



Agenda

Notice of a public meeting of **Audit Committee (Informal)**

To: Councillors Cliff Lunn (Chair), Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson (Vice-Chair), Robert Baker, Jim Clark, David Hugill, Don MacKay, Mr Nick Grubb, Mr David Marsh and Mr David Portlock.

Date: Monday, 28th June, 2021

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Remote meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Under his delegated decision making powers in the Officers' Delegation Scheme in the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive Officer has power, in cases of emergency, to take any decision which could be taken by the Council, the Executive or a committee. Following on from the expiry of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which allowed for committee meetings to be held remotely, the County Council resolved at its meeting on 5 May 2021 that, for the present time, in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic circumstances, remote live-broadcast committee meetings should continue (as informal meetings of the Committee Members), with any formal decisions required being taken by the Chief Executive Officer under his emergency decision making powers and after consultation with other Officers and Members as appropriate and after taking into account any views of the relevant Committee Members. This approach will be reviewed by full Council at its July meeting.

The meeting will be available to view once the meeting commences, via the following link - www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings Recordings of previous live broadcast meetings are also available there.

Business

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 22nd March 2021** (Pages 3 - 8)
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Public Questions or Statements**
Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice (including the text of the question/statement) to Ruth Gladstone of Democratic Services (contact details at the foot of page 1) by midday on Wednesday 24th June 2021. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of

the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

- At this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes).
- When the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

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|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 5. | Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee | (Pages 9 - 10) |
| | Joint report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) | |
| 6. | Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 | (Pages 11 - 210) |
| | Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources | |
| 7. | Value for Money | (Pages 211 - 218) |
| | Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources | |
| 8. | Corporate Governance | (Pages 219 - 232) |
| | Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources | |
| 9. | Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit | (Pages 233 - 250) |
| 10. | Counter Fraud Annual Report | (Pages 251 - 290) |
| | Report of the Head of Internal Audit | |
| 11. | 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan | (Pages 291 - 298) |
| | Report of the Head of Internal Audit | |
| 12.1 | Central Services Directorate - Internal Audit Work | (Pages 299 - 304) |
| | Report of the Head of Internal Audit | |
| 12.2 | Central Services Directorate - Internal Control Matters | (Pages 305 - 324) |
| | Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources | |
| 13. | Programme of Work 2020/21 | (Pages 325 - 326) |
| | Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources | |
| 14. | Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances | |

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Friday, 18 June 2021

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North Yorkshire County Council

Audit Committee

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021 commencing at 1.30 pm.

County Councillor Cliff Lunn in the Chair plus County Councillors Karl Arthur, Margaret Atkinson, Robert Baker, Jim Clark, David Goode (Substitute), David Hugill and Don MacKay, and Mr Nick Grubb, Mr David Marsh and Mr David Portlock.

In attendance: County Councillor Carl Les.

Officers present: Gary Fielding, Karen Iveson, Max Thomas, John Raine, Fiona Sowerby and Ruth Gladstone.

Other Attendees: Nicola Wright, Nick Rayner and Rachel Reynolds (Deloitte).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

In opening the meeting, the Chairman referred to the untimely death, on 11 March 2021, of County Councillor Geoff Webber. The Chairman paid tribute to the valuable contribution that County Councillor Geoff Webber had made to the work to this Committee and expressed, on behalf of Members of the Committee, condolences to the family.

187 Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2020

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

188 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

189 Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

190 Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee

Considered –

The joint report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which advised of progress made on issues which the Committee had raised at previous meetings and Treasury Management matters.

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources) introduced the report.

In respect of the governance of external companies, Gary Fielding referred to the training provided earlier that day for Committee Members and advised that further training would be arranged.

In respect of Treasury Management, Gary Fielding advised that CIPFA was revising Codes of Practice and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance. This followed Government concern around councils who had borrowed in order to fund commercial investments. Gary Fielding highlighted that North Yorkshire County Council had never borrowed to fund commercial investments.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

191 External Audit Plan 2020/21 for North Yorkshire County Council

Considered –

Deloitte's Audit Plan for the County Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 which set out respective responsibilities in relation to the financial statements audit and included Deloitte's consideration of key audit judgements and planned scope.

From Deloitte, Nicola Wright (Audit Partner) and Nick Rayner (Audit Manager) introduced the report. They highlighted:- the timetable for the 2020/21 audit; the materiality thresholds; Deloitte's thoughts about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the audit, the annual report and financial statements; the significant risks identified in the plan; new auditing standards; and the fee.

Nicola Wright and Gary Fielding responded to Members' questions.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

192 External Audit Plan 2020/21 for North Yorkshire Pension Fund

Considered –

Deloitte's Audit Plan for the North Yorkshire Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 which set out respective responsibilities in relation to the financial statements audit and included Deloitte's consideration of key audit judgements and planned scope.

From Deloitte, Nicola Wright (Audit Partner) and Rachel Reynolds (Audit Manager) introduced the report. They highlighted:- the timetable for the 2020/21 audit; the materiality threshold; and the significant risks identified in the plan.

Nicola Wright and Rachel Reynolds responded to Members' questions. In response to questions from David Portlock, Nicola Wright confirmed that any type 1 or type 2 controls report produced on Border to Coast Pension Partnership (BCPP) would not be produced by Deloitte and therefore no conflict of interest would arise. Nicola Wright also clarified that Deloitte would not be looking at, or relying on, the work of the Internal Audit Service at BCPP.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

193 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan Consultation

Considered –

The report of the Head of Internal Audit seeking the Committee's views on priorities for

internal audit in 2021/22 and highlighting that this was an opportunity for Members to identify any specific areas which should be considered as priority for audit review.

Max Thomas (Head of Internal Audit) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

Resolved –

That the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 1, be noted.

194 Progress on 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan

Considered –

The report of the Head of Internal Audit which advised of progress made to date in delivering the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan and any developments likely to impact on the Plan throughout the remainder of the financial year.

Max Thomas (Head of Internal Audit) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions. In response to a question from County Councillor David Goode, Max Thomas advised that the trend for responding to Freedom of Information requests within 20 days was upwards and that the aim was to get back up to 90% by 1 April 2021.

Resolved –

That the progress made in delivering the 2020/21 Internal Audit programme of work be noted.

195 Audit Committee Terms of Reference and Review of Effectiveness

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources inviting the Committee to consider whether any changes were required to its Terms of Reference and the next steps to be taken in respect of the review of its effectiveness.

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources) and Max Thomas (Head of Internal Audit) introduced the report. Regarding the Committee's Terms of Reference, Max Thomas advised that officers did not feel that any further changes needed to be made at this time. With regard to the review of the Committee's effectiveness, Max Thomas highlighted the provisional findings which had arisen from the review of the Committee's effectiveness.

Gary Fielding and Max Thomas responded to Members' questions. David Marsh commented that, as an Independent Member of the Committee, he was not seeking voting rights. David Portlock (Independent Member) advised that he was relaxed about having voting rights and questioned whether voting rights should be held by Members who had not been democratically elected.

Resolved –

- (a) That it be noted that the Committee considers that no change is required to its Terms of Reference at this time.
- (b) That the provisional findings from the review of the Committee's effectiveness, as listed below, be agreed and the officers take these away for implementation/further recommendation:-

- identifying and addressing gaps in the knowledge and skills of Committee Members;
- adopting a more structured approach to training for Committee Members;
- doing more to explain the role and purpose of the Committee to the rest of the Council, and the relationship between the Committee and the Council's Executive, Scrutiny functions and Standards Board;
- helping Members of the Committee to engage more effectively with the discussion on relevant matters and to provide challenge where necessary (ie doing more to help Members understand how the Council operates and what they are being asked to consider);
- ensuring the Committee continues to fulfil its purpose which requires Members to seek assurance but keep discussions sufficiently high level (ie to focus on overseeing and monitoring the Council's governance, risk management and control arrangements);
- reviewing the voting rights of the independent co-opted Members (subject to any legal restrictions).

196 Accounting Policies

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources concerning the County Council's Accounting Policies for 2020/21, potential changes in the pipeline which were likely to impact on the Accounting Policies in future years, and the 2021 timetable for the Statement of Final Accounts.

John Raine (Head of Technical Finance) introduced the report, advising that there were no significant impacts on the County Council's Accounting Policies arising from recent changes to the Codes of Practice. He also highlighted the timetable for the 2020/21 SOFA and highlighted that, whilst the deadlines had been moved back in response to Covid-19 (with the draft SOFA now being required by 1 August, and the final SOFA required by 30 September), the County Council's intention was to continue to work to submitting the Council's draft SOFA to the Audit Committee's meeting on 28 June 2021 and the final SOFA to the Committee's meeting on 20 September 2021.

Resolved –

- (a) That it be noted that there are no changes to the Accounting Policies for 2020/21.
- (b) That the changes to the 2021 timetable for the Statement of Accounts be noted.
- (c) That the potential changes to the SOFA and Accounting Policies which are in the pipeline for future years, as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report, be noted.

197 Treasury Management Strategy

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources which invited the Committee to review the County Council's 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy.

John Raine (Head of Technical Finance) introduced the report, highlighting the submission of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy to the County Council on 17 February 2021 and to the Executive's meeting on 26 January 2021. The Strategy had been shared informally with Audit Committee Members prior to the Executive's meeting.

Gary Fielding and John Raine responded to Members' questions which included the

following:-

- In response to a question from Nick Grubb, John Raine confirmed that the County Council did not invest in emerging banks. He explained that the County Council invested only in banks that were shown, through its External Advisor's creditworthiness assessment, to have a high level of creditworthiness, which emerging banks would not meet.
- Members might probably benefit from increased awareness training in Treasury Management and the key issues for the Treasury Management Strategy framework. A Member highlighted that the topic of Treasury Management was vast and complex and required the County Council to engage specialist Advisors.

Resolved –

That the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be noted.

198 Corporate Governance

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources which invited the Committee to undertake an annual review of the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Fiona Sowerby (Head of Insurance and Risk Management) introduced the report, highlighting the draft updated Local Code of Corporate Governance that was set out at Appendix A to the report. She highlighted that only minor amendments had been made as part of this annual review, and that the principal minor change was to the eleventh bullet point at paragraph 4.19 to add that the Counter Fraud Strategy was now aligned with the national Fighting Fraud and Corruption Local Strategy.

Fiona Sowerby verbally submitted an additional recommendation for the Committee's consideration, namely, to include a new 4.14 stating that the County Council is committed to aspire to being carbon neutral by 2030 and to developing a Carbon Reduction Plan in 2021/22.

Fiona Sowerby responded to Members' questions.

Resolved –

That, subject to the addition of a new 4.14 stating that the County Council is committed to aspire to being carbon neutral by 2030 and to developing a Carbon Reduction Plan in 2021/22, the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be recommended for collective formal approval by the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the Executive Member for Central Services, the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources, and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).

199 Information Governance Annual Report

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources which provided an update on Information Governance arrangements, details of related performance and compliance with relevant legislation.

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources) introduced the report assisted by Max Thomas (Head of Internal Audit) and Fiona Sowerby (Head of Insurance and Risk

Management). Key issues highlighted by officers included the following:- Information Governance was a constant challenge and was a top corporate risk; much legislation had been published; significant progress had been made during the year; a good process was in place to respond to any data breaches; and cyber security was a major concern and exercises were being planned to simulate how the County Council would deal with a cyber security attack and ensure continuity planning.

Gary Fielding advised that the Covid-19 pandemic had increased the need for data sharing and timely access to information to protect individuals. He paid tribute to Veritau and the Data Governance Team within T&C for the way they had quickly got data sharing agreements in place with partners to ensure the County Council was doing the right things to protect individuals whilst complying with legislation.

Resolved –

That the progress made in developing the County Council's Information Governance arrangements during the year be noted.

200 Programme of Work

Considered –

The Committee's programme of work which identified items of business scheduled for consideration at each of the Committee's forthcoming meetings.

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources) highlighted that no training had been identified yet for June, September and October 2021. He suggested, subject to consultation with the Chairman, that:-

- training regarding Treasury Management, possibly involving Link (the County Council's Treasury Management Advisors) and John Raine (Head of Technical Finance), lasting at least an hour, could be held in either June or September; and
- training about the governance of the external companies could be held as a follow-up session and be combined with a more detailed session about commercial investments.

The Chairman expressed support for holding Members' training sessions by Microsoft Teams, even when face-to-face formal meetings of the Committee recommenced. Gary Fielding added that there was no requirement for training sessions to be held on the same day as formal meetings of the Committee.

Max Thomas (Head of Internal Audit) highlighted that the Annual Internal Audit Plan and the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit should be coming to the June meeting of the Committee rather than to the September meeting as currently stated in the written programme of work.

Resolved –

That the Committee's Programme of Work be agreed, subject to consultation with the Chairman regarding the suggestions put forward regarding training for June, September and October 2021, and the rescheduling of both the Annual Internal Audit Plan and the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit to the Committee's meeting to be held on 28 June 2021.

The meeting concluded at 3.00 pm.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 June 2021

PROGRESS ON ISSUES RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

Joint Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

1.0	PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
1.1	To advise Members of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) progress on issues which the Committee has raised at previous meetings (ii) other matters that have arisen since the last meeting and that relate to the work of the Committee

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 This report is submitted to each meeting listing the Committee’s previous Resolutions and / or when it requested further information be submitted to future meetings. The table below represents the list of issues which were identified at previous Audit Committee meetings and which have not yet been resolved. The table also indicates where the issues are regarded as completed and will therefore not be carried forward to this agenda item at the next Audit Committee meeting.

Date	Minute number and subject	Audit Committee Resolution	Comment	Complete?
20.12.19	159 – Audit Committee Work Programme	That, in respect of training sessions held immediately prior to the Committee’s meetings:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Governance of the Highways Teckal be scheduled for 26 October 2020 ii. Pensions Governance be scheduled for 27 March 2020 iii. A session about Beyond 2020 including Property Rationalisation be organised for the External Members only 	<p>Governance of external companies is also to be added.</p> <p>As agreed at the last meeting training sessions will recommence in 2021.</p>	X
14.12.20	185 – CIPFA Financial Management Code	That a further report on progress be brought back to Audit Committee ahead of the deadline for full compliance	To be considered alongside SoFA updates as appropriate	X

Date	Minute number and subject	Audit Committee Resolution	Comment	Complete?
22.03.21	200 – Programme of Work	Training regarding Treasury Management, possibly involving Link and John Raine, lasting at least an hour, could be held in either June or September	This training has been arranged for 30 June 2021	x
22.03.21	200 – Programme of Work	Training about the governance of the external companies could be held as a follow- up session and be combined with a more detailed session about commercial investments.		x

3.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The County Council's Treasury Advisors, Link, have revised their Interest Rate forecasts in May 2021 and are now forecasting an increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in September 2023. Previous estimates had forecasted the first increase to be in 2025 at the earliest. This decision is based on the view that the current 0.10% Bank Rate is an emergency response to a dire economic situation and that an increase to 0.25% may be needed to allow the MPC more flexibility in using Bank Rate cuts as a monetary policy tool in future.
- 3.2 The CIPFA Code requires Audit Committee members with responsibility for scrutiny for treasury management receive regular and appropriate training. As a result, a Treasury Management training session has been scheduled for 30 June. Training will be focussed on Members scrutiny role and will be provided by Treasury Management Consultants, Link Asset Services – Treasury Solutions.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Committee considers whether any further follow-up action is required on any of the matters referred to in this report.

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

28 June 2021

Background Documents: Report to, and Minutes of, Audit Committee meetings held on 22 March 2021

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 June 2021

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a draft Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for 2020/21 for the County Council in advance of:
- (a) these accounts being audited by Deloitte between July and September 2021 and
 - (b) being re-submitted to this Committee for formal approval on 20 September 2021 after the external audit has been completed.
- 1.2 To approve a Corporate Governance Working Group and its membership in order to provide further overview of the SOFA for 2020/21 and supporting documentation.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations set out the requirements and timelines for Member approval of Local Authority Accounts and one of the Terms of Reference for this Committee is to approve the Annual SOFA.
- 2.2 In response to one of the recommendations of the Redmond review on the effectiveness of external audit and transparency of financial reporting in local authorities, the Accounts and Audit Regulations have now been updated with effect from 31 March 2021. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2021 now require the SOFA to be certified by the Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer by 31 July (previously 31 May) and approved by Members (the Audit Committee) in advance of the certification and publication of the Accounts by 30 September (previously 31 July).
- 2.3 Following the changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the timetable for the production of the accounts was reviewed in conjunction with discussions with External Audit. However, in order to maintain an effective use of resources the original internal timetable was retained despite the extension to the reporting timescales. The draft accounts were published on 14 June ahead of the 31 July deadline.
- 2.4 Deloitte will undertake the audit of the accounts between July and September 2021.
- 2.5 At this stage, there is no requirement for Member approval of a draft SOFA in advance of consideration and review by External Audit. Therefore, the SOFA is being submitted

to the Audit Committee in June for information and review/comment only, not formal approval.

2.6 The draft SOFA includes the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS remains draft pending further work including output as a result of the Corporate Governance Working Group.

2.7 The final SOFA, after External Audit, will be re-submitted to this Committee on 20 September 2021 for formal approval in advance of the 30 September 2021 deadline for publication of the audited final accounts.

3.0 **STATEMENT OF FINAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

3.1 The County Council's draft SOFA for 2020/21 is attached as a separate booklet circulated with the agenda after being certified by the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources on 14 June 2021.

3.2 The format and content of the SOFA must comply with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21. This Code prescribes the accounting treatment and disclosures for all transactions and balance sheet items of a Local Authority's Accounts and constitutes 'a proper accounting practice' under the terms of the Local Government Act 2003.

3.3 A summary sheet giving a brief explanation of the various statements included in the SOFA is attached as **Appendix A**.

3.4 Local authorities have seen most substantial financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21. Consequently, Covid-19 has impacted on several areas within the 2020/21 SOFA. The Narrative Statement within the SOFA highlights the impacts and key issues arising as a result. In addition a specific Disclosure Note (Note 40) on the Covid-19 Pandemic has also been added to the SOFA to highlight the impact on the accounts.

4.0 **CHANGES REFLECTED IN THE 2020/21 SOFA**

4.1 There were no key changes to the Code of Practice that impact on the County Councils 2020/21 Accounting Policies – this was reported to the Audit Committee in March 2021.

5.0 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR 2020/21**

5.1 Revenue Budget and Capital outturn reports for 2020/21 were considered by the Executive on 25 May 2021. These reports and the spending details reported form only part of the information reflected in the full SOFA, which also includes a Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Group Accounts, Pension Fund Accounts etc.

- 5.2 The Council's in-year accounting and budgeting arrangements are designed to fit its organisational structure and are different to the statutory year-end requirements. Therefore, the management accounts have had to be reworked to fit these formal requirements.
- 5.3 The main differences between the County Council's management accounts and the published statutory accounts are set out at **Appendix B**.
- 5.4 Although the presentation of the figures in the SOFA (Income and Expenditure Account) is very different, the resulting changes do not affect the overall net expenditure to be funded from Central Government Grant, Business Rates and Council Tax or the levels of working balances.

6.0 CERTIFICATION AND AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

- 6.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations do not require formal Member approval of the Draft SOFA. However, Member consideration, approval and certification is required for the Final SOFA.
- 6.2 The amended Accounts and Audit Regulations for 2020/21 require the responsible financial officer to sign and date the Draft SOFA by 31 July 2021 (completed 14 June) and certify that it presents 'a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the end of the year and its income and expenditure for that year'.
- 6.3 The Chief Executive has also co-signed the draft SOFA recognising the unique position of the Chief Executive.
- 6.4 The responsible Financial Officer (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources) must also re-certify the Final version of the SOFA before it is approved by the Audit Committee.
- 6.5 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that the External Auditor formally signs off the County Council's 2020/21 accounts by 30 September 2021. Deloitte will undertake the audit of the accounts between July and September.
- 6.6 On completion of the external audit of the 2020/21 accounts a report from the Auditor will be submitted to the meeting of this Committee scheduled for 20 September 2021. Following consideration of the Auditor's report, the Committee will be asked to consider and approve the SOFA with the Chairman being asked to sign and date the Accounts prior to it being formally signed off by the External Auditor.
- 6.7 The Auditors' conclusion from their audit will also be reported through the Annual Audit Letter. This Letter will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee and the Executive.
- 6.8 Any significant changes reflected in the Final SOFA compared with the Draft version attached, as a result of the audit, will be reported to Members.

6.9 In addition it is again proposed that a working group be created to support the Audit Committee in reviewing the SOFA and associated governance documents. It would be intended that a report from the working group is considered in advance of the SOFA at the September meeting of the Committee. The Committee are asked to identify who they would wish to be involved in this working group.

7.0 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

7.1 The draft SOFA includes the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The Statement has been considered by an independent Member of this Committee, minor changes have been made and are reflected in the present version. As expected reference has been made on the impact of the Coronavirus in 2020/21. Following further consideration by the appointed Corporate Governance Working Group and the full Committee at this meeting, a final version of the AGS will be submitted on 20 September 2021 when this Committee is asked to formally approve the final SOFA.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That Members consider the draft Statement of Final Accounts for 2020/21 in advance of the accounts being audited and resubmitted to the Audit Committee on 20 September 2021 for formal approval.
- 8.2 That Members approve creation and identify members of a working group as set out in **paragraph 6.9**.

GARY FIELDING

Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

County Hall
Northallerton

18 June 2021

STATEMENT OF FINAL ACCOUNTS

Brief Explanation of Contents

(a) Narrative Statement

The purpose of this statement is to act as a guide to the most significant matters impacting on the County Council's finances. It gives provides commentary on the County Councils financial performance and value for money in its use of resources.

(b) Independent Auditor's Report

The report explains the auditors' responsibilities in relation to the Statement of Accounts. It also expresses an opinion on the Accounts and shows how this opinion was reached. The report also gives a value for money opinion in terms of the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness, (currently not included in draft SOFA).

(c) Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This statement outlines the County Council's responsibilities for the Accounts under local government legislation and any other requirements. It also details the legal and professional responsibility for the Accounts of the Corporate Director – Finance and Central Services (i.e. Section 151 officer).

(d) Statement of Accounting Policies

This statement explains the principles, bases, conventions and rules applied by the County Council in preparing the Statement of Accounts.

(e) Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This statement demonstrates how the funding available to the County Council for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the County Council

(f) Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This shows the Net Cost of the Services provided by the County Council and how this has been financed from general government grants and local tax payers. This Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with specified accounting principles, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.

(g) Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement shows the movement in the different reserves held by the County Council over the year. The Statement is analysed into usable reserves, those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation, and other unusable reserves.

(h) Balance Sheet

This is a statement of the overall financial position of the County Council at the end of the year and shows the Balances and Reserves at the County Council's disposal, its long term indebtedness and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operations.

(i) Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the County Council during the financial year. The Statement shows how the County Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

(j) Notes to the Core Financial Statements

These notes provide further details and explanation of the figures included in the Core Financial Statements.

(k) Group Accounts

The County Council conducts some of its activities through partnerships and separate undertakings. Some of these are not directly reflected in the statements (e) – (i) above due to legal and regulatory reasons. These Group Accounts are required to present a full picture of the County Council's economic activities and financial position in order to aid the primary financial statements.

(l) North Yorkshire Pension Fund Accounts

The Accounts show the income and expenditure of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund together with the financial position of the Fund on 31 March.

(m) Annual Governance Statement

This statement sets out the framework within which financial control and corporate governance is managed and reviewed by the County Council and the main components of the system. It also reports on significant identified weaknesses and the actions undertaken to rectify these.

APPENDIX B

MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AND THE PUBLISHED STATUTORY ACCOUNTS

1.0 CAPITAL CHARGES

In the SOFA, the County Council is required to adopt CIPFA's Capital Accounting Regulations which means that each service has to reflect a depreciation charge for the assets they use (land, building, plant and machinery etc.) Adjustments are also made for the following other types of capital charge:

- impairment of non-current (fixed) assets
- revaluation losses from the revaluation of property
- changes in the market value of Investment Properties
- amortisation of intangible assets
- revenue expenditure from capital under statute (capital expenditure that does not result in a County Council asset)

These capital charges replace the minimum revenue provision (MRP) for debt repayment which is included in the management accounts, and charged against the County Council's budget requirement. The MRP is therefore not charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Similarly, capital expenditure which is funded directly by the General Fund (funded by Council Tax, General Revenue Grant and Business Rates) is not charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Capital charges are off-set by capital grants and contributions (which are used to fund expenditure on non-current (fixed assets)). These contributions are credited in full to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year where the terms and conditions of these contributions have been satisfied but this treatment does not impact on the management accounts of the County Council. Where the conditions of these capital grants have not been met at year-end, the grant is held in the balance sheet as 'Capital Grant Unapplied'.

2.0 TRANSFERS TO AND FROM RESERVES

Transfers into, and expenditure funded from, reserves are not considered part of the net cost of services and are therefore not reflected at all within the Income and Expenditure Statement.

3.0 EMPLOYER'S PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS INVOLVING THE PENSION FUND RESERVE

Accounting for retirement benefits (IAS 19) requires that employer's contributions to pension schemes, reflected in service accounts should only consist of 'current service' costs. As the actual contributions made to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund by the County Council include an element of back-funding to recover the Pension Fund deficit,

the service expenditure figures reported in the SOFA have to be adjusted to reflect the current service cost as calculated by the Fund actuary.

In addition, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also includes, as part of operating expenditure, the net impact of the notional return (County Council share) of the Pension Fund assets and the increase in accrued future pension liabilities.

The required changes also reflect the inclusion of the attributable share of Pension Fund assets and liabilities in the County Council's Balance Sheet. This reflects the County Council's commitment to the Pension Fund but does not mean however that legal title or obligation has passed from the trustees of the Pension Fund to the employer.

4.0 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES (COLLECTION FUND) ACCOUNTING

The County Council's Income and Expenditure Statement includes the Authority's share of the carried forward Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund surpluses and deficits of each of the seven District Councils at the year end. This is in place of the estimated sums at the previous year end that have been paid over to the County Council during the year and used for Budget/Council Tax setting purposes in future years.

5.0 HOLIDAY AND FLEXI PAY ACCRUAL

The County Council has to charge the Income and Expenditure Statement with an estimate of accrued and untaken Annual Leave and Flexi Leave at 31 March. This figure includes a substantial figure for untaken Teacher's (and other schools-based staff) holiday pay, in relation to the days worked and taken as holiday in the Spring Term at each school. This adjustment is purely notional and does not impact on the County Council's budget requirement or level of working balances (GWB).

6.0 GAINS AND LOSSES ON THE DISPOSAL ON NON-CURRENT (FIXED) ASSETS

An example of this would be where a School acquires Academy status and there is an automatic transfer of the ownership of the Land and Building of the school premises to the School's Board of Governors for nil value. Such a notional loss does not, however, impact on the day to day management accounts or level of general working balances.

7.0 OTHER DIFFERENCES

Certain other transactions such as interest earned and paid, precept payments to other bodies etc. are not considered as part of the net cost of services and are required to be shown as separate items below service expenditure totals in the Income and Expenditure account. Similarly some Government Grants and Funding sources are required to be shown as overall general funding, rather than being included in the Income and Expenditure Statement as Service income.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

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Contact us

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NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The County Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 are presented in the format laid down in *The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code)*: issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and in accordance with the International Accounting Standards Board framework for the preparation and presentation of financial statements as interpreted by The Code. The Code is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
 - (a) **the Narrative Report**; the purpose of this Report is to act as a guide to the most significant matters impacting on the County Council's finances. It gives an indication of where the County Council's money comes from, what it is spent on and what services it provides as well as its financial position and assisting in the interpretation of the accounting statements.
 - (b) **the Independent Auditor's Report**; this explains the auditor's responsibilities in relation to the Statement of Accounts. It also expresses an opinion on the Accounts and shows how this opinion was reached. The report also gives a conclusion on value for money in terms of the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
 - (c) **the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts**; this outlines the County Council's responsibilities for the Accounts under local government legislation and any other requirements. It also shows the legal and professional responsibility for the Accounts of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources.
 - (d) **the Statement of Accounting Policies**; which explains the principles, bases, conventions and rules applied by the County Council in preparing the Statement of Accounts.
 - (e) **the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**; this shows the Net Cost of the Services provided by the County Council and how this has been financed from general government grants and local tax payers. This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation.
 - (f) **the Movement in Reserves Statement**; this statement shows the movement in the different reserves held by the County Council over the year. The statement is analysed into usable reserves, those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation, and other unusable reserves.
 - (g) **the Balance Sheet**; this is a statement of the financial position of the County Council and shows the Balances and Reserves at the County Council's disposal, its long term indebtedness and the long term and net current assets employed in its operations.
 - (h) **the Cash Flow Statement**; this statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the County Council during the financial year. The statement shows how the County Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.
 - (i) **notes to the Core Financial Statements**; these provide further details and explanation of the figures included in the Core Financial Statements.
 - (j) **Group Accounts**; the County Council conducts some of its activities through partnerships and separate undertakings. Some of these are not directly reflected in the statements (e) – (i) above due to legal and regulatory reasons. These Group Accounts are required to present a full picture of the County Council's economic activities and financial position in order to support the primary financial statements.

- (k) **the North Yorkshire Pension Fund Accounts;** which show the income and expenditure of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund together with the financial position of the Fund on 31st March 2021.
- (l) **the Annual Governance Statement;** this sets out the framework within which financial control and corporate governance is managed and reviewed by the County Council and the main components of the system. It also reports on significant identified weaknesses and the actions undertaken to rectify these.

OVERVIEW

2. North Yorkshire County Council provides services to residents, businesses and communities across the whole County. The County Council has an operating model that determines an annual revenue budget for each Directorate within which they must operate and deliver on the County Council's priorities, as set out in the Council Plan. These priorities are presented as performance indicators for each Directorate and monitored alongside the revenue budget monitoring. Performance reports are considered by the County Council's Executive Committee on a quarterly basis and these can be accessed on the County Council's website.

The County Council's Annual Governance Statement sets out the framework within which financial control and corporate governance is managed and reviewed by the County Council and the main components of the system. It also reports on significant identified weaknesses and the actions undertaken to rectify these. The Annual Governance Statement appears on page 159 of the Statement of Accounts.

The administrative county of North Yorkshire was established in 1974 and is one of the most sparsely populated counties in the United Kingdom. It is the largest county in England. It covers 8,654 km² and its population is estimated to be 620,000.

North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for many key local services:

- Children and Young People's Service - including the safeguarding of children, looked after children, services to vulnerable children and young people and their families and adoption and fostering services; early years and pre-school, mainstream schools and education, special educational needs provision, school improvement, raising the participation age, youth services and career advice, and traded services;
- Health and Adult Services - including services for older people, people with physical or learning disabilities, public health, mental health services, child health related matters and drug and alcohol matters;
- Business & Environmental Services - Highways and Transportation - including highways maintenance, street lighting, traffic regulation and road safety, parking, public rights of way and schools and community transport; enterprise and inward investment, strategic spatial planning, minerals and waste planning, development and investment, waste disposal and recycling and flood management; and
- Central Services - including libraries, archives, registration services, legal and democratic services, digital and information and technology services, human resources, finance, coroner and customer services.

In July 2020, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government announced that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) would be publishing the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper imminently. As a result, the County Council submitted a proposal in December 2020 on its vision as to how devolution and local government reorganisation could look across North Yorkshire in the future. The Secretary of State of MHCLG formally sought the

views of the public on two proposals and the consultation closed on 19th April 2021. A decision is expected from MHCLG in summer 2021.

In May 2021 the MHCLG confirmed that the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper would now be replaced by a White Paper on the government's Levelling Up programme.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE SPENDING

3. The main components of the final Budget for 2020/21 and a comparison with the actual position are set out below:-

	Final Budget £m	Actual £m	Variation £m
Directorate Net Expenditure			
Children and Young People's Service	82.5	80.8	(1.7)
Business and Environmental Services	73.2	73.2	0.0
Health and Adult Services	167.9	172.3	4.4
Central Services	66.3	70.3	4.0
Corporate Miscellaneous	3.0	(12.3)	(15.3)
Total Directorate Net Expenditure	392.9	384.3	(8.6)
Financed by:			
Business Rates (Central Government)	48.4	48.0	(0.4)
Business Rates (District Councils)	19.3	18.6	(0.7)
Precept Income (including arrears)	321.7	323.6	1.9
Contribution from Reserves	3.9	3.2	(0.7)
Total	393.3	393.4	0.1
(Deficit) / Surplus in Year	0.4	9.1	8.7
General Working Balance			
Start of Year	27.6	27.6	0.0
(Deficit) / Surplus in Year	0.0	9.1	9.1
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	0.0	0.3	0.3
Transfers (to) / from Strategic Capacity Reserve	0.0	(9.1)	(9.1)
Closing Balance	27.6	27.9	0.3

The spending, financing and surplus figures reported above are not the same as those reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is because of a number of statutory accounting transactions that are required to be reflected in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. A brief reconciliation of the two sets of figures are as follows:-

	Net Position £m	Funding £m	Net £m
County Council's Actual Directorate Net Expenditure	384.3	(393.4)	(9.1)
Different treatment of some Government Funding	31.6	(31.6)	0.0
Other required accounting entries reflected in the Income and Expenditure Statement			
- Capital Accounting	95.6	(121.7)	(26.1)
- Collection Fund Accounting	0.0	2.3	2.3
- Accumulated Absences Adjustment	(0.3)	0.0	(0.3)
- Pension Accounting	34.9	0.0	34.9
- Financial Instruments	0.0	0.0	0.0
- Movement in Earmarked Reserves	(38.4)	(3.1)	(41.5)
Net expenditure / funding and surplus per Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	507.7	(547.5)	(39.8)

WHAT THE MONEY IS SPENT ON AND HOW IT IS FINANCED

4. The following table sets out how the money was spent:-

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Children and Young People's Service	468.4	478.7
Business and Environmental Services	161.0	143.6
Health and Adult Services	335.9	295.8
Central Services	92.3	78.2
Corporate Miscellaneous	3.2	2.5
Gross Cost of Services	1,060.8	998.8
Precepts Paid to Other Authorities	0.7	0.7
Interest Payable	27.4	28.7
Capital Adjustment Account Movements	26.1	(29.1)
IAS 19 Pension Adjustments *	(25.4)	(17.9)
Financial Instruments	0.0	0.3
Reserve Movements	50.4	10.9
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	38.6	59.9
Corporate Trading Account Deficit	0.2	0.2
Accumulated Absences Adjustment	0.3	(1.4)
= Actual Spending financed from Income, Government Grants, Council Tax, Business Rates and other Government funding	1,179.1	1,051.1

* This figure represents the Actual Employer Contributions made to the Pension Fund, less the current service costs (as determined by the County Council's actuary) less Early Retirement costs.

