & Poors and Fitch Ratings Services. Regard is also given to rating watches and outlooks and relevant market information as appropriate. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category.

The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the Council are as detailed in the Annual Investment Strategy which can be accessed from the Council's website.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £27m cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all of the Council's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March 2017 that this was likely to crystallise.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk on other financial assets, based on experience of default and uncollectability over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

Credit Risk	Amounts £000	Historical experience of default %	31 March 2017	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability £000	31 March 2016
			Historical experience adjusted for market conditions %		Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability £000
Deposits With Banks And Other Financial Institutions	26,982	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Bonds And Other Securities	59,013	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Customers	26,148	0.51%	0.92%	240	220

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period and the Council does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to deposits and bonds.

The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Less Than Three Months	4,735	3,726
Three To Six Months	649	432
Six Months To One Year	427	453
More Than One Year	2,667	3,407
Total	8,478	8,018

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Council has ready access to borrowings from other Local Authorities and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. The strategy for long term borrowing is to ensure that not more than 40% of loans are due to mature between 2 and 5 years, through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Less than 1 year	10,815	10,561
Between 1 and 2 years	10,929	10,807
Between 2 and 5 years	41,446	39,106
Between 5 and 10 years	78,335	59,933
Between 10 and 15 years	103,486	111,268
Between 15 and 20 years	72,993	78,788
More than 20 years	106,471	119,848
Total Cost of Loans Over Their Life	424,475	430,311
This total consists of:		
Principal Amount of Loans	235,718	231,029
Future Interest Element	188,757	199,282
Total Cost of Loans Over Their Life	424,475	430,311

These amounts are higher than those recognised in note 24 to the Balance Sheet as they include the interest for each year of the loans, included in the year it falls due.

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

Market Risk

Interest rate risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates – the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities borrowings will fall
- investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. Policy is to keep an appropriate mix of fixed and variable rate loans. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The treasury management team, together with its advisers, has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2017, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be:

	£000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	0
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(853)
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	0
Impact on Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(853)
Share of overall impact debited to the HRA	(134)
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	0
Impact on Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure)	0

Price Risk

The Council has no investments in equity shares, and therefore has no exposure to losses arising from movements in the price of shares.

The Council holds investments in property funds, short dated bond funds and an enhanced cash fund and therefore has exposure to losses arising from movements in the price of the units of those funds. However, the corporate reserve for interest equalisation will be used to capture some of the income in the years when the values are rising, and will then be available to offset any losses should values fall, therefore not impacting the General Fund Balance.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has very limited exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

NOTES SUPPORTING THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Note 39. Cash Flow Statement - Interest Paid and Received

The interest paid and received figures are included within the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services line of the Cash Flow Statement. The amounts are as follows:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Interest paid	10,896	11,141
Interest received	(337)	(241)
Net Cash Flows from Interest Paid and Received	10,559	10,900

These figures differ from the Interest Payable and Similar Charges and Interest Receivable and Similar Income figures in Note 11, as they do not include accruals and other non-cash items.

Note 40. Cash Flow Statement – Non-Cash Movements

The Cash flows for non-cash movements include the following items:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Depreciation of Non Current Assets	(19,113)	(18,133)
Downward Revaluation and Impairment Losses of Non Current Assets	(4,421)	(21,900)
Amortisations	(892)	(711)
(Increase)/Decrease in impairment for provision for bad debts	732	(1,557)
(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(210)	(2,962)
Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	862	3,449
Increase/(Decrease) in Inventories	144	(164)
Net retirement benefits per IAS19	(4,209)	(9,106)
Carrying amount of assets disposed/sold	(49,694)	(19,224)
Reverse out the movement on the provision debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and replace with the cash payments made in the year out of the provision	818	743
Movements in the value of investment properties	2,411	2,189
Removal of Council Tax and Business Rates Agency		
Adjustments from Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,413	2,163
Other	(3)	(9)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(72,162)	(65,222)

Note 41. Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

The Cash flows for adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities include the following items:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Capital Grants credited to Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	19,890	11,454
REFCUS	(5,859)	(9,518)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	4,569	3,148
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	4	31
Net Cash Flow Adjustments	18,604	5,115

Note 42. Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	47,852	40,405
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	23,430	18,220
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(4,569)	(3,148)
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(27,934)	(2,531)
Other receipts from investing activities	(19,890)	(11,454)
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	18,889	41,492

Note 43. Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Cash receipts of short and long-term borrowing	(9,725)	(18,089)
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases	99	125
Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	15,035	14,618
Other payments for financing activities	(763)	(1,501)
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	4,646	(4,847)

OTHER NOTES

Note 44. 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 UK Government

Central UK government has effective control over the general operations of the Council – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments, and other areas of the public sector, used in 2016/17 and those received but not yet applied as at 31 March 2017 are set out in Note 18.

In addition the Council works in partnership with Southend Clinical Commissioning Group through a pooled budget arrangement.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances paid in 2016/17 is shown in Note 14.

As part of their roles, Members are often appointed to be the Council's representatives on outside bodies, and occasionally hold similar roles in their own right. Separately the Council may commission services from these organisations, or potentially grant aid them under its voluntary sector grants programme. Contracts were entered into with full procurement rules compliance and awards made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant Members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the grants. Details of all these transactions are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest, open to public inspection at the Civic Offices during office hours.

It is considered that these transactions do not constitute related party transactions

Officers

Six officers act as Board members to five of the Council's wholly owned subsidiaries – Southend Trading Corporation Limited, Southend Independent Living Limited, Southend Business Services Limited, Southend Care Limited and Southend Housing Limited. Southend Trading Corporation Limited has ceased trading. Southend Business Services Limited, Southend Care Limited and Southend Housing Limited had yet to trade as at the balance sheet date. The officers do not hold any pecuniary stake in the companies, nor take any director fee. The Council however is reimbursed for officer time spent on company business.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has a dominant influence over South Essex Homes Limited, which manages the Council's housing stock. During the course of the financial year, five Members occupied the three reserved positions on the board of South Essex Homes Limited. All material transactions with the company are recorded in the notes to the consolidated group accounts.

Under IAS19 South Essex Homes Limited must account for the net surplus or deficit arising from its share of the pension assets and liabilities in respect of its employees who are members of the Essex County Council Pension Fund. As at 31 March 2017 there was a net deficit of £10.970M in respect of South Essex Homes Limited's pension liabilities. As at 31 March 2017 South Essex Homes Limited also had a retained surplus of £2.194M in respect of its Profit and Loss reserve. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council undertakes to provide continuing financial support to enable the financial statements of South Essex Homes Limited to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Note 45. Contingent Liabilities

The Council is currently in dispute with its waste collection contractor over the service information provided during the procurement exercise. A negotiated settlement is being sought. This has the potential to substantially increase the contract price.