5. The following table sets out the sources of finance:-

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Government Specific Grants		
- Dedicated Schools Grant	275.9	277.1
- Other Specific Grants	178.5	108.4
Council Tax from District Council Collection Funds	323.6	307.1
Fees and Charges etc.	174.9	192.6
Uniform Business Rates proceeds	68.6	77.8
Government Revenue Support Grant	0.0	0.0
Capital Grants	121.7	56.0
Other General Government Funding	35.9	23.1
Interest and Investment Income	(1)	8.3
Corporate Trading Account Surplus	0.0	0.0
Dividends Received	1.0	0.7
	<u>1,179.1</u>	<u>1,051.1</u>

6. The County Council employed 10,282 full time equivalent staff at the end of the financial year and a breakdown across Service Directorates is as follows:

	2020/21		2019/20	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central Services		1,599		1,592
North Yorkshire Education Service		695		756
Children and Young People's Service				
Schools	4,745		5,012	
Other	<u>1,060</u>	5,805	<u>1,039</u>	6,051
Business and Environmental Services		575		557
Health and Adult Services		1,608		1,547
		<u>10,282</u>		<u>10,503</u>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

7. In 2020/21 the County Council spent £120.7m on capital expenditure and a comparison with the original and revised Capital Plan is set out below:-

	Original Budget £m	2020/21 Revised Budget £m	Actual £m	Original Budget £m	2019/20 Revised Budget £m	Actual £m
Capital Plan	133.5	163.1	119.6	137.6	121.7	99.1
Other expenditure on fixed assets funded directly from the revenue budget	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.8
	<u>133.9</u>	<u>163.5</u>	<u>120.7</u>	<u>138.0</u>	<u>122.1</u>	<u>99.9</u>

Actual Capital Plan spending was therefore £119.6m compared with an Original Capital Plan of £133.5m approved in February 2020 and a Revised Capital Plan of £163.1m approved in February 2021.

In addition, £1.1m was spent on Fixed Assets from Directorate revenue budgets, principally on plant and equipment. The above Capital expenditure was funded as follows:-

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
Borrowing		
- from external sources	0	0
- from internal sources (cash balances)	2.3	3.6
Grants from Government Departments	98.1	69.1
Contributions from External Bodies	6.6	0.9
Capital Receipts from Sale of Assets etc.	5.6	2.4
Direct Revenue Funding	7.0	23.1
	<u>119.6</u>	<u>99.1</u>
Expenditure on Fixed Assets funded directly from Revenue Budgets	1.1	0.8
	<u>120.7</u>	<u>99.9</u>

8. The major part of this capital expenditure related to spending on programmes in Children and Young People's Service and Business and Environmental Services. There were no large individual schemes.

9. Total outstanding borrowing for capital purposes as at 31st March 2021 was £288.7m, which includes both external borrowing and borrowing from internal sources and consists of the following:-

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
External Borrowing		
Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	216.0	243.1
Other Institutions	20.0	20.0
Total External Borrowing	<u>236.0</u>	<u>263.1</u>
Temporary Borrowing from Internal Cash Balances	52.7	34.4
Total Capital Spending funded by borrowing	<u>288.7</u>	<u>297.5</u>
PFI and Leases	151.6	155.1
Total Borrowing	<u>440.3</u>	<u>452.6</u>

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2021 was £440.3m which includes the Capital Borrowing Requirement of £288.7m reported above together with other long term Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and finance lease liabilities of £151.6m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND

10. This Statement of Accounts includes a section on the Accounts of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. The impact of the County Council's participation in this Fund is reflected in the County Council's Accounts based upon the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits. IAS 19 requires that pension costs are recorded in the year in which the benefit entitlements are earned by the employees rather than the year in which the pensions and employers' contributions are actually paid. Also, any net liability arising from a deficit on the Pension Fund should be reflected on the Balance Sheet as calculated under the prevailing market conditions.

11. The results of the 2019 Triennial Valuation were produced in 2019/20 when the Actuary completed a detailed analysis of the Fund's liabilities. These results were used to determine the employer

contributions from 2020/21 to 2022/23. The IAS 19 calculations have been updated in 2020/21 to reflect the 2019 Triennial Valuation that took place during the period.

The assets of North Yorkshire Pension Fund increased in value by 27.4% over the year, principally due to the market conditions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the year liabilities increased by 9.0%. Full details of the management of the Fund and its investment performance are available in the Annual Report of the Fund.

12. The total reported pension liability of the County Council has increased over the year from £433m to £497m. This increase, £64m, is due to changes to the assumptions used by the Actuary.

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund has an investment strategy in place to address its funding deficit.

The 2019 Triennial Valuation has set appropriate employer contribution rates for 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/23 with no deficit payments required.

Due to its nature, the liability will not occur immediately as it represents benefit payments to pensioners over their lifetime. As a significant proportion of the membership is still actively contributing to the Fund this means that liabilities will be spread in excess of 50 years.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

13. There have been no significant changes in Accounting Policy for the 2020/21 Accounts.

CHANGES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

14. For 2020/21, there are only relatively minor presentational changes reflected in the years Statement of Accounts as there were no significant updates arising from the 2020/21 Code of Practice on Local Authority Funding.

MATERIAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

15. The County Council has identified no area where a present or past obligation has resulted in the possibility of a future liability which has not already been included in the financial statements.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

16. The 2020/21 Code of Practice requires all Local Authorities to consider their relationships with associated companies, strategic partnerships, joint ventures and any other service delivery vehicles and to produce Group Accounts where a significant exposure to economic benefits or financial risks can be established.

Work has been undertaken to document all the entities connected with the County Council and their financial relationship. Following Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on Group Accounts, it has been established that the County Council has group relations with:-

- Align Property Partners Limited;
- Brierley Homes Limited;
- First North Law Limited;
- NY Highways Limited;
- NYnet Limited;

- Veritau Limited;
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation; and
- Yorwaste Limited.

Two of these bodies have been consolidated into the financial statements of the County Council and a full set of equivalent “group” financial statements have been produced. The Companies that have been consolidated and have a major impact on the County Council’s financial results are in relation to:-

- NYnet Limited, a company providing a broadband infrastructure in North Yorkshire; and
- Yorwaste Limited, a subsidiary waste disposal company.

Align Property Partners Limited, NY Highways, Veritau Limited, First North Law Limited and Brierley Homes Limited have not been consolidated in the 2020/21 Group Accounts as their values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation are not consolidated into the financial statements as the County Council does not exert a significant level of influence over their activities.

The full set of Group Accounts and the financial implications are seen on pages 109 to 127.

THE COUNCIL PLAN

17. The Council Plan 2021-25 details how we intend to adapt to meet the challenges up until 2025. It sets out our vision and values and describes a three pronged approach - to provide leadership, enable individuals, families and communities to do the best for themselves, and to ensure the delivery of our own high quality services.

The plan identifies five key ambitions for 2025:-

- Leading for North Yorkshire;
- Every child and young person has the best possible start in life;
- Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life;
- North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth, and
- Innovative and forward thinking Council.

The plan describes how the County Council needs to continue to change, details some of our recent achievements and sets out our priorities for action for the next four years. It also details where our funding comes from and what it is spent on.

PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET MONITORING

18. Reports are submitted on a Quarterly Basis (30th June, 30th September, 31st December and 31st March) to the County Council’s Executive on Performance and Budget Monitoring issues. The key issues covered in these Reports can be summarised as follows (alongside a very brief summary of the position to date as at 31st March 2021):-

Performance

North Yorkshire County Council has well developed performance and financial processes which maintain rigour around delivering outcomes within a sustainable fiscal environment. Our Internal Performance Management Framework has been refreshed with a more rigorous focus on delivery

of ambitions set out in our Council Plan. Each quarter, the Executive receive an update on Corporate Performance, but with an in depth focus on one of our five ambitions. Our approach to assessing and delivering Value for Money has also developed following new audit requirements for 2020/21 and the CIPFA FM Code. During 2021/22 we will continue to develop the corporate performance framework and indicator set so we can carefully monitor performance, and continue with benchmarking exercises that may help us find further efficiencies.

Revenue Budget

A bottom line net saving of £9.1m has been achieved (£6.6m 2019/20). A simplified approach to reserves was agreed by the County Council in 2015/16 which sees the General Working Balance (GWB) held at “policy” level and any unallocated balance in excess of this level is transferred to “Strategic Resources”. The £9.1m operational underspend, therefore, increases the Strategic Resources reserve. Total usable reserves at 31st March 2021 were £273.3m (£207.5m 2019/20) consisting of the GWB of £27.9m (£27.6m 2019/20), Strategic Resources reserve of £69.9m (£47.6m 2019/20) and other earmarked reserves of £175.5m (£132.3m 2019/20).

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Gross Capital spend of £119.6m (£99.1m 2019/20) was £43.5m (£22.6m 2019/20) below the last Capital Plan update of £163.1m (£121.7m 2019/20) in February 2021 and £14.0m below (£38.5m below in 2019/20) the Original Plan in February 2020.

The gross capital expenditure underspend largely related to delays on Extra Care schemes, Schools Basic Need schemes and the Highways programme, in particular the advance purchase of vehicles for the new Highways company along with slower than anticipated take up on company loans.

However, after accounting for £30.9m less capital income there was a net capital underspend of £12.6m.

Allowing for corporate capital plan variations of £0.9m (£2.2m 2019/20), an adjusted net underspend of £13.4m (£0.6m 2019/20) is being carried over into 2021/22. Financing of the Capital spend included £2.5m (£1.7m 2019/20) capital receipts resulting from the sale of land and property. After utilising other capital income the balancing figure of £2.3m has decreased (£3.6m decrease in 2019/20) the level of internal borrowing.

Annual Treasury Management

External Debt for Capital purposes reduced from £263.1m as at 31st March 2020 (£285.1m 31st March 2019) to £236.0m at 31st March 2021 (£263.1m 31st March 2020), through scheduled loan repayments and no new external borrowing being taken. The average interest rate of this debt was 4.46% at 31st March 2021 (4.39% at 31st March 2020).

The total borrowing requirement in the year was £18.3m (£13.9m 2019/20) which increased the total internal capital financing to £52.7m at 31st March 2021 (£34.4m at 31st March 2020). The total underlying borrowing need at 31st March 2020 was therefore £288.7m (£297.5m 2019/20) consisting of £236.0m (£263.1m 2019/20) external debt and £52.7m (£34.4m 2019/20) internally financed capital debt.

For cash invested in 2020/21, the average rate of interest achieved was 0.48% (0.91% 2019/20) which outperformed the average 7-day market rate of -0.07% (0.53% 2019/20) and the average bank rate of 0.1% (0.72% 2019/20). The average daily balance loaned out was £506.9m (£490.4m 2019/20) with the balance at 31st March 2021 being £479.4m (£464.4m 31st March 2020) of which £197.3m (£226.3m 2019/20) belonged to other organisations who are part of the County Council's investment pool arrangements.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

19. The County Council produces a number of key strategic documents which can be accessed at www.northyorks.gov.uk and provide more strategic context to the annual Statement of Financial Accounts:-

Policy or Plan	Purpose of Policy or Plan
Constitution	Sets out how the County Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. It also details our policy framework which includes documents which are approved by the full County Council.
A Plan for Economic Growth 2021 to 2024	Outlines the County Council's vision for economic growth and identifies its role in supporting this aspiration. Economic growth can lead to a better quality of life for people wishing to live and work in North Yorkshire.
The Council Plan	This is the cornerstone of the County Council's policy framework. It provides the basis for all that the County Council does and for the many other plans and strategies that must be produced. It will help shape the County Council's budgets.
Medium Term Financial Strategy	Sets out how resources will be put in place to support the delivery of the Council Plan and to enable priorities and service objectives to be achieved.
Children and Young People's Plan: Young and Yorkshire 2	For all children, young people and their families living in North Yorkshire. The plan sets out the County Council's vision and priorities.
Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health	For children and young people's emotional and mental health, working in partnership with local clinical commissioning group.
Strategy for School Improvement	Strategy and support for partnership working with schools and settings to improve outcomes for all children and young people.
Corporate Equality Policy Statement	The County Council is committed to equality and to making fair treatment an important part of everything which the County Council does. This statement sets out how the County Council will achieve these aims.
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Explains what health and wellbeing priorities the board has set in order to tackle identified needs. It is not about taking action on everything at once, but about setting priorities for joint action and making a real impact on people's lives.
Closing the Gap in Early Years	A strategy for all early years providers, practitioners and local authority services working with young children from 0-5 years.

Local Development Framework	The County Council, as the minerals and waste planning authority for the parts of the County outside the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, has a statutory duty to prepare a Minerals and Waste Development Framework, containing proposals and policies to guide minerals and waste planning decisions.
Local Transport Plan	Set of documents that the Government requires all local transport authorities to produce. The plan sets out the County Council's plans and strategies for maintaining and improving all aspects of the local transport system over a set period of time.
Let's Talk Less Rubbish Waste Strategy	This strategy sets out how waste in York and North Yorkshire will be dealt with in the next 20 years.
Carers Strategy – Caring for Carers 2017-22	Caring for carers sets out North Yorkshire's over-arching strategy for promoting carers' health and wellbeing. It has been produced by the health and wellbeing board for North Yorkshire, working on behalf of local residents. It is an all-ages strategy, aimed at supporting carers to both continue caring and to have a life of their own.
Strategic Plan for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Education Provision 0-25, 2018-23	This plan sets out what we will do to develop and improve education provision for children and young people with SEND in North Yorkshire.
Your library, your place 2020-2030	The library strategy focuses on four core aims for North Yorkshire, set against the proven outcomes research shows that libraries deliver: raising aspirations, stimulating enjoyment of culture and helping people live independent lives.

The County Council must also abide by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – which intends to promote openness and accountability among public bodies by ensuring that people have rights of access to information that is held by them.

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) North Yorkshire County Council is classified as a 'data controller'. This means the County Council has a duty of care towards the individuals whose personal data it collects and uses.

TRADE UNIONS

20. In order to comply with the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 please find below data relating to the employment of relevant union officials by North Yorkshire County Council for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Unions Recognised	UNISON (Central)	NEU (was NUT/ATL) (Education)	VOICE (Education)	ASCL (Education)	NAHT (Education)	NAS/UWT (Education)
Number of relevant Union Officials during the period	6	3	1*	1	0	3
FTE of Union Officials during the period	4.34	1.64	0.004	0.04	0	1.21
Percentage of working time spent on facilities time	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total cost of facility time	£223,947	£76,663	£168	£2,005	£0	£55,765
Total pay bill	£211,319,019	£205,625,501	£205,625,501	£205,625,501	£205,625,501	£205,625,501

Percentage of pay bill for facility time	0.106%	0.037%	0%	0.001%	0%	0.027%
Paid trade union activities:- Percentage of the hours spent on trade union activities	2.71%	0% - voluntary	0% - voluntary	0% - voluntary	0% - voluntary	0% - voluntary

*Voice Union changed to Community Union at the end of April 2020, however we have not been informed of a replacement elected representative.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES AFFECTING THE COUNTY COUNCIL

21. This note identifies the principal risks and uncertainties that are likely to impact on the County Council together with the main trends and factors likely to affect future development, performance and the position of the County Council. Many of these are financial and relate to the ability of the County Council to be able to provide statutorily required services and meet public expectation against a background of reducing financial resources.

Key risks to the financial position of the County Council as identified in the February 2021 Budget / Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report are broken down into 2 key areas – corporate risks and more specific service pressures:-

Corporate risks include:-

- at the end of the EU Exit transition period and / or phased introduction of border checks the UK has sub-optimal trade deals and other arrangements resulting in price uncertainty, supply chain difficulties and adverse impact upon the local economy, infrastructure and environmental standards;
- failure to design and implement a coherent savings and transformation programme “Beyond 2020” which delivers the forecast funding shortfall resulting in short term and sub optimal savings decisions i.e. service cuts;
- inadequate funding available to the County Council to discharge its statutory responsibilities and to meet public expectation resulting in legal challenge, unbalanced budget and public dissatisfaction;
- ineffective information governance arrangements lead to unacceptable levels of unauthorised disclosure of personal and sensitive data, poor quality or delayed responses to Freedom of Information requests, and inability to locate key data upon which the County Council relies resulting in loss of reputation, poor decision making and fines;
- failure to take advantage of Devolution opportunities and to deliver the ambition of Sustainable Economic Growth, through for example the delivery of the right housing and transport whilst protecting the outstanding environment and heritage, resulting in reduced investment and impact on growth and jobs, inability to attract, retain and grow businesses and raise living standards across North Yorkshire;
- failure to plan, respond to and recover effectively from significant incidents in the community resulting in risk to life and limb, impact on statutory responsibilities and financial stability and reputation;
- failure to achieve the most effective local government reorganisation for North Yorkshire leading to sub-optimal savings, inferior local government arrangements, potential delay in a devolution deal and an impact on work commitments;
- further reduction in funding from Central Government;
- risk of adverse weather conditions has impact on the cost of highways maintenance;

- insufficient capacity to deal with the competing demands of the organisation and inability to progress strategically important initiatives;
- acceleration of inflation above assumptions within the MTFS for supplies and services and pay awards; and
- potential shortfall on Council Tax yield and collection of Business Rates based upon MTFS assumptions.

Service Specific Issues include:-

- major failure of provider/key providers results in the Directorate being unable to meet service user needs. This could be caused by economic performance or resource capabilities including recruitment and retention. The impact could include loss of trust in the Care Market, increased budgetary implications and issues of service user safety;
- failure to achieve the best outcomes from working jointly with the Commissioner and Provider resulting in the possibility of fragmented care;
- failure to have a robust Safeguarding service in place results in risk to vulnerable children, adults and families and not protecting them from harm;
- commercial investments may be affected by change in markets, supply and demand, fund performance and other factors, and
- erosion of Dedicated Schools Grant to underpin County Council services to schools.

Other key risks identified in the County Council's Corporate Risk Register and Statements of Assurance are:-

- market failure leading to cost pressures in the County Council supply chain;
- ineffective information governance arrangements;
- increased complexity and uncertainty in school organisation and funding arrangements; and
- failure to keep up with demand for services in light of challenging budgets and availability of staff.

Covid-19 pandemic risks include:-

- valuations of commercial investments, non-current assets, pension fund assets and liabilities may be affected by change in markets, supply and demand, fund performance and other factors. However the professional bodies of valuers in all these areas have reflected the potential for material uncertainty in their valuation reports and made statements and caveats to that effect;
- failure to lead an effective recovery from the outbreak of Coronavirus in North Yorkshire resulting in adverse impact on the health and well being of residents and staff, long term damage to the local economy and financial position of the County Council;
- Budget demand pressures as people delay accessing services during the Coronavirus pandemic; and
- non-delivery of full value of savings or significant delays to delivery as services continue to be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COUNCIL

22. From a financial perspective, 2020/21 has been unique in recent local government history with very significant new costs and responsibilities linked to the pandemic. This has resulted in headline overspends in most directorates, but also unprecedented levels of Central Government funding to Local Authorities. The County Council has focused on responding to the impact of the pandemic as well as still maintaining its core services.

The County Council has played a strong leadership role in the fight against the virus, through the development and implementation of the Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan. This led to the delivery of significant activity to support a range of high-risk environments such as care homes and educational settings, high-risk communal accommodation and workplaces. The County Council also played a key role in supporting the delivery of testing and vaccination take up.

Supporting residents and businesses to recover from the pandemic as restrictions begin to ease will continue to provide challenges for the County Council. The easing of restrictions will start to reveal the true economic impact of the pandemic as financial support for businesses in the form of grants and money to furlough staff start to decrease.

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
Central Services
County Hall
Northallerton

14th June 2021

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STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The County Council is required to:

- (a) make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources;
- (b) manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets; and
- (c) approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices 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 Corporate Director – Strategic Resources has:

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

The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources has also:

- (a) kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- (b) taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities;
- (c) assessed the Authority's and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- (d) used the going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Authority and the Group will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future; and
- (e) maintained such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

CERTIFICATE OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – STRATEGIC RESOURCES

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund at the accounting date and their income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
14th June 2021

Co-signed by,
Richard Flinton
Chief Executive
14th June 2021

CERTIFICATE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

I confirm that these Accounts were approved by the Audit Committee on xx September 2021 following completion of the External Audit.

Chair of the Audit Committee
(to be signed at the xx September 2021 Audit Committee Meeting)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General

The purpose of this statement is to explain the basis for the Recognition, Measurement and Disclosure of transactions and other events in the Accounts.

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with *The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code)*: issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Code has adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for financial statements produced since 2010/11. The accounting policies adopted have been used consistently throughout the current and prior period unless stated otherwise. Any significant non-compliance with The Code is disclosed as part of the relevant financial statement.

The Accounts have been prepared on the historic cost basis as modified to include the revaluation of certain long term assets.

The Code requires that a Local Authority's Statement of Accounts are prepared on a Going Concern basis. This means that the accounts are based on the assumption that the County Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2. Property, Plant and Equipment

Recognition

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Fixed Assets is capitalised on an accruals basis in the Accounts. Expenditure is capitalised, provided that the asset yields benefits to the County Council, for a period of more than one year, and it meets the accepted definition of capital expenditure in line with IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance which is charged direct to revenue. A de-minimis level of £20k has been adopted by the County Council in relation to capital expenditure.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising all expenditure directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition for its intended use. Borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction are not capitalised. Assets are valued on the basis required by The Code and in accordance with the Appraisal and Valuation Standard issued by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Asset Valuations are carried out on an agreed on-going basis by an external land and property consultancy organisation.

Assets are classified into the groupings required by The Code with assets being valued on the following basis:-

- Land and Buildings (other property) are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value in their existing use, net of any subsequent depreciation. Fair value is determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value) for assets for which there is an active market (e.g. offices) and Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) for assets for which there is not an active market (e.g. schools). Where there is an active market, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Land and Buildings are re-valued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year end, but as a minimum every five years;
- Assets surplus to requirements are those assets that do not fall into any of the prior categories and are valued at fair value;

- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment are carried at historic cost net of any depreciation as a proxy for fair value;
- Assets under the course of construction are measured at historic cost; and
- Infrastructure assets, (mainly roads), are included in the Balance Sheet at historical cost, net of depreciation.

A full Revaluation of Property is undertaken on a five year “rolling programme”. A desk top review of property not being revalued in any given year is also undertaken annually to ensure valuations reflect a true and fair view of the carrying value of assets at the Balance Sheet date.

A Revaluation Reserve for those Assets recorded at fair value is held in the Balance Sheet made up of unrealised revaluation gains relating to individual Assets, with movements in valuations being managed at an individual asset level. Any decreases in value of an asset are recorded against the revaluation reserve to the extent that a balance of accumulated gains is recorded against the individual asset. Where the decrease in value is in excess of any balance held within the Revaluation Reserve the reduction is then charged to the relevant service line within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1st April 2007 only, the date of this reserve’s formal implementation. Gains arising before that date were subsequently consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account. Movement in the valuations of properties do not impact upon the General Working Balance and are not a charge or credit to Council Tax.

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); or,
- 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, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the original loss had not been recognised.

Disposal and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable an Asset will be sold rather than the County Council recovering the economic value through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. Assets Held for Sale are marketed with the expectation of disposal within 12 months of the financial period end.

The asset is revalued before reclassification and then measured at fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is charged to Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

Receipts from the disposal of Assets are accounted for on an accruals basis. When an asset is disposed of, the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as is the disposal receipt. These amounts are not a charge or receipt to Council Tax as the cost of Fixed Assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. The asset value written off is appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account, the capital receipt to the Usable Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve, via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Any revaluation gains that have accumulated in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Capital Receipts have been used to finance capital expenditure based on the policy of the County Council.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment with a finite useful life (this can be determined at the time of acquisition or revaluation) according to the following policy:-

- Property assets are split into three specific components; Land (which is not depreciated), the Main Structure of the Building and the Mechanical and Electrical Services of the Building. Each component is depreciated separately at rates representative of their estimated remaining useful lives covering periods of 10 to 50 years;
- Infrastructure is depreciated over a 40 year period; and
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment are depreciated over a number of years depending on the nature of the asset. This is normally between four to six years.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis with no residual value being assumed. Depreciation has been charged in the year of asset acquisition and also in the year of revaluation.

Depreciation is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but does not impact on Council Tax and is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where non-current assets have been re-valued the excess depreciation, above the historic cost depreciation, is transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

3. Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are non-current assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities. They are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The County Council does not currently have any Heritage Assets held within the Balance Sheet.

It is anticipated that any acquisition of Heritage Assets will be made by donation. Where an item is donated and it is deemed appropriate, valuations will be sought from an independent external valuer.

Heritage Assets are measured at valuation where available and the asset is recognised within the Balance Sheet. Valuations are reviewed with sufficient frequency to ensure measurement remains current.

Where the County Council considers that obtaining full valuations for assets would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the financial statements the asset is not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but included in the accounts as a disclosure.

Where Heritage Assets are held within the Balance Sheet, the carrying amounts will be reviewed where there is evidence of impairment i.e. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise to authenticity. Any impairment is recognised in accordance with the County Council's general policies on impairment.

If it is agreed to dispose of any Heritage Assets the proceeds are accounted for in accordance with the County 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 for capital receipts.

Heritage Assets are not subject to depreciation as they are considered to have indefinite lives.

4. 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 at fair value, based on 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. 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. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Working Balance. The gains and losses are therefore transferred out of the General Working Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and allocated to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Rentals received in relation to Investment Properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Working Balance.

5. Intangible Assets

Intangible Assets represent Non-Current Assets that do not have physical substance, but are identifiable and are controlled by the County Council through custodial or legal rights. All purchased Intangible Assets are capitalised at historical cost in line with The Code.

In line with other Non-Current Assets, their useful economic life is determined based on the length of time that the benefit will accrue to the County Council. Based on the best estimate of the useful economic life, the intangible asset is charged to the relevant service lines within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over this period. This is between three and 25 years on a straight line basis.

6. Charges to Revenue

Service Revenue Accounts, Support Services and trading accounts are charged with the following amounts to record the real cost of holding Fixed Assets throughout the year:-

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- impairment losses attributable to non-current assets used by the service; and
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

The County Council does not raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, impairment loss or amortisations. The County Council does, however, make an annual provision from revenue to reduce its borrowing requirement (equal to approximately 4% of the Capital Financing Requirement). Depreciation, impairment losses, amortisation and gains or losses on the disposal of assets are therefore written out of the General Working Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement, by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account.

7. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute represents expenditure which may be properly capitalised, but which does not result in the creation of any Fixed Asset to the County Council. In line with the guidance contained in The Code, this expenditure is written off to the relevant service within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the expenditure is incurred, because the County Council does not control the economic benefits arising from this expenditure.

8. Long Term Investments

Shareholdings in associated companies are valued at historic cost based on the acquisition price paid. They continue to be valued based on historic cost because they are not available-for-sale, do not have a quoted market price in an active market and there are no future plans to sell these investments in the County Council's group companies. The fair value of these investments is, in effect, their historic cost.

Other long term investments, in the form of simple deposits with banks / building societies, are valued at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, in accordance with IFRS 9.

9. Accruals of Income and Expenditure and Revenue Recognition

The Accounts of the County Council are, in general, maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with recognised accounting policies. The Accounts reflect sums due to or incurred by the County Council during the year, whether or not the amount has actually been received or paid in the year. Appropriate provision has been made, therefore, for Creditors and Debtors at 31st March 2021.

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

Revenue is defined as income arising as a result of the Council's normal operating activities and where income arises from contracts with service recipients it is recognised when or as the Council has satisfied a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to the service recipient.

Revenue is measured as the amount of the transaction price which is allocated to that performance obligation.

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 unless the difference is immaterial.

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.

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.

10. Grants

Revenue grants are accrued and credited to income in the period in which the conditions of the grant have been complied with and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. Where this is in advance of the related expenditure being incurred an Earmarked Reserve is credited to reflect the expenditure commitments in future years. Where the grant or contribution is for capital purposes then the grant income is recognised in the year it is received, although this is subject to any outstanding conditions having been met. Capital Grant income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in advance of the related expenditure is transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried on the Balance Sheet as Creditors (Income in Advance).

This accounting treatment for grants is in accordance with IAS 20 Accounting for Government Grant.

11. VAT

Income and Expenditure transactions exclude any amounts relating to VAT as all VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue & Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from them.

12. Leases

The County Council, as lessee, has entered into leasing arrangements of both an Operating and Finance Lease nature. Where under IAS 17 Leases it is judged that substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of an asset have been transferred, then the lease is classified as a Finance Lease. A Finance Lease gives rise to the recognition of the Fixed Asset on the Balance Sheet together with a corresponding liability for future payments. Rental payments made under a Finance Lease are apportioned between a charge to write down the lease liability within the Balance Sheet and an element for finance charges, this is based upon the original rent payable on the lease agreement.

The County Council acts as the lessor on a number of properties under Operating Lease arrangements (a lease which is not classified as a Finance Lease as described above). Rental income is credited to the cost of services on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

The County Council has reviewed its operational contractual arrangements to determine whether any embedded leasing of assets exists within these types of arrangements.

13. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Service Contracts

PFI contracts are fixed term agreements whereby the County Council receives a service from a PFI contractor and the responsibility for making available the Fixed Assets needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. These Fixed Assets are deemed to be owned by the County Council because:-

- the County Council control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes for the duration of the fixed term contract; and
- ownership of the Assets pass to the County Council at the end of the contract for no additional charge.

If the PFI arrangement meets the above two criteria, it is the Accounting Policy of the County Council to carry the Assets used under this type of contract onto its Balance Sheet. In addition the County Council recognises a liability for amounts due to the PFI operator to pay for those assets for the duration of the PFI Contract.

The Assets associated with PFI Contracts, which are recognised on the Balance Sheet are depreciated and revalued in the same way as all other Property, Plant and Equipment directly owned by the County Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI contractor on an annual basis for the provision of services are referred to as Unitary Charges. The Unitary Charge is split into the following elements:-

- payment for the provision of day-to-day services during the year. These are charged to the relevant directorate service headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards reducing the liability associated with the cost of the Asset. This is included within the annual Minimum Revenue Provision which the County Council sets aside to repay external debt and liabilities; and
- interest charges on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability which are charged against Interest Payable in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

14. Financial Instruments

A Financial Instrument is defined as: "any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another". Although this covers a wide range of items, the main implications are in terms of investments and borrowings.

As reflected in The Code, the accounting standard on Financial Instruments, IFRS 9 covers the concepts of recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure.

A financial asset or liability should be recognised on the Balance Sheet when, and only when, the holder becomes a party to the contractual provision of the instrument.

Financial Assets

There are three main classes of financial assets held by the County Council which are measured at:

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

The County Council largely holds investments to collect contractual cashflows i.e. payments of interest and principal. Most of the County Councils financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those that are not solely payment of principal and interest.

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

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

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. The County Councils current investments that fall under FVPL are in property funds and are measured at market price, as quoted market prices exist for this type of investment. As these gains or losses impact on the General Fund balance, a statutory override has been agreed with the MHCLG, so any loss or gain is reversed and recorded in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve, unless funded from capital in which case through the Capital Adjustments Account. Any gain or loss will only be realised when the investments are sold.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments sets out that investments in equity should be classified as fair value through profit and loss unless there is an irrevocable election to recognise changes in fair value through other comprehensive income. The County Council will assess each investment that falls in to this category on an individual basis and assign an IFRS 9 category (amortised cost, FVPL or FVOCI). The assessment will be based on the underlying purpose for holding the financial instrument.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

The County Council has equity instruments designated at FVOCI which are its investments in non-consolidated subsidiaries and joint ventures. The Council has made an irrevocable election to designate these equity instruments as FVOCI on the basis that these are held for non-contractual benefits, not held exclusively for trading but for strategic purposes. These assets were transferred to the new category on 1 April 2018. The fair value of these long term investments is based on the principle that they are not available-for-sale, do not have a quoted market price in an active market and there are no future plans to sell these investments in the County Councils group companies. The fair value of these investments is, in effect, their historic cost. Dividend income is credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the County Council. If there is a change in fair value, this is posted to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and is balanced by an entry in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. When the asset is de-recognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is transferred from the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve and recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the County 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 (CIES) for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised. For the borrowings that the County 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 CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement. Gains and losses (discounts and premiums) on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. If the County Council decides to write off these gains or losses on early repurchase / settlement then this can be done over 10 years or over the life of the new loan or over a shorter more prudent time scale. The CIES is charged with one year related costs with the rest being taken to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Balance Sheet via the Movement in Reserves Statement - General Working Balance. The accounting policy is to charge gains and losses to Net Operating Expenditure 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 CIES is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate. Please note that this situation has not occurred and is not reflected in the current Statement of Accounts and is unlikely to occur in the future.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The County Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, where material.

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

Soft Loans

The County Council has the power to advance loans to Voluntary Organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, charged to the relevant service, for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the Voluntary Organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provision requires that the impact of soft loans on the General Working Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year. The reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Working Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

15. Inventories

Inventories have generally been included in the Accounts at weighted average cost price. Any obsolete and slow moving items are written off during the year and netted off against the value of the inventories shown in the Balance Sheet. No amounts are included for such items as inventories at Health and Adult Services residential homes, and inventories at special schools and outdoor education centres. It is considered that exclusion of these items does not have a material effect on the values stated.

16. Allocation of Support Services Costs

The costs of Support Services provided by Corporate Service Units have been allocated to the relevant Traded Services largely on the basis of the estimated time spent by officers. A proportion of the costs relating to the Central Services Directorate have been charged to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund in respect of the administration of the Fund.

17. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provision has been made against relevant services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for liabilities that have been incurred by the County Council, but where the amounts or dates on which they will arise are uncertain.

Provisions are required to be recognised when the County Council has a present obligation, as a result of a past event, where it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation, (IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets).

When expenditure is incurred to which the provision relates, it is charged directly against the provision in the Balance Sheet and not against the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The estimated value and timing of settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will not now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service within the Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be met by another third party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income in the relevant service Revenue Account if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the obligation is settled.

Contingent Liabilities

A Contingent Liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the County 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 County 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 Core Financial Statements.

Contingent Assets

A Contingent Asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the County Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the County Council. Contingent Assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a Note to the Core Financial Statements where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

18. Reserves

The County Council maintains a General Fund Working Balance and also holds reserves earmarked for specific purposes which are detailed in note 34 to the Notes to the Core Financial Statements. These reserves together with the Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve and Capital

Receipts Unapplied Reserve are deemed to be distributable reserves, which can be utilised to support future expenditure.

Under arrangements for Local Management of Schools (LMS), budget allocations are made to individual establishments at the start of each financial year. Any under-spends or over-spends against budget allocations are carried forward into the following financial year's budget allocation by way of the LMS reserve.

When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate Service Income and Expenditure heading in that year and represents a charge against the Net Cost of Services. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

Non-distributable (unusable) reserves include the Revaluation Reserve, the Capital Adjustment Account, the Pension Reserve, the Accumulated Absences Reserve and the Collection Fund Adjustment Account Reserve. These represent "technical non-cash" reserves which are maintained to manage the accounting processes and other statutory accounting adjustments under regulations. These reserves do not represent usable resources available to the County Council or impact upon the level of local taxation and are not able to be utilised in support of service delivery.

19. Pensions

The pension liabilities of the County Council are to be accounted for using IAS 19 principles. The County Council participates in three different pension schemes which meet the needs of employees in particular services. The three schemes are:-

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by the County Council;
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita on behalf of the Department for Education; and
- The NHS Pension Scheme administered by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department of Health.

All three schemes provide members with defined benefits related to pay and service. However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme and the NHS scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified specifically to the County Council. These schemes are therefore accounted for as if they are defined contribution schemes and no future liability for future payments or benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit pension scheme. In line with the accounting policies outlined in The Code, the County Council has complied with the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits and in particular:-

- the assets of each scheme are measured at fair value;
- the attributable liabilities of each scheme are measured on an actuarial basis;
- quoted securities and unquoted securities are measured at current bid-price, unquoted securities are measured using a professional estimate;
- the scheme liabilities are discounted at a rate based upon long dated, AA rated, corporate bonds which reflects the time value of money and the characteristic of the liability;

- the deficit in the scheme is the shortfall of the value of assets over the present value of liabilities;
- the interest cost is the allowance for one year's worth of the discount on the liabilities "unwinding" as the liabilities at the start of the period are one year closer to payment;
- the current service cost is the amount of money required at the beginning of the period to meet the cost of benefits accruing during the period;
- remeasurement of liabilities arises from changes in financial assumptions and demographic assumptions, as well as adjustments following the detailed analysis at each triennial valuation;
- settlements and curtailments are the increase or decrease in liabilities arising from current decisions where the effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years and is charged or credited to the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
- interest on assets is the expected one year's growth of the assets held at the start of the year;
- remeasurement of assets reflects the difference between actual and expected growth of assets over the year, as well as adjustments following each triennial valuation; and
- administration expenses are the costs of running the Fund attributable to the Council.

In assessing liabilities for retirement benefits at 31st March 2021 for the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, the Actuary assumed a discount rate of -0.6% real (2.10% actual), a rate based upon the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to scheme liabilities. For the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts, the Actuary advised that a rate of 0.3% real (2.3% actual) was appropriate.

20. Trust Funds Administered by the County Council

Trust Funds administered by the County Council have not been included in the Balance Sheet, in accordance with the provisions of The Code. The value of funds administered as at 31st March 2021 was £194k (£188k as at 31st March 2020).

21. Group Accounts

The County Council has financial relationships with a number of entities and partnerships and, as a result, is required to prepare Group Accounts in addition to its main financial statements. In preparing Group Accounts the County Council has followed CIPFA guidance and in general, the following policies have been applied:-

- all financial relationships within the scope of Group Accounts have been assessed;
- subsidiary company statutory accounts have been prepared under UK GAAP, this may give rise to inconsistent accounting treatments to those applied within the County Council's accounts. Where material differences in the accounting treatment applied within subsidiaries are identified the subsidiary accounts are aligned with the accounting policies of the County Council prior to consolidation;
- Associates and Joint Ventures have been accounted for in line with the provisions of IAS 28 Investment in Associates and IAS 31 Interest in Joint Ventures;

- simple investments have been left at their historic value in the County Council's Balance Sheet; and
- financial interests that do not have a material impact on the Group Accounting Statements have not been consolidated.

22. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Income

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a business rates retention scheme from 1st April 2013 that enables local authorities to retain a proportion of non-domestic rates generated in their area.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting provides guidance on how local authorities account for both Council Tax and NDR Income. Billing authorities in England maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of Council Tax and NDR and calculate surpluses or deficits on each.

The Billing Authority collects and distributes Council Tax on behalf of itself and other major preceptors such as the County Council and NDR on behalf of itself, the Government, the County Council and the Fire Authority. The collection of Council Tax and NDR by a Billing Authority is in substance an agency arrangement, and the cash collected by Billing Authorities belongs proportionately to the billing authority and other organisations mentioned above.

Council Tax and NDR income collected by Billing Authorities are credited to the relevant Collection Fund on an annual basis. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute for Council Tax is the County Council's precept or demand for the year, plus the authority's share of the surplus (or deficit) on the Council Tax Collection Fund for the previous year. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute for NDR is the County Council's share of estimated NDR income for the year, plus the authority's share of the NDR surplus (or deficit) on the Collection Fund for the previous year.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the value of accrued Council Tax and NDR Income in a financial year rather than the current year's actual income plus or minus the previous year's share of each Billing Authority's Collection Fund surplus or deficit on both Council Tax and NDR.

The difference between accrued income for Council Tax and NDR and actual income received does not impact on the General Working Balance or the Revenue Budget of the County Council in 2020/21, and is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account in the Balance Sheet and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement - General Working Balance.

The County Council also makes provision for the following values in its Balance Sheet at the year end for the following:-

- Debtor provision for the County Council's share of Council Tax and NDR arrears;
- Provision for bad debts of Debtors in relation to Council Tax and NDR arrears and appeals and backdated appeals for NDR;
- Creditor provision for Council Tax and NDR over-payments and pre-payments; and
- Creditor or Debtor provision where the billing authority has under or over collected Council Tax in-year against what it actually paid over to the County Council in 2020/21.

23. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash Equivalents are short term investments that are of a highly liquid nature. The County Council has deemed that deposits held within call accounts and other short term investments that have a deposit term of one month or under and are held for the purposes of meeting short term cash commitments are categorised as Cash Equivalents.

In the Cash Flow Statement, Cash and Cash Equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand where there is a right of offset.

24. Short Term Compensated Employee Benefits

The County Council in accordance with IAS 19 makes accruals for short term employee compensated absences such as untaken holiday pay and accumulated flexi time at the period end. These balances are recognised as Provisions and under statutory guidance an offsetting balance is included within the reserves section of the Balance Sheet.

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

25. Exceptional items

When items of income and expenditure 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 Core Financial Statements, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the County Council's financial performance.

26. 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 County 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. Generally, the majority of prior period items arise from corrections and adjustments that are the natural result of estimates inherent in the accounting process. Such adjustments constitute normal transactions in the year in which they are identified, and are accounted for accordingly.

27. 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; and
- 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.

28. Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the County Council in conjunction with other ventures that involve the use of the assets and resources of the ventures rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The County Council recognises in its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of Property, Plant or Equipment that are jointly controlled by the County Council and other venturers, with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the ventures. The joint venture does not necessarily involve the establishment of a separate entity. The County Council accounts for only its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

29. Schools

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code) 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 County Council as if they were the transactions, cash flows and balances of the County Council.

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2020/21

Year to 31st March 2020				Year to 31st March 2021		
Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000		Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000
478,723	(362,836)	115,887	Children and Young Peoples Service	468,366	(356,191)	112,175
143,631	(63,103)	80,528	Business and Environmental Services	161,005	(65,163)	95,842
295,842	(118,736)	177,106	Health and Adult Services	335,907	(158,704)	177,203
78,167	(11,726)	66,441	Central Services	92,349	(12,430)	79,919
2,494	(21,694)	(19,200)	Corporate Miscellaneous	3,192	(36,779)	(33,587)
<u>998,857</u>	<u>(578,095)</u>	<u>420,762</u>	Cost of Services	<u>1,060,819</u>	<u>(629,267)</u>	<u>431,552</u>
			Other Operating Expenditure			
		59,874	Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment (note 20)			38,626
		0	Impairment of Assets Held for Sale (note 27)			0
		681	Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities			703
		<u>60,555</u>				<u>39,329</u>
			Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			
		28,749	Interest payable and similar charges (note 39b)			27,376
	(3,960)		Interest receivable and similar income			(2,912)
		267	Financial Instruments (note 35f)			41
	(5,095)		Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment (note 25)			2,766
		156	(Surplus)/Deficit of trading activities (note 6)			163
		9,981	Net interest on the net defined pension benefit liability / (asset) (note 10)			9,430
		<u>30,098</u>				<u>36,864</u>
			Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Analysis)			
	(306,844)		Council Tax Income (note 7)			(320,082)
	(78,078)		Non-Domestic Rates Income (note 8)			(69,813)
	(23,168)		Non-Ringfenced Government Grants (note 9)			(35,958)
	(56,021)		Capital Grants (note 9)			(121,684)
	<u>(464,111)</u>		Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			<u>(547,537)</u>
		<u>47,304</u>	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			<u>(39,792)</u>

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (continued)

Year to 31st March 2020			Year to 31st March 2021		
Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
		47,304			(39,792)
		(62,790)			(2,140)
		10,204			5,859
		(42,037)			28,946
		<u>(94,623)</u>			<u>32,665</u>
		<u>(47,319)</u>			<u>(7,127)</u>

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

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	General Working Balance £000 (note 34)	Earmarked Reserves £000 (note 34)	Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve £000 (note 34)	Capital Grants Reserve £000 (note 34)	Total Usable Reserves £000 (note 34)	Total Unusable Reserves £000 (note 35)	Total Authority Reserves £000
Movement in Reserves during 2020/21							
Balance at 31st March 2020	(27,640)	(195,064)	(3,815)	(22,873)	(249,392)	(853,804)	(1,103,196)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(39,792)	0	0	0	(39,792)	32,665	(7,127)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(10,794)	0	(247)	(45,513)	(56,554)	56,554	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(50,586)	0	(247)	(45,513)	(96,346)	89,219	(7,127)
Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves	50,358	(50,358)	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	(228)	(50,358)	(247)	(45,513)	(96,346)	89,219	(7,127)
Balance at 31st March 2021	(27,868)	(245,422)	(4,062)	(68,386)	(345,738)	(764,585)	(1,110,323)

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the County Council, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (ie those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'Unusable Reserves'. The Movement in Reserves Statement shows how the movements in year of the County Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to Council Tax for the year. The net increase / decrease line shows the statutory General Fund balance movement in the year following those adjustments.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT (continued)

	General Working Balance £000 (note 34)	Earmarked Reserves £000 (note 34)	Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve £000 (note 34)	Capital Grants Reserve £000 (note 34)	Total Usable Reserves £000 (note 34)	Total Unusable Reserves £000 (note 35)	Total Authority Reserves £000
Movement in Reserves during 2019/20							
Balance at 31st March 2019	(27,231)	(184,200)	(3,276)	(19,284)	(233,991)	(821,886)	(1,055,877)
Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	47,304	0	0	0	47,304	(94,623)	(47,319)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(58,577)	0	(539)	(3,589)	(62,705)	62,705	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(11,273)	0	(539)	(3,589)	(15,401)	(31,918)	(47,319)
Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves	10,864	(10,864)	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	(409)	(10,864)	(539)	(3,589)	(15,401)	(31,918)	(47,319)
Balance at 31st March 2020	(27,640)	(195,064)	(3,815)	(22,873)	(249,392)	(853,804)	(1,103,196)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
1,665,551	Property, Plant and Equipment (note 18)	1,631,979
53,022	Investment Property (note 25)	49,419
5,932	Intangible Assets (note 24)	5,298
19,777	Long Term Investments (note 29)	10,099
15,556	Long Term Debtors (note 30)	17,872
1,759,838	Long Term Assets	1,714,667
366,976	Short Term Investments (note 39a)	421,275
1,957	Inventories	2,390
106,261	Short Term Debtors (note 31)	127,544
98,007	Cash and Cash Equivalents (note 28)	61,799
170	Assets held for sale (note 27)	170
573,371	Current Assets	613,178
(269,745)	Short Term Borrowing (note 39a)	(213,622)
(95,820)	Short Term Creditors (note 32)	(111,539)
(3,503)	PF/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months (note 12)	(3,948)
(12)	Finance Lease repayable within 12 months (note 13)	(13)
(2,316)	Provisions to be used within 12 months (note 33)	(2,877)
(21,237)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance (note 9)	(2,768)
(392,633)	Current Liabilities	(334,767)
(2,642)	Long Term Creditors (note 23)	(1,731)
(150,584)	PF/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months (note 12)	(146,635)
(1,036)	Finance Lease repayable in excess of 12 months (note 13)	(1,023)
(10,916)	Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months (note 33)	(13,197)
(433,171)	Pensions Liability (note 10)	(496,989)
(220,968)	Long Term Borrowing (note 39a and 39d)	(221,839)
(18,063)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance (note 9)	(1,341)
(837,380)	Long Term Liabilities	(882,755)
1,103,196	Net Assets	1,110,323

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021 (continued)

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
Usable Reserves		
27,640	General Working Balance (note 34a)	27,868
195,064	Earmarked Reserves (note 34b)	245,422
3,815	Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve (note 34c)	4,062
22,873	Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve (note 34d)	68,386
249,392	Total Usable Reserves	345,738
Unusable Reserves		
409,826	Revaluation Reserve (note 35a)	368,953
3,986	Collection Fund Adjustment Account (note 35b)	1,715
0	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	0
(308)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve (note 35f)	(349)
(7,718)	Accumulated Absences Account (note 35c)	(7,450)
(433,171)	Pension Reserve (note 35d)	(496,989)
881,189	Capital Adjustment Account (note 35e)	898,705
853,804	Total Unusable Reserves	764,585
1,103,196	Total Reserves	1,110,323

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Assets and Liabilities recognised by the County Council. The net Assets of the County Council (Assets less Liabilities) are matched by the Reserves held by the County Council.

Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of Reserves are Usable Reserves, ie those Reserves that the County 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 are those that the County 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'.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT – YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(47,304)	Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services - See Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	39,792
	Adjust net surplus / (deficit) on the provision of services for non cash movements	
57,874	Depreciation / Amortisation (note 34a)	63,026
5,894	Impairment and revaluations charged to the provision of services (note 34a)	15,438
10,121	Movement in Creditors (Decrease)/increase	4,441
(10,089)	Movement in Debtors Decrease/(increase)	(19,382)
198	Movement in Inventories Decrease/(increase)	(433)
(2,690)	Movement in Provisions (Decrease)/increase (note 33)	2,842
36,301	Pensions Liability	34,872
62,855	Carrying Amount of Non-current Assets sold (note 34a)	44,524
160,464		145,328
	Adjust for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	
(56,021)	Grants received for investment purposes (note 9)	(121,684)
(1,652)	Proceeds from the sale of property and other assets	(2,480)
(57,673)		(124,164)
55,487	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	60,956

CASH FLOW STATEMENT (continued)

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
55,487	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	60,956
	Investing Activities	
(79,485)	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	(85,504)
(954,080)	Purchase of Short Term and Long Term investments	(1,089,050)
1,652	Proceeds from the Sale of Property (and other Assets)	2,480
989,685	Proceeds from Short Term and Long Term Investments	1,044,429
56,024	Other receipts for investing activities	92,642
13,796	Net cash flows from Investing Activities	(35,003)
	Financing Activities	
0	Cash receipts of Short and Long Term Borrowing	0
(1,328)	Other receipts from Financing Activities	(3,393)
(3,012)	Repayment of the outstanding liability of Finance Lease and similar arrangements (notes 12 and 13)	(3,516)
(25,966)	Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(54,785)
(80)	Other payments for Financing Activities	(467)
(30,386)	Net cash flows for Financing Activities	(62,161)
38,897	Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(36,208)
59,110	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	98,007
98,007	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	61,799
38,897		(36,208)

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in Cash and Cash Equivalents of the County Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the County 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 County Council are funded by way of Taxation and Grant Income or from the recipients of services provided by the County Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the County Council's future service delivery. Cash Flows arising from Financing Activities are useful in predicting claims on future Cash Flows by providers of Capital (ie borrowing) to the County Council.

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Prior Period Adjustments

There have been no prior period adjustments.

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

CIPFA continue to consider the implications of adopting IFRS16 – Leases. This standard was originally expected to be adopted in the Statements of Accounts for 2020/2021 but this has been deferred as a result of measures to address the demands placed on local authorities supporting the nation's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will not be adopted until 2022/23.

Other standards that have been issued but not yet adopted by the CIPFA Code of Practice include:

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

Any impact on the Statement of Accounts will be assessed at the time of adoption by the CIPFA Code of Practice, but based on our initial assessment we do not expect any of the changes to be material.

3. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies as set out at the Statement of Accounting Policies the County Council has had to make critical judgements about complex transactions and those involving uncertainty about future events (sensitivity analysis relating to changes to specific critical judgements are included where appropriate) :-

- in the current economic environment there continues to be a degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. The County Council continues to review the provision of services by the Authority, in response to known and forecast future funding reductions. In 2019/20 funding from Central Government (Dedicated Schools Grant, Other Specific Grants, Uniform Business Rates proceeds and Capital Grants) totalled £644.7million. A change in this funding of 1% is equivalent to £6.45m;
- the County Council, via its external valuer, has conducted an impairment review on land and property assets not being revalued in 2020/21, as set out in Disclosure Note 19 – Valuation of Non-Current Assets. As a result of this impairment review, it has been concluded no material impairment has occurred. If any material impairment had occurred, a 1% decrease in asset values would reduce the closing NBV on the County Council's balance sheet by £16.3m. The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date less weight can be attached to market evidence used previously to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement, however valuations in the financial statements are not reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global and reflected in the valuation report produced by the County Council's valuer in 19/20. The valuer has continued to exercise professional judgement and this continues to be the best information available to the Council;
- 15 schools transferred to Academy Status in 2020/21. It is the County Council's policy to exclude academy schools from its Balance Sheet as it does not retain sufficient control over the schools service provision to warrant the recognition of the school as an asset. Typically the land

and buildings of schools that transfer to academy status are transferred to the Academy Trust under a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent. The value of the County Council's balance sheet would have been £40.7m higher if the 15 schools had not been removed. Further schools may transfer to Academy Status in 2021/22;

- the County Council does not recognise the Property of Voluntary-aided and Voluntary-controlled Schools (except where title of the land and buildings is held by the County Council) located on the Balance Sheet. It has been determined that this property is held by the Trustees of the relevant schools. The voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools had a combined NBV of £239m. Although the current value of these schools is not known this valuation provides an indication of the additional value that would have been recorded on the County Council's balance sheet if the schools had not been removed;
- the County Council has made estimates of the net pay liability to pay pensions which depend on a number of complex judgments and projections supported by the actuary, which include; the discount rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected future returns on pension fund Assets. Sensitivity analysis relating to judgements on pension liabilities is included in disclosure note 4 – 'Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Uncertainty';
- the County Council carries its investments in its Group Companies at historic cost and does not re-value these investments on an annual basis because they are neither marketable or available-for-sale equity; nor is it possible to obtain a reliable market estimate of the net worth of the investments. A 1% increase in the value of these investments would equate to £45.2k;
- to reflect the current economic and financial climate, the County Council has determined its Bad Debt Provision based on a range of factors including the aged-profile of debtors and recent changes to payment profile of debtors. A 1% increase in the County Council's Bad Debt Provision would equate to £124k;
- judgement is required to determine whether the County Council can be reasonably assured that the conditions of grant and contribution income received have been met before recognising them as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Where conditions require specified expenditure to have taken place, the grant monies will not be recognised until this has happened. Equally where conditions specify that a grant or contribution must be repaid in the event of non-expenditure, the income is not recognised until the conditions of the grant have been met; and
- The Code requires the County Council to consider the classification of leases between the categories of finance and operating on an annual basis. The distinction between the two categories is not clearly defined by The Code and an element of judgement is required to make the assessment in line with best practice. As per disclosure note 13 – Leases, the County Council currently has commitments to make payments under operating leases in future years of £6.2m. If 1% of the value of these commitments had been classified as finance leases, the combined total of current and long term liabilities on the County Council's Balance Sheet would increase by £0.1k.

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

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based upon assumptions made by the County Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors.

Pension Liability

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends upon a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged by the County Council to provide expert advice about the assumptions to be applied, these assumptions may be adjusted on a yearly basis.

A sensitivity analysis around certain assumptions has identified the following changes to the pension deficit of £497m would occur if alternative assumptions were to be applied:-

- a +0.1%pa increase in the discount rate to be applied would reduce the pension deficit by £45.3m;
- a +0.1%pa increase in pension payments inflation would increase the deficit by £43.0m;
- a +0.1%pa pay growth would increase the deficit by £4.5m; and
- an additional 1 year increase in life expectancy would increase the deficit by £83.7m.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets are depreciated over the useful economic life that the asset (or components of the assets where appropriate) will be operational. The useful economic life of an individual asset is dependent upon maintaining an appropriate level of repair and maintenance expenditure on that asset. Should insufficient expenditure be incurred to properly maintain an asset then it may be the case that the useful economic life of that asset is reduced; this might give rise to an impairment or accelerated depreciation being required.

Sensitivity analysis around Asset Valuations has identified the following changes to the closing NBVs of the various asset classes would occur if alternative assumptions were to be applied:-

- a 1% increase on assets would be £20.9m.

5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2020/21

	Net Expenditure £000	Further Movement to Earmarked Reserves £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Children and Young People's Service	80,847	(9,797)	71,050	41,125	112,175
Business and Environmental Services	73,166	3,249	76,415	19,427	95,842
Health and Adult Services	172,285	(3,814)	168,471	8,732	177,203
Central Services	70,291	2,342	72,633	7,286	79,919
Corporate Miscellaneous	(12,268)	(30,769)	(43,037)	9,450	(33,587)
North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES)	0	388	388	(388)	0
Net Cost of Services	384,321	(38,401)	345,920	85,632	431,552
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	39,329	39,329
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	0	0	0	36,864	36,864
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	(393,409)	(3,097)	(396,506)	(151,031)	(547,537)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(9,088)	(41,498)	(50,586)	10,794	(39,792)
Opening General Fund Balance			(222,704)		
Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund in Year			(50,586)		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31st March 2021			(273,290)		
General Working Balance			(27,868)		
Earmarked Reserves			(245,422)		
			(273,290)		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis demonstrates how the funding available to the County Council for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. This statement also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the County Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Comparative Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2019/20

	Net Expenditure £000	Further Movement to Earmarked Reserves £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Children and Young People's Service	78,829	(253)	78,576	37,311	115,887
Business and Environmental Services	75,029	9,883	84,912	(4,384)	80,528
Health and Adult Services	158,295	10,876	169,171	7,935	177,106
Central Services	62,193	2,246	64,439	2,002	66,441
Corporate Miscellaneous	6,429	(31,055)	(24,626)	5,426	(19,200)
North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES) (formerly SmartSolutions)	0	1,088	1,088	(1,088)	0
Net Cost of Services	380,775	(7,215)	373,560	47,202	420,762
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	60,555	60,555
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	0	0	0	30,098	30,098
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	(387,354)	2,521	(384,833)	(79,278)	(464,111)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(6,579)	(4,694)	(11,273)	58,577	47,304
Opening General Fund Balance			(211,431)		
Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund in Year			(11,273)		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31st March 2020			(222,704)		
General Working Balance			(27,640)		
Earmarked Reserves			(195,064)		
			(222,704)		

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts				
Children and Young People's Service	29,589	8,816	2,720	41,125
Business and Environmental Services	39,748	2,205	(22,526)	19,427
Health and Adult Services	3,017	5,698	17	8,732
Central Services	7,331	5,428	(5,473)	7,286
Corporate Miscellaneous	0	1,176	8,274	9,450
NYES	0	2,119	(2,507)	(388)
Net Cost of Services	79,685	25,442	(19,495)	85,632
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	38,626	0	703	39,329
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	9,430	27,434	36,864
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(151,031)	(151,031)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	118,311	34,872	(142,389)	10,794

Comparative Movements in 2019/20

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts				
Children and Young People's Service	29,684	5,713	1,914	37,311
Business and Environmental Services	31,974	1,471	(37,829)	(4,384)
Health and Adult Services	4,045	3,837	53	7,935
Central Services	(1,951)	3,651	302	2,002
Corporate Miscellaneous	34	1,666	3,726	5,426
NYES	0	1,583	(2,671)	(1,088)
Net Cost of Services	63,786	17,921	(34,505)	47,202
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	59,874	0	681	60,555
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	9,981	20,117	30,098
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(79,278)	(79,278)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	123,660	27,902	(92,985)	58,577

Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:-

Services	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Children and Young People's Service	(344,105)	(351,966)
Business and Environmental Services	(61,637)	(68,982)
Health and Adult Services	(164,531)	(120,695)
Central Services	(24,414)	(22,859)
Corporate Miscellaneous	(76,899)	(55,379)
NYES	(37,932)	(46,330)
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	<u>(709,518)</u>	<u>(666,211)</u>

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	442,120	435,353
Other services expenses	526,290	490,836
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	108,179	81,330
Interest payments	28,771	31,417
Precepts and levies	703	681
Loss on the disposal of assets	38,626	59,874
Total expenditure	<u>1,144,689</u>	<u>1,099,491</u>
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(149,431)	(177,407)
Interest and investment income	(4,270)	(6,628)
Income from council tax, non domestic rates income	(389,895)	(384,922)
Government grants and contributions	(640,553)	(482,862)
Investment Properties	(332)	(368)
Total income	<u>(1,184,481)</u>	<u>(1,052,187)</u>
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>(39,792)</u>	<u>47,304</u>

Fees, charges and other service income includes £76.7m (2019/20 £86.0m) which relates to revenue from contracts with service recipients.

Cash Flow – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities, included in the above Interest payments and Income and investment Income are:-

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Interest received	(1,901)	(3,259)
Interest paid	27,376	28,749
dividends received	(1,011)	(701)
Total	<u>24,464</u>	<u>24,789</u>

6. Trading Activities

The County Council operates a number of trading services. Details of those services with a turnover of greater than £2m are as follows:-

Service	2020/21				2019/20			
	Total Cost £000	Total Income £000	Transfer to / from Reserves £000	Net Surplus / (Deficit) £000	Total Cost £000	Total Income £000	Transfer to / from Reserves £000	Net Surplus / (Deficit) £000
Building Cleaning Services	7,485	8,006	(521)	0	8,039	8,519	(480)	0
County Caterers Service	11,557	10,456	1,101	0	17,352	17,025	327	0
Maintenance and Servicing Scheme	3,576	3,743	(167)	0	2,665	3,397	(732)	0
Outdoor Learning Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schools ICT Service	4,835	4,769	66	0	4,727	4,985	(258)	0
Staff Absence Scheme	3,524	3,524	0	0	3,474	3,333	141	0
Other Services (< £2 Million individually)	8,224	9,364	(1,140)	0	12,795	11,142	1,653	0
Total Results for Trading Units	39,201	39,862	(661)	0	49,052	48,401	651	0

During 2020/21, the Council's traded services, including insurance offered to schools, operated under the brand of North Yorkshire Education Service (NYES). This is an in-house arrangement which reflects a governance and reporting structure whereby such services are held accountable by a Board, chaired by the County Council's Chief Executive.

The net surplus / deficit on each traded activity is transferred to a reserve at the end of each financial year.

Trading operations are incorporated into the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Some trading operations are an integral part of the County Council's services to the public, whilst others are support services to the County Council's activities e.g. Cleaning. Where the trading activities are not integral to the County Council's service obligations, the net financial position of the trading operations are identified within the Financing and Investment Income section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Net (surplus)/ deficit included within Cost of Services	(824)	495
Net (surplus) / deficit credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	163	156
Net (surplus) / deficit on trading operations	<u>(661)</u>	<u>651</u>

7. Council Tax Income

Council Tax Income totalled £320.1m (£306.8m in 2019/20) consisting of:-

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Precept Income for year	321,725	305,853
Collection Fund surplus from previous years	1,847	1,219
Collection Fund Adjustment	<u>(3,490)</u>	<u>(228)</u>
	<u>320,082</u>	<u>306,844</u>

The precept income from Council Tax is equivalent to a basic amount of £1,363.47 for an average band D property.

8. Non-Domestic Rates

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Non-Domestic Rating Income for year from Districts	20,262	44,324
Collection Fund surplus/(deficit) from previous years	289	(426)
Business Rates Retention Scheme funding from Government	48,043	33,863
Collection Fund Adjustment	<u>1,219</u>	<u>317</u>
	<u>69,813</u>	<u>78,078</u>

9. Grant Income

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

Credited to Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income

Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	2020/21		2019/20	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Other Government Funding				
- Covid-19 LA Support Grant	16,661		15,229	
- Rural Services Delivery Grant	8,285		0	
- Business Rates Reliefs	6,258		5,004	
- New Homes Bonus	2,030		1,794	
- Income Guarantee Scheme	2,020		0	
- Private Finance Initiative	704		704	
- Local Services Support	0		437	
		<u>35,958</u>		<u>23,168</u>
Total		<u>35,958</u>		<u>23,168</u>

Capital Grants	2020/21	2019/20
	£000	£000
Local Transport Plan	34,083	35,008
Pothole Grant	25,709	0
Other Capital Grants / Contributions	25,185	10,236
School Condition Grant	11,947	7,454
Safer Roads Fund	10,899	0
Getting Building Fund Grant	7,061	0
S106 Developer Contributions	6,800	0
Local Growth Deal Grant	0	3,323
Total	<u>121,684</u>	<u>56,021</u>

Revenue Grants Credited to Services	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Dedicated Schools Grant	275,907	277,138
Public Health	22,107	21,182
Covid-19 CCG Hospital Discharges	22,130	0
Education Funding Agency	21,145	12,932
Covid-19 Infection Control	15,577	0
Improved Better Care Fund Phase 1	13,403	10,979
Adult Social Care Support Grant	13,048	4,140
Pupil Premium	10,046	11,140
Disabled Facilities Grant	5,115	4,508
Teachers Pay Grant	4,411	7,284
Universal Infant Free School Meals	4,166	4,552
Covid-19 Test & Trace/Contain Outbreak Management Fund	4,220	0
Physical Education & School Sport	3,814	4,060
Covid-19 Sales Fees & Charges	3,663	0
Covid-19 Furlough Scheme	3,542	0
Additional Better Care Fund	3,416	3,416
Scarborough Opportunities Area	1,359	1,177
Partners in Practice Grant	1,118	2,367
Strengthening Families Protecting Children	745	2,646
Winter Pressures Grant	0	2,424
Skills Funding Agency	0	208
Other Grants	25,484	15,397
Total	454,416	385,550

The County Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the grant to be returned if those conditions are not met. The balances at the year-end are as follows:-

Capital Grants and Contributions Received in Advance

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
To be used within 1 year		
Other	3,375	83
Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant	1,931	0
Private Contributions (Highways Schemes)	605	0
Earmarked S106	228	1,717
Local Growth Fund Grant	0	9,758
Basic Need Grant	0	4,112
Bridges - Flood Grant 2019	0	2,477
Junction 47 - LGF Grant	0	2,470
National Productivity Investment Fund Grant	0	620
Total	6,139	21,237
To be used in excess of 1 year - none to record.		
Safer Roads Grant	0	7,927
Private Contributions	0	3,839
National Productivity Investment Fund	0	2,234
Local Growth Fund	0	1,787
Schools Devolved Capital Grant	0	1,602
Highways England Grant	0	534
Other	0	140
Total	0	18,063

Capital Grants Credited to Services

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Local Growth Fund	17,362	9,832
Basic Need Grant	6,492	2,704
School Condition Grant	2,380	2,697
Devolved Formula Capital Grant	1,645	2,088
Other	615	223
Total	<u>28,494</u>	<u>17,544</u>

10. Pension Arrangements

As part of the terms and conditions of employment, the County Council offers retirement benefits to its employees. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the County Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The County Council participates in three different pension schemes:-

- Local Government Pension Scheme, for employees other than teachers, administered by North Yorkshire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the County Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities with investment assets;
- Teachers' Pension Scheme, sponsored by the Department for Education (DfE). This is an unfunded defined benefit scheme, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due. The Actuary is unable to individually allocate a share of assets to scheme participants; this scheme is treated on the same basis as a defined contributions scheme for the purposes of these accounts.