Note 46. Trust Funds and Bequests

The Council is responsible for administering a number of trust funds. These funds are not Council assets, so they are not included in the balance sheet. The Council prepares the accounts for these trusts which are subject to audit or examination in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

At the 31 March 2017, the Council was sole trustee of eight trust funds, the majority of which (*) are consolidated into the Council's Group Accounts on the grounds of financial significance.

2016/17	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
Beecroft Art Trust *	220	220	1,975	6
Jones Memorial Recreation Ground Trust *	49	49	155	1
Palace Theatre Charity *	155	269	3,706	1
Prittlewell Priory Museum Trust *	134	216	1,570	5
Priory Park Trust *	152	167	361	2
The Shrubbery Trust *	40	51	628	3
Victory Sports Ground Trust	40	40	11	1
Youth Commemoration Ground Trust *	215	203	8,313	6
Total Trusts	1,005	1,215	16,719	25

2015/16	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Assets £000	Liabilities £000
Beecroft Art Trust *	183	308	1,970	1
Jones Memorial Recreation Ground Trust *	44	45	155	1
Palace Theatre Charity *	156	270	3,820	1
Prittlewell Priory Museum Trust *	130	219	1,647	1
Priory Park Trust *	310	325	374	1
The Shrubbery Trust *	42	11	636	0
Victory Sports Ground Trust	50	50	11	1
Youth Commemoration Ground Trust *	178	167	8,296	0
Total Trusts	1,093	1,395	16,909	6

2015/16 also included the closure of four trust accounts, giving expenditure to the value of £50,000.

The purpose of each trust fund is set out below:

Beecroft Art Trust

The promotion of the study of art, music and literature and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the provision and maintenance of the Beecroft Art Gallery at Southend-on-Sea in the County of Essex as a public art gallery and library.

Jones Memorial Recreation Ground Trust

The provision and maintenance of a recreation ground for the benefit of children and young persons who have not reached the age of 25 years and are resident in the borough of Southend-on-Sea, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions.

The Palace Theatre Charity

The Palace Theatre was conveyed to the Council by Mrs GE Mouillot in a deed of gift as an expression of her interest and goodwill towards the then County Borough Council.

The Theatre is used for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Southend-on-Sea.

Prittlewell Priory Museum Trust

To provide a museum for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Southend-on-Sea.

Priory Park Trust

To be dedicated, held, used and enjoyed as and for the purposes of a public park for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea and the recreation of the public area.

The Shrubbery Trust

For the enjoyment of the public as an open space under the Open Spaces Act 1906.

Victory Sports Ground Trust

A public park to be known as the "Victory Sports Ground" for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea and the recreation of the public.

Youth Commemoration Ground Trust

The provision and maintenance of a recreation ground for the benefit of children and young persons who have not reached the age of 25 years and are resident in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea.

The assets of these trusts were donated by individuals to provide facilities for the good of the local community.

The Council is also responsible for two bequests both made for the acquisition of works of art. These balances are included in the specific reserves.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
S Thorpe Smith Bequest	33	33
Emily Briggs Bequest	17	17
Total Bequests	50	50

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2015/16 £000			2016/17 £000
	Income		
(26,806)	Dwelling Rents (Gross)		(26,229)
(603)	Non Dwelling Rents (Gross)		(1,419)
(4,470)	Charges for Services and Facilities		(1,083)
(3,054)	Revaluation Gains		(1,779)
(34,933)	Total Income		(30,510)
	Expenditure		
5,155	Repairs and Maintenance		4,320
9,910	Supervision and Management		6,848
714	Rents, Rates, Taxes and other Charges		744
101	Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts		(60)
27,864	Depreciation and impairment on Dwellings	(HRA Note 4)	6,532
933	Depreciation and impairment on Other Assets	(HRA Note 4)	243
54	Debt Management Expenses		48
44,731	Total Expenditure		18,675
9,798	Net cost of HRA services as included in the whole authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account		(11,835)
172	HRA services share of Corporate and Democratic Core		176
9,970	Net Cost of HRA Services		(11,659)
(738)	Loss/(Profit) on Sale of HRA Long Term Assets		(1,142)
3,549	Interest Payable and Similar Charges		3,467
224	General Grants		(116)
(154)	Interest Receivable		(195)
12,851	(Surplus) / Deficit for the year on HRA services		(9,645)

MOVEMENT ON THE HRA BALANCE

This Statement takes the outturn on the HRA Income and Expenditure Account and reconciles it to the surplus or deficit for the year on the HRA Balance, calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
12,851	Surplus for the year on the Housing Revenue Account Income And Expenditure Account	(9,645)
(20,260)	Net additional amount required by statute to be credited to the HRA Balance for the year	3,956
7,409	Transfer to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	5,689
0	Decrease/(Increase) in the Housing Revenue Account Balance	0
(3,502)	Housing Revenue Account - Balance Brought Forward	(3,502)
(3,502)	Housing Revenue Account - Balance Carried Forward	(3,502)

CALCULATION OF MOVEMENT ON THE HRA BALANCE

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
	Amounts included in the HRA Income And Expenditure Account but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the HRA Balance for the year	
738	(Loss)/Profit on Sale of HRA Long Term Assets	1,142
16	General Grants / Service Grants	242
	Amounts not included in the HRA Income And Expenditure Account but required to be included by statute when determining the Movement on the HRA Balance for the year	
(20,701)	Transfer to / (from) Capital Adjustment Account - Impairment	603
(313)	Transfer to / (from) Capital Adjustment Account - REFCUS	134
0	Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,835
7,409	Transfer to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	5,689
(12,851)	Net Additional Amount required to be credited to the Housing Revenue Account Balance for the year	9,645

NOTES TO THE HRA

HRA Note 1. Analysis of Housing Stock

	Number of Properties 31 March 2017	Number of Properties 31 March 2016
Houses And Bungalows	2,105	2,104
Flats	3,876	3,892
	5,981	5,996

HRA Note 2. Rent Arrears

Cumulative rent arrears in respect of HRA properties at 31 March 2017 were £0.9m (*£0.9m as at 31 March 2016*).