Any discretionary enhancements to benefits awarded by the County Council remain the liability of the County Council and are paid monthly in addition to the pension paid by the DfE. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and are identified separately within this note.

- NHS Pension Scheme, administered by the NHS Business Service Authority. This is an unfunded defined benefit scheme that the Council is required to account for as if it were a defined contribution scheme. This is because the Council's obligation is limited to paying contributions as they fall due, with no obligation to pay future benefits. Contributions paid in 2020/21 were £70k (2019/20 £75k).

The County Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge the County Council is required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out (transferred) in the Movement in Reserves Statement - General Working Balance.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for 2020/21:-

	Local Government Pension Scheme		Teachers' Pension Scheme		Total	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Net Cost of Service						
Current Service Cost	72,073	71,853	0	0	72,073	71,853
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	172	698	0	0	172	698
Settlement Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
Net Interest Expense	9,201	9,700	229	281	9,430	9,981
Total post employment Benefits charged to the (Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services	81,446	82,251	229	281	81,675	82,532
Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	28,797	(41,097)	149	(940)	28,946	(42,037)
Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	110,243	41,154	378	(659)	110,621	40,495
Movement in Reserves Statement						
Reversal of Net Charge to the (Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	(81,446)	(82,251)	(229)	(281)	(81,675)	(82,532)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance in the Year						
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	45,716	53,484	0	0	45,716	53,484
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	0	0	1,087	1,146	1,087	1,146
					46,803	54,630

A comparison between the Net Cost of Service and the actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance in year shows that the costs disclosed for services are £28,620k higher than the amount charged against the General Fund. This is as a result of the following:

- the County Councils contributions of £45,716k to the Local Government Pension Scheme being replaced with a current service cost of £72,073k. This (£26,357k) adjustment equates to a 57.6% increase in employer's pension costs;
- in addition, under IAS 19, the unfunded liability arising from enhanced teachers' pensions requires that the cost of benefits paid in the year (£1,087k) is removed from the net cost of services as it relates to periods of service prior to 2020/21;
- a past service cost including curtailments and settlements of £172k relating to decisions taken in previous financial years; and
- administration expenses of £1,004k.

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

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

	Funded Liabilities		Unfunded Liabilities	
	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening balance at 1st April	(1,821.5)	(1,827.0)	(10.5)	(12.3)
Current Service Cost	(72.1)	(71.9)	0.0	0.0
Interest Cost	(41.5)	(43.4)	(0.2)	(0.3)
Contributions by scheme participants	(12.3)	(12.0)	0.0	0.0
Remeasurement liabilities	(366.9)	23.2	(0.1)	0.2
Demographic Assumptions (Gain)/Loss	0.0	61.4	0.0	0.7
Benefits Paid	51.2	48.9	1.0	1.2
Settlements / Curtailments	(0.2)	(0.7)	0.0	0.0
Closing Balance at 31st March	<u>(2,263.3)</u>	<u>(1,821.5)</u>	<u>(9.8)</u>	<u>(10.5)</u>

Reconciliation of the fair value of the scheme assets

	Funded Liabilities		Unfunded Liabilities	
	Local Government Pension Scheme		Discretionary Benefits	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening balance at 1st April	1,398.8	1,400.4	0.0	0.0
Interest on Plan Assets	32.3	33.7	0.0	0.0
Remeasurement assets	338.1	(43.6)	0.0	0.0
Employer Contributions	45.7	45.1	1.1	1.1
Contributions by scheme participants	12.3	12.0	0.0	0.0
Settlements	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Benefits Paid	(51.1)	(48.8)	(1.1)	(1.1)
Closing Balance at 31st March	<u>1,776.1</u>	<u>1,398.8</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was £370.4m (2019/20 £9.9m).

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the County Council has in the long-run to pay for retirement benefits. The total net liability of £497m has a sustained impact on the net worth of the County Council.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position in relation to pensions remains healthy because:-

- the deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by setting appropriate contribution rates over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary; and
- finance is only required to be raised to cover the teachers' pension enhancements when the pensions are actually due to be paid.

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 liabilities have been assessed by AON, an independent firm of actuaries and the main assumptions used in their calculations have been:-

	31st March 2021 %	31st March 2020 %
Rate of CPI inflation	2.7	2.0
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0	3.3
Rate of increase in pensions	2.7	2.0
Rate for discounting schemes liabilities	2.1	2.3
Proportion of employees opting to take a commuted lump sum (not Teachers Scheme)	50.0	50.0
	Years	Years
Post retirement mortality assumptions		
- Male future pensioner aged 65 in 20 years' time	23.6	23.5
- Female future pensioner aged 65 in 20 years' time	25.8	25.7
- Male current Pensioner aged 65	21.9	21.8
- Female current Pensioner aged 65	24.0	23.9

Changes in the Local Government Pension Scheme permit employees retiring to take an increase in their lump sum payment on retirement in exchange for a reduction in their future annual pension. On the advice of our actuaries we have assumed that 50% of employees retiring will take advantage of this change to the pension scheme. When first introduced, there was a significant "one-off" reduction in the County Council's liabilities which was reflected as a change in accounting policies as it affected all accrued liabilities. In subsequent years the impact of commutation is considerably smaller as it only relates to liabilities arising in the year and is included under Past Service Costs/Gains.

Assets in the North Yorkshire Pension Fund are valued at fair value, principally market value for investments. The County Council's share of the assets totals £1,776.1m at 31st March 2021 (£1,398.8m at 31st March 2020). The assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held by the Fund. There are no assets in place to cover the teachers' enhanced pension liability.

The overall expected rate of return on assets is based on the strategic asset allocation of the Fund as follows:-

	31st March 2021 %	31st March 2020 %
Equity investments	57.8	58.5
Government Bonds	16.2	19.1
Corporate Bonds / Other Bonds	2.1	0.0
Property	6.1	7.3
Other	14.5	11.0
Cash / Liquidity Assets	3.3	4.1
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Surplus / (Deficit) in the Scheme

	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m	2018/19 £m	2017/18 £m	2016/17 £m
Present Value of defined benefit obligations	(2,273.1)	(1,832.0)	(1,839.3)	(1,730.5)	(1,622.7)
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	1,776.1	1,398.8	1,400.4	1,278.2	1,158.8
Deficit in the Scheme	<u>(497.0)</u>	<u>(433.2)</u>	<u>(438.9)</u>	<u>(452.3)</u>	<u>(463.9)</u>

Actuarial Gains and Losses

The actuarial gains / (losses) identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve in 2020/21 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as absolute amounts and as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31st March 2021:-

	2020/21		2019/20		2018/19		2017/18		2016/17	
	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%
Experience adjustments on scheme assets	338.1	19.0	(43.6)	(3.1)	78.1	5.6	61.7	4.8	183.9	15.9
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities	(21.8)	(1.0)	13.9	0.8	2.8	0.2	8.8	0.5	(129.5)	(8.0)
	<u>316.3</u>		<u>(29.7)</u>		<u>80.9</u>		<u>70.5</u>		<u>54.4</u>	

Further details are contained in the Statement by Consulting Actuary, copies of which are available on request from Central Services, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD.

The estimated amount of contributions expected to be paid to the Scheme during the 2021/22 financial year is £48.3m.

Teachers employed by the County Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita. It provides teachers with defined benefits upon their retirement, and the County Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based upon a percentage of members' pensionable salaries. The policy of offering enhancements to the retirement benefits of

teachers ceased in 1996/97, however, the cost of enhancements awarded prior to that date will continue to be met until those pensions cease to be paid.

In 2020/21 the County Council paid £24.6m to the Teachers' Pension Agency as a contribution towards teachers' pension costs, which represents an average 16.4% of teachers' pensionable pay. The figures for 2019/20 were £22.3m and 16.4% from September 2019 (16.4% between April and August 2019).

The scheme is a defined benefit scheme. Although the scheme is unfunded, Teachers' Pensions use a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local education authorities. However, it is not possible for the County Council to identify a share of the underlying liabilities in the scheme attributable to its own employees.

The County Council is unable to identify the deficit of the Teachers' Pension Scheme as Central Government suspended all actuarial valuations whilst the scheme was re-designed as part of public sector pensions reform. The primary purpose of these valuations is to set the contribution rate.

The County Council is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These benefits are fully accrued in the pensions liability as described above.

Assumptions for the Teachers' Pension Scheme are broadly in line with those for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

11. Audit Fees

In 2020/21 the County Council incurred the following fees relating to external audit:-

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Fees payable to the External Auditor with regard to :-		
External audit service carried out by appointed auditor	73	73
Certification of grant claims and returns	4	4
Other Services (rebate from Public Sector Audit Appointments)	0	(9)
	<u>77</u>	<u>68</u>

12. Private Finance Initiative (Service Concessions)/Public Private Partnership

In April 2002 the County Council commenced payments on a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme which provides for four replacement primary schools at Barlby CP, Brotherton and Byram PS (both near Selby), Kirby Hill CE (near Boroughbridge) and Ripon Cathedral CE. The contract is for 25 years.

Brotherton and Byram CPS converted to academy status on 1st August 2015. As a result, the building value of the school has been removed from the County Council Balance Sheet.

Two of the schools, Kirby Hill CEPS and Ripon Cathedral CEPS, are voluntary controlled schools. On expiry of the private finance initiative in 2027 these two school buildings will transfer to the respective Trustees of each of the schools. However, to reflect the substance of the transaction

and to give consistency in approach to the PFI scheme the building values for these two schools are retained on the County Council balance sheet along with that of Barlby CPS.

The associated liability for all of the schools is shown as a finance lease within the accounts.

In March 2018, the County Council commenced payments on a Public Private Partnership project in conjunction with York City Council, for a Waste treatment plant provided by Amey CESP, AWPR Ltd. The payments made by North Yorkshire County Council represent 79% of the scheme, with 21% attributable to York City Council. The contract is for 25 years.

During the term of the contract, the provider is required to make facilities available in line with the agreement with approved variations adjusted through the payment mechanism where appropriate.

Upon expiry the facility will be handed to the County Council in good working order. The associated asset has been recognised within Property, Plant & Equipment within the accounts, along with liabilities due over the term of the contract.

Value of PFI/PPP Assets

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Schools £000	Waste £000	Total £000	Schools £000	Waste £000	Total £000
Opening Balance	5,087	147,020	152,107	5,205	152,271	157,476
Depreciation	(214)	(11,972)	(12,186)	(240)	(5,251)	(5,491)
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations	(347)	30,667	30,320	122	0	122
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	<u>4,526</u>	<u>165,715</u>	<u>170,241</u>	<u>5,087</u>	<u>147,020</u>	<u>152,107</u>

Forming part of the above balance are the two voluntary controlled schools which have a net book value of £2,382k (£2,678k 2019/20). This represents the fair value of the County Council's interest in the remaining term of the contract; on the expiry of the PFI arrangement in 2027, the buildings of the two voluntary controlled schools revert to the Trustees of those schools.

Value of PFI/PPP Liabilities

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Schools £000	Waste £000	Total £000	Schools £000	Waste £000	Total £000
Opening Balance	3,331	150,756	154,087	3,674	153,415	157,089
Payments/Repayment:	(374)	(3,129)	(3,503)	(343)	(2,659)	(3,002)
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	<u>2,957</u>	<u>147,627</u>	<u>150,584</u>	<u>3,331</u>	<u>150,756</u>	<u>154,087</u>

Payments due to be made under PFI/PPP Contracts

	Repayment of leasing liability		Payment of Interest		Lifecycle Costs		Provisions of Services		Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Within 1 year										
Schools	408		267		0		469		1,144	
Waste	<u>3,540</u>	3,948	<u>15,657</u>	15,924	<u>68</u>	68	<u>10,323</u>	10,792	<u>29,588</u>	30,732
More than 1 year										
within 2-5 years										
Schools	1,930		665		111		1,869		4,575	
Waste	<u>13,771</u>	15,701	<u>58,944</u>	59,609	<u>4,151</u>	4,262	<u>45,727</u>	47,596	<u>122,593</u>	127,168
within 6-10 years										
Schools	619		56		0		469		1,144	
Waste	<u>17,758</u>	18,377	<u>65,093</u>	65,149	<u>17,322</u>	17,322	<u>64,980</u>	65,449	<u>165,153</u>	166,297
within 11-15 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>35,968</u>	35,968	<u>52,899</u>	52,899	<u>12,198</u>	12,198	<u>73,857</u>	73,857	<u>174,922</u>	174,922
within 16-20 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>59,578</u>	59,578	<u>27,631</u>	27,631	<u>15,685</u>	15,685	<u>84,121</u>	84,121	<u>187,015</u>	187,015
within 21-25 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>17,011</u>	17,011	<u>1,360</u>	1,360	<u>610</u>	610	<u>32,829</u>	32,829	<u>51,810</u>	51,810
Total - More than 1 year										
Schools		2,549		721		111		2,338		5,719
Waste		<u>144,086</u>		<u>205,927</u>		<u>49,966</u>		<u>301,514</u>		<u>701,493</u>
		<u>146,635</u>		<u>206,648</u>		<u>50,077</u>		<u>303,852</u>		<u>707,212</u>

Payments due to be made under PFI/PPP Contracts - Comparative Movements in 2019/20

	Repayment of leasing liability		Payment of Interest		Lifecycle Costs		Provisions of Services		Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Prior Year 2019/20										
Within 1 year										
Schools	374		301		0		469		1,144	
Waste	<u>3,129</u>	3,503	<u>16,004</u>	16,305	<u>1</u>	1	<u>10,123</u>	10,592	<u>29,257</u>	30,401
More than 1 year										
Schools	2,957		989		111		2,806		6,863	
Waste	<u>147,627</u>	150,584	<u>221,585</u>	222,574	<u>50,033</u>	50,144	<u>311,837</u>	314,643	<u>731,082</u>	737,945

Values given are based upon current prices with no assumed inflation in future years. A Government grant of £704k towards the overall costs of the schools PFI has also been credited in year to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under Non-Ringfenced Government Grants. This value of this grant will remain at £704k until the end of the contract in 2027.

13. Leases

Finance Leases

The County Council has a number of arrangements that are considered to be finance leases. These leases are in relation to buildings, the rental payments under these arrangements in the year were £169k (£169k in 2019/20).

The County Council is committed to making minimum lease payments under these leases in future financial years comprising the settlement of the long term liability for the interest in the property and financing costs payable whilst the lease obligation remains outstanding.

Long Term Liability Lease Obligation	Finance Lease Liability	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Within 1 year	13	12
Between 2 - 5 years	64	59
Later than 5 years	959	977
	<u>1,036</u>	<u>1,048</u>

The minimum lease payments set out in the agreements entered in to by the County Council include a further £2,203k (£2,296k in 2019/20) of finance costs over the remaining life of the lease. The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Within 1 year	105	105
Between 2 - 5 years	420	420
Later than 5 years	2,715	2,820
	<u>3,240</u>	<u>3,345</u>

The following net value of assets held under finance leases are shown on the Balance Sheet.

Property	Finance Lease Liability	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
	<u>983</u>	<u>999</u>

Operating Leases

The County Council utilised assets held under operating leases for Land and Buildings and Vehicles, Plant and Equipment. Payments made during the year amount to £901k (£1,051k in 2019/20) in respect of Land and Building leases and £1,912k for Vehicles, Plant and Equipment (£2,174k in 2019/20).

The County Council had commitments at the 31st March 2021 to make payments under operating leases in future financial years, comprising the following elements:-

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2021 £000
Within 1 year	2,176	2,863
Between 2 - 5 years	3,757	5,639
Later than 5 years	312	1,408
	<u>6,245</u>	<u>9,910</u>

The capital value of these operating leases is not shown on the Balance Sheet.

The County Council acted as lessor and sub-lessor for various properties under cancellable agreements, these primarily comprise of County Farms and highway maintenance depots operated under a service agreement with Ringway Infrastructure Service Limited.

Rental receipts for Land and Buildings received during the year amount to £1,175k (£762k in 2019/20).

14. Related Party Transactions

The Accounting Code of Practice requires the disclosure of all material transactions undertaken by the County Council with a related party during the year. IAS 24 Related Party disclosures was introduced to ensure that financial statements highlight any material transactions between an organisation and its related parties. These are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the County Council or to be controlled or influenced by the County Council.

Members of the Council have direct control over the County Council's financial and operating policies. During 2020/21, funding of £902k was provided to three organisations in which one member had interests, £306k was provided to one organisation in which one member had interests and £24k was provided to one organisation in which another member had interests. £33k was also paid to one business for services provided to the County Council in which one member is a partner. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the County Council's constitution. In these instances, the payments were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the funding. Details of all relationships are recorded in the Register of Members' Interest.

Officers have day to day control of the running of the County Council's affairs. No material related party transactions occurred with Officers in 2020/21. However, it should be noted that the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources is Treasurer to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund; the Head of Finance – External Clients is Treasurer to the North York Moors National Park Authority; an Assistant Director – Strategic Resources is Treasurer to Selby District Council, and a director of Veritau North Yorkshire on behalf of Selby District Council; another Assistant Director – Strategic Resources is Treasurer to Ryedale District Council.

Companies and Joint Ventures

The County Council has a substantial interest in the following companies:-

- Align Property Partners Limited
- Brierley Homes Limited
- First North Law Limited
- NY Highways
- NYnet Limited
- owning 100% of the share capital
- owning 100% of the share capital
- owning 100% of the share capital
- owning 100% of the share capital
- owning 100% of the share capital

- Veritau Limited
- Yorwaste Limited
- owning 50% of the share capital
- owning 78% of the issued share capital.

The transactions between the County Council and those companies where a material group relationship has been identified are eliminated in the Group Accounts financial statements.

There is also a group relationship with Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) but, as there is not a significant level of control nor material expenditure, no consolidation adjustments have been undertaken within the Group Account statements on the grounds of it being a simple investment.

Align Property Partners Limited:

The total value of services provided by Align Property Partners Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £2,360k (£2,734k in 2019/20) and at 31st March 2021 the trading creditor balance was £185k (£236k in 2019/20).

The County Council provided services to Align Property Partners Limited totalling £332k (£319k in 2019/20) of which £231k was outstanding as at 31st March 2021 (£30k in 2019/20).

The County Council provided a loan facility to Align Property Partners Limited of up to £500k of which £Nil was taken up at 31st March 2021 (£Nil in 2019/20).

Brierley Homes Limited:

The total value of services provided by Brierley Homes Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £13.3k (£Nil in 2019/20). The County Council provided services to Brierley Homes Limited totalling £126.5k (£259k in 2019/20) of which £125.5k was outstanding as at 31st March 2021 (£27k as at 31st March 2020).

The County Council provided a loan facility to Brierley Homes Limited of up to £25m of which £7.9m was taken up as at 31st March 2021 (£4.5m as at 31st March 2020) and therefore £295k interest was paid to the County Council in 2020/21 (£202k in 2019/20).

First North Law Limited:

The total value of services provided by First North Law Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £1.8k (£44k in 2019/20) and at 31st March 2021 the trading creditor balance was £Nil (£0.4k in 2019/20). The County Council provided services to First North Law Limited totalling £21k (£31k in 2019/20) of which £15k was outstanding as at 31st March 2021 (£14k as at 31st March 2020).

The County Council provided a loan facility to First North Law Limited of up to £250k of which £90k was taken up as at 31st March 2021 (£85k in 2019/20) and therefore £4k interest was paid to the County Council in 2020/21 (£4k in 2019/20).

NYnet Limited:

The total value of services provided by NYnet Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £1,428k (£1,168k in 2019/20), and at 31st March 2021 the trading creditor balance was £Nil (£Nil in 2019/20).

The County Council provided services to NYnet Limited totalling £116k (£366k in 2019/20), of which £Nil was outstanding as at 31st March 2021 (£Nil in 2019/20).

The County Council provided a loan facility to NYnet Limited of up to £10m in 2020/21 (£10m in 19/20) of which the closing balance as at 31st March 2021 was £Nil (£Nil as at 31st March 2020). Interest accrued in year of £Nil (£262k in 19/20) on this loan and was outstanding as at 31st March 2021. The loan balance at 31st March 2020 was £Nil.

£13.7m due to the County Council from NYnet which relates to unspent funding is included in outstanding Debtors as at 31st March 2021 (£13.3k in 19/20).

NY Highways Limited:

NY Highways Limited were incorporated on 21st September 2019 and will commence operation delivery from 1st June 2021.

The County Council provided a loan facility to NY Highways Limited of up to £11.0m during 2020/21 of which £0.2m was taken up at 31st March 2021.

Veritau Limited:

The total value of services provided by Veritau Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £584k (£561k in 2019/20) and at 31st March 2021 the trading creditor balance was £4,716 (£Nil in 2019/20).

The County Council provided services to Veritau Limited totalling £38k (£41k in 2019/20) and at 31st March 2021, £Nil was outstanding (£Nil in 2019/20).

Yorwaste Limited:

The total value of services, including landfill tax provided by Yorwaste Limited in 2020/21 to the County Council was £25,895k (£27,888k in 2019/20) and as at 31st March 2021 the trading creditor balance was £1,722k (£3,345k in 2019/20).

The County Council provided services to Yorwaste Limited totalling £6,308k (£6,116k in 2019/20) of which £417k (£6,229k in 2019/20) was outstanding as at 31st March 2021.

The County Council provided a loan to Yorwaste Limited of £6,421k of which interest was received by the County Council of £266kk in 2020/21.

Yorwaste Limited paid the County Council a dividend of £1.0m in 2020/21 (£Nil in 2019/20).

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO):

The County Council made payments to YPO in 2020/21 totalling £15.4m (£22.2m in 2019/20).

A dividend of £Nil (£620k in 2019/20) in relation to YPO's 2020 trading activities is reflected in the County Council's 2020/21 Accounts.

Other Related Party Transactions

The UK government exerts significant influence through legislation and grant funding. The following material transactions, (over £1m), with other related parties arose, which are not disclosed elsewhere in the Statement of Accounts:-

Revenue and Capital contributions received towards jointly funded schemes; NHS bodies within North Yorkshire totalling £23.9m (£23.6m in 2019/20) and made payments totalling £1.5m (£1.4m in 2019/20).

The County Council provided the North Yorkshire Pension Fund administrative and support services totalling £1.6m in 2020/21 (£1.5m in 2019/20).

15. Pooled Funds

Under Section 75 of the Health Act 2006, the County Council has undertaken joint working arrangements with appropriate NHS bodies. Pooled funds enable the County Council to address specific local health issues.

The formation of a Pooled Fund does not create a separate legal entity. The County Council is involved in three distinct areas of pooled funds - the Intermediate Care (Whole Systems) Pooled Fund, Equipment Pooled Fund and the Better Care Pooled Fund. Where the County Council acts

as the 'host', the County Council has responsibility for the financial administration of the pool. All contributions by the County Council toward pooled funds have been included within the Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Intermediate Care (Whole Systems) Pooled Fund and Equipment Pooled Fund have not been itemised below as their values do not materially impact on the overall position.

The Better Care Fund (BCF)

The BCF formally operated for the first time in 2015/16 involving the County Council, District Councils and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that operate within the North Yorkshire Area. The aim of the fund is to create closer integration between health and social care to improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers. The County Council is the host for the pooled fund for all areas of the County.

The Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) was first announced in the 2015 Spending Review and is paid as a direct grant to local government, with a condition that it is pooled into the local BCF plan. The IBCF grant allocations were increased in the 2017 Spring Budget. According to the grant determination, the funding can be spent on three purposes:

- Meeting adult social care needs;
- Reducing pressures in the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and
- Ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.

There is no requirement to spend across all three purposes, or to spend a set proportion on each. The table below shows committed funds against planned IBCF and BCF schemes. Any unspent but committed funds at the year-end have been held as a reserve.

	CCGs	NYCC	MHCLG	NY District Councils	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Contributions	63,500	0	21,934	0	85,434	60,907
Expenditure						
Schemes/Additional Costs	47,922	0	0	0	47,922	25,196
Protection of Social Care	12,388	3,190	0	0	15,578	14,384
Disabled Facilities Grant	0	0	0	5,115	5,115	4,508
Improve BCF Schemes	0	16,819	0	0	16,819	14,395
Winter Pressures Grant	0	0	0	0	0	2,424
Total Expenditure	60,310	20,009	0	5,115	85,434	60,907

16. Disclosure of Remuneration

Regulations require the County Council to disclose the number of staff receiving payments, including taxable benefits, of more than £50k in the relevant financial year.

The number of employees who receive remuneration of over £50k are as follows. Please note that these figures include (i) teachers employed directly by a school's governing body rather than by the local authority (ii) the senior employees as identified at the end of this note:-

Band (£)	2020/21			2019/20		
	Teachers	Other	Total	Teachers	Other	Total
50,000 - 54,999	114	61	175	106	57	163
55,000 - 59,999	79	41	120	83	25	108
60,000 - 64,999	63	21	84	49	40	89
65,000 - 69,999	35	28	63	35	11	46
70,000 - 74,999	16	12	28	14	1	15
75,000 - 79,999	11	2	13	8	5	13
80,000 - 84,999	7	6	13	3	4	7
85,000 - 89,999	5	6	11	4	7	11
90,000 - 94,999	2	7	9	6	6	12
95,000 - 99,999	2	4	6	0	1	1
100,000 - 104,999	1	3	4	0	2	2
105,000 - 109,999	0	0	0	1	3	4
110,000 - 114,999	1	2	3	0	1	1
115,000 - 119,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
120,000 - 124,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
125,000 - 129,999	0	0	0	0	3	3
130,000 - 134,999	0	0	0	0	1	1
135,000 - 139,999	0	2	2	0	0	0
140,000 - 144,999	0	1	1	0	0	0
145,000 - 149,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
150,000 - 154,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
155,000 - 159,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
160,000 - 164,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
165,000 - 169,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
170,000 - 174,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
175,000 - 179,999	0	0	0	0	1	1
180,000 - 184,999	0	1	1	0	0	0
	<u>336</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>477</u>

The Regulations also require the County Council to disclose the individual remuneration details of senior employees, under the following categories:

- salary, fees and allowances;
- bonuses;
- expenses allowance;
- compensation for loss of employment;
- employer's pension contribution; and
- any other emoluments.

The regulations also require that persons whose salary is in excess of £150k per annum must be identified by name and that certain senior employees whose salary is £50k or more per year but less than £150k, must be listed individually by way of job title. Unless otherwise stated, none of the senior officers received fees, bonuses or compensation for loss of employment or any other emoluments in 2020/21 or 2019/20. Details of Members Allowances and Expenses are published annually on the 'Councillor Allowances' page of the NYCC website.

Role	2020/21				2019/20			
	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expense Allowances	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration	Salary, Fees and Allowances	Expense Allowances	Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration
Chief Executive (Richard Flinton)	184,365	0	28,302	212,667	179,431	0	27,544	206,975
Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services	140,247	0	21,529	161,776	132,528	0	20,344	152,872
Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services	136,173	0	20,904	157,077	126,550	0	19,427	145,977
*Corporate Director of Business and Environmental Services	90,382	0	13,937	104,319	126,550	0	19,569	146,119
*Corporate Director of Business and Environmental Services	58,436	0	9,004	67,440	0	0	0	0
Corporate Director (Strategic Resources)	136,173	0	20,905	157,078	126,550	0	19,451	146,001
*Director of Public Health	100,324	0	13,633	113,957	113,951	0	16,460	130,411
*Director of Public Health	32,839		5,041	37,880	0	0	0	0
Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)	113,374	0	17,404	130,778	108,500	0	16,656	125,156
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)	113,375	0	17,522	130,897	108,500	0	16,656	125,156
** Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Services)	22,557	0	3,406	25,963	21,953	0	3,666	25,619

* There was a change in post holder for Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services and Director of Public Health during 2020/21

** This post was created in partnership with Selby District Council from 28th October 2013. The post represents 20% of the partnership costs of an annual salary of £129,816 for NYCC.

17. Exit Packages / Termination Benefits

Details of the Exit Packages / Termination Benefits paid out to employees who were made redundant during the year are set out in the table below.

The table shows the total number of compulsory and other voluntary redundancies / departures and their total cost. This is broken down into incremental bands of £20k up to £100k and bands of £50k thereafter. The total costs shown include payments made to the employees plus payments made to the relevant pension funds to compensate for “strain on the fund” costs resulting from the employee’s exit and resulting pension entitlements.

The table covers all employees of the County Council, including school teachers employed directly by the school’s governing body rather than by the Local Authority.

Exit Package Cost Band (£)	Number of Compulsory Redundancies		Number of other Departures Agreed		Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band		Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
							£000	£000
1-19,999	11	13	52	86	63	99	527	719
20,000-39,999	1	5	6	16	7	21	187	559
40,000-59,999	0	0	1	5	1	5	59	229
60,000-79,999	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	143
80,000-99,999	0	0	1	1	1	1	90	90
	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>863</u>	<u>1,740</u>

18. Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements on Property, Plant and Equipment during the year 2020/21.

	Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation						
As at 1st April 2020	969,770	115,765	940,215	2,034	0	2,027,784
Additions	5,501	1,731	71,963	0	435	79,630
Disposals	(43,257)	0	(1,110)	(450)	0	(44,817)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations / (Impairments)						
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(1,409)	0	0	15	0	(1,394)
Recognised in Provision of Services	(39,571)	0	0	(5)	0	(39,576)
As at 31st March 2021	891,034	117,496	1,011,068	1,594	435	2,021,627
Depreciation and Impairments						
As at 1st April 2020	(35,979)	(108,963)	(217,228)	(63)	0	(362,233)
Charge for the Year	(33,184)	(2,342)	(26,816)	(35)	0	(62,377)
Disposals	0	0	1,110	0	0	1,110
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations / (Impairments)						
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,070	0	0	0	0	1,070
Recognised in Provision of Services	32,777	0	0	5	0	32,782
As at 31st March 2021	(35,316)	(111,305)	(242,934)	(93)	0	(389,648)
Balance Sheet Net Amount as at 31st March 2021	855,718	6,191	768,134	1,501	435	1,631,979
Balance Sheet Net Amount as at 31st March 2020	933,791	6,802	722,987	1,971	0	1,665,551

Comparative Movements in 2019/20.

	Land and Building £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation						
As at 1st April 2019	993,560	112,712	890,869	2,773	0	1,999,914
Additions	6,739	3,053	59,071	0	0	68,863
Disposals	(62,145)	0	(9,725)	(710)	0	(72,580)
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations / (Impairments)						
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	55,634	0	0	(23)	0	55,611
Recognised in Provision of Services	(24,018)	0	0	(6)	0	(24,024)
As at 31st March 2020	969,770	115,765	940,215	2,034	0	2,027,784
Depreciation and Impairments						
As at 1st April 2019	(30,715)	(105,923)	(201,936)	(35)	0	(338,609)
Charge for the Year	(28,845)	(3,040)	(25,017)	(34)	0	(56,936)
Disposals	0	0	9,725	0	0	9,725
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations / (Impairments)						
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	288	0	0	0	0	288
Recognised in Provision of Services	23,293	0	0	6	0	23,299
As at 31st March 2020	(35,979)	(108,963)	(217,228)	(63)	0	(362,233)
Balance Sheet Net Amount as at 31st March 2020	933,791	6,802	722,987	1,971	0	1,665,551
Balance Sheet Net Amount as at 31st March 2019	962,845	6,789	688,933	2,738	0	1,661,305

During 2020/21 the County Council recognised impairment gains of £15.4m in relation to its land and buildings and surplus assets. Impairment losses were recognised within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement under the following sections.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Impairment losses/gains recognised within the (Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	(9,579)	(4,310)
Impairment losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and taken to the Revaluation Reserve	(5,859)	10,204
	<u>(15,438)</u>	<u>5,894</u>

19. Valuation of Non-Current Assets

The County Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Non-Current Assets that are required to be measured at Fair Value are revalued at least every five years.

Valuations of Land and Buildings were carried out on 1st January 2021 by Align Property Partners Limited, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date less weight can be attached to market evidence used previously to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement, however, valuations in the financial statements are not reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global and reflected in the valuation report produced by the County Council's valuer in 19/20. The valuer has continued to exercise professional judgement and this continues to be the best information available to the Council.

Secondary Schools were revalued in 2020/21 in accordance with the five year rolling programme. Furthermore, those properties not considered as part of the rolling programme in 2020/21 were subject to a desktop review by Align Property Partners Limited:-

	Land and Buildings £000	Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Valued at Historic Cost	434	6,191	768,133	0	774,758
Valued at current value in :-					
2020/21	215,222	0	0	1,501	216,723
2019/20	184,872	0	0	0	184,872
2018/19	94,859	0	0	0	94,859
2017/18	79,741	0	0	0	79,741
2016/17	281,026	0	0	0	281,026
Total Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>856,154</u>	<u>6,191</u>	<u>768,133</u>	<u>1,501</u>	<u>1,631,979</u>

20. Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment

15 Schools gained Academy status during 2020/21. As a consequence the Land and Building assets of £40.7m relating to the schools were transferred to the relevant Academy Trusts and have now been removed from the County Council's Balance Sheet.

In addition, the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice requires a 'transfer of assets for no consideration' or 'loss on disposal of fixed assets' charge to be included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This exceptional £40.7m loss is purely notional and does not impact on the County Council's General Working Balance or Council Tax levy.

Other disposals in the year resulted in a net gain of £2.1m.

21. Major Areas of Capital Spending

Major areas of capital spending, over £2m during 2020/21 were:-

	Actual £000
Structural Maintenance of Roads & Bridges	51,897
Local Enterprise Partnership Schemes	18,092
Basic Need Grant Funded Schemes	10,810
Harrogate-York Rail Scheme	8,295
Junction 47 Improvements	4,192
Capital Maintenance Programme	3,902
Loans to Limited Companies	3,574
Integrated Transport Block Provision	2,738
County Hall Redevelopment (2018-20)	2,377
	<hr/>
	105,877
All spending in areas below £2m	14,870
Total Capital Spending in 2020/21	<hr/> <u>120,747</u>

Committed Capital Expenditure

The County Council had an approved Capital Plan for 2021/22 of £137.7m. Of this £137.7m is committed expenditure as at 1st April 2021. It should be noted, however, that this figure includes a significant element (£85.3m) relating to a number of general provisions and other schemes where legal contracts had not been exchanged by 31st March 2021.

The remaining £52.4m consisted of the following:-

	Actual £000
Basic Need Programme	17,154
Extra Care Programme	7,517
School Condition Programme - Modernisation	6,281
Getting Building Fund Programme	5,520
Transforming Cities	4,640
Junction 47 Improvements	3,297
GBF Digital Infrastructure Programme	2,180
Kex Gill Realignment	1,711
Flood Risk Management Programme	1,486
T&C Roadmap 2020-2025	700
Rural Connected Communities Programme	555
School Condition Programme - PCU Replacements	512
County Hall Redevelopment	435
County Farm Properties	200
Heritages Services Programme	175
Other Schemes (less than £100k each)	122
	<u>52,485</u>

22. Capital Expenditure, Capital Financing and the Capital Financing Requirement

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the next table (including the value of assets acquired under Finance leases and PFI contracts), 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 County Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the County Council that has yet to be financed from Revenue. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

(a) Capital Expenditure and its financing

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment and Loans	91,016	81,905
Investment Properties	0	0
Intangible Assets	15	414
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	<u>29,715</u>	<u>17,562</u>
	<u>120,746</u>	<u>99,881</u>
Sources of Finance		
Capital receipts		
- Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	5,244	2,053
- Repayment of Loans to Limited Companies	406	389
Government grants and other contributions	104,664	69,976
Direct Revenue Contributions	8,160	23,896
Increase in underlying need to borrow		
- supported by Government financial assistance	0	0
- unsupported by Government financial assistance	<u>2,272</u>	<u>3,567</u>
	<u>120,746</u>	<u>99,881</u>

The difference between the £120.7m capital investment above and the £79.6m additions in note 18 relates to expenditure of £29.7m on Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute, £5.9m of capital expenditure which resulted in no value being added to the County Council's asset base, intangible assets of £0.01m and £5.5m on loans to Limited Companies.

(b) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

	2020/21		2019/20	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing requirement		452,590		463,652
Movement in year				
Increase in underlying need to borrow MRP		2,272		3,567
- capital spending funded by borrowing	(11,075)		(11,615)	
- PFI contracts	(3,503)		(3,003)	
- Finance leases	(11)	(14,589)	(11)	(14,629)
Assets acquired under PFI contracts		0		0
Assets acquired under Finance leases		0		0
Closing Capital Financing Requirement		<u>440,273</u>		<u>452,590</u>
Decrease/(Increase) in Capital Financing Requirement		<u>12,317</u>		<u>11,062</u>
Closing CFR consists of				
Capital spending funded by borrowing		288,654		297,455
PFI contracts		150,583		154,087
Finance leases		1,036		1,048
CFR at 31st March		<u>440,273</u>		<u>452,590</u>

23. Long Term Creditors

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Government Entities				
Central Government Bodies	0		0	
Other Local Authorities	62		28	
NHS Bodies	<u>10</u>	72	<u>24</u>	52
General Creditors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		78		1,200
Income in Advance		<u>1,581</u>		<u>1,390</u>
Total Long Term Creditors		<u>1,731</u>		<u>2,642</u>

24. Intangible Assets

An intangible item may meet the definition of an asset when “access to the future economic benefits” is controlled by an authority through custody or legal protection. Examples of this type of Intangible Assets within the County Councils Capital Plan include:-

- Health and Adult Services partnership schemes where the County Council holds nomination rights to services; and

- ICT schemes.

Details of Intangible Assets in 2020/21 are as follows:-

	31st March 2021 £000	Charge to Net Cost of Service 2020/21 £000	Capitalised 2020/21 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Extra Care and Older Peoples Resources	4,047	(342)	0	4,389
Other	1,251	(307)	15	1,543
	<u>5,298</u>	<u>(649)</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5,932</u>

The movement on Intangible Asset balances during the year is as follows:-

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at start of year		
Gross carrying amount	22,162	21,748
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(16,230)</u>	<u>(15,292)</u>
	5,932	6,456
Additions	15	414
Amortisation	<u>(649)</u>	<u>(938)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>5,298</u>	<u>5,932</u>
Comprising		
Gross carrying amount	22,178	22,162
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(16,880)</u>	<u>(16,230)</u>
	<u>5,298</u>	<u>5,932</u>

25. Investment Property

The County Council has determined that County Farm properties and other commercial properties are classified as investment properties. The fair value for the farm properties (at market rents) has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local authority area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold but, due to no one property being exactly the same as another, the level of unobservable inputs lead to the properties being categorised at Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the County Council's financial statements, including Investment Property, are categorised within the fair value hierarchy. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the County Council can access at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are those other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Other commercial properties were purchased in a competitive open market and are valued annually at their fair value. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of these properties over the year.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at start of year	53,022	47,983
Additions (subsequent expenditure)	0	5
Disposals	(818)	0
Net gain from revaluations	<u>(2,785)</u>	<u>5,034</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>49,419</u>	<u>53,022</u>

The County Council has no restriction on its ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or its right to the remittance of income and the proceeds from disposal.

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for within the Financing and Investment Income section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, under Investment properties:-

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Rental Income from Investment Property	(332)	(368)
Direct operating expenses	313	307
Net gain from revaluation	<u>2,785</u>	<u>(5,034)</u>
Total transactions relating to Investment Property	<u>2,766</u>	<u>(5,095)</u>

The County Council has certain contractual obligations in relation to repairing and maintaining these investment properties.

26. Heritage Assets

The County Council does not currently have any Heritage Assets held within the Balance Sheet.

Heritage Assets are non-current assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities. They are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage Assets are measured at valuation and the asset should be recognised on the Balance Sheet when identified.

An annual review is undertaken across the County Council to identify any Heritage Assets.

The County Council's Records Office hold a large number of archive collections, which are owned by the County Council, which would meet the definition of Heritage Assets and should be classified as such.

A valuation of the items held by the Records Office has never been established and any valuation exercise would be costly and resource intensive. As a result, it was concluded that the cost of obtaining a full valuation of these assets would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the financial statements. The assets held by the records office are not, therefore, recognised in the Balance Sheet, but disclosed above for information.

27. Current Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for Sale are those properties that are currently marketed and it is anticipated will be sold within 12 months of the reporting period.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance at start of year	<u>170</u>	<u>170</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>170</u>	<u>170</u>

28. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents represents balances held within bank current accounts and short term investments that are of a highly liquid nature and the balance is made up of the following elements:-

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Bank current accounts and cash held by the County Council	9,379	15,388
Short term / call deposits	<u>52,420</u>	<u>82,619</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>61,799</u>	<u>98,007</u>

29. Long Term Investments

The County Council holds long term investments in local authority owned companies as follows:-

	Shareholding %	£	Dividends £
Align Property Partners Limited	100.00	500,000	0
NY Highways	100.00	500,000	0
Brierley Homes Limited	100.00	100	0
First North Law Limited	100.00	100	0
NYnet Limited	100.00	1	0
Veritau Limited	50.00	1	0
Yorwaste Limited	77.30	3,517,524	0

These companies' Profit and Loss Accounts are not included as part of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shown on page 39. However, any dividend income received is included as part of the County Council's income for 2020/21. Similarly, these companies' Assets and Liabilities are not included in the County Council's Balance Sheet on pages 43 to 44.

The County Council has determined, however, that it has a group relationship with these two companies and they have therefore been incorporated into its Group Accounts on pages 109 to 127.

Brief details of these Companies are as follows:-

Name	:- NYnet Limited
Business	:- The provision of broadband infrastructure in North Yorkshire

Name :- Yorwaste Limited
 Business :- The management, transport and disposal of waste

	NYnet Limited		Yorwaste Limited	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	(8,392)	(7,918)	8,067	7,249
Loans from NYCC	0	0	6,421	6,809
Dividend Payable	0	0	1,011	0
Profit / (Loss) for the year :-				
Before Tax and Dividends	564	(488)	(1,201)	(554)
After Tax and Dividend	474	(1,017)	(844)	(520)

Copies of these companies' Draft Accounts are held by Central Services, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD.

In addition, under its Treasury Management Strategy, the County Council has made one new investment for greater than one year during 20/21 which falls into the category of long term investments. This investment is as follows:-

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Funds and Other Local Authorities		
Property Funds	5,581	5,622
Wokingham Borough Council	0	5,079
Bank of Scotland	0	5,058
	<u>5,581</u>	<u>15,759</u>
Investments with Subsidiary Companies		
Yorwaste Limited	3,518	3,518
Align Property Partners Limited	500	500
NH Highways Limited	500	0
	<u>4,518</u>	<u>4,018</u>
Total Long Term Investments	<u>10,099</u>	<u>19,777</u>

30. Long Term Debtors

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Loans to Subsidiary Companies	14,637	11,452
Loans to Growing Places Schemes	1,913	3,462
Long Term Payments in Advance	494	476
Long Term Debtors	<u>828</u>	<u>166</u>
	17,872	15,556
Less: Bad Debts Provision	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>17,872</u>	<u>15,556</u>

Loan balances are increased by any new loans and reduced as a loan is repaid.

31. Short Term Debtors

	31st March 2021 £000		31st March 2020 £000	
Government Entities				
Central Government Bodies	11,618		6,935	
Other Local Authorities	17,162		15,208	
NHS Bodies	<u>17,269</u>	46,049	<u>13,135</u>	35,278
General Debtors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		79,183		69,455
Payments in Advance		<u>20,540</u>		<u>17,730</u>
		145,772		122,463
Less: Bad Debts Provision		<u>(18,228)</u>		<u>(16,202)</u>
Total Short Term Debtors		<u>127,544</u>		<u>106,261</u>

32. Short Term Creditors

	31st March 2021 £000		31st March 2020 £000	
Government Entities				
Central Government Bodies	12,675		16,589	
Other Local Authorities	24,314		3,127	
NHS Bodies	<u>1,942</u>	38,931	<u>1,062</u>	20,778
General Creditors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		43,580		55,911
Income in Advance		<u>29,028</u>		<u>19,131</u>
Total Short Term Creditors		<u>111,539</u>		<u>95,820</u>

33. Provisions

	Changes during the year				To be used			Total
	Balance as at 31st March 2020	Provision Made	Provision Used	Provision Written Down	Balance as at 31st March 2021	Within 1 year	In excess of 1 year	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Insurance	6,522	2,858	(1,323)	0	8,057	2,686	5,371	8,057
Highways Advance Payments	6,487	3,285	(2,027)	0	7,745	0	7,745	7,745
Contractual Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	223	50	0	0	273	192	81	273
	<u>13,232</u>	<u>6,193</u>	<u>(3,350)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,075</u>	<u>2,878</u>	<u>13,197</u>	<u>16,075</u>

	Changes during the year				To be used			Total
	Balance as at 31st March 2019	Provision Made	Provision Used	Provision Written Down	Balance as at 31st March 2020	Within 1 year	In excess of 1 year	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Insurance	8,436	(172)	(1,742)	0	6,522	2,174	4,348	6,522
Highways Advance Payments	4,140	5,097	(2,750)	0	6,487	0	6,487	6,487
Contractual Disputes	3,000	0	(1,900)	(1,100)	0	0	0	0
Other	346	0	(123)	0	223	142	81	223
	<u>15,922</u>	<u>4,925</u>	<u>(6,515)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,232</u>	<u>2,316</u>	<u>10,916</u>	<u>13,232</u>

Highways Advance Payments

Where building work is undertaken which fronts onto a private street, a deposit under the Advance Payment Code is required from developers in respect of the cost of necessary street works. A provision is maintained in the Accounts representing deposits held where the liability of the developer has not yet been discharged.

Insurance (Claims & Liability)

Self-funding arrangements for employer's, public liability and motor claims have been established and an insurance provision has been created for this purpose. The County Council is unable to accurately determine when the longer term (to be used in excess of one year) provision will be utilised.

Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) was the predominant insurer of public sector bodies, including the County Council, until it stopped underwriting operations in 1992. The 1993 implementation of a 'scheme of arrangement' means that these public bodies have an exposure to MMI. Due mainly to subsequent much higher than expected levels of industrial disease type claims, MMI's deteriorating solvency position led to insolvent liquidation. As a result the County Council was liable for an initial 15% levy of claims paid since 1993, which was settled in 2013/14. In addition the County Council is liable to pay a 15% contribution towards all future liability claim payments and thus a residual provision is required which is based on an external review of the historical claims experience.

Contractual Disputes

A provision had been made for contractual disputes of £3m in 18/19. The provision was made to ensure that service funding could remain intact in the event of costs falling to the Council and has now been finalised and settled.

34. Usable Reserves

Supplementary to the Movement in Reserves Statement the following tables identify detail of the adjustments between the accounting basis and funding basis under regulations by reserve. The reserves are grouped by usable reserves and unusable reserves.

(a) General Working Balance	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
General Working Balance at Start of Period	(27,640)	(27,231)
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure charged to the General Balance	(39,792)	47,304
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Capital Adjustment Account		
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(649)	(938)
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(62,377)	(56,936)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(6,794)	(724)
Impairment from Non Enhancing Capital Expenditure	(5,859)	(10,204)
Movements in the value of Investment Properties	(2,785)	5,034
Capital Grants and Contributions	150,178	73,565
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	(29,715)	(17,562)
Carrying Value of non current assets written off on disposal	(44,524)	(62,855)
Pension Reserve		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(81,675)	(82,532)
Collection Fund Adjustment		
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	(2,271)	89
Accumulating Short Term Compensated Absences Account		
Amount by which staff remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accrual basis is different from that chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	268	(1,383)
Financial Instruments		
Amount by which Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss are subject to MHCLG statutory over-ride	(41)	(267)
Inclusion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Capital Adjustment Account		
Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment	14,589	14,629
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Working Balance	8,160	23,896
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,651	2,442
Pension Reserve		
Employer pension contributions payable in the year	46,803	54,630
Capital Receipts Reserve	247	539
Total of adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(10,794)	(58,577)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	50,358	10,864
General Working Balance at Period End	(27,868)	(27,640)

(b) Earmarked Reserves

	Balance 31st March 2021 £000's	Movement in year 2020/21 £000's	Balance 31st March 2020 £000's	Movement in year 2019/20 £000's	Balance 31st March 2019 £000's
Earmarked for Schools					
Local Management of Schools	16,387	6,020	10,367	(2,764)	13,131
Schools Block / DSG	(1,980)	(438)	(1,542)	(847)	(695)
	<u>14,407</u>	<u>5,582</u>	<u>8,825</u>	<u>(3,611)</u>	<u>12,436</u>
Retained for Specific Initiatives					
Strategic Resources	69,862	22,305	47,557	7,804	39,753
Highways Maintenance	0	(226)	226	(5,426)	5,652
T&C Roadmap	3,079	3,079	0	0	0
Insurance	7,296	(471)	7,767	2,220	5,547
T&C Strategy and Infrastructure	0	(2,749)	2,749	(1,128)	3,877
Superfast Broadband	18,913	385	18,528	2,700	15,828
High Needs	11,297	4,211	7,086	3,748	3,338
Redundancy	1,093	1,472	(379)	(1,791)	1,412
Extra Care	6,640	(102)	6,742	(20)	6,762
Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass	486	(113)	599	(251)	850
Stronger Communities	2,486	0	2,486	75	2,411
Health and Social Care Transfer Monies	0	0	0	(1,550)	1,550
NY2020 Programme Support	4,198	1,243	2,955	1,561	1,394
Equalisation (CTax & BR)	7,800	(1,348)	9,148	4,063	5,085
2020 Property Projects	3,005	(730)	3,735	1,141	2,594
Kex Gill	1,782	(328)	2,110	(1,776)	3,886
Streetlighting	5,419	(368)	5,787	274	5,513
HAS Market Shaping	5,100	5,100	0	0	0
Highways Pothole Match Funding	0	0	0	(2,411)	2,411
Other Individual Reserves <£2m	29,574	5,697	23,877	1,940	21,937
	<u>178,030</u>	<u>37,057</u>	<u>140,973</u>	<u>11,173</u>	<u>129,800</u>
Reserves of Trading and Service Units NYES					
Trading Reserves	3,876	129	3,747	(1,106)	4,853
Insurances	5,244	404	4,840	31	4,809
	<u>9,120</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>8,587</u>	<u>(1,075)</u>	<u>9,662</u>
Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserve					
Covid-19 LA Support	20,500	5,271	15,229	15,229	0
Public Health	4,650	2,125	2,525	(1,857)	4,382
CYPS Miscellaneous Grants	7,176	(2,520)	9,696	(172)	9,868
Civil Parking Enforcement	1,955	(655)	2,610	(822)	3,432
Improved Better Care Fund	0	0	0	(6,567)	6,567
Care Act	5,614	1,790	3,824	(559)	4,383
Income Guarantee Scheme	2,020	2,020			
Other Individual Reserves <£2m	1,950	(845)	2,795	(875)	3,670
	<u>43,865</u>	<u>5,166</u>	<u>36,679</u>	<u>4,377</u>	<u>32,302</u>
Total Earmarked Reserves	<u>245,422</u>	<u>48,338</u>	<u>195,064</u>	<u>10,864</u>	<u>184,200</u>

(c) Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve

The Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve records balances of monies received from capital disposals that can be retained for qualifying capital purposes, expenditure of a capital nature or repayment of long term loans.

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Opening Balance	3,815	3,276
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,898	2,981
Use of the Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve to finance new expenditure	<u>(5,651)</u>	<u>(2,442)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>4,062</u>	<u>3,815</u>

(d) Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve

The Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve is required under IFRS and IAS 20 Accounting for Government Grants. The reserve holds the balances of capital grants received where the conditions of use have been met but the actual expenditure has not been incurred. This reserve is classified as a usable reserve as the balances held within this account can be utilised to fund future expenditure of a capital nature.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening Balance	22,873	19,284
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation		
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	150,178	73,565
Application of Capital Grants and Contributions within the period and adjusted through the Capital Adjustment Account	<u>(104,665)</u>	<u>(69,976)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>68,386</u>	<u>22,873</u>

35. Unusable Reserves

(a) Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve records the unrealised gains from the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment.

	2019/20 £000	2018/19 £000
Opening Balance	409,826	383,895
Asset Revaluation within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(324)	55,899
Adjustment between current value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	(15,587)	(10,560)
Write out of revaluation on disposal; Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>(24,962)</u>	<u>(19,408)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>368,953</u>	<u>409,826</u>

The revaluation reserve is built up from individual balances for each asset within the Property, Plant and Equipment categories of assets. No individual asset will have a negative revaluation balance even if the overall reserve is in surplus.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1st April 2007, the date that the reserve was created; prior to this date the Capital Adjustment Account was used to record revaluation gains.

Revaluations arising on investment properties are (under IFRS) charged to the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as and when they arise. Revaluation values for investment properties are therefore not held within the revaluation reserve.

(b) Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account represents an Unusable Reserve in the Balance Sheet. The County Council must show the accrued value of Council Tax and Non- Domestic Rates Income relating to the County Council as at 31st March 2021 rather than the actual Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates paid over by Billing Authorities to the County Council during the Financial Year. Due to timescales the figures in this disclosure note have been estimated for draft publication.

In addition, the County Council is required to show in its Balance Sheet provisions for the following:-

- Debtors for the County Council's share of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates arrears at 31st March 2021;
- Provision for bad debts of Debtors in relation to Council Tax and Non- Domestic Rates arrears as at 31st March 2021;
- Income in advance from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates payers who have paid their bills early as at 31st March 2021; and
- Creditor provision where the billing authorities have under-collected Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Income in-year compared to the value of Council Tax precepts and Non-Domestic Rates actually paid over to the County Council in 2020/21.

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account represents an adjustment between the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collected and paid over to the County Council by billing authorities in 2020/21, and the County Council's accrued actual share of Billing Authority Collection Fund Balances in 2020/21. The Collection Fund Adjustment Account also represents the County Council's actual net share of surplus or deficit in all the billing authorities collection funds combined at the end of 2019/20 and 2020/21 and can be calculated as follows:-

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Council Tax		
Debtors	17,540	13,467
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(7,155)	(6,318)
Creditors for Pre-payments and Over-payments	(4,953)	(5,503)
Net Debtors / (Creditors) to the Billing Authority	<u>(6,529)</u>	<u>747</u>
	<u>(1,097)</u>	<u>2,393</u>
Non-Domestic Rates		
Debtors	2,071	1,592
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(927)	(791)
Provision for Appeals	(5,829)	(5,344)
Creditors for Pre-payments and Over-payments	(586)	(657)
Net Debtors / (Creditors) to the Billing Authority	<u>8,083</u>	<u>6,793</u>
	<u>2,812</u>	<u>1,593</u>
Collection Fund surplus	<u>1,715</u>	<u>3,986</u>
Movement in Year		
Council Tax	(3,490)	(228)
Non-Domestic Rates	1,219	317
	<u>(2,271)</u>	<u>89</u>

(c) Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account is used to accrue for short term compensated absences such as holiday pay earned but not taken. This accrual is under statutory provision and does not represent a charge to the General Working Balance; this reserve holds the balance of the accrual within the unusable reserves section of the Balance Sheet.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Balance Brought Forward	(7,718)	(6,335)
Movement in Year	268	(1,383)
Closing Balance	<u>(7,450)</u>	<u>(7,718)</u>

(d) Pension Reserve

The Pension 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 County Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees; however, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the County Council makes contributions to the pension fund.

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 County Council has set aside to meet them.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening Balance	(433,171)	(447,306)
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Actuarial gains / (losses) on pension assets/liabilities)	(28,946)	42,037
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(81,675)	(82,532)
Employers pension contributions payable in year	46,803	54,630
Closing Balance	<u>(496,989)</u>	<u>(433,171)</u>

(e) Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account records the historic cost of acquiring, creating or enhancing Fixed Assets, (including depreciation and impairment), over the life of those assets as well as the resources set aside to finance them.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening Balance	881,189	887,776
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations		
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(649)	(938)
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(62,377)	(56,936)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(6,794)	(724)
Impairment from Non Enhancing Capital Expenditure	(5,859)	(10,204)
Movements in the value of Investment Properties	(2,785)	5,034
Capital Grants and Contributions	104,665	69,976
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	(29,715)	(17,562)
Carrying Value of non current assets written off on disposal	(44,524)	(62,855)
Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment	14,589	14,629
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Working Balance	8,160	23,896
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	5,651	2,442
Re-payment of long term loans	(3,395)	(3,313)
Other Reserve Movements		
Adjustment between current value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	15,587	10,560
Write out of revaluation on disposal; Property, Plant and Equipment	24,962	19,408
Closing Balance	<u>898,705</u>	<u>881,189</u>

(f) Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the County Council arising from increases in the value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

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

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Opening Balance	(308)	(41)
Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss subject to MHCLG Statutory Over-Ride*	(41)	(267)
Closing Balance	<u>(349)</u>	<u>(308)</u>

*The MHCLG introduced a statutory over-ride to protect the General Fund balance from any fluctuations in fair value movements in quoted investment funds. In the County Council's case this relates to its investments in two Pooled Investment Property Funds. This over-ride expires on 31st March 2023 and unless extended, all fair value movements will then impact on the General Fund Balance.

36. Material Contingent Liabilities

There have been no material contingent liabilities identified by the County Council in 2020/21.

37. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Under IAS 10 Events after the Reporting Period, the County Council is required to disclose the date that the financial statements are authorised for issue. This establishes the date after which events will not have been recognised in the Statement of Accounts.

The Draft Statement for 2020/21 was authorised for issue on 14th June 2021 by the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources. The Statement of Accounts is then subject to the External Audit process, before being considered and approved by Audit Committee members on 20th September 2021.

Since the Balance Sheet date, 2 schools have converted to Academy status. Land and Building asset values totalling £6.0m will be transferred off the County Council's balance sheet in 2021/22 and the County Council will no longer receive Dedicated School Grant of around £1.4m.

38. Dedicated Schools Grant

The County Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Regulations 2014. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

Details of the deployment of DSG receivable for 2020/21 are detailed below:-

	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budgets £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2020/21 before Academy recoupment			445,555
Academy figure recouped for 2020/21			(169,279)
Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2020/21			<u>276,276</u>
Plus Brought forward from 2019/20			1,542
Plus Post year end adjustment			
Less Carry-forward to 2021/22 agreed in advance			<u>(1,542)</u>
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2020/21	47,540	228,736	276,276
In year adjustments	0	(370)	(370)
Final budgeted distribution for 2020/21	<u>47,540</u>	<u>228,366</u>	<u>275,906</u>
Less Actual central expenditure	(47,649)		(47,649)
Less Actual ISB deployed to schools	0	(228,695)	(228,695)
Net Carry-forward in year	<u>(109)</u>	<u>(329)</u>	<u>(438)</u>
Net Carry-forward to 2021/22			<u>(1,980)</u>

In 2020/21, £275,907k has been credited against the Education and Children's Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The net overspend in 2020/21 of £438k on central expenditure and ISB has been offset against the agreed carry forward of £1,542k, and the net deficit of £1,980k is held as a negative earmarked reserve separately from the general reserves.

This is in accordance with the statutory requirements (as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020) for 2020/21, which affect the manner in which the County Council can use the general reserves held as at 31 March 2021, and the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended (Regulation 7 (4)).

Both the net overspend and the deficit balance have arisen due to the chronic underfunding of the schools budget by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) since the legislative reform introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014, which has resulted in significant increases in the number of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) that in turn increases the demand for High Needs provision. The County Council has developed a comprehensive and robust long-term Strategy for SEND 0-25; however, its implementation is greatly hindered by the continued lack of capital funding by the Department for Education. The County Council is also lacking any assurance on the future DSG monies it will receive, and this uncertainty represents significant financial risks to any recovery plan of the deficit balance over future funding periods.

39. Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments are formally defined as contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. For the County Council, this definition covers the instruments used in Treasury Management activities, including the borrowing and lending of money and the making of investments.

The County Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. This Code sets out a framework of operating procedures to reduce treasury risk and improve understanding and accountability regarding the Treasury position of the County Council.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires:-

- a Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS) stating the County Council's policies and objectives for its treasury management activities; and
- a framework of Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) setting out the manner in which the County Council will seek to achieve the policies and objectives set out above and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

The twelve recommended TMPs are reviewed and updated as and when necessary in the light of regulatory and/or local policy changes and cover the following areas:-

- risk management;
- performance measurement;
- decision-making and analysis;
- approved instruments, methods and techniques;
- organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements;
- reporting requirements and management information arrangements;
- budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements;
- cash and cash flow management;
- money laundering;
- training and qualifications;
- use of external service providers; and
- corporate governance.

The County Council provides treasury management services to the external bodies listed on page 106 (the external bodies listed as having temporary loans with the County Council) and the loans from them represent working balances which are invested with the County Council.

The County Council recognises and measures financial assets at either amortised cost, at fair value through profit and loss or at fair value through other comprehensive income. IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments states that investments in equity should be recognised as fair value through profit and loss, which would result in changes in valuation impacting upon the County Council's General Fund balance and its revenue budget. To mitigate this, the CIPFA Code of Practice allows councils to elect to treat equity investments as fair value through other comprehensive income. The County Council has elected to designate its shareholdings in its non-consolidated subsidiaries and a joint venture as fair value through other comprehensive income

The County Council also holds a pooled investment in two property funds. IFRS 9 also requires any changes in valuation to be recognised as fair value through profit and loss, which again would impact upon the County Council's general fund balance and revenue budget. The MHCLG has permitted a temporary (5 year) statutory override for English local authorities to mitigate the impact of these changes in valuation, commencing 1st April 2018. The County Council will utilise the statutory override to account for any changes in the value of this investment.

(a) Categories of Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

	Long Term				Short Term			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised Cost								
Investments	3,519	13,655	0	0	421,275	366,976	0	0
Loans to Subsidiary Companies	0	0	14,637	11,452	0	0	0	0
Loans to Growing Places Schemes	0	0	1,913	3,462	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1,322	642	0	0	0	0
	<u>3,519</u>	<u>13,655</u>	<u>17,872</u>	<u>15,556</u>	<u>421,275</u>	<u>366,976</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income - designated equity instruments	6,580	6,122	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income - other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Financial Assets	<u>10,099</u>	<u>19,777</u>	<u>17,872</u>	<u>15,556</u>	<u>421,275</u>	<u>366,976</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Non Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	127,544	106,261
Total	<u>10,099</u>	<u>19,777</u>	<u>17,872</u>	<u>15,556</u>	<u>421,275</u>	<u>366,976</u>	<u>127,544</u>	<u>106,261</u>

Financial Liabilities

	Long Term				Short Term			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortised Cost								
PWLB Loans	(201,839)	(215,968)	0	0	(16,061)	(29,312)	0	0
Market LOBO Loans	(20,000)	(5,000)	0	0	(45)	(15,049)	0	0
Temporary Loans from External Bodies	0	0	0	0	(197,516)	(225,384)	0	0
PFI and Finance Leases	(147,658)	(151,620)	0	0	(3,961)	(3,515)	0	0
	<u>(369,497)</u>	<u>(372,588)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(217,583)</u>	<u>(273,260)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>(369,497)</u>	<u>(372,588)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(217,583)</u>	<u>(273,260)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Non Financial Liabilities	0	0	(1,731)	(2,642)	0	0	(111,539)	(95,820)
Total	<u>(369,497)</u>	<u>(372,588)</u>	<u>(1,731)</u>	<u>(2,642)</u>	<u>(217,583)</u>	<u>(273,260)</u>	<u>(111,539)</u>	<u>(95,820)</u>

(b) Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services £000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £000	Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services £000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £000
Net (Gains) / Losses on				
investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	41	0	267	0
Interest Revenue				
financial assets measured at amortised cost	(3,199)	0	(6,528)	0
Interest Expense	27,376	1,298	28,749	2,568

(c) Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

The County Council holds units within two Property Funds. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the County Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the County Council can access at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are those other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Property Fund investments are held at Net Asset Value, as per the Investment Manager's Annual Statement, therefore classified as a Level 2 input.

The funding of these investments was from Capital reserves. The County Council did not borrow funds to finance these investments therefore Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) has not been adjusted. However, the performance of these investments will be monitored closely to ensure no / minimal loss, and MRP reviewed regularly and amended if indicated by the year end position.

As these gains or losses impact on the General Fund balance, the temporary statutory override, agreed with the MHCLG, will be utilised. This will result in any loss or gain being reversed and recorded in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve. Any gain or loss will only be realised when the investments are sold and will be treated as a capital receipt and recognised through the Capital Adjustments Account, as these investments were funded from capital.

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Nominal £000	Fair Value £000	Nominal £000	Fair Value £000
Property Funds				
Blackrock	3,003	2,874	3,003	2,852
Threadneedle	2,927	2,707	2,927	2,770
Shareholding				
Align Property Partners Limited	500	500	500	500
NY Highways Limited	500	500	0	0
	<u>6,930</u>	<u>6,581</u>	<u>6,430</u>	<u>6,122</u>

Except for the Financial Assets valued at fair value above, all other financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised costs. 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:-

- for loans from the Public Works Loan Board, (PWLB), new borrowing rates available from the PWLB have been applied and for other loans payable, current market rates were obtained from the County Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Link Asset Services;
- for loans receivable, the prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide fair value;
- no early repayment or impairment is recognised; and
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount. Please note that during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 all fair value measurements above were based on level 2 inputs, with no Level 1 or 3 for either year.