HRA Note 3. Major Repairs Reserve

The Reserve consists of depreciation charged to the HRA transferred to the account via the Capital Adjustment Account, against which is charged any allowable statutory mitigation. The balance on the reserve is available to fund future capital expenditure within the HRA.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	4,534	6,873
Transfers In	5,600	5,042
Used To Fund Capital (Council Dwellings)	(4,641)	(7,381)
Balance at 31 March	5,493	4,534

HRA Note 4. Depreciation

Depreciation – a charge for depreciation has also been made covering dwellings. The useful economic life for Dwellings, other buildings and non-operational assets are in accordance with the componentisation policy and in line with those shown in note 21. The Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) is matched against the cost of depreciation. Land is not depreciated due to having an indefinite life.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Item 8 Debit		
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Council Dwellings	5,387	4,832
Non-Council Dwellings	213	210
<u>Impairment</u>		
Council Dwellings	1,145	23,032
Non-Council Dwellings	30	723
Total Depreciation and Impairment	6,775	28,797
Debt Management Expenses	48	54
Loan Interest Payable	3,467	3,549
Item 8 Credit		
Interest Receivable	(195)	(154)
<u>Revaluation Gains</u>		
Council Dwellings	(1,675)	(2,902)
Non-Council Dwellings	(104)	(152)
Appropriation From Capital Adjustment Account - Impairment	603	(20,701)
Appropriation From Capital Adjustment Account - REFCUS	134	(313)
Net Effect On HRA	9,053	8,178

HRA Note 5. Property, Plant and Equipment

The Fixed Assets for the Housing Revenue Account are as follows:

The assets are shown at existing use value to reflect the fact that they are used for social housing and are less than market value.

The Open Market Value (OMV) of Council dwellings at 1 April 2016 amounted to £776.0m. It should be noted that the difference between the vacant possession value, or the OMV above, and the balance sheet value of dwellings within the HRA show the economic cost to Government of providing Council housing at less than market value.

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Non- Operational Investment Properties	Total
	£000	£000	£000	Restated £000	£000
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2016	329,554	10,320	348	968	341,190
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2016	(4,852)	(226)	0	0	(5,078)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	324,702	10,094	348	968	336,112
Additions	7,040	112	0	0	7,152
Disposals	(1,932)	0	0	0	(1,932)
Transfers	348	0	(348)	0	0
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	17,980	0	0	0	17,980
Revaluations recognised in I&E	530	0	0	74	604
<u>Depreciation</u>					
For Current Year	(5,387)	(213)	0	0	(5,600)
On Disposals	57	0	0	0	57
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2017	353,520	10,432	0	1,042	364,994
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2017	(10,182)	(439)	0	0	(10,621)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	343,338	9,993	0	1,042	354,373

HRA Note 6. Capital Expenditure

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Purchase or enhancement of Council Dwellings	7,152	7,569
Expenditure on maintaining the value of Council Dwellings	0	5
REFCUS	126	240
Total HRA Capital Expenditure	7,278	7,814
<u>Financed by:-</u>		
Usable Capital Receipts	561	417
Total Financed By Capital Receipts	561	417
<u>Revenue contributions:-</u>		
General Reserves	1,835	0
Major Repairs Reserve	4,641	7,021
Third Party	133	376
Capital Grant	108	0
Total Revenue Contributions	6,717	7,397
Total Capital Expenditure	7,278	7,814

THE COLLECTION FUND

THE COLLECTION FUND

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000 Council Tax	2016/17 £000 NNDR	2016/17 £000 Total	Collection Fund Note
INCOME					
78,181	Income from Council Tax	83,000	0	83,000	1
45,291	Income Collectable from Business Ratepayers	0	48,123	48,123	2
123,472	Total Income	83,000	48,123	131,123	
EXPENDITURE					
Precepts and Demands					
63,663	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	67,557	0	67,557	
8,033	Essex Police Authority	8,472	0	8,472	
3,626	Essex Fire Authority	3,770	0	3,770	
Business Rates					
23,224	Payments to Government	0	23,852	23,852	
464	Payments to Fire Authority	0	477	477	
22,759	Payments to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	0	23,375	23,375	
239	Costs of Collection	0	238	238	
Doubtful Debt and Appeals Provisions					
251	Provisions	600	54	654	
753	Write-offs	242	554	796	
3,388	NNDR Provision for Appeals	0	1,508	1,508	
(2,128)	NNDR Settlement of Appeals	0	(749)	(749)	
124,272	Total Expenditure	80,641	49,309	129,950	
USE OF COLLECTION FUND BALANCES					
Council Tax					
1,001	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	1,000	0	1,000	
127	Council Tax - Essex Police Authority	127	0	127	
58	Council Tax - Essex Fire Authority	57	0	57	
Business Rates					
(626)	Government	0	87	87	
(638)	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	0	85	85	
(13)	Essex Fire Authority	0	2	2	
(709)	(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	1,175	(1,360)	(185)	
COLLECTION FUND BALANCE					
3,199	Balance brought forward at 1 April	6,230	(3,740)	2,490	
(709)	(Deficit)/Surplus for the year (as above)	1,175	(1,360)	(185)	
2,490	Balance Carried Forward at 31 March	7,405	(5,100)	2,305	
ALLOCATED TO:					
(1,870)	Government	0	(2,550)	(2,550)	
662	Police Authority	775	0	775	
258	Fire Authority	340	(51)	289	
3,440	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	6,290	(2,499)	3,791	
2,490	Balance Carried Forward at 31 March	7,405	(5,100)	2,305	

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

Collection Fund Note 1 Income from Council Tax

Council Tax derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into 8 valuation bands using estimated 1 April 1991 values for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire Authority and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax Base. The basic amount for a Band D property (£1,470.87 for the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council area and £1,425.60 for all other parts of the Borough) is multiplied by the proportion specified for the particular band to give an individual amount due.

The amount per band is as follows:

Valuation Band	Range of Values	Council Tax 2016/17 Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Area	Council Tax 2016/17 All other parts of the Borough	Ratio to Band D
	£	£	£	
A	Up to and including 40,000	980.58	950.40	6/9
B	40,001 - 52,000	1,144.01	1,108.80	7/9
C	52,001 - 68,000	1,307.44	1,267.20	8/9
D	68,001 - 88,000	1,470.87	1,425.60	1
E	88,001 - 120,000	1,797.73	1,742.40	11/9
F	120,001 - 160,000	2,124.59	2,059.20	13/9
G	160,001 - 320,000	2,451.45	2,376.00	15/9
H	More than 320,000	2,941.74	2,851.20	18/9
Band D		2015/16 £	2016/17 £	% increase
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council		1,159.56	1,205.82	3.99
Essex Police Authority		147.15	152.10	3.36
Essex Fire Authority		66.42	67.68	1.90
Other than Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Area		1,373.13	1,425.60	3.82
Leigh-on-Sea Town Council		42.84	45.27	5.67
Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Area		1,415.97	1,470.87	3.88

The number of chargeable dwellings for Council Tax in each Valuation Band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply) for the year was as follows:

	Number of Dwellings	Ratio	Equivalent Number of Dwellings
Valuation Band - A*	16.21	5/9	9.01
Valuation Band - A	9,613.46	6/9	6,408.97
Valuation Band - B	10,975.94	7/9	8,536.84
Valuation Band - C	18,920.98	8/9	16,818.65
Valuation Band - D	10,790.12	9/9	10,790.12
Valuation Band - E	6,026.28	11/9	7,365.45
Valuation Band - F	3,372.98	13/9	4,872.08
Valuation Band - G	1,461.22	15/9	2,435.37
Valuation Band - H	93.75	18/9	187.50
	61,270.94		57,423.99
Less:			
Adjustment for Collection of Rates and anticipated changes during the year for successful Appeals against Valuation Banding, New Properties, Demolitions, Disabled Persons Relief and Exempt Properties.			1,722.72
* Reductions For Band A Disabled.			
	Council Tax Base		55,701.27

Collection Fund Note 2 Non-Domestic Rates

Non Domestic Rates are organised on a national basis. The Government specified an amount of 49.7p in 2016/17 (*49.3p in 2015/16*) with a small business rate of 48.4p in 2016/17 (*48.0p in 2015/16*) and, subject to the effects of transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates that are calculated by multiplying their rateable value by that amount. The Council is responsible for collecting rates due from the ratepayers in its area but pays 50% of the proceeds over to the Government for onward redistribution in line with need. The Council retains 49% of the proceeds, with the final 1% being passed over to Essex Fire Authority.

After relief and provisions, the Non Domestic Rates income collectable was £46,516,666 for 2016/17 (*£43,748,880 for 2015/16*). The year-end rateable value for the Council's area was £120,438,606 at 31 March 2017 (*£121,261,295 at 31 March 2016*). The Valuation Office undertook a national revaluation of properties at 1 April 2010. A new revaluation takes effect from 1 April 2017.

Collection Fund Note 3 Provisions for Non-collection and NNDR Appeals

Within the Collection Fund there are the following provisions;

- A provision of £2,821,000 as at 31 March 2017 for bad and doubtful debts for Council Tax (*£2,220,000 as at 31 March 2016*)

- A provision of £721,000 as at 31 March 2017 for bad and doubtful debts for NNDR (£667,000 as at 31 March 2016). Under business rate retention arrangements, 49% of this provision is attributable to the Council.
- A provision of £4,592,000 as at 31 March 2017 for the potential impact of successful appeals by businesses against their rateable values (£3,833,000 as at 31 March 2016). Under business rate retention arrangements, 49% of this provision is attributable to the Council.

Collection Fund Note 4 **Collection Fund Balance**

The Community Charge Collection Fund was closed at 31 March 2007 and any income received after this date has been included in the Council Tax Collection Fund. The balance of £7,405,000 on the Council Tax Collection Fund is split between Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire Authority and this Council, in proportion to the value of the respective precept demands made by the three authorities on the Collection Fund and will be reflected in future year's Council Tax.

Under business rates retention, the deficit balance of £5,100,000 on the NNDR Collection Fund is split between Central Government, Essex Fire Authority and this Council, in the statutory proportions 50%, 1% and 49% respectively.

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Council Tax - Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	6,290	5,273
Council Tax - Essex Police Authority	775	662
Council Tax - Essex Fire Authority	340	295
NNDR - Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	(2,499)	(1,833)
NNDR - Government	(2,550)	(1,870)
NNDR - Essex Fire Authority	(51)	(37)
Total	2,305	2,490

Shown on Balance Sheet as:	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	3,791	3,440
Creditors Falling Due Within One Year	1,115	957
Debtors	(2,601)	(1,907)
Total	2,305	2,490

THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

Many local authorities now provide services through partner organisations which operate under the control of the Council.

The Code requires that, where a Council has material financial interests and a significant level of control over one or more entities, it should prepare Group Accounts.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has reviewed the relationships it has with its partner organisations to determine the scope of the Council Group.

WHOLLY OWNED COMPANIES

As at 31 March 2017, the Council had six wholly owned companies that it considers to fall within the legal definitions of group accounts. These are:

- South Essex Homes Limited
- Southend Care Limited (new for 2016/17)
- Southend Trading Corporation Limited
- Southend Independent Living Limited
- Southend Housing Limited (new for 2016/17), and
- Southend Business Services Limited

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council established an Arm's Length Management Organisation registered as South Essex Homes Limited on 16 May 2005 and transferred responsibility for the management of its housing stock to the company on 24 October 2005. South Essex Homes Limited has no share capital, is limited by guarantee and is controlled by the Council. The Council is committed to meet all accumulated deficits or losses.

Southend Care Limited is a company that has been established to deliver a range of adult social care services currently provided by the Council directly. The Council transferred a number of its provider services to the company as at 1 April 2017. The company did not trade prior to that date.

Southend Trading Corporation Limited is a company that was established to exploit the Council's telephony assets by selling surplus capacity to the public and private sectors. It has ceased trading as at 31 March 2015.

Southend Independent Living is primarily an internet trading company providing innovative and useful items that can assist in everyday life.

Southend Housing Limited and Southend Business Services Limited have yet to trade.

Of the six companies, only South Essex Homes Limited traded at a material level during the year, and therefore is the only company subject to consolidation.

JOINT VENTURES

The Council participates in two joint ventures, where it has a significant level of control. These are:

- PSP Asset LLP
- Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Limited

PSP Asset LLP is a vehicle through which the Council is able to redevelop surplus assets. It is jointly controlled with a partner company BVSF on a 50:50 basis. Although some assets have been formally transferred to the LLP, and it holds options on others, the Council's proportion of net assets is immaterial to the accounts and therefore has not been consolidated into the group accounts.

Southend-on-Sea Forum Management Limited has been established as a vehicle through which The Forum Southend-on-Sea is managed. The Forum Southend-on-Sea is a partnership between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the University of Essex and South Essex College. The Forum Southend-on-Sea is also the home of the Focal Point Gallery. The Council has equal voting rights as the other two partners. The Council's proportion of net assets at £1.055M is immaterial to the accounts and has not been consolidated into the group accounts.

TRUST FUNDS AND BEQUESTS

(See also Note 46 to the main accounts). The Council is responsible for administering a number of trust funds. These funds are not Council assets, so they are not included in the Council's own balance sheet. The Council prepares the accounts for these trusts which are subject to audit or examination in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

At the 31 March 2017, the Council was sole trustee of eight trust funds. Although the Council would require the agreement of the Charity Commission to alter the aims and objectives of the Charities, or indeed to dispose of any charity assets, the Council does have significant control over the day to day operations. Of these, only seven are considered financially significant to the Council's operations and therefore have been subject to consolidation.