The fair values calculated are as follows:-

Borrowing Activities

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
PWLB Maturity Loans	215,396	300,163	240,616	308,918
PWLB Annuity Loans	2,504	2,624	4,666	4,935
Market LOBO Loans	<u>20,045</u>	<u>30,896</u>	<u>20,047</u>	<u>27,992</u>
Total	<u>237,945</u>	<u>333,683</u>	<u>265,329</u>	<u>341,845</u>

The fair value of the liabilities is greater than the carrying amount because the County Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future loss (based on economic conditions at 31st March 2021) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders above current market rates.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £302.8m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered if the borrowing was undertaken at the Balance Sheet date. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the authority will pay over

the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing PWLB rates.

However, the County Council has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets. A supplementary measure of the additional interest that the authority will pay as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £217.9m would be valued at £302.8m. But, if the authority were to seek to realise the projected loss by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge for early redemption in addition to charging a premium for the additional interest that will not now be paid. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £302.8m.

Investment Activities

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Money Market Loans more than 1 year	0	0	10,000	10,000
Financial Liabilities	0	0	10,000	10,000

In addition the financial assets representing the shareholding in Yorwaste Limited (£3,518k), Align Property Partners Limited (£500k), NY Highways Limited (£500k), First North Law Limited (£0.1k), Brierley Homes Limited (£0.1k), NYnet Limited (£1) and Veritau (£1) continued to be valued at Historic Cost and have been omitted from the above. These share-holdings are valued at Historic Cost because they do not have a quoted market price in an active market and therefore their fair value cannot be measured reliably. In addition these investments are not classified as “Held for Sale” and therefore in accordance with The Code, can be accounted for at Cost.

(d) Disclosure of nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments

The County Council’s activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, the key risks are:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the County Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the County Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Re-financing risk – the possibility that the County Council might be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms; and
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the County Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The County Council’s overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the County Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential

Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. Overall these procedures require the County Council to manage risk in the following ways:-

- adopt the requirements of the Code of Practice;
- approve annually in advance, prudential indicator limits for the following three years;
- review the County Council's overall borrowing limits;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt;
 - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year; and
- approve an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

The Annual Treasury Management Strategy includes these procedures in order to manage the risks of the County Council's financial instrument exposure. It is approved at the County Council's annual council tax setting budget meeting before the beginning of the financial year.

Annual outturn reports are submitted to the Executive for Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators which set out full details of activities and performance during the preceding financial year. In addition, quarterly reports on Treasury Management matters are submitted to the Executive as part of the County Council's Quarterly Performance Monitoring report and periodic meetings are held between the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Deputy Leader to discuss issues arising from the day to day management of Treasury Management activities. The Audit Committee is responsible for scrutinising the County Council's Treasury Management activities and receives regular reports and updates on Treasury Management matters.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the County Council's customers. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined in the treasury management strategy.

The County Council relies on credit ratings and "ratings watch" and "outlook" notices published by the three credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standards & Poor's) to establish the credit quality of counterparties and investment schemes. All three credit rating agencies also produce a Sovereign Rating which assesses a country's ability to support a financial institution should they get into difficulty.

No combination of ratings can be viewed as entirely fail-safe and all credit ratings, ratings watches and outlooks are monitored on a daily basis and changes made as appropriate. In addition, the County Council takes into account trends within the Credit Default Swap (CDS) Market. Since they are a traded instrument they reflect the market perception of an institution's credit quality unlike credit ratings which often focus on a longer term view. The County Council also monitors other sources of market intelligence, including the financial press, for rumours and speculation which may impact on organisations which the County Council may invest with.

Further details of the County Council's investment criteria are included in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy, a copy of which is available on the County Council's website, www.northyorks.gov.uk.

In addition, the County Council has set maximum investment limits for each organisation which also reflect that institution's credit worthiness – the higher the credit quality, the greater the investment limit. These limits also reflect UK Government involvement (i.e. Government ownership or being part of the UK Government guarantee of liquidity).

These limits can be summarised as follows:-

Maximum Investment Limit	Criteria
£75m	- UK "Nationalised" Banks / UK Banks with UK Central Government Involvement
£20m - £75m	- Selected UK "Clearing Banks" and other UK based Banks and Building Societies
£20m - £40m	- High quality Foreign Banks

The County Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in Banks and Building Societies 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. A risk of recoverability applies to all of the County Council's deposits, however, there was no evidence at the 31st March 2021 that this was likely to occur.

The following analysis summarises the County Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk as at 31st March 2021, based on experience of default assessed by the credit rating agencies and experience of its customer collection levels over the last five financial years, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Loss

The County Council has assessed all its short and long term investments and concluded that the expected credit loss is not material, therefore no allowances have been made.

A summary of the credit quality of the County Council's investments at 31st March 2021 is shown below along with the potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and collectability.

	Amount at 31st March 2021	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions %	Estimated Maximum Exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2021
	£000			£000
Deposits for less than 1 year:-				
Deposits with Local Authorities	191,079	0.0	0.0	0.0
Institutions with Fitch Rating				
Long Term AA-, Short Term F1+	10,013	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term AA, Short Term F1+	30,001	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term A+, Short Term F	175,160	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part Nationalised Banks (Fitch rating Long Term A+, Short Term F1)	15,022	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<u>421,275</u>			

The County Council's exposure to credit risk can also be analysed by the Sovereign Rating of the Country in which the financial institution is domiciled as follows:-

	Fitch Sovereign Rating as at 31st March 2021	Amount at 31st March 2021 £000
UK	AA-	411,262
Singapore	AAA	10,013
		<u>421,275</u>

The County Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. Analysis of invoices raised as at 31st March 2021, which are included within the £127.5m Short Term Debtors, can be analysed by past-due and age status as follows:-

	31st March 2021 £m	31st March 2020 £m
Less than 1 month	25.3	17.9
1 to 2 months	11.2	7.6
3 months or more	16.7	15.3
	<u>53.2</u>	<u>40.8</u>

It is considered that £16.7m of the £53.2m debtors invoice balance is past its due date for payment. The County Council maintains a Bad Debt Provision for debts based on both the age of the debt and the likelihood of a continued dispute or future settlement. No further assessment of the fair value has therefore been made. Amounts are carried on the Balance Sheet at their amounts outstanding and no amounts have been included in the table for the County Councils exposure to default.

Liquidity Risk

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

The County Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover day to day cash flow need, whilst the PWLB and money markets provide access to longer term funds. The Council is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is, therefore, no significant risk that it will be unable to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The approved prudential indicators "limits for the maturity structure of debt" and the "limits placed on investments for greater than one year in duration" are the key parameters used to address liquidity risk. The maturity of debt limit is used when carefully planning new loans to be taken and (where it is economic to do so) making early loan repayments. Also the limit placed on investments is monitored when considering cash flow needs and placing funds in the longer term.

Creditors are paid in accordance with suppliers' terms which, for liquidity risk purposes to the County Council, are less than one year and are not shown in the table above. Further analysis of creditors can be found in note 32.

All investments held with banks and financial institutions are due to mature within less than one year.

Refinancing and Maturity risk

The County Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the County Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The County Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the County Council day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provides stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities (borrowing) is as follows:-

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Less than one year		
Public Works Loan Board	(16,061)	(29,312)
Market LOBO Loans	(45)	(15,049)
Temporary Loans from External Bodies		
- North Yorkshire Pension Fund	(111,840)	(138,940)
- Selby District Council	(67,066)	(66,826)
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	(4,903)	(4,666)
- North York Moors National Park	(3,785)	(2,653)
- Yorkshire Dales National Park	(3,480)	(3,305)
- Peak District National Park	(4,013)	(4,996)
- National Parks England	(140)	(131)
- Align Property Partners Limited	(939)	(876)
- Nynet Limited	(1,350)	(2,991)
	<u>(197,516)</u>	<u>(225,384)</u>
Total Less than one year	<u>(213,622)</u>	<u>(269,745)</u>
Greater than one year		
Public Works Loan Board	(201,839)	(215,968)
Market LOBO Loans	(20,000)	(5,000)
	<u>(221,839)</u>	<u>(220,968)</u>
Analysis of loans by Maturity		
Between one and two years	(13,339)	(14,129)
Between two and five years	(30,000)	(18,339)
Between five and ten years	(7,500)	(17,500)
Between ten and fifteen years	(17,200)	(17,200)
Between fifteen and twenty five years	0	0
Between twenty five and forty years	(153,800)	(146,300)
More than forty years	0	(7,500)
	<u>(221,839)</u>	<u>(220,968)</u>

Market Risk - Interest rate risk

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

- borrowings at variable rates - the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of the borrowing liability will fall;
- investments at variable rates - the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the Balance Sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable borrowings and investments will be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Working Balance.

The Treasury Management strategy includes sensitivity analysis and the prudential indicators for managing interest rate risk. One of the prudential indicators provides maximum and minimum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The treasury team also monitors the market and forecasts interest rates to adjust exposures accordingly. For example, during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances are favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns.

If all interest rates had been 1.0% 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	2,205
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	0
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	<u>2,205</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	<u>0</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities	<u>(46,217)</u>

The impact of a 1.0% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Market Risk – Price risk

The County Council does not invest in equity shares but does have shareholdings to the value of £3.5m in Yorwaste Limited, £0.5m in Align Property Partners Limited, £0.5m NY Highways Limited, £100 in First North Law Limited, £100 in Brierley Homes Limited and a nominal value of £1 in NYnet Limited and Veritau Limited. These holdings are generally illiquid and therefore are not exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices of these shares.

The shareholdings have arisen as they have been acquired rather than originated by the County Council. These long term investments are as a result of acquisition of specific interest and are not quoted in an active market. The County Council is not exposed to price movements.

The value of the above shares are classified as loans and receivables as a reliable fair value cannot be determined.

Further information can be found in note 29 Long Term Investments.

Market Risk – Foreign exchange risk

The County Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus has no exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

40. Covid-19 Pandemic

Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic brought significant new costs and responsibilities for the County Council, offset by additional government funding.

Additional Funding

The County Council received the following grants to support the Covid-19 response during 2020/21:-

	2020/21 £m
Hospital Discharge	22,130
Local Authority Support	16,661
Infection Control	15,577
Track and Trace / Contain the Outbreak	4,220
Sales, Fees and Charges	3,663
Furlough Scheme	3,542
Income Guarantee Scheme	2,020
Winter Grant Scheme	1,756
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable	1,612
Rapid Testing Fund	1,259
Community Yesting	47
Share of Fines	25
	<hr/> 72,512 <hr/>

Commercial Investments

In order to assess the on going impact of the Covid-19, a full valuation of commercial property investments has been undertaken as part of the year-end accounting requirements. This identified a £2.8m reduction in the valuation of property investments (from £11.9m to £9.1m) in 2020/21. Commercial Property is a long term investment and valuations can, therefore, rise as well as fall, over the period they are held. In order to mitigate any potential future losses a further £1.7m has been set aside in 20/21, in addition to the £2.2m set aside in previous years to offset potential losses previously identified and future maintenance costs, to ensure that there is no impact on the General Fund at the point of any future sale.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting recognises the wide diversity of service delivery vehicles used nationally by Local Authorities. The County Council produces a consolidated set of Group Accounts to show the totality of its operations in a transparent manner.

The County Council has undertaken significant research to identify and document its relationships with all partners, companies, joint ventures and voluntary organisations. Consideration of issues such as the type of interest, ownership of share capital, membership of appropriate committees, the degree of operational and financial control, access to benefits and exposure to risks have been key elements in this analysis.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2. In the majority of cases the arrangements for accounting for relationships with these organisations are fully covered within the County Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Similarly any assets and liabilities generated are accounted for within the County Council's Balance Sheet.

As a result there is no 'group' relationship for most of these arrangements.

After consideration of all relevant criteria, the County Council has determined that for 2020/21, it has a group relationship with nine bodies (including their subsidiaries where appropriate):-

- Align Property Partners Limited;
- Brierley Homes Limited;
- First North Law Limited;
- NY Highways Limited;
- NYnet Limited;
- SJB Recycling Limited
- Veritau Limited;
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation; and
- Yorwaste Limited.

(a) Align Property Partners Limited

The County Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of Align Property Partners Limited; a company established in 2016 whose principal activities are architectural and property consultancy services. The County Council has provided a loan facility to Align Property Partners Limited for £500k.

Align Property Partners Limited has not been consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as its values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(b) Brierley Homes Limited

The County Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of Brierley Homes Limited; a company established in 2016 whose principal activities are development of building projects, construction of domestic buildings, buying and selling of own real estate and other letting and operating of own or leased real estate. The County Council has provided a loan facility to Brierley Homes Limited of £25.0m.

Brierley Homes Limited has not been consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as its values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(c) First North Law Limited

The County Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of First North Law Limited; a company established in 2016 whose principal activities are the provision of professional legal services. The County Council has provided a loan facility to First North Law Limited for £250k.

First North Law Limited has not been consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as its values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(d) NY Highways Limited

The County Council has set up a new company called NY Highways Limited, to undertake and deliver all highway maintenance activities from 1st June 2021. The County Council has provided a loan facility to NY Highways for £11m.

NY Highways Limited will be consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts with effect from 1st April 2021.

(e) NYnet Limited

NYnet Limited is a company set up by the County Council in February 2007 to provide a world class high speed communication (broadband) infrastructure across North Yorkshire.

The Company has competitively procured a 'next generation broadband network' and sells capacity on that network to public sector organisations (including the County Council) as well as private sector internet service providers (ISPs) who then sell onto the end users of businesses and consumers.

The Company is limited by shares, which are 100% owned by the County Council and is managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the County Council.

NYnet 100 Limited was established in 2011/12 to facilitate and fund on-going developments around the "Connecting North Yorkshire" project.

The financial results reported are for the entire NYnet sub-group. NYnet 100 Ltd is 100% owned by NYnet Limited.

A working capital loan facility is being provided by the County Council with the sum taken up at 31st March 2021 being nil. This loan is included in the County Council's Balance Sheet as a Long Term Debtor.

NYnet Limited has been consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as a consolidated subsidiary.

(f) SJB Recycling Limited

The County Council owned 78% of SJB Recycling Limited whose principal activities were the composting and processing of green and wood waste. The remaining shareholder in SJB Recycling Limited was the City of York Council holding 22%. SJB Recycling Limited transferred to the direct ownership of the County Council and City of York Council from Yorwaste Limited, a

subsidiary of the County Council. SJB Recycling Limited ceased trading in March 2020, with the winding up of the company being approved in February 2021.

The remaining cash balances of the company were distributed to the shareholders on the form of a final dividend (£1.0m) prior to the closure of the company.

(g) Veritau Limited

In April 2009 North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council worked in partnership to develop a shared service covering all the functions of internal audit, counter fraud and information governance.

The company is wholly owned by both councils, with each council holding 50% of the shares. Veritau Limited has responsibility for carrying out all internal audit, information governance and counter fraud services for the two councils and a number of other District Councils.

Veritau Limited is not consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as their values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(h) Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO)

Established as a joint committee of Local Authorities in 1974, YPO is a purchasing and supply service for office supplies, stationery and general equipment. The company supplies the constituent 13 member authorities but also schools, the voluntary sector and the general public. YPO operates on a self-financing basis with no subsidies payable by any member authority. Any surpluses are used for dividend payment primarily but with some scope for re-investment.

Due to the involvement of all member authorities in the Management Committee and its increasing use of customers outside of the local authority market, the County Council does not exert a significant level of influence over YPO's activities. Analysis of the relationship for group Account purposes concludes that it is equivalent to a simple investment. As the County Council made no original investment in 1974 and has no share capital, no consolidation adjustments are necessary.

(i) Yorwaste Limited

The County Council owns 78% of the issued share capital of Yorwaste Limited; a company established in 1993 and based in Northallerton whose principal activity is the provision of waste disposal facilities by the operation and management of landfill sites/recycling centres. The remaining shareholder in Yorwaste Limited is the City of York Council holding 22%.

The policies of Yorwaste Limited in relation to Fixed Assets are different to that operated by the County Council. All the company's Fixed Assets are valued at historic cost less depreciation. The useful economic life of each asset is calculated individually with depreciation calculated on a straight line basis taking into account both commercial and technical obsolescence.

The total issued share capital of Yorwaste Limited is £4,526k (a total of 4,526,000 ordinary shares issued at £1 each).

The County Council has provided a loan facility to Yorwaste Limited for £6.4m. This loan is included in the County Councils Balance Sheet as a Long Term Debtor.

Yorwaste Limited has paid the County Council a dividend in 2020/21 of £1.0m (2019/20 £nil). Yorwaste Limited has been consolidated into North Yorkshire County Council's Group Accounts as a subsidiary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RESULTS

3. The Group Accounts for the County Council are based upon the consolidation of the County Council, NYnet Limited and Yorwaste Limited. It should be noted that although adjustments have been made to facilitate comparability between the sets of Accounts, there is a fundamental difference between the objectives of the organisations with the County Council being a non-profit making body. The figures included are based on Draft Accounts for the two bodies. These companies do not report under IFRS, rather as small unlisted companies, and their accounts are produced under UK GAAP, incorporating FRS 102 in their 2020/21 accounts.

DRAFT

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year to 31st March 2020				Year to 31st March 2021		
Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000		Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000
478,723	(362,836)	115,887	Children and Young People's Service	468,366	(356,191)	112,175
143,631	(63,103)	80,528	Business and Environmental Services	161,005	(65,163)	95,842
295,842	(118,736)	177,106	Health and Adult Services	335,907	(158,704)	177,203
78,167	(11,726)	66,441	Central Services	92,349	(12,430)	79,919
2,494	(21,694)	(19,200)	Corporate Miscellaneous	3,192	(36,779)	(33,587)
3,999	(4,092)	(93)	Yorwaste Limited	(642)	(1,371)	(2,013)
1,370	(747)	623	NYnet Limited	1,549	(954)	595
1,004,226	(582,934)	421,292	Cost of Services	1,061,726	(631,592)	430,134
			Other Operating Expenditure			
		59,874	Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment			38,626
		0	Impairment of Assets Held for Sale			0
		681	Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities			703
		<u>60,555</u>				<u>39,329</u>
			Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			
		28,849	Interest payable and similar charges			27,926
		(3,440)	Interest receivable and similar income			(2,655)
		267	Financial Instruments			41
		(5,095)	Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment			2,766
		156	Deficit / (Surplus) on trading activities			163
		9,981	Net interest on the net defined pension benefit liability (asset)			9,430
		<u>30,718</u>				<u>37,671</u>
			Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Analysis)			
		(306,844)	Council Tax Income			(320,082)
		(78,078)	Non-Domestic Rates Income			(69,813)
		(23,168)	Non-Ringfenced Government Grants			(35,958)
		(56,021)	Capital Grants			(121,684)
		<u>(464,111)</u>				<u>(547,537)</u>
		48,454	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(40,403)

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (continued)

Year to 31st March 2020			Year to 31st March 2021		
Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000	Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000
		48,454			(40,403)
		495			267
		0			0
		48,949			(40,136)
		(62,790)			(2,140)
		10,204			5,859
		(42,037)			28,946
		(94,623)			32,665
		(45,674)			(7,471)

GROUP MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	Total Usable Reserves £000	Total Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	County Council's Share of Subsidiaries £000	Minority Share of Reserves £000	Total Group Reserves £000
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2020/21</u>						
Balance at 31st March 2020	<u>(249,392)</u>	<u>(853,804)</u>	<u>(1,103,196)</u>	<u>5,801</u>	<u>(1,614)</u>	<u>(1,099,009)</u>
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(39,792)	32,665	(7,127)	(161)	(183)	(7,471)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(56,554)	56,554	0	0	0	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers	<u>(96,346)</u>	<u>89,219</u>	<u>(7,127)</u>	<u>(161)</u>	<u>(183)</u>	<u>(7,471)</u>
Balance at 31st March 2021	<u>(345,738)</u>	<u>(764,585)</u>	<u>(1,110,323)</u>	<u>5,640</u>	<u>(1,797)</u>	<u>(1,106,480)</u>
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2019/20</u>						
Balance at 31st March 2019	<u>(233,991)</u>	<u>(821,886)</u>	<u>(1,055,877)</u>	<u>4,296</u>	<u>(1,754)</u>	<u>(1,053,335)</u>
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	47,304	(94,623)	(47,319)	1,505	140	(45,674)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(62,705)	62,705	0	0	0	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers	<u>(15,401)</u>	<u>(31,918)</u>	<u>(47,319)</u>	<u>1,505</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>(45,674)</u>
Balance at 31st March 2020	<u>(249,392)</u>	<u>(853,804)</u>	<u>(1,103,196)</u>	<u>5,801</u>	<u>(1,614)</u>	<u>(1,099,009)</u>

GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
1,686,491	Property, Plant and Equipment (note 3)	1,661,206
53,022	Investment Property	49,419
5,932	Intangible Assets	5,298
16,259	Long Term Investments	6,581
8,747	Long Term Debtors	11,451
1,770,451	Long Term Assets	1,733,955
367,167	Short Term Investments	422,073
170	Assets held for sale	170
2,269	Inventories	2,702
107,928	Short Term Debtors (note 5)	153,703
106,855	Cash and Cash Equivalents (note 4)	68,642
52	Current Tax Assets	0
584,441	Current Assets	647,290
(269,745)	Short Term Borrowing	(212,272)
(109,669)	Short Term Creditors (note 6)	(132,760)
(3,503)	PF/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months	(3,948)
(2,316)	Provisions to be used within 12 months	(2,877)
(12)	Finance Lease repayable within 12 months	(13)
(21,237)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(2,768)
(406,482)	Current Liabilities	(354,638)
(7,238)	Long Term Creditors	(32,010)
(150,584)	PF/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months	(146,635)
(1,036)	Finance Lease payable in excess of 12 months	(1,023)
(433,171)	Pensions Liability	(496,989)
(16,991)	Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months	(19,078)
(222,318)	Long Term Borrowing	(223,051)
(18,063)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(1,341)
(849,401)	Long Term Liabilities	(920,127)
1,099,009	Net Assets	1,106,480
249,392	Usable Reserves	345,738
853,804	Unusable Reserves	764,585
(4,187)	Reserves - Group Entities	(3,843)
1,099,009	Total Reserves	1,106,480

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
(48,949)	Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	40,054
	Adjust Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services for non cash movements	
60,654	Depreciation / Amortisation	65,506
5,894	Impairment and revaluations charged to the provision of services	15,438
15,598	Movement in Creditors	37,496
5,395	Movement in Debtors	(43,874)
198	Movement in Inventories	(433)
(2,161)	Movement in Provisions	3,036
36,301	Pensions Liability	34,872
62,855	Carrying Amount of Non-current Assets sold	44,524
(904)	Other non-cash items charged to the provision of services	(347)
183,830		156,218
	Adjust for items included in the Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services that are investing and financing activities	
(56,021)	Grants received for investment purposes	(121,684)
(1,652)	Proceeds from the sale of property and other assets	(2,480)
(57,673)		(124,164)
0	Equity Dividends Paid	0
0	Taxation	0
77,208	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	72,108
	Investing Activities	
(87,832)	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	(96,726)
(954,080)	Purchase of Short Term and Long Term investments	(1,089,050)
1,652	Proceeds from the Sale of Property (and other Assets)	2,480
989,685	Proceeds from Short Term and Long Term Investments	1,044,429
45,499	Other receipts for investing activities	92,254
(5,076)	Net cash flows from Investing Activities	(46,613)
	Financing Activities	
(164)	Cash receipts of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(138)
(1,328)	Other receipts from Financing Activities	(3,393)
(3,012)	Repayment of the outstanding liability of Finance Lease and similar arrangements	(3,516)
(25,966)	Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(54,785)
(80)	Other payments for Financing Activities	(467)
(30,550)	Net cash flows for Financing Activities	(62,299)
41,582	Net Increase / (decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(36,804)
65,273	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	106,855
106,855	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	68,642
41,582		(38,213)

NOTES TO THE GROUP STATEMENTS

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2020/21

	Net Expenditure £000	Movement to Earmarked Reserves £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Children and Young People's Service	80,847	(9,797)	71,050	41,125	112,175
Business and Environmental Services	73,166	3,249	76,415	19,427	95,842
Health and Adult Services	172,285	(3,814)	168,471	8,732	177,203
Central Services	70,291	2,342	72,633	7,286	79,919
Corporate Miscellaneous	(12,268)	(30,769)	(43,037)	9,450	(33,587)
NYES	0	388	388	(388)	0
NYest Limited	595	0	595	0	595
York Waste Limited	(2,013)	0	(2,013)	0	(2,013)
Net Cost of Service	382,903	(38,401)	344,502	85,632	430,134
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	39,329	39,329
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	807	0	807	36,864	37,671
Taxation and non specific Income and Expenditure	(393,409)	(3,097)	(396,506)	(151,031)	(547,537)
Tax Expenses	267	0	267	0	267
(Surplus) or Deficit	(9,432)	(41,498)	(50,930)	10,794	(40,136)
Opening Group Balance			(218,517)		
Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on Group in Year			(50,930)		
Closing Group Balance at 31 March 2021			(269,447)		
General Working Balance			(27,868)		
Earmarked Reserves			(245,422)		
Group Reserves			3,843		
			(269,447)		

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
Children and Young People's Service	29,589	8,816	2,720	41,125
Business and Environmental Services	39,748	2,205	(22,526)	19,427
Health and Adult Services	3,017	5,698	17	8,732
Central Services	7,331	5,428	(5,473)	7,286
Corporate Miscellaneous	0	1,176	8,274	9,450
NYES	0	2,119	(2,507)	(388)
NYnet Limited	0	0	0	0
Yorwaste Limited	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	79,685	25,442	(19,495)	85,632
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	38,626	0	703	39,329
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	9,430	27,434	36,864
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(151,031)	(151,031)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	118,311	34,872	(142,389)	10,794

Comparative Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2019/20

	Net Expenditure £000	Movement to Earmarked Reserves £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
Children and Young People's Service	78,829	(253)	78,576	37,311	115,887
Business and Environmental Services	75,029	9,883	84,912	(4,384)	80,528
Health and Adult Services	158,295	10,876	169,171	7,935	177,106
Central Services	62,193	2,246	64,439	2,002	66,441
Corporate Miscellaneous	6,429	(31,055)	(24,626)	5,426	(19,200)
NYES	0	1,088	1,088	(1,088)	0
NYnet Limited	623	0	623	0	623
Yorwaste Limited	(93)	0	(93)	0	(93)
Net Cost of Services	381,305	(7,215)	374,090	47,202	421,292
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	60,555	60,555
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	620	0	620	30,098	30,718
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	(387,354)	2,521	(384,833)	(79,278)	(464,111)
Tax Expenses	495	0	495	0	495
(Surplus) or Deficit	(4,934)	(4,694)	(9,628)	58,577	48,949
Opening Group Balance			(208,889)		
Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on Group in Year			(9,628)		
Closing Group Balance at 31 March 2020			(218,517)		
General Working Balance			(27,640)		
Earmarked Reserves			(195,064)		
Group Reserves			4,187		
			(218,517)		

Comparator Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts 2019/20

	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustments £000
Children and Young People's Service	29,684	5,713	1,914	37,311
Business and Environmental Services	31,974	1,471	(37,829)	(4,384)
Health and Adult Services	4,045	3,837	53	7,935
Central Services	(1,951)	3,651	302	2,002
Corporate Miscellaneous	34	1,666	3,726	5,426
NYES	0	1,583	(2,671)	(1,088)
NYnet Limited	0	0	0	0
Yorwaste Limited	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	63,786	17,921	(34,505)	47,202
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	59,874	0	681	60,555
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	9,981	20,117	30,098
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(79,278)	(79,278)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	123,660	27,902	(92,985)	58,577

2. The Individual Group Companies together with consolidating adjustments are identified within the following schedules for the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the respective Balance Sheets.

Summarised Income and Expenditure Statements for the period to 31st March 2021

	NYCC £000	NYnet Limited £000	Yorwaste Limited £000	Consolidation Adjustments £000	Group £000
Cost of Service	431,552	595	(2,039)	(19,729) *	430,134
Other Operating Expenditure					
Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	38,626	0	0	0	38,626
Impairment of Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0
Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities	703	0	0	0	703
	<u>39,329</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,329</u>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure					
Interest payable and similar charges	27,376	(31)	842	(261)	27,926
Interest receivable and similar income	(2,912)	0	(4)	261	(2,655)
Financial Instruments	41	0	0	0	41
Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment	2,766	0	0	0	2,766
Surplus of trading activities	163	0	0	0	163
Net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset)	9,430	0	0	0	9,430
	<u>36,864</u>	<u>(31)</u>	<u>838</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>37,671</u>
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(547,537)	0	0	0	(547,537)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	(39,792)	564	(1,201)	(19,729)	(40,403)
Tax Expenses	0	(90)	0	0	(90)
Interim Dividend	0	0	0	0	0
Group (Surplus) / Deficit	(39,792)	474	(1,201)	(19,729)	(40,493)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Fixed Assets	(2,140)	0	357	0	(1,783)
Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve	5,859	0	0	0	5,859
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability	28,946	0	0	0	28,946
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	32,665	0	357	0	33,022
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(7,127)	474	(844)	(19,729)	(7,471)

* Gross Expenditure and Gross Income for the Group included consolidation adjustments of £25.2m

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	NYCC £000	NYnet Limited £000	Yorwaste Limited £000	Consolidation Adjustments £000	Group £000
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,631,979	14,026	15,201	0	1,661,206
Investment Property	49,419	0	0	0	49,419
Intangible Assets	5,298	0	0	0	5,298
Long Term Investments	10,099	0	0	(3,518)	6,581
Long Term Debtors	17,872	0	0	(6,421)	11,451
Long Term Assets	1,714,667	14,026	15,201	(9,939)	1,733,955
Short Term Investments	421,275	0	798	0	422,073
Inventories	2,390	312	0	0	2,702
Short Term Debtors	127,544	9,142	5,901	11,116	153,703
Cash and Cash Equivalents	61,799	4	6,839	0	68,642
Assets held for sale	170	0	0	0	170
Current Tax Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Current Assets	613,178	9,458	13,538	11,116	647,290
Short Term Borrowing	(213,622)	0	0	1,350	(212,272)
Short Term Creditors	(111,539)	(1,597)	(7,158)	(12,466)	(132,760)
PFI/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months	(3,948)	0	0	0	(3,948)
Finance Lease repayable within 12 months	(13)	0	0	0	(13)
Provisions to be used within 12 months	(2,877)	0	0	0	(2,877)
Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(2,768)	0	0	0	(2,768)
Current Liabilities	(334,767)	(1,597)	(7,158)	(11,116)	(354,638)
Long Term Creditors	(1,731)	(30,279)	0	0	(32,010)
PFI/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months	(146,635)	0	0	0	(146,635)
Finance Lease repayable in excess of 12 months	(1,023)	0	0	0	(1,023)
Pension Liability	(496,989)	0	0	0	(496,989)
Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months	(13,197)	0	(5,881)	0	(19,078)
Long Term Borrowing	(221,839)	0	(7,633)	6,421	(223,051)
Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(1,341)	0	0	0	(1,341)
Long Term Liabilities	(882,755)	(30,279)	(13,514)	6,421	(920,127)
Net Assets	1,110,323	(8,392)	8,067	(3,518)	1,106,480
Usable Reserves	345,738	0	0	0	345,738
Unusable Reserves	764,585	0	0	0	764,585
Reserves - Group Entities	0	(8,392)	8,067	(3,518)	(3,843)
Total Reserves	1,110,323	(8,392)	8,067	(3,518)	1,106,480

3. Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment

	Aggregated Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Landfill Site Development & Restoration Costs £000	Total £000
Cost of Valuation					
As at 1st April 2020	991,154	140,895	940,215	36,942	2,109,206
Landfill Site Restoration Costs Adjustment	226	(441)	0	43	(172)
Additions	14,317	4,439	71,963	134	90,853
Disposals	(43,707)	(455)	(1,110)	0	(45,272)
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(1,393)	0	0	0	(1,393)
Recognised in Provision of Services	(39,576)	0	0	0	(39,576)
As at 31st March 2021	921,021	144,438	1,011,068	37,119	2,113,646
Depreciation and Impairments					
As at 1st April 2020	(44,505)	(128,154)	(217,228)	(32,829)	(422,716)
Year on Year Adjustments		211		(40)	171
Charge for the year	(33,512)	(3,753)	(26,816)	(776)	(64,857)
Disposals	0	0	1,110		1,110
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,070	0	0	0	1,070
Recognised in Provision of Services	32,782	0	0	0	32,782
Yorwaste Asset Impairment	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31st March 2021	(44,165)	(131,696)	(242,934)	(33,645)	(452,440)
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 31st March 2021	876,856	12,742	768,134	3,474	1,661,206
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 31st March 2020	946,649	12,741	722,987	4,113	1,686,491