GROUP ACCOUNTING POLICIES

South Essex Homes Limited and the Trust Fund accounting policies are consistent with the Group Accounting policies.

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2015/16 Restated			2016/17		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
(1,998)	(36)	(2,034)	(6,853)	(331)	(7,184)
109,099	(103,851)	5,248	107,903	(102,376)	5,527
20,296	(4,886)	15,410	19,918	(4,593)	15,325
37,179	(12,105)	25,074	39,275	(13,044)	26,231
11,485	(2,699)	8,786	10,611	(2,448)	8,163
140,088	(106,904)	33,184	123,026	(87,242)	35,784
74,156	(30,880)	43,276	73,252	(28,674)	44,578
661	(661)	0	748	(748)	0
390,966	(262,022)	128,944	367,880	(239,456)	128,424
20,976	(34,027)	(13,051)	21,305	(32,954)	(11,649)
23,027	0	23,027	0	0	0
44,003	(34,027)	9,976	21,305	(32,954)	(11,649)
434,969	(296,049)	138,920	389,185	(272,410)	116,775
		17,293			46,628
		12,408			12,474
		(135,848)			(141,704)
		32,773			34,173
		(1) Tax Expenses of Subsidiary			0
		32,772			34,173
		Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment Assets			(47,753)
		Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available for Sale (3) Financial Assets			2
		Actuarial gains / losses on Pension Assets / Liabilities			61,231
		(83,214)			13,480
		(50,442)			47,653

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Group Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2015	117,921	280,613	398,534
Movement in Reserves during 2015/16			
Surplus (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(32,772)	0	(32,772)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	83,214	83,214
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(32,772)	83,214	50,442
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	40,569	(40,569)	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to reserves	7,797	42,645	50,442
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0
Increase / Decrease in 2015/16	7,797	42,645	50,442
Balance at 31 March 2016	125,718	323,258	448,976
Movement in Reserves during 2016/17			
Surplus (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	(34,173)	0	(34,173)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	(13,480)	(13,480)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(34,173)	(13,480)	(47,653)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	49,902	(49,902)	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to reserves	15,729	(63,382)	(47,653)
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0
Increase / Decrease in 2016/17	15,729	(63,382)	(47,653)
Balance at 31 March 2017	141,447	259,876	401,323

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2016 £000	31 March 2017 £000
721,401 Property, Plant & Equipment	735,723
40,991 Heritage Assets	41,616
23,412 Investment Property	25,669
4,052 Intangible Assets	4,936
12,748 Long Term Investments	15,893
1,191 Long Term Debtors	2,367
803,795 Long Term Assets	826,204
40,532 Short term Investments	32,864
54 Assets Held for Sale	154
22 Inventories	166
30,706 Short Term Debtors	29,026
45,962 Cash and Cash Equivalents	44,324
117,276 Current Assets	106,534
(399) Cash and Cash Equivalents	0
(16,298) Short Term Borrowings	(6,356)
(36,020) Short Term Creditors	(36,267)
(7,579) Provisions	(6,761)
(60,296) Current Liabilities	(49,384)
(40) Long Term Creditors	(327)
(230,994) Long Term Borrowing	(235,620)
(167,620) Other Long Term Liabilities - Pensions	(233,587)
(13,145) Other Long Term Liabilities - Other	(12,497)
(411,799) Long Term Liabilities	(482,031)
448,976 Net Assets	401,323
125,718 Usable Reserves	141,447
323,258 Unusable Reserves	259,876
448,976 Total Reserves	401,323

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000
32,772 Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	34,173
Adjustments to Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for (64,791) non-cash Movements	(75,054)
Adjustments for items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the 5,081 Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	18,579
<hr/> (26,938) Net cash flows from Operating Activities	<hr/> (22,302)
40,991 Investing Activities	18,895
(4,847) Financing Activities	4,646
<hr/> 9,206 Net Increase or Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<hr/> 1,239
(54,769) Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Reporting Period	(45,563)
<hr/> (45,563) Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Reporting Period	<hr/> (44,324)

NOTES TO THE GROUP ACCOUNTS

The notes have only been produced where they are materially different to the notes supplied with the Council's primary statements, or where it adds significant contextual information.

Group Note 1 Details of Subsidiary Company

South Essex Homes Limited – Company registration number 05453601

Group Note 2 Financial Performance

2016/17	Youth Commemoration Ground Trust £000	Palace Theatre Charity £000	Prittlewell Priory Museum Trust £000	The Shrubbery Trust £000	Beecroft Art Gallery £000	Jones Memorial Trust £000	Priory Park Trust £000	Total Trusts £000	South Essex Homes £000	Total £000
Income	(215)	(155)	(134)	(40)	(220)	(49)	(152)	(965)	(10,063)	(11,028)
Expenditure	203	269	216	51	220	49	167	1,175	10,278	11,453
Property, Plant & Equipment	5,391	3,705	0	0	0	26	273	9,395	0	9,395
Heritage Assets	0	0	1,557	0	1,969	0	0	3,526	0	3,526
Investment Property	0	0	0	239	0	0	86	325	0	325
Other Current Assets	2,922	1	13	389	6	129	2	3,462	7,214	10,676
Other Liabilities	(6)	(1)	(5)	(3)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(24)	(5,020)	(5,044)
Pension Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(10,970)	(10,970)
Net Assets	8,307	3,705	1,565	625	1,969	154	359	16,684	(8,776)	7,908
Usable Reserves	2,916	0	8	386	0	128	0	3,438	2,194	5,632
Unusable Reserves	5,391	3,705	1,557	239	1,969	26	359	13,246	(10,970)	2,276

2015/16	Youth Commemoration Ground Trust £000	Palace Theatre Charity £000	Prittlewell Priory Museum Trust £000	The Shrubbery Trust £000	Beecroft Art Gallery £000	Jones Memorial Trust £000	Priory Park Trust £000	Total Trusts £000	South Essex Homes £000	Total £000
Income	(178)	(156)	(130)	(42)	(183)	(44)	(310)	(1,043)	(10,050)	(11,093)
Expenditure	167	270	219	11	308	44	325	1,344	10,433	11,777
Property, Plant & Equipment	5,502	3,819	0	0	0	28	288	9,637	0	9,637
Heritage Assets	0	0	1,639	0	1,969	0	0	3,608	0	3,608
Investment Property	0	0	0	239	0	0	86	325	0	325
Other Current Assets	2,793	0	9	397	1	127	1	3,328	5,194	8,522
Other Liabilities	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3,312)	(3,316)
Pension Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(6,967)	(6,967)
Net Assets	8,295	3,819	1,647	636	1,969	154	374	16,894	(5,085)	11,809
Usable Reserves	2,793	0	9	397	0	126	0	3,325	1,882	5,207
Unusable Reserves	5,502	3,819	1,638	239	1,969	28	374	13,569	(6,967)	6,602

On 31 March 2017 South Essex Homes had net liabilities valued at £8.776m. This comprises retained profits of £2.194m, set against a pension deficit of £10.970m. The Council provides a guarantee for the pension deficit, so that South Essex Homes can continue to be regarded as a going concern.

Group Note 3 Intercompany transactions

South Essex Homes

The Council paid fees of £5.9m to South Essex Homes Limited for the management of its housing stock, together with £0.4m in respect of other services.

The Council provides several services for its subsidiary for which South Essex Homes Limited paid £1.1m. These transactions have been removed from the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Trust Accounts

The Trusts generate little or no income in their own right. As such the Council provides either free services or a direct operating subsidy, by way of a grant. In total the Council supported the operation of the consolidated Trusts by £0.740M in 2016/17 (£0.865M in 2015/16). In addition the Council paid interest on cash balances held. These transactions have been removed from the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

All intra company debtor and creditor balances in the individual entities primary statements have been removed from the Group Balance Sheet.

Group Note 4 Property, Plant and Equipment

The Property, Plant and Equipment line of the Group Balance Sheet is materially different from the single entity's Balance Sheet on page 42. The categories of asset affected are as follows:

	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000
Movements in 2016/17		
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2016	328,273	14,751
Additions	11,219	3,542
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	23,945	0
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(9,176)	(1,871)
Disposals	(51,853)	(359)
Transfers	(152)	0
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2017	302,256	16,063
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2016	(25,576)	(7,823)
Depreciation	(6,442)	(1,001)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	4,970	0
Written out to the CIES	5,557	1,755
On Disposals	4,478	111
On Transfers	10	0
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2017	(17,003)	(6,958)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	302,697	6,928
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	285,253	9,105

	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000
Movements in 2015/16		
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2015	323,581	13,763
Additions	12,187	1,140
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	10,379	0
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(1,361)	(152)
Disposals	(18,531)	0
Transfers	2,018	0
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2016	328,273	14,751
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2015	(21,160)	(6,943)
Depreciation	(6,798)	(905)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	479	0
Written out to the CIES	1,138	25
On Disposals	793	0
On Transfers	(28)	0
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2016	(25,576)	(7,823)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2015	302,421	6,820
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	302,697	6,928

Group Note 5 Heritage Assets

The Heritage Assets line of the Group Balance Sheet is significantly different from the single entity's Balance Sheet on page 42. The categories of asset affected are as follows:

	Historic Seaside Assets £000	Heritage Land & Buildings £000	Antiques and Collectables £000	Museum Collections £000	Total Heritage Assets £000
Movements in 2016/17					
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2016	35,663	3,369	2,634	1,501	43,167
Additions	561	3	0	56	620
Revaluations via Revaluation Reserve	71	1,045	0	0	1,116
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(568)	2	0	0	(566)
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2017	35,727	4,419	2,634	1,557	44,337
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2016	(1,274)	(902)	0	0	(2,176)
Depreciation	(600)	(124)	0	0	(724)
Written out to Revaluation Reserve	22	84	0	0	106
Written out to the CIES	73	0	0	0	73
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2017	(1,779)	(942)	0	0	(2,721)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	34,389	2,467	2,634	1,501	40,991
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	33,948	3,477	2,634	1,557	41,616

	Historic Seaside Assets £000	Heritage Land & Buildings £000	Antiques and Collectables £000	Museum Collections £000	Total Heritage Assets £000
Movements in 2015/16					
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2015	35,663	3,369	2,634	1,501	43,167
Additions	501	0	0	0	501
Revaluations recognised in the CIES	(501)	0	0	0	(501)
Gross Book Value as at 31 March 2016	35,663	3,369	2,634	1,501	43,167
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1 April 2015	(670)	(799)	0	0	(1,469)
Depreciation	(604)	(103)	0	0	(707)
Accumulated Depreciation as at 31 March 2016	(1,274)	(902)	0	0	(2,176)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2015	34,993	2,570	2,634	1,501	41,698
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2016	34,389	2,467	2,634	1,501	40,991

Group Note 6 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Alongside the Council, South Essex Homes participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by Essex County Council. The nature of the scheme is set out in full in note 37 to the single entity accounts, and this note should be read in conjunction with that. The tables below set out where the Group Accounts are materially different from the single entity balance sheet.

Pension Assets and Liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

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

Actuarial Gains/(Losses)	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Present Value of the defined benefit obligation	688,952	556,595
Fair Value of Plan Assets	(455,365)	(388,975)
Net Liability arising from defined benefit obligation	233,587	167,620

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	556,595	568,843
Current Service Cost	13,229	15,506
Interest Cost	19,524	18,477
Contributions by Scheme Participants	3,564	3,786
Remeasurement Gains and Losses		
Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	(10,419)	0
Actuarial gains / losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	134,504	(29,595)
Other	270	(132)
Losses on Curtailments	725	539
Benefits Paid	(17,681)	(16,148)
Liabilities extinguished on Settlements	(11,359)	(4,681)
Closing Balance at 31 March	688,952	556,595

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets

Local Government Pension Scheme assets

The estimated asset allocation as at 31 March is as follows:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening Balance at 1 April	388,975	384,816
Interest Income	13,791	12,622
The return on plan assets, excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	61,201	(3,497)
Other Actuarial Gains	1,923	0
Employer Contributions	9,300	9,071
Contributions by Scheme Participants	3,564	3,786
Benefits Paid	(17,681)	(16,148)
Payment of Bulk Transfer Value	(5,544)	(1,487)
Administrative Expense	(164)	(188)
Closing Balance at 31 March	455,365	388,975

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The Group anticipates paying a £19.938M contribution to the scheme in 2017/18.

Group Note 7

Accounts

The financial accounts of South Essex Homes Limited can be obtained from the Chair of the Board, South Essex Homes Limited, Floor 3, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6ER.

The Financial accounts of the Trusts can be obtained from the Director of Finance and Resources, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, PO Box 6, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6ER.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (UNAUDITED)

Members' Allowances		Basic Allowances £	Special Allowances £	Travel & Subsistence £	Total £
Elected Councillors					
Assenheim	M	8,759.75	291.44	-	9,051.19
Arscott	B	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Aylen	S	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Ayling	B	8,759.75	5,944.51	-	14,704.26
Betson	M	932.58	1,165.73	-	2,098.31
Borton	M	8,759.75	55.37	-	8,815.12
Boyd	H	7,841.38	-	-	7,841.38
Bright	A	7,841.38	-	-	7,841.38
Buckley	S	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Burzotta	D	7,841.38	-	-	7,841.38
Butler	M	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Byford	T	8,759.75	8,578.46	-	17,338.21
Callaghan	T	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Courtenay	J	8,759.75	8,578.46	23.40	17,361.61
Cox	T	8,759.75	8,578.46	-	17,338.21
Crystall	A	932.58	932.58	-	1,865.16
Davidson	M	8,759.75	1,907.70	18.40	10,685.85
Davies	L	8,759.75	1,313.97	-	10,073.72
Endersby	C	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Evans	M	8,759.75	2,879.53	29.25	11,668.53
Flewitt	M	8,759.75	9,452.75	-	18,212.50
Folkard	N	8,759.75	476.88	19.80	9,256.43
Garston	D	8,759.75	2,082.65	-	10,842.40
Garston	J	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Gilbert	I	8,759.75	9,781.11	-	18,540.86
Habermel	S	8,759.75	1,351.17	-	10,110.92
Hadley	R	8,759.75	4,592.66	-	13,352.41
Holland	A	8,759.75	12,646.04	760.36	22,166.15
Jarvis	D	8,759.75	1,526.08	-	10,285.83
Jones	A	8,759.75	1,457.17	-	10,216.92
Kenyon	D	8,759.75	1,144.63	-	9,904.38
Lamb	J	8,759.75	25,185.78	497.90	34,443.43
Longley	G	932.58	-	-	932.58
Moring	A	8,759.75	10,082.25	38.30	18,880.30
Moyies	J	8,759.75	7,180.19	-	15,939.94
Mulroney	C	8,759.75	641.15	-	9,400.90
Mc Donald	H	7,841.38	-	-	7,841.38
Mc Glone	D	8,759.75	4,357.48	-	13,117.23
Mc Mahon	J	8,759.75	12,297.49	-	21,057.24
Nevin	C	8,759.75	1,144.63	-	9,904.38
Norman	D	8,759.75	1,457.17	-	10,216.92
Phillips	G	8,759.75	1,907.79	-	10,667.54
Robertson	I	932.58	-	-	932.58
Robinson	K	8,759.75	5,942.18	-	14,701.93
Salter	L	8,759.75	9,452.75	-	18,212.50
Stafford	M	8,759.75	221.50	-	8,981.25
Terry	M	8,759.75	1,457.17	-	10,216.92
Walker	C	8,759.75	1,907.79	-	10,667.54
Ward	N	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Ware-Lane	J	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Waterworth	F	8,759.75	7,630.71	-	16,390.46
Wexham	P	7,841.38	1,144.61	-	8,985.99
Willis	C	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Woodley	R	8,759.75	5,981.06	210.60	14,951.41
Van Looy	P	8,759.75	-	-	8,759.75
Velmurugan	M	932.58	326.40	-	1,258.98
Co-opted Members					
Clarke	A	-	240.71	-	240.71
Crabb	L	-	227.91	-	227.91
Everitt	R	-	180.68	-	180.68
Lusty	E	-	182.81	-	182.81
Morgan	J	-	1,093.47	-	1,093.47
Pandya	K	-	320.53	-	320.53
Rickett	M	-	262.59	-	262.59
Tetley	J	-	1,093.47	-	1,093.47
Total		446,818.30	186,657.62	1,598.01	635,073.93

ABBREVIATIONS and GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS

ALMO	Arm's-Length Management Organisation
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EIR	Effective Interest Rate
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard
HRA	Housing Revenue Account
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
MRA	Major Repairs Allowance
MRICS	Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
MRR	Major Repairs Reserve
NNDR	National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates)
NPV	Net Present Value
OMV	Open Market Value
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board
SEH	South Essex Homes Limited
SeRCOP	Service Reporting Code of Practice
SOLACE	Society of Local Authority Chief Executives
TPA	Teachers' Pension Agency
UEL	Useful Economic Life
VAT	Value Added Tax

GLOSSARY

Accounting Period	The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months, commencing on 1 April for local Council accounts. The end of the accounting period is the balance sheet date.
Accounting Statements	The Council's Core Financial Statements, Notes and Supplementary Financial Statements.
Accrual	A sum included in the final accounts attributable to the accounting period but for which payment has yet to be made or income received.
Accumulating Absences Account	Accumulating absences are those that are carried forward and can be used in future periods if the current period entitlement is not used in full. In local authorities, annual leave, flexitime and time in lieu would usually be accumulating. Accumulating absences are typically earned by employees as they provide services. The Government has issued regulations which mean that the Council is only required to fund holiday pay and similar benefits when they are used, rather than when employees earn the benefits. Amounts are transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account until the benefits are used.
Actuary	A suitably qualified independent consultant employed to advise the Council upon the financial position of the Pension Fund
Amortisation	Amortisation is the writing down of costs to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over a number of years.
Appropriations	Appropriations are the transfer of resources between, to and from the various reserves.
Area Based Grant	A general government grant that can be used for any purpose.
Asset	An item having value measurable in monetary terms. Assets can either be defined as non-current or current. A non-current asset has use and value for more than one year whereas a current asset (e.g. inventory or short-term debtors) can readily be converted into cash.
Audit of Accounts	An independent examination of the Council's accounts to ensure that the relevant legal obligations, accounting standards and codes of practice have been followed.
Balance Sheet	A financial statement that summarises the Council's assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.
Billing Authority	A local authority such as Southend-on-Sea Borough Council charged by statute with responsibility for the collection of and accounting for Council Tax and non-domestic rates (NNDR; business rates).
Budget	A budget is a financial statement that expresses a Council's service delivery plans and capital programmes in monetary terms, covering the financial year.
Budget Requirement	The estimated revenue expenditure on general fund services that needs to be financed from the Council tax after deducting income from fees and charges, certain specific grants and any funding from reserves. It is referred to by the Minister for Local Government when deciding the criteria for capping Council revenue expenditure.
Capital Charges	A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services, such as depreciation.

Capital Expenditure	(or capital spending) – Section 40 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 defines 'expenditure for capital purposes'. This includes spending on the acquisition of assets either directly by the Council or indirectly in the form of grants to other persons or bodies. Expenditure that does not fall within this definition must be charged to a revenue account.
Capital Financing	The raising of money to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions and revenue reserves.
Capital Programme	The capital schemes the Council intends to carry out over a specified time period.
Capital Receipt	The proceeds from the disposal of land and other assets, so long as the amount is £10,000 or more. Proportions of capital receipts can be used to finance new capital expenditure, within rules set down by the government. They cannot be used for revenue purposes without Secretary of State approval.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The principal accountancy body dealing with local government finance.
Collection Fund	A separate fund maintained by a billing authority that records the expenditure and income relating to Council Tax and non-domestic rates, along with payments to precepting authorities, the national pool of non-domestic rates and its own general fund.
Community Assets	Assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions in their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historical buildings.
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	An account which summarises resources generated and consumed in the provision of services.
Consistency	The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next is the same.
Contingent Liability	A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Council's control. Alternatively, a present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required or the amount of that obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.
Council Tax	The main source of local taxation to local authorities. Council Tax is levied on households within its area by the billing Council and the proceeds are paid into its Collection Fund for distribution to precepting authorities and for use by its own General Fund.
Council Tax Benefit	Assistance provided by billing authorities to adults on low incomes to help them pay their Council Tax bill. The cost to authorities of Council Tax benefit is largely met by government grant.
Creditor	Amounts owed by the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been made by the end of that accounting period.
Debtor	Amounts due to the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been received by the end of that accounting period.

Depreciation	The measure of the cost of the benefits of a non-current asset which have been consumed during the period. Consumption includes the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of the asset whether arising from use, passage of time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	Grant funding system for schools through specific grant.
Events after the Balance Sheet Date	Events after the balance sheet date are those events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Also referred to as Post Balance Sheet Events.
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 so that the financial statements give a true and fair view.
External Audit	The independent examination of the activities and accounts of local authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
Finance Lease	A lease which transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee, which is treated in the Government's capital control system as a credit arrangement as if it were similar to borrowing. The value of the asset is held on the Council's Balance Sheet
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.
Financial Regulations	A written code of procedures approved by the Council, intended to provide a framework for proper financial management. Financial regulations usually set out rules on accounting, audit, administrative procedures and budgeting systems.
General Fund	The main revenue fund of a billing Council. Day-to-day spending on services is met from the fund. Spending on the provision of Council Dwellings, however, must be charged to a separate Housing Revenue Account.
Gross Expenditure	The total cost of providing the Council's services before taking into account income from government grants and fees and charges for services.
Housing Benefits	A system of financial assistance to individuals towards certain housing costs administered by local authorities and subsidised by central Government.
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	A separate, statutory account inside the General Fund which includes the expenditure and income arising from the provision of housing accommodation by the Council acting as landlord.
Infrastructure Assets	Non-current assets belonging to the Council which do not necessarily have a resale value (e.g. highways).
Internal Audit	An independent appraisal function established by the management of an organisation for the review of the internal control system as a service to the organisation. It objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of internal control as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS)	International Financial Reporting Standards cover particular aspects of accounting practice, and set out the correct accounting treatment, for example, of depreciation. Compliance with these standards is mandatory and any departure from them must be disclosed and explained. The standards originated in the commercial sector and some are not directly relevant to local authority accounts.
Inventory	These comprise one or more of the following categories: goods or other assets purchased for resale; consumable stores; raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale; products and services in intermediate stages of completion; long term contract balances and finished goods.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	This is the amount to be set aside for the repayment of debt. Each local Council has a general duty to make an MRP charge to its revenue account each year, which it considers to be prudent.
National Non-Domestic Rate (NDR)	A standard rate in the pound set by the Government payable on the assessed rateable value of properties used for business purposes. Also known as Non-Domestic or Business rates.
Net Expenditure	Gross expenditure less specific service income.
Non-Operational Assets	Fixed assets held by the Council but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples are investment properties or assets surplus to requirements, pending sale or redevelopment.
Operating Lease	A type of lease, usually of computer equipment, office equipment, furniture, etc which is similar to renting and therefore represents a revenue cost. Ownership of the asset remains with the lessor.
Operational Assets	Non-current assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Council in the direct delivery of those services for which it has a statutory or discretionary responsibility.
Outturn	Actual income and expenditure in a financial year.
Pension Fund	An employees' pension fund maintained by a Council, or group of authorities, in order to make pension payments on retirement of participants. It is financed from contributions from the employing Council, the employee and investment income.
Precept	The levy made by Precepting authorities on billing authorities, e.g. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. The major precepting authorities are Essex Police Authority and Essex Fire Authority. The Leigh-on-Sea Town Council also raise money by means of a precept on the billing authority.
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	A central government agency which provides long- and medium-term loans to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which the Government itself can borrow. Local authorities are able to borrow a proportion of their requirements to finance capital spending from this source, subject to them being able to afford the interest and principle repayments.
Provision	An amount set aside for liabilities or losses that are certain to arise but owing to their inherent nature cannot be quantified with absolute certainty.
Prudential Code	The Prudential Code, introduced in April 2004, sets out the arrangements for capital finance in local authorities. It constitutes 'proper accounting practice' and is recognised as such by statute.
Rateable Value	The annual assumed rental value of a property that is used for business purposes.

Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)	Capital expenditure which may be properly treated as such, but which does not result in, or remain matched with, tangible fixed assets. An example of REFCUS would be capital expenditure on improvement grants.
Reserves	The accumulation of surpluses and deficits over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council.
Revenue Support Grant	A grant paid by the Government to Councils, contributing towards the costs of their services, as opposed to specific grants, which may only be used for a specific purpose.
Specific Grants	The term used to describe all government grants – including supplementary and special grants – to local authorities that are to be used for a particular purpose, as opposed to non service specific grants such as revenue support grant and area based grant.
SeRCOP	Service Reporting Code of Practice. The system of local authority accounting and reporting the provision of services. SeRCOP lays down the required content and presentation of costs of service activities.
Subjective Analysis	This is an analysis of income or expenditure according to type. Such expenditure headings are wages and salaries, capital charges, building maintenance, consumable materials. On the income side, the examples are government grant, fees and charges.
Supplementary Financial Statements	Additional financial statements comprising the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund. Together with the Core Financial Statements comprise the Council's Accounting Statements.
Temporary Investment	Money invested for a period of less than one year.
Trust Funds	Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as prizes charities and specific projects usually as a result of individual legacies and donations.
Value for Money (VFM)	A term that describes a service or product that demonstrates a good balance between its cost, quality and usefulness to the customer. A VFM audit takes into account the economy, efficiency and effectiveness (known as the 'three Es') of a Council service, function or activity.

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