Comparative Movements in 2019/20

	Aggregated Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Landfill Site Development & Restoration Costs £000	Total £000
Cost of Valuation					
As at 1st April 2019	1,010,184	137,232	890,869	36,440	2,074,725
Landfill Site Restoration Costs Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Additions	12,238	5,399	59,071	502	77,210
Disposals	(62,855)	(1,736)	(9,725)	0	(74,316)
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	55,611	0	0	0	55,611
Recognised in Provision of Services	(24,024)	0	0	0	(24,024)
As at 31st March 2020	991,154	140,895	940,215	36,942	2,109,206
Depreciation and Impairments					
As at 1st April 2019	(38,916)	(125,034)	(201,936)	(32,036)	(397,921)
Charge for the year	(29,176)	(4,730)	(25,017)	(793)	(59,716)
Disposals	0	1,610	9,725	0	11,335
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	288	0	0	0	288
Recognised in Provision of Services	23,299	0	0	0	23,299
Yorwaste Asset Impairment	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31st March 2020	(44,505)	(128,154)	(217,228)	(32,829)	(422,715)
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 31st March 2020	946,649	12,741	722,987	4,113	1,686,491
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 31st March 2019	971,268	12,198	688,933	4,404	1,676,804

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	31st March 2021 £000	31st March 2020 £000
Bank current accounts and cash held by the County Council	9,379	15,388
Short term / call deposits, inc. Cash Balances held by Group Entities	<u>59,263</u>	<u>91,467</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>68,642</u>	<u>106,855</u>

5. Short Term Debtors

	31st March 2021 £000		31st March 2020 £000	
Government Entities				
Central Government Bodies	11,618		6,935	
Other Local Authorities	25,671		13,724	
NHS Bodies	<u>17,269</u>	54,558	<u>13,135</u>	33,794
General Debtors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		96,833		72,606
Payments in Advance		<u>20,540</u>		<u>17,730</u>
		171,931		124,130
Less: Bad Debts Provision		<u>(18,228)</u>		<u>(16,202)</u>
Total Short Term Debtors		<u>153,703</u>		<u>107,928</u>

6. Short Term Creditors

	31st March 2021 £000		31st March 2020 £000	
Government Entities				
Central Government Bodies	12,675		16,589	
Other Local Authorities	34,126		9,734	
NHS Bodies	<u>1,942</u>	48,743	<u>1,062</u>	27,385
General Creditors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		54,989		63,153
Income in Advance		<u>29,028</u>		<u>19,131</u>
Total Short Term Creditors		<u>132,760</u>		<u>109,669</u>

7. Provisions

	Changes during the year				Balance as at 31st March 2021 £000	To be used		
	Balance as at 31st March 2020 £000	Provision Made £000	Provision Used £000	Provision Written Down £000		Within 1 year £000	In excess of 1 year £000	Total £000
Insurance	6,522	2,858	(1,323)	0	8,057	2,685	5,372	8,057
Highways Advance Payments	6,487	3,285	(2,027)	0	7,745	0	7,745	7,745
Contractual Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	223	50	0	0	273	192	81	273
	<u>13,232</u>	<u>6,193</u>	<u>(3,350)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,075</u>	<u>2,877</u>	<u>13,198</u>	<u>16,075</u>
Yorwaste Limited - Restoration	1,799	0	(97)	0	1,702	0	1,702	1,702
Yorwaste Limited - Aftercare	4,276	0	(98)	0	4,178	0	4,178	4,178
	<u>19,307</u>	<u>6,193</u>	<u>(3,545)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,955</u>	<u>2,877</u>	<u>19,078</u>	<u>21,955</u>

Comparative Movements in 2019/20

	Changes during the year				Balance as at 31st March 2020 £000	To be used		
	Balance as at 31st March 2019 £000	Provision Made £000	Provision Used £000	Provision Written Down £000		Within 1 year £000	In excess of 1 year £000	Total £000
Insurance	8,436	(172)	(1,742)	0	6,522	2,174	4,348	6,522
Highways Advance Payments	4,140	5,097	(2,750)	0	6,487	0	6,487	6,487
Contractual Disputes	3,000	0	(1,900)	(1,100)	0	0	0	0
Other	346	0	(123)	0	223	142	81	223
	<u>15,922</u>	<u>4,925</u>	<u>(6,515)</u>	<u>(1,100)</u>	<u>13,232</u>	<u>2,316</u>	<u>10,916</u>	<u>13,232</u>
Yorwaste Limited - Restoration	2,063	0	(264)	0	1,799	0	1,799	1,799
Yorwaste Limited - Aftercare	4,541	0	(265)	0	4,276	0	4,276	4,276
	<u>22,526</u>	<u>4,925</u>	<u>(7,044)</u>	<u>(1,100)</u>	<u>19,307</u>	<u>2,316</u>	<u>16,991</u>	<u>19,307</u>

NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND
FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

2019/20 £000		2020/21 £000	£000
CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS			
Contributions			
82,625	Employers - Normal	98,843	
4,403	- Deficit	1,271	
3,674	- Early Retirement Costs Recharged	1,773	
29,166	Employees - Normal	31,095	
148	- Additional Voluntary	100	
<u>120,016</u>	Total Contributions Receivable (note 7)		133,082
17,490	Transfers in (note 8)		10,575
<u>Less</u>			
Benefits			
(91,010)	Pensions	(95,946)	
(25,990)	Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	(22,293)	
(2,670)	Lump Sums Death Benefits	(3,322)	
<u>(119,670)</u>	Total Benefits Payable (note 9)		(121,561)
Leavers			
(560)	Refunds to Members Leaving Service	(385)	
0	Payments for Members Joining State Scheme	0	
(21,037)	Transfers Out	(7,992)	
<u>(21,597)</u>	Total Payments on Account of Leavers (note 10)		(8,377)
(2,964)	Management Expenses (note 11)		(3,186)
<u>(6,725)</u>	Net additions/(withdrawals) from dealings with Members		<u>10,533</u>
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS			
16,554	Investment income (note 12)		6,561
(113)	Taxation (note 12a)		0
(26,233)	Investment management costs (note 11)		(27,778)
(17,152)	Change in market value of investments (note 14a)		980,052
<u>(26,944)</u>	Net returns on investments		<u>958,835</u>
(33,669)	Net increase/ (decrease) in the Fund during the year		969,368
3,575,204	Opening Net Assets of the Fund		3,541,535
<u>3,541,535</u>	Closing Net Assets of the Fund		<u>4,510,903</u>

NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND – NET ASSETS STATEMENT

31st March 2020 £000		31st March 2021 £000
	INVESTMENT ASSETS	
468,984	Fixed Interest Securities	337,682
833	Equities	1,182
2,641,322	Pooled Investments	3,767,819
276,103	Pooled Property Investments	279,864
<u>3,387,242</u>		<u>4,386,547</u>
138,523	Cash Deposits	105,209
2,727	Investment Debtors	2,129
<u>3,528,492</u>	TOTAL INVESTMENT ASSETS	<u>4,493,885</u>
	INVESTMENT LIABILITIES	
<u>0</u>	Investment Creditors	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	TOTAL INVESTMENT LIABILITIES	<u>0</u>
<u>3,528,492</u>	NET INVESTMENT ASSETS (note 14a)	<u>4,493,885</u>
42	LONG-TERM DEBTORS	203
	CURRENT ASSETS	
9,170	Contributions due from employers	10,791
2,264	Other Non-Investment Debtors	1,014
4,969	Cash	11,494
<u>16,403</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>23,299</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
<u>(3,402)</u>	Non-Investment Creditors	<u>(6,484)</u>
<u>(3,402)</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>(6,484)</u>
<u>3,541,535</u>	TOTAL NET ASSETS (note 14c)	<u>4,510,903</u>

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and deal with the net assets. They do not take account of the obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall after the end of the Fund year.

NOTES TO THE NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. Description of the Fund

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF or “the Fund”) is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is administered by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). The County Council is the reporting entity for the Fund.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only. For more detail, refer to the NYPF Annual Report 2020/21 and the statutory powers underpinning the Scheme, namely the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

(a) General

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

- the LGPS Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by NYCC to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of NYCC, other local authorities in North Yorkshire and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the county area. Teachers, police officers and fire fighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes.

The Fund is overseen by the Pension Fund Committee, which is a committee of NYCC.

(b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the Fund, remain in the Fund or make their own personal arrangements outside the Scheme.

Organisations participating in NYPF include:

- scheduled bodies, which are local authorities and similar bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund
- admitted bodies, which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

At 31 March 2021 there were 130 contributing employer organisations within NYPF including the County Council itself, and over 97,000 individual members, as detailed below

86 Scheduled Bodies including 44 Academies

Ainsty 2008 Internal Drainage Board
Askham Bryan College
Chief Constable (North Yorkshire Police)
City of York Council
Craven College
Craven District Council

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Northallerton & Romanby Joint Burial Board
Northallerton Town Council
Norton on Derwent Town Council
Pickering Town Council
Richmond Town Council

Easingwold Town Council
Filey Town Council
Foss 2008 Internal Drainage Board
Fulford Parish Council
Glusburn Parish Council
Great Ayton Parish Council
Hambleton District Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Haxby Town Council
Hunmanby Parish Council
Knaresborough Town Council
Malton Town Council
North York Moors National Park Authority
North Yorkshire County Council
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Richmondshire District Council
Ripon City Council
Ryedale District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Scarborough Sixth Form College
Selby College
Selby District Council
Selby Town Council
Skipton Town Council
Sutton in Craven Parish Council
Tadcaster Town Council
Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board
Whitby Town Council
York College
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Academy Trusts

Arete Learning Trust - Northallerton School
Arete Learning Trust - Richmond School
Arete Learning Trust - Stokesley Academy
Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust
Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust
Dales Academies Trust
DRET – Thomas Hinderwell Primary Academy
Ebor Academy Trust (pooled from 1.4.20)
Elevate MAT
Enquire Learning Trust - East Whitby Primary
Enquire Learning Trust - Roseberry Primary
Enquire Learning Trust - Stakesby Primary
Enquire Learning Trust - Stokesley CP School
Evolution SLT – Norton College
Great Smeaton Academy Primary School
Hope Learning Trust (pooled from 1.4.20)
Huntington Primary Academy
Lingfield Education Trust - Cambrai Primary School
Moorlands Learning Trust
Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust
Northern Star Academies Trust (pooled from 01.04.20)
Outwood Grange A.T. - Easingwold

Outwood Grange A.T. - Greystone CP School
Outwood Grange A.T. - Outwood Academy Ripon
Pathfinder MAT
Red Kite Learning Trust Pooled
Rodillian MAT - Brayton High School
Rossett School Academy
Ryedale Learning Trust
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust
Scalby Learning Trust - Friarage Primary
Scalby Learning Trust - Newby & Scalby Primary
Scalby Learning Trust - Scalby School
Scarborough UTC
Selby Educational Trust
South Bank MAT
South Craven Academy
South York MAT
STAR MAT
Wellspring Academy Trust

Woodlands Academy Trust
Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust
Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust

Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust

44 Admitted Bodies

ABM Catering Ltd
Absolutely Catering Ltd
Align Property Partners Ltd

ISS Mediclean Ltd
Lark T/A Betterclean Services
Lifeways Community Care Ltd

Aramark Ltd
 Beyond Housing
 Bulloughs Cleaning Ltd
 Cater Link Ltd
 Catering Academy Ltd
 Chartwells Compass
 Churchill Contract Services Ltd
 Churchill Security Ltd
 City of York Trading Ltd
 Elite
 Everyone Active (SLM Scarborough)
 Explore York Libraries and Archives
 Gough and Kelly Security Ltd
 Greenwich Leisure Ltd
 Grosvenor Facilities Management
 Hexagon Care
 Human Support Group Ltd
 Hutchison Catering Ltd
 Independent Cleaning Services

Make It York
 Mellors
 RCCN Ltd
 Richmondshire Leisure Trust
 Ringway
 Sanctuary Housing Association
 Springfield Home Care
 Streamline Taxis
 University of Hull (Scarborough)
 Urbaser Ltd
 Veritau Ltd
 Veritau North Yorkshire Ltd
 Welcome to Yorkshire
 Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
 York Archaeological Trust Ltd
 York Mind
 York Museums and Galleries Trust
 York St John University
 Yorkare Haxby Ltd

Active, pensioner and deferred pensioner numbers, split between NYCC as the Administering Authority and all other employers were as follows:

	31st March 2021 No.	31st March 2020 No.
Number of Employers with Active Members	130	157
Employees in the Fund		
NYCC	15,968	16,331
Other employers	17,672	17,072
Total	<u>33,640</u>	<u>33,403</u>
Pensioners		
NYCC	13,839	13,165
Other employers	11,580	11,016
Total	<u>25,419</u>	<u>24,181</u>
Deferred Pensioners		
NYCC	24,271	24,278
Other employers	14,565	14,570
Total	<u>38,836</u>	<u>38,848</u>

(c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations.

The last such valuation was at 31 March 2019 and that set the contribution rates for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23; details of the rates for individual employers are available on the Fund's website.

(d) Benefits

Prior to 1 April 2014 pension benefits under the LGPS up to 31 March 2014 are based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service.

For service up to 31 March 2008 each year worked is worth 1/80th of final pensionable salary, an automatic lump sum of three times salary is payable, and part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment at the rate of £12 lump sum for each £1 pension given up. For service from 1 April 2008 each year worked is worth 1/60th of final pensionable salary, there is no automatic lump sum, and part of the annual pension can be exchanged at the same rate as for service up to 31 March 2008.

From 1 April 2014 the scheme became a career average scheme whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate of 1/49th. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with CPI.

There are a range of other benefits provided under the Scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits. For more details please refer to the Publications section on the Fund's website at <https://www.nypf.org.uk/index.shtml>.

2. Basis of Preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its year end position as at 31 March 2021. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The Accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Fund Account – Revenue Recognition

(a) Contribution Income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the rate recommended by the Fund's Actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employer deficit funding contributions are accounted for in the period in which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the Actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current asset. Amounts due in future years are classed as long term assets.

(b) Transfers To and From Other Schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with LGPS Regulations (see notes 8 and 10).

Individual Transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions or other defined contribution arrangements to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In (see note 8).

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

(c) Investment Income

Interest income is recognised in the Fund as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial cost of the instrument and its value at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as a current asset.

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the Net Asset Statement as a current asset.

Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Fund Account – Expense Items

(d) Benefits Payable

Pensions and lump sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the financial year end. Any amounts due but not paid are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities.

(e) Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under Section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a Fund expense as it arises.

(f) Management expenses

The Fund discloses its pension fund management expenses in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016), as shown below. All items of expenditure are charged to the fund on an accruals basis as follows:

Administrative expenses

All staff costs of the pensions administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management,

accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

Oversight and governance

All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

Investment management expenses

Fees of the external investment managers are set out in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

In addition, the Fund has negotiated with the following managers that an element of their fee will be performance related:

- Baillie Gifford & Co - Global Equities
- FIL Pensions Management (Fidelity) - Global (ex-UK) Equities
- Standard Life Investments - UK Equities
- Hermes Investment Management- UK Property
- Arcmont (formerly Bluebay) - Private Debt
- Permira - Private Debt

Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the year-end date, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate as at the end of the year is used for inclusion in the fund accounts.

Net Assets Statement

(g) Financial Assets

The investment in the LGPS asset pool, Border to Coast Pensions Partnership (BCPP), is valued at transaction price, i.e. cost, as an appropriate estimate of fair value. All other assets are included in the Net Asset Statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. An asset is recognised in the Net Asset Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund.

If valuations are not available at the reporting date, as is the case for private debt and infrastructure investments, the latest available valuation is adjusted for cashflows in the intervening period.

(h) Foreign Currency Transactions

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End of year spot market exchange rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investment and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

(i) Derivatives

The Fund does not hold derivatives for speculative purposes (see note 15).

(j) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits, and includes amounts held by the Fund's external managers.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

(k) Liabilities

The Fund recognises liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A liability is recognised in the Net Asset Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

(l) Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the Fund's Actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under the Code, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of an **Appendix** to these statements.

(m) Additional Voluntary Contributions

NYPF provides an Additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Fund. The fund has appointed Prudential as its AVC provider. AVCs are paid to the AVC provider by employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for individual contributors. Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the Accounts in accordance with Section 4(1)(b) of the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 but are disclosed as a note only (see note 23).

(n) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place giving rise to a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events.

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place prior to the year-end giving rise to a possible financial obligation whose existence will only be confirmed or otherwise by the occurrence of future events. Contingent liabilities can also arise in circumstances where a provision would be made, except that it is not possible at the balance sheet date to measure the value of the financial obligation reliably.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the net asset statement but are disclosed by way of narrative in the notes.

4. Critical Judgement in Applying Accounting Policies

Pension Fund Liability

The Fund's liability is calculated every three years by the Actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the Actuary and are summarised in note 19. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

Investment in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership (BCPP)

The Fund's shareholding in BCPP Ltd. has been valued at transaction price i.e. cost, as an appropriate estimate of fair value. Management have made this judgement because a fair value cannot be otherwise established for these assets as at 31 March 2021, as the pool has only been established for a short period of time and there is no market in the shares held, cost would be a reasonable and appropriate estimate of fair value. The Class A share is valued at £1 and reflects the ownership stake in the company, whilst the Class B shares represent the Fund's contribution to the company's regulatory capital requirement.

5. Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

These Accounts require management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and for revenue and expenses during the year. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from those based on these assumptions and estimates.

The item in the Net Assets Statement as at 31 March 2021 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment being required is the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, which is based on assumptions on the discount rate, salary increases, retirement ages, mortality rates and the return on investments.

The effects of changing individual assumptions on the value of pension liabilities can be measured. A 0.1% increase in the discount rate would reduce liabilities by 1.9% (£86.1m), a 0.1% increase in inflation would increase liabilities by 1.8% (£79.2m), and an increase in life expectancy of one year would increase liabilities by 3.7% (£161.9m).

6. Events After the End of the Reporting Period

Non-adjusting events:

The financial statements and notes have not been adjusted for any events taking place after 31 March 2021.

7. Contributions Receivable

By category

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Employees' Contributions	31,195	29,314
Employers' Contributions		
Normal contributions	98,843	82,625
Deficit recovery contributions	1,271	4,403
Early Retirement Recharges	1,541	3,429
Compensatory Added Years Recharges	232	245
Total Contributions	<u>133,082</u>	<u>120,016</u>

By authority

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Contributions Receivable		
North Yorkshire County Council	57,935	48,200
Other Scheduled Bodies	68,397	64,790
Admitted Bodies	6,750	7,026
	<u>133,082</u>	<u>120,016</u>

8. Transfers In from Other Pension Funds

All transfers in were individual transfers. There were no group transfers during the year.

9. Benefits Payable

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Benefits Payable		
North Yorkshire County Council	50,976	50,401
Other Scheduled Bodies	62,290	60,859
Admitted Bodies	8,295	8,410
	<u>121,561</u>	<u>119,670</u>

10. Payments To and On Account of Leavers

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Leavers		
Refunds to Members Leaving Service	385	560
Payments for Members Joining State Scheme	0	0
Individual Transfers	7,992	14,239
Group Transfers	0	6,798
	<u>8,377</u>	<u>21,597</u>

The group transfers in 2020/21 relate to bulk transfers out to two employers.

11. Management Expenses

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Administrative Costs	1,918	1,571
Investment Management Costs	27,778	26,233
Oversight and Governance Costs	1,268	1,393
	<u>30,964</u>	<u>29,197</u>

Investment Management Costs includes £2,417k (2019/20: £2,547k) in respect of performance related fees payable to the Fund's investment managers and £5,431k in respect of transaction costs (2019/20 £6,719k).

In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investments sales and purchases. These are reflected in the cost of acquisitions and in the proceeds from the sales of investments (see Note 14a).

(a) Investment Management Expenses

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Management Fees	15,385	12,563
Performance Related Fees	2,417	2,547
Custody Fees	340	329
Transactions Costs	5,431	6,719
Other	4,205	4,075
	<u>27,778</u>	<u>26,233</u>

12. Investment Income

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Income from Bonds	2,001	1,538
Income from Equities	0	5,209
Pooled Property Investments	1,910	1,177
Pooled Investments - Other Managed Funds	2,876	5,136
Interest on Cash Deposits	0	3,061
Other	(226)	433
	<u>6,561</u>	<u>16,554</u>

(a) Taxes on Income

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Withholding Tax on Dividends	<u>0</u>	<u>113</u>

13. Other Fund Account Disclosures

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Payable in respect of external audit	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>

14. Investments

(a) Reconciliation of Movements in Investments and Derivatives

	Value at 31st March 2021 £000	Change in market value £000	Sale proceeds & derivative receipts £000	Purchases at cost and derivative payments £000	Value as at 1st April 2020 £000
Fixed Interest Securities	337,682	15,681	(1,134,253)	987,270	468,984
Equities	1,182	(88)	88	349	833
Pooled Investments	3,767,819	955,796	(320,432)	491,133	2,641,322
Pooled Property	279,864	8,094	(4,333)	0	276,103
Total Invested	<u>4,386,547</u>	<u>979,483</u>	<u>(1,458,930)</u>	<u>1,478,752</u>	<u>3,387,242</u>
Cash Deposits	105,209	569			138,523
Net Investment Debtors	2,129				2,727
Net Investment Assets	<u>4,493,885</u>	<u>980,052</u>			<u>3,528,492</u>

	Value at 31st March 2020 £000	Change in market value £000	Sale proceeds & derivative receipts £000	Purchases at cost and derivative payments £000	Value as at 1st April 2019 £000
Fixed Interest Securities	468,984	24,370	(1,624,338)	1,429,439	639,513
Equities	833	21,840	(779,948)	364,015	394,926
Pooled Funds	2,641,322	(55,934)	(772,116)	1,452,487	2,016,885
Pooled Property	276,103	(8,745)	(3,654)	0	288,502
Total Invested	<u>3,387,242</u>	<u>(18,469)</u>	<u>(3,180,056)</u>	<u>3,245,941</u>	<u>3,339,826</u>
Cash Deposits	138,523	1,317			220,042
Net Investment Debtors	2,727				4,136
Net Investment Assets	<u>3,528,492</u>	<u>(17,152)</u>			<u>3,564,004</u>

(b) Analysis of Investments

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Fixed Interest Securities		
UK Public Sector Quoted	<u>337,682</u>	<u>468,984</u>
Equities		
UK Quoted	0	0
UK Unquoted	1,182	833
Overseas Quoted	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,182</u>	<u>833</u>
Pooled Investments		
UK Equity	377,443	260,448
UK Property	279,864	276,103
UK Government Bonds	114,983	0
UK Corporate Bonds	141,521	0
Multi Asset Credit	192,755	0
Overseas Equity	2,299,233	1,655,171
Private Debt	100,708	96,859
Insurance Linked Securities	164,294	163,524
Infrastructure	13,641	8,549
Equity Protection	192,738	313,900
Diversified Growth Funds - UK	<u>170,503</u>	<u>142,871</u>
	<u>4,047,683</u>	<u>2,917,425</u>
Total Investments (excl Derivatives)	<u>4,386,547</u>	<u>3,387,242</u>
Cash Deposits	105,209	138,523
Net Investment Debtors	0	2,727
Net Investment Assets	<u>4,493,885</u>	<u>3,528,492</u>

(c) Investments analysed by Fund Manager

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	£000	%	£000	%
Investments managed by Border to Coast				
Pension Partnership:				
BCPP - Global Equity Alpha	1,208,259	26.8	813,510	23.0
BCPP - UK Equities	172,881	3.8	120,164	3.4
BCPP - Index Linked Gilt Fund	141,521	3.1	0	0.0
BCPP - Investment Grade Credit	114,983	2.5	0	0.0
BCPP - Infrastructure	9,223	0.2	8,549	0.2
BCPP - Private Debt	5,332	0.1	0	0.0
BCPP - Infrastructure 2	4,418	0.1	0	0.0
BCPP - UK Unquoted Equities	1,182	0.0	833	0.0
	<u>1,657,799</u>	<u>36.6</u>	<u>943,056</u>	<u>26.6</u>
Investments managed outside of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership:				
Baillie Gifford & Co. - LTGG	761,048	16.8	595,897	16.8
M&G Investments	341,823	7.6	473,067	13.4
Veritas	273,800	6.1	216,499	6.1
Dodge & Cox	260,688	5.8	169,549	4.8
PIMCO	192,755	4.3	0	0.0
LGIM Equity Protection	192,738	4.3	313,901	8.9
Threadneedle	173,158	3.8	170,226	4.8
Newton Investments	170,503	3.8	142,871	4.0
NYCC Treasury Management	100,184	2.2	133,832	3.8
Legal & General	72,281	1.6	70,474	2.0
Leadenhall Remote Fund	57,898	1.3	55,491	1.6
Leadenhall Diversified Fund	55,174	1.2	54,266	1.5
Permira	52,008	1.2	57,539	1.6
Leadenhall NAT CAT Fund	51,222	1.1	53,767	1.5
Arcmont (formerly Bluebay)	43,368	1.0	39,319	1.1
Hermes	35,015	0.8	35,993	1.0
Fidelity International	2,421	0.1	2,719	0.1
UK Equity Transition	2	0.0	0	0.0
Standard Life Investments - Equities	0	0.0	25	0.0
Internally Managed (cash and net debtors)	17,018	0.4	13,044	0.4
	<u>2,853,104</u>	<u>63.4</u>	<u>2,598,479</u>	<u>73.4</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,510,903</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>3,541,535</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The investments with BCPP Global Equity Alpha, Baillie Gifford, M&G Investments, LGIM Equity Protection and Veritas each represent more than 5% of net assets. These investments are in pooled funds. All other investments are either below 5% or constitute a portfolio of segregated assets.

(d) Stock Lending

The Fund has not released stock to a third party under a stock lending arrangement within a regulated market at this period end or in any previous years.

15. Analysis of Derivatives

The Fund does not hold derivatives.

16. Fair Value – Basis of Valuation

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represent the highest and best price available at the reporting date.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at a market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Futures and options in UK bonds	Level 1	Published exchange prices at the year-end	Not required	Not required
Exchange traded pooled investments	Level 1	Closing bid value on published exchanges	Not required	Not required
Unquoted bonds	Level 2	Average of broker prices	Evaluated price feeds	Not required
Forward foreign exchange derivatives	Level 2	Market forward exchange rates at the year-end	Exchange rate risk	Not required
Overseas bond options	Level 2	Option pricing model	Annualised volatility of counterparty credit risk	Not required
Pooled investments – overseas unit trusts and property funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required
Pooled investments – hedge funds	Level 3	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published Closing single price where single price published	NAV-based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements

				<p>provided and the pension fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cashflows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts</p> <p>Required by 6.5.5.1 d) and f), 7.4.2.13 of the Code.</p>
Freehold and leasehold properties	Level 3	Valued at fair value at the year-end using the investment method of valuation by John Finley FRICS of independent valuers Carrott-Jones LLP in accordance with the RICS Valuation Standards (9th Edition)	<p>Existing lease terms and rentals</p> <p>Independent market research</p> <p>Nature of tenancies</p> <p>Covenant strength for existing tenants</p> <p>Assumed vacancy levels</p> <p>Estimated rental Growth</p> <p>Discount rate</p>	<p>Significant changes in rental growth, vacancy levels or the discount rate could affect valuations as could more general changes to market prices</p>
Unquoted equity	Level 3	Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines (2012)	<p>EBITDA multiple</p> <p>Revenue multiple</p> <p>Discount for lack of marketability</p> <p>Control premium</p>	<p>Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the Pension Fund's own reporting date, by changes to expected cashflows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts</p>

Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with independent investment advisors, the fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges, and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2021.

	Value at 31 March 2021 £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Assessed valuation range (+/-)			
Pooled investments- Private Debt	100,708	105,139	96,277
Pooled investments- Infrastructure	13,641	14,678	12,604
UK Unquoted Equities	1,181	1,181	1,181
Total	<u>115,530</u>	<u>120,998</u>	<u>110,062</u>

a. Fair Value Hierarchy

Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Transfers between levels are recognised in the year in which they occur.

Level 1

Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Level 2

Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value.

Level 3

Assets and liabilities at level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data.

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the Pension Fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

	Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £000	Total £000
Values at 31 March 2021				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	468,522	3,933,335	115,530	4,517,387
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	0	0	0	0
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	(6,484)	0	0	(6,484)
Net investment assets	<u>462,038</u>	<u>3,933,335</u>	<u>115,530</u>	<u>4,510,903</u>

	Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £000	Total £000
Values at 31 March 2020				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	626,679	2,812,018	106,240	3,544,937
Non-financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	0	0	0	0
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss	(3,402)	0		(3,402)
Net investment assets	<u>623,277</u>	<u>2,812,018</u>	<u>106,240</u>	<u>3,541,535</u>

b. Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements Within Level 3

	Market Value at 1 April 2020 £000	Transfers into Level 3 £000	Transfers out of Level 3 £000	Purchases During the Year £000	Sales During the Year £000	Unrealised Gains and Losses £000	Realised Gains and Losses £000	Market Value at 31 March 2021 £000
Private Debt	96,858	0	0	9,796	(12,545)	6,097	502	100,708
Infrastructure	8,549	0	0	16,744	(2,978)	(8,241)	(434)	13,640
UK Unquoted Equities	833		0	349	0	0	0	1,182
	<u>106,240</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,889</u>	<u>(15,523)</u>	<u>(2,144)</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>115,530</u>

17. Financial Instruments

(a) Classification of Financial Instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table summarises the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category.

31st March 2020			31st March 2021		
Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Financial Liabilities amortised at cost £000	Designated as fair value through profit and loss £000	Loans and Receivables £000	Financial Liabilities amortised at cost £000
Assets					
468,984	0	0	Fixed Interest Securities	337,682	0
833	0	0	Equities	1,182	0
2,498,451	0	0	Pooled Investments	3,597,316	0
276,103	0	0	Pooled Property	279,864	0
142,871	0	0	Diversified Growth Funds	170,503	0
0	143,492	0	Cash	0	116,703
2,727	0	0	Investment Debtors	2,129	0
0	11,476	0	Non Investment Debtors	0	12,008
<u>3,389,969</u>	<u>154,968</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>4,388,676</u>	<u>128,711</u>
Liabilities					
0	0	0	Investment Creditors	0	0
0	0	3,402	Non Investment Creditors	0	6,484
0	0	3,402		0	6,484
<u>3,389,969</u>	<u>154,968</u>	<u>(3,402)</u>		<u>4,388,676</u>	<u>(6,484)</u>

(b) Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Fair Value Through Profit & Loss	980,052	(17,152)
Loans and Receivables	(434)	(65,503)
	<u>979,618</u>	<u>(82,655)</u>

18. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

Risk and Risk Management

The Fund's primary long term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits payable to members). Therefore, the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. NYCC manages these investment risks as part of its overall approach to Pension Fund risk.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Committee. A Risk Register has been established to identify and analyse the risks faced by NYCC's pensions operations. This document is reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

(a) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the Fund's Risk Register includes identifying, managing and controlling market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk.

In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Pension Fund Committee (PFC) and its investment advisers undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

The Fund manages these risks in two ways:

- the exposure of the Fund to market risk is monitored through advice from the investment advisers to ensure that risk remains within tolerable levels
- specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk weighted maximum exposures to individual investments through Investment Management Agreements

Other Price Risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund's investment strategy.

Other Price Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment consultants, the Fund has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2021/22 reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market
	Movements (+/-) %
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.0
UK Bonds	0.5
UK Equities	0.0
Overseas Equities	7.2
UK Pooled Equity	7.2
Overseas Pooled Equity	7.2
Pooled Property Investments	5.4
Diversified Growth Funds	4.0
Other Pooled Investments	2.3
Non Investment Debtors/Creditors	0.0

The potential price changes disclosed above are broadly consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the investment advisors' most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Had the market price of the fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows (the prior year comparator is shown below).

Asset Type	Value as at	Potential	Value on	Value on
	31st March	Market		
	2021	Movement	£000	£000
	£000	£000		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	105,209	1,052	106,261	104,157
UK Bonds	337,682	1,637	339,320	336,045
UK Equities	1,182	0	1,182	1,182
Overseas Equities	0	0	0	0
UK Pooled Equity	377,443	27,176	404,619	350,267
Overseas Pooled Equity	2,299,233	165,545	2,464,778	2,133,688
UK Government Bonds	141,521	425	141,945	141,096
UK Corporate Bonds	114,983	1,725	116,708	113,258
Multi Asset Credit	192,755	5,783	198,538	186,973
Pooled Property Investments	279,864	15,113	294,977	264,751
Diversified Growth Funds	170,504	6,820	177,323	163,684
Other Pooled Investments	466,049	10,512	476,560	455,537
Non Investment Debtors/Creditors	5,525	0	5,525	5,525
Total Assets	<u>4,491,950</u>		<u>4,727,736</u>	<u>4,256,163</u>

Asset Type	Value as at 31st March 2020 £000	Potential Market Movement £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	138,523	1,108	139,631	137,415
UK Bonds	468,984	(1,006)	467,978	469,990
UK Equities	833	0	833	833
Overseas Equities	0	0	0	0
UK Pooled Equity	260,448	18,752	279,200	241,696
Overseas Pooled Equity	1,655,171	119,172	1,774,343	1,535,999
Pooled Property Investments	276,103	14,910	291,013	261,193
Diversified Growth Funds	142,871	6,429	149,300	136,442
Other Pooled Investments	582,832	9,750	592,582	573,082
Non Investment Debtors / Creditors	8,074	0	8,074	8,074
Total Assets	<u>3,533,839</u>		<u>3,702,954</u>	<u>3,364,724</u>

Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is monitored by the Fund and its investment advisers through the risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the strategic benchmark.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020 is set out in the tables below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	105,209	138,523
Fixed Interest Securities	337,682	468,984
Pooled Investments	256,504	0
	<u>699,395</u>	<u>607,507</u>

The Fund recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. For illustrative purposes if it were to change by +/- 100 bps the values in the table above would change by £141m for 2020/21 and £131m for 2019/20.

Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (GBP). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than GBP.

The Fund's currency rate risk is monitored in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

After receiving advice it is considered that the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange movements to be +/-8.4%. A fluctuation of this size is considered reasonable based on the analysis of long term historical movements in the month end exchange rates.

Assuming all other variables, in particular, interest rates remain constant, an 8.4% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Asset Type	Value as at 31st March 2021 £000	Value on 8.4% Increase £000	Value on 8.4% Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	<u>2,299,233</u>	<u>2,492,369</u>	<u>2,106,098</u>

Asset Type	Value as at 31st March 2020 £000	Value on 8.5% Increase £000	Value on 8.5% Decrease £000
Overseas Equities	<u>1,655,171</u>	<u>1,795,861</u>	<u>1,514,482</u>

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's assets and liabilities.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, with the exception of the derivative positions, where the risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position. However the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

Contractual credit risk is represented by the net payment or receipt outstanding, and the cost of replacing the derivative position in the event of counterparty default. The residual risk is minimal due to the various insurance policies held by the exchanges to cover defaulting counterparties.

Credit risk on over the counter derivative contracts is minimised as counterparties are recognised financial intermediaries with acceptable credit ratings determined by recognised rating agencies.

Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they are rated independently and meet NYCC's credit criteria. NYCC has also set limits as to the maximum amount of deposits placed with any one financial institution. The banks and institutions chosen all have at least the minimum credit rating as described in NYCC's Treasury Management Strategy.

NYCC believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk and has had no experience of default or uncollectible deposits over the past five financial years. The Fund's cash holding under its treasury management arrangements with NYCC at 31 March 2021 was £11.5m (31 March 2020, £5.0m) and was held with the following institutions:

	Credit Rating	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
Call Accounts			
Barclays Bank Plc (NRFB)	A+ / F1	1,273	678
Money Market Funds			
State Street Global LVNAV MMF	AAmmf	0	217
Fixed Term Deposit Notice Accounts			
Handelsbanken	AA / F1+	728	54
Santander UK	A+ / F1	1,457	371
Bank of Scotland	A+ / F1	1,335	650
National Westminster Bank PLC	A+ / F1	364	271
DBS Bank Ltd	AA- / F1+	243	0
Goldman Sachs	A / F1	243	325
Standard Chartered	A+ / F1	1,214	108
Helaba	A+ / F1+	0	217
Local Authorities	-	4,636	2,078
		<u>11,493</u>	<u>4,969</u>

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments.

The Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings, subject to the fixed periods determined when deposits are placed. These deposits are scheduled to ensure cash is available when required.

The Fund also has access to an overdraft facility for short term (up to three months) cash needs. This facility is only used to address changes in the strategic benchmark and is met by either surplus cash from contributions received exceeding pensions paid or if necessary, disinvesting.

The fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert to cash. As at 31 March 2021 the value of illiquid assets was £116m (31 March 2020, £107m).

All liabilities at 31 March 2021 are due within one year. The Fund does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

19. Funding Arrangements

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 the Fund's Actuary, Aon, undertakes a funding Valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such Valuation took place as at 31 March 2019.

The key elements of NYPF's funding policy are:

- to ensure the long term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible
- to minimise the long term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return

- to reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where the Administering Authority considers it reasonable to do so
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations

At the 2019 Valuation the aim was to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 21 years from April 2020 and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the funds held, plus future expected investment returns and future contributions are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

At the 2019 Triennial Valuation the Fund was assessed as 114% funded (90% at the 2016 Valuation). This reflected a surplus of £450m (deficit of £283m at the 2016 Valuation).

The common rate of employers' contributions is the average rate required from all employers calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by employees, to meet all liabilities arising in respect of service after the Valuation date. For 2020/21 the common rate (determined at the 2019 Valuation) is 19.3% of pensionable pay.

Individual employers' rates will vary from the common contribution rate depending on the demographic and actuarial factors particular to each employer. Full details of the contribution rates payable can be found in the 2019 Triennial Valuation Report and the Funding Strategy Statement on the Fund's website.

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service. The principal assumptions were:

	For Future Service Liabilities	
Investment Return	4.20%	per annum
Inflation	2.60%	per annum
Salary Increases	3.85%	per annum
Pensions Increases	2.10%	per annum

Future life expectancy based on the Actuary's Fund specific mortality review was:

	Male	Female
Current Pensioners	21.8	23.8
Future Pensioners (assumed current age 45)	23.4	25.6

Commutation Assumption

It is assumed that future retirees will take 75% of the maximum additional tax-free lump sum up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and for post-April 2008 service.

50:50 Option

It is assumed that no active members (evenly distributed across the age, service and salary range) will take up the 50:50 option in the LGPS 2014 scheme.

20. Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

In addition to the Triennial Funding Valuation, the Actuary also undertakes a valuation of pension fund liabilities on an IAS19 basis every year using the same base data as the Valuation, rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and using updated assumptions. A statement prepared by the Actuary is attached as an **Appendix**.

21. Current Assets

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Debtors		
Investment Debtors		
Investment Transactions	0	0
Accrued Dividends	396	435
Withholding Taxes Recoverable	1,733	2,292
	<u>2,129</u>	<u>2,727</u>
Other Debtors		
Contributions due from Scheduled (Government) Bodies	10,791	8,916
Contributions due from Admitted Bodies	0	254
Pensions Rechargeable	752	877
Other	262	1,387
	<u>11,805</u>	<u>11,434</u>
	<u>13,934</u>	<u>14,161</u>

(a) Long Term Debtors

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Long Term Debtors		
Reimbursement of Lifetime Tax Allowances	<u>203</u>	<u>42</u>

22. Current Liabilities

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Creditors		
Investment Creditors	0	0
Sundry Other Creditors	6,484	3,402
	<u>6,484</u>	<u>3,402</u>

23. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

	Market Value 31st March 2021 £000	Market Value 31st March 2020 £000
Prudential	<u>0</u>	<u>20,222</u>

AVC contributions of £x,xxxk were paid directly to Prudential during the year (£2,047k in 2019/20). Information not available for draft Statement of Accounts publication.

24. Agency Services

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund does not operate Agency Services contracts.

25. Related Party Transactions

North Yorkshire County Council

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund is administered by North Yorkshire County Council. Consequently, there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Fund.

The Council incurred costs of £1.6m (£1.5m in 2019/20) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Fund and contributed £56.9m to the Fund in 2020/21 (£48.2m in 2019/20).

The Fund's cash holdings for cashflow purposes are invested with banks and other institutions by the treasury management operations of NYCC, through a service level agreement. During the year to 31 March 2021 the Fund had an average investment balance of £9.0m (£11.3m during 2019/20) and received interest of £42.6k (£102.7k received in 2019/20) on these funds. The Fund also holds a cash investment with NYCC Treasury Management. The value of this investment at the end of 2020/21 was £100.3m (£133.8m in 2019/20).

Governance

As at 31 March 2021 there were no Pension Fund Committee Members who were also active members of the Fund. The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources, who was also the Treasurer of the Fund was an active member. Benefits for the Treasurer were accrued on exactly the same basis as for all other members of the Fund.

Key Management Personnel

The Code exempts local authorities from the key management personnel disclosure requirements of IAS 24. This exemption applies in equal measure to the accounts of the Fund. The disclosures required by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations can be found in the main accounts of NYCC.

26. Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Commitments

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2021 were £xxx.xm (31 March 2020: £165.5m), figures not available for draft Statement of Accounts publication. These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on unquoted limited partnership funds held in the private debt and infrastructure parts of the portfolio.

27. Contingent Assets

Four admitted body employers hold insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of an employer default.

28. Impairment Losses

The Fund had no material impairment losses at the year-end (£nil in 2019/20).

Statement of the Actuary

North Yorkshire Pension Fund**Statement of the Actuary for the year ended 31 March 2021****Introduction**

The Scheme Regulations require that a full actuarial valuation is carried out every third year. The purpose of this is to establish that the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (the Fund) is able to meet its liabilities to past and present contributors and to review employer contribution rates. The last full actuarial investigation into the financial position of the Fund was completed as at 31 March 2019 by Aon, in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

Actuarial Position

1. The valuation as at 31 March 2019 showed that the funding level of the Fund had increased since the previous valuation with the market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2019 (of £3,575.2M) covering 114% of the liabilities allowing, in the case of pre- 1 April 2014 membership for current contributors to the Fund, for future increases in pensionable pay.
2. The valuation also showed that the aggregate level of contributions required to be paid by participating employers with effect from 1 April 2020 was:
 - 19.3% of pensionable pay. This is the rate calculated as being sufficient, together with contributions paid by members, to meet the liabilities arising in respect of service after the valuation date (the primary rate),

Plus

 - an allowance of 0.9% of pay for McCloud and cost management – see paragraph 9 below,

Less

 - 1.6% of pensionable pay to remove surplus in excess of a funding level of 110% over a recovery period of 21 years from 1 April 2020 (which together with the allowance above comprises the secondary rate).
3. In practice, each individual employer's or group of employers' position is assessed separately and contributions are set out in Aon's report dated 30 March 2020 (the "actuarial valuation report"). In addition to the contributions certified, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements (other than ill-health retirements) will be made to the Fund by the employers.

Total contributions payable by all employers over the three years to 31 March 2023 are estimated to be:

Year from 1 April	% of pensionable pay	Plus total contribution amount (£M)
2020	19.3	1.2
2021	18.5	1.3
2022	17.1	1.4

4. The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each employer is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement. Different approaches were adopted in relation to the calculation of the primary contribution rate, stepping of contribution changes and individual employers' recovery periods as agreed with the Administering Authority and reflected in the Funding Strategy Statement, reflecting the employers' circumstances.
5. The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method for most employers and the main financial actuarial assumptions used for assessing the funding target and the contribution rates were as follows.

Discount rate for periods in service

Secure scheduled body employers *	4.2% p.a.
Intermediate funding target	3.8% p.a.
Ongoing Orphan employers	3.3% p.a.
Low risk funding target	1.3% p.a.

Discount rate for periods after leaving service

Secure scheduled body employers *	4.2% p.a.
Intermediate funding target	3.8% p.a.
Ongoing Orphan employers	1.6% p.a.
Low risk funding target	1.3% p.a.

Rate of pay increases	3.35% p.a.
Rate of increase to pension accounts	2.1% p.a.
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension)	2.1% p.a.

* The secure scheduled body discount rate was also used for employers whose liabilities will be subsumed after exit by a scheduled body.

In addition, the discount rate for already orphaned liabilities (i.e. where there is no scheme employer responsible for funding those liabilities and employer has exited the Fund) was 1.3% p.a.

The assets were valued at market value.

Further details of the assumptions adopted for the valuation, including the demographic assumptions, are set out in the actuarial valuation report.

6. The key demographic assumption was the allowance made for longevity. The post retirement mortality assumption adopted for the actuarial valuation was in line with standard self-administered pension scheme (SAPS) S2N mortality tables with appropriate scaling factors applied based on an analysis of the Fund's pensioner mortality experience, and included an allowance for improvements based on the 2018 Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) Projections Model (CMI2018), with s_k of 7.5 and parameter A of 0.0 assuming a long term annual rate of improvement in mortality rates of 1.5% p.a. The resulting average future life expectancies at age 65 (for normal health retirements) were:

	Men	Women
Current pensioners aged 65 at the valuation date	21.8	23.8
Current active members aged 45 at the valuation date	23.4	25.6

7. The valuation results summarised in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are based on the financial position and market levels at the valuation date, 31 March 2019. As such the results do not make allowance for changes which have occurred subsequent to the valuation date. The Administering Authority, in conjunction with the Actuary, monitors the funding position on a regular basis.
8. The formal actuarial valuation report and the Rates and Adjustments Certificate setting out the employer contribution rates for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 were signed on 30 March 2020. Other than as agreed or otherwise permitted or required by the Regulations and reflected in the Funding Strategy Statement as appropriate, employer contribution rates will be reviewed at the next actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2022 in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
9. There are a number of uncertainties regarding the Scheme benefits and hence liabilities
- **Increases to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs):**
The 2019 valuation allows for the extension of the 'interim solution' for public service schemes to pay full inflationary increases on GMPs for those reaching State Pension Age (SPA) between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2021. On 23 March 2021, the Government published a response to its consultation on the longer term solution to achieve equalisation for GMPs as required by the High Court judgement in the Lloyds Bank case. The response sets out its proposed longer term solution, which is to extend the interim solution further to those reaching SPA after 5 April 2021.

The results of the 2019 valuation do not allow for the impact of this proposed longer term solution. Based on approximate calculations, at a whole of fund level, the impact of providing full pension increases on GMPs for those members reaching State Pension Age after 5 April 2021 is an increase in past service liabilities of between 0.1% to 0.2% across the Fund as a whole.

▪ **Cost Management Process and McCloud judgement:**

Initial results from the Scheme Advisory Board 2016 cost management process indicated that benefit improvements / member contribution reductions equivalent to 0.9% of pay would be required. However, the cost management process was paused following the Court of Appeal ruling that the transitional arrangements in both the Judges' Pension Scheme (McCloud) and Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Sargeant) constituted illegal age discrimination. Government confirmed that the judgement would be treated as applying to all public service schemes including the LGPS (where the transitional arrangements were in the form of a final salary underpin) and a consultation on changes to the LGPS was issued in July 2020.

The employer contributions certified from 1 April 2020 as part of the 2019 valuation include an allowance of 0.9% of pay in relation to the potential additional costs following the McCloud judgement / cost management process. This was a simplified approach which didn't take account of different employer membership profiles or funding targets and may be more or less than the assessed cost once the details of the LGPS changes arising from the McCloud judgement and the 2016 cost management process have been agreed.

Work on the 2020 cost management process has now been started, and it is possible that further changes to benefits and/or contributions may ultimately be required under that process, although the outcome is not expected to be known for some time.

▪ **Goodwin**

An Employment Tribunal ruling relating to the Teachers' Pension Scheme concluded that provisions for survivor's benefits of a female member in an opposite sex marriage are less favourable than for a female in a same sex marriage or civil partnership, and that treatment amounts to direct discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. The chief secretary to the Treasury announced in a written ministerial statement on 20 July 2020 that he believed that changes would be required to other public service pension schemes with similar arrangements, although these changes are yet to be reflected in LGPS regulations. We expect the average additional liability to be less than 0.1%, however the impact will vary by employer depending on their membership profile.

10. This Statement has been prepared by the Actuary to the Fund, Aon, for inclusion in the accounts of the Fund. It provides a summary of the results of the actuarial valuation which was carried out as at 31 March 2019. The valuation provides a snapshot of the funding position at the valuation date and is used to assess the future level of contributions required.

This Statement must not be considered without reference to the formal actuarial valuation report which details fully the context and limitations of the actuarial valuation.

Aon does not accept any responsibility or liability to any party other than our client, North Yorkshire County Council, the Administering Authority of the Fund, in respect of this Statement.

11. The report on the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2019 is available on the Fund's website at the following address:

<https://www.nypf.org.uk/Documents/Actuarial%20valuation%20report%202019.pdf>

Aon Solutions UK Limited

May 2021

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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June 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1.1 Good governance can mean different things to people – in the public sector it means:

"Achieving the intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times"

Corporate governance generally refers to the processes by which an organisation is directed, controlled, led and held to account.

1.2 North Yorkshire County Council's (the County Council) governance framework aims to ensure that in conducting its business it:

- operates in a lawful, open, inclusive and honest manner,
- makes sure public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and spent wisely
- has effective arrangements in place to manage risk
- meets the needs of North Yorkshire communities – secures continuous improvements in the way it operates.

1.3 Our governance framework comprises of the culture, values, systems and processes by which the County Council is directed and controlled. It brings together an underlying set of legislative and regulatory requirements, good practice principles and management processes. The full Governance Framework can be found at paragraph 3 in this document.

1.4 Each year the County Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which describes how its corporate governance arrangements have been working. To help us do this the County Council's Corporate Governance Officers Group and Audit Committee undertake a review of our Governance Framework and the development of the AGS.

1.5 It is crucial to the County Council's success that its governance arrangements are applied in a way that demonstrates the spirit and ethos of good governance – this cannot be achieved by rules and procedures alone. The County Council is expected to have a culture that places the public and integrity at the heart of its business.

1.6 This AGS is linked to the County Council's **Local Code of Corporate Governance** through the seven Principles of Corporate Governance in the Local Code. The Local Code is also consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)* and is reviewed annually. Minor amendments have been made to the Local Code this year to ensure it represents continual corporate governance best practice. The current version was approved by the Audit Committee and the Chief Executive (as permitted in the Constitution under the Officers' Delegation Scheme) in March 2021. A copy of the Code can be obtained from the County Council website [here](#). The Audit Committee also review the County Council's corporate governance arrangements usually in June of each year alongside the Annual Governance Statement.

1.7 This AGS explains how the County Council has complied with its Local Code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6(1) of the *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015* in relation to the publication of an **Annual Governance Statement**.

1.8 This AGS also confirms that the financial management arrangements within the County Council conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the *Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2015)*. The AGS also makes reference to the County Council's compliance with the CIPFA *Financial Management (FM) Code (2019)* which applies from 1st April 2021.

1.9 Coronavirus has had an impact on the County Council since March 2020 which resulted in changes being made to governance arrangements. These included decision making arrangements and

County Council meetings, delivery of services and working practices, funding and emergency assistance.

- 1.10 The latest governance guidance issued by CIPFA called Bulletin 06 Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21. The updating of this Statement has taken the guidance into account and has been amended to conform where appropriate.

North Yorkshire Pension Fund

- 1.11 The governance arrangements and Final Accounts of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) are audited separately from the County Council. However, because the NYPF is administered by the County Council, the governance arrangements of the County Council also apply to the NYPF. This AGS therefore also forms part of the governance framework for the NYPF. However, there are also a number of additional documents that relate solely to the governance arrangements of the NYPF – these are **NOT** referred to further in this AGS as they relate only to the governance of the NYPF. For further details of the specific governance arrangements of the NYPF please refer to the NYPF website (www.nypf.org.uk).
- 1.12 NYPF is one of 11 members of the Borders to Coast Pensions Pool (BCPP). This Company is now in full operation and has assets under management. NYPF has assets of circa £1.7 billion as at 31 March 2021 invested with BCPP and further plans to increase this amount. BCPP has established governance rules and procedures including a Joint Committee and how it engages with shareholders. Administration of the NYPF, at this stage, remains entirely within the remit of the County Council's Pension Fund Committee.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for ensuring that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy, according to priorities and, that there is sound and inclusive decision making. There is also clear accountability to the public for the use of those resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.
- 2.2 A key focus of the County Council's governance processes and structure is the attainment of sustainable economic, societal, and environmental objectives. The Council's governance arrangements are the framework by which the County Council operates in order to achieve its objectives. The focus on sustainability and the links between governance and public financial management are crucial. Furthermore, the County Council in exercising its responsibilities takes into account the impact of current decisions and actions on future generations.
- 2.3 The Governance Framework operating during 2020/21 is considered to have provided reasonable and objective assurance that significant risks impacting on the achievement of the County Council's principal objectives would be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact.
- 2.4 Having considered all the principles in the *CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption 2014*, on behalf of the County Council the signatories of this Statement are satisfied that the Council has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.
- 2.5 Some issues that require further attention have, however, been identified and these are set out in **Section 7** together with details of how they will be addressed during 2020/21. Reports on progress will be submitted to the Audit Committee.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registers of interests, gifts and hospitality are also maintained for Members and officers. Guidance notes are produced to assist. Details of Related Party Transactions are sought from all Members and senior officers. • The County Council has approved and implemented a formal Whistleblowing Policy which is reviewed annually by the Audit Committee. • The County Council has a complaints procedure that is advertised by leaflets and on its website. The procedure includes targets for acknowledging and responding to complaints in full 	<p>Whistleblowing Policy</p> <p>Complaints Procedure</p>
<p>b) Ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) is the officer designated by the County Council as the Monitoring Officer and is responsible for performing the duties required by S.5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which relate to ensuring the legality of the County Council's operations and the duties in the Localism Act 2011 relating to the promotion of high ethical standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Monitoring Officer is a member of the Management Board and attends or is represented, and monitors decision making at the County Council, Executive and all Committees • The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources is the Chief Financial Officer for the purposes of S.151 of the Local Government Act 1972 • The requirements of the Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation are overseen by the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG), the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources is the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the County Council. The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources with support from CIGG has developed and implemented a comprehensive Information Governance Framework which continues to be reviewed and updated in light of further guidance and developments. • Following implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 in May 2018, updated policies and processes have been put in place to comply with the new legislation. A Data Protection Officer (Veritau) has also been appointed. Veritau provides internal audit and a range of related services to both the City of York Council and the County Council. Both authorities jointly own the company. For governance purposes, Veritau reports to the Audit Committee in the same way as an in-house function. • The County Council operates an Information Security Management System which is certified to the requirements of ISO/IEC 27001 (Information Security). Compliance will continue to be monitored, and further review audits by BSI (British Standards Institute) will be carried out every six months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the next full re-certification to the ISO 27001:2013 will take place in December 2022 with regular annual assessments. The work to maintain this standard is coordinated by the Senior Information Security Compliance Officer working in conjunction with the Data Governance Team. • In addition, the County Council now operates an Information Technology Service Management System which was awarded re-certification to ISO/IEC 20000 in February 2019. The next re-certification will be in February 2022. ISO 20000 provides quality assurance to the processes, policies and procedures operated in the delivery of ICT Services to the County Council and is the only standard specifically aligned to Information Technology service delivery and service management 	<p>S.5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989</p> <p>Localism Act 2011</p> <p>S.151 Local Government Act 1972</p> <p>Data Protection Act 2018</p> <p>Freedom of Information Act 2000</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ by achieving and maintaining certification of both standards this serves to deliver services which are compliant, quality assured, and provide continual improvement. ● The County Council is also certified to the Public Sector Network (PSN) Code of Connection. The certifications have enabled the County Council, for example, to be certified for connection to secure video conferencing with the Criminal Justice System. The certification also enabled our connection to the NHS.net and access to Department for Work and Pensions systems ● The Corporate Health and Safety Policy is reviewed annually in May and the revised and approved Policy is then issued in June. The Policy takes account of recent Health and Safety Executive guidance relating to the management of health and safety and sets out the key responsibilities of staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ each Directorate has a health and safety action plan which is reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that health and safety risks are identified and appropriately managed across the County Council ● The Equality and Diversity Policy Statement is reviewed annually and revised when necessary. The County Council uses equality impact assessments as part of ensuring that due regard is paid to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. The County Council has also published equality information and objectives as required by the Equalities Act 2010. ● There is a comprehensive annual plan for Employment Policies to ensure that all policies and practices adhere to all relevant legislation. This year compliance with the National Minimum Wage Regulations was reviewed. All policy updates go through a full consultation with unions recognised by the County Council. ● Public bodies employing more than 250 staff are required to publish figures on the gender pay gap; gender bonus gap; the proportion of men and women receiving bonuses and the proportion of men and women in each quartile of the pay structure. The Council publishes information annually relating to the gender pay gap. Information about this can be found on the County Council website. ● Internal Audit operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the County Council's Audit Charter. The annual work programme is set out in a risk based Audit Plan following consultation with individual Directorates and the External Auditor. The Audit Committee approves the Audit Plan and receives, thereafter, regular reports on its progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Head of Internal Audit expresses an opinion on the County Council's framework of governance, risk management and control on an annual basis. ○ during 2020/21, the Audit Plan included audits on a number of corporate themes, such audits are key to providing the appropriate assurance to the County Council that its overall governance arrangements remain effective. ● Coronavirus related governance arrangements - in the Constitution the Chief Executive can be given delegated authority for decision making arrangements. At the beginning of the pandemic this delegated authority was invoked so that the County Council could continue to function. This decision making by the Chief Executive was done in full consultation with the Executive. The Council then quickly embraced the new regulations which allowed for virtual decision making meetings and Members continued to make decisions during the pandemic and the appropriate 	<p>Public Sector Network (PSN)</p> <p>Health and Safety Policy</p> <p>Equality and Diversity Policy Statement</p> <p>Gender Pay Gap</p>
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<p>changes to the Constitution were made to ensure transparent decision making. 98 formal virtual Committee meetings have been held up to 31 March 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019 CIPFA developed the Financial Management (FM) Code as historically the general financial management of a local authority has not been supported by a specific professional code. The FM code is designed to support good practice in financial management and help local authorities demonstrate financial sustainability. It is consistent with other CIPFA Codes in that it is based on principles rather than narrow prescription. The Code doesn't, therefore, detail specific financial management processes that each organisation must follow. Instead, the local authority must demonstrate that the principles of the Code, the Financial Management Standards, are being satisfied. 	
<p>c) Documenting a commitment to openness and acting in the public interest</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to the County Council to present itself in an open and accessible manner to ensure that matters are dealt with transparently, in so far as the need for confidentiality allows A Council Plan and a Statement of Final Accounts are published annually to inform stakeholders and services users of the County Council's vision, ambitions and priorities for the next four years and the previous year's achievements and outcomes A Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Annual Revenue Budget including its impact on Council Tax, are published and consulted on each year Effective channels of communication which reach all groups within the community and other stakeholders are maintained as well as offering a range of consultation methods; to this end the County Council has a Communications Strategy to support the Beyond 2020 Change Programme and an Engagement Promise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Engagement Promise is a statement of principles about how the Council enables and encourages people to influence decisions. They are high level principles, so it is not anticipated that regular changes will be required but they are reviewed by officers annually There are also a variety of opportunities for the public to engage effectively with the County Council including attending meetings, opportunity to ask questions at meetings, written consultations, surveys, web chats with the Leader and Chief Executive. This all contributes to a commitment to openness, acting in the public interest and are documented where appropriate. 	<p>Council Plan</p> <p>Final Accounts</p> <p>Consultation and Community Engagement</p>
<p>d) Establishing clear channels of communication with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, ensuring accountability and encouraging open consultation</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected Members have a significant role to play in ensuring compliance and propriety, either collectively (e.g. through the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees), and individually as local representatives, providing feedback from their constituents The County Council communicates the Vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for all stakeholders to enable accountability and encourage open consultation. To enable this, analysis of the County Council's stakeholders is undertaken and relevant and effective channels of communication are developed. Key mechanisms include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> publishing a Council Plan which sets out the Council's vision, ambitions and priorities for the next four years the Council Plan, and annual Statement of Final Accounts also inform stakeholders and services users of the previous year's achievements and outcomes 	<p>Council Plan</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o opportunities for the public to engage effectively with the County Council including attending meetings and submitting petitions o North Yorkshire Views is our online engagement community where residents can have their say and share ideas about the way the County Council operates. o Consultation toolkit and on-line training package that provide advice to all staff about how to consult effectively o an engagement promise setting out in simple terms how everyone who lives or works in the county, or uses the County Council's services can influence decisions. o maintaining a County Council website that provides access to information, delivers services and opportunities for public engagement, including delivery of information required by the transparency agenda o using social media to inform and engage with residents for example, on development of services, provision of information, responding to concerns and issues o publication of an e-newsletter, available by subscription or through the council website, covering news and information about the County Council and its services o a partnership with newspaper publisher Johnston Press to provide a monthly round-up of news and information specific for the local area, for local readers o communicating and engaging with staff across the County Council, through a number of different internal communications channels 	<p>N Y Views</p> <p>Engagement promise</p>
<p>e) Developing and communicating a vision which specifies intended outcomes for citizens and service users and is used as a basis for planning</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key corporate strategy documents (i.e. the Council Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget), are reviewed and updated annually • The Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee require it to maintain an on-going assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment within the County Council. The published Work Programme for the Audit Committee includes provision to review the impact of changes to service delivery and / or management processes on the governance arrangements of the County Council • The Members' Constitution Working Group supported and advised by the Monitoring Officer review the Constitution as required on an ongoing basis and conduct a formal review of the whole Constitution every four years. 	
<p>f) Translating the vision into courses of action for the County Council, its commercial companies, its partnerships and collaborations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the Council Plan and Annual Budget / MTFs process, each Service sets out its detailed objectives, performance targets, available resources and risk assessment which are included in a Service Plan • Commercial Companies – the County Council has a number of companies which it uses to deliver specific services/functions. Along with the in-house traded services to schools, these companies are grouped together to form the 'Brierley Group'. An Executive Shareholder Committee has been created to oversee the governance of the commercial companies and a number of delegations have been made to the Chief Executive for operational activities. Briefings have been provided for 	<p>Council Plan</p>

<p>Members, Audit Committee and a further review is to take place on governance of commercial companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual review is carried out on partnership arrangements which considers a range of factors. This is reported to the Audit Committee as part of the Council's approach to governance. 	
<p>g) Reviewing the effectiveness of the decision-making framework, including delegation arrangements, decision-making in partnerships, information provided to decision makers and robustness of data quality</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution sets out how the County Council operates, how decisions are made and by whom, and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Constitution also includes the detailed Contract, Financial and Property Procedure Rules, Schemes of Delegation, Codes of Conduct. These are reviewed and updated when the need arises to ensure they are consistent with the contemporary operating requirements of the County Council. 	<p>Constitution</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As indicated above, the Council has approved Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules, and Property Procedure Rules. The purpose of these rules is to set out a framework within which the County Council conducts its business affairs. These rules are applied and monitored by the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and are designed to ensure that proper financial arrangements are in place and operational at all times across the County Council. They are reviewed by the Audit Committee on an annual basis. Partnership Arrangements – the County Council's Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules cover the issues to be considered before the County Council becomes involved in a partnership (see paragraph i) below for further detail). Coronavirus Pandemic - in the Constitution the Chief Executive can be given delegated authority for decision making arrangements. At the beginning of the pandemic this delegated authority was invoked so that the County Council could continue to function. This decision making by the Chief Executive was done in full consultation with the Executive. The Council then quickly embraced the new Regulations which allowed for virtual decision making meetings and Members continued to make decisions during the pandemic, and the appropriate changes to the Constitution were made to ensure transparent decision making. 98 formal virtual Committee meetings have been held during the pandemic up to 31 March 2021. 	
<p>h) Measuring the performance of services and related projects and ensuring that they are delivered in accordance with defined outcomes and that they represent the best use of resources and value for money</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an integrated Service Planning and Budget Process under which each Service in each Directorate sets out its detailed objectives, performance targets, available resources and risk assessment. These feed into both the Council Plan and the Annual Budget/MTFS process The Performance Management framework, continues to be refined with the aim of strengthening links from individual performance management through team plans and service plans to County Council ambitions and priorities. There is quarterly reporting of key performance information to Management Board and a quarterly meeting of the Executive and the Scrutiny Committee Chairs. This information brings together activity levels; financial information; quality issues; customer feedback; improvement areas; workforce; and compliments and complaints. Part of this approach is to ensure that the key 	

components of value for money are considered together and that both senior management and Members can better understand and challenge key services and areas of County Council spending. This is supplemented by more frequent reporting and monitoring processes within Directorates.

- Improved **comprehensive budgeting systems** are applied across all Directorates. These systems are regularly reviewed and improved and include greater use of systems by budget managers and stakeholders into a more consolidated service. The Finance function is also regularly reviewed and improved where necessary.
- Priority has been given to frontline services in determining the **savings programme** as part of the Beyond 2020 Change Programme. A planned and prioritised approach has been taken and investments have been made in areas to aid with delivery of the savings and to deliver a modern Council that is fit for purpose.
- In the past benchmarking statistics have shown an overall level of high **performance and value for money** for the County Council. Ofsted benchmarking data tends to continue to show the County Council in a positive light and in other areas greater reliance is made on “softer” networking in order to identify areas of best practice across the County. An increased focus on team performance is also providing key management information to assess the productivity of staff and teams and ultimately services with a view to driving improvements in performance. This approach is incorporated into the quarterly monitoring reports provided to the Executive and will help to shape budget thinking on an on-going basis.
- The **Beyond 2020 Change Programme** provides a framework within which the County Council continues to plan to meet the challenging savings requirement. The Programme still seeks to ‘simplify; standardise; and share’ and also builds in a number of related themes which set out some of the values, including:-
 - Stronger Communities – empowering and encouraging local communities to develop greater resilience and provide more community owned services
 - Customer– changing the way the County Council interacts with its customers
 - Commercial Focus – examining different ways of delivering services and reviewing opportunities to become more commercial, generating additional net income as exemplified by North Yorkshire Education Services and the commercial companies.
 - Modern Council – creating the right environment to support modern ways of working through use of technology, buildings and working practices and policies.
 - Property Rationalisation – looking to use fewer buildings where staff and customers use the space more efficiently.
 - Organisational Development - developing the workforce and culture to ensure the County Council is fit for purpose in the future.

Management Board acts as the Programme Board and governance arrangements are in place to ensure plans are well developed and implementation is monitored

- The **Asset Management Strategy** sets out key corporate processes (e.g. purchasing and disposal of property) including the adoption of a corporate approach to dealing with property needs. A Capital Project Management system (Gateway) is in place to improve the delivery of larger projects.

<p>This dovetails with the County Council’s property partners. This Strategy sets out the key role of property in supporting the County Council’s objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The County Council’s improvement priorities, as set out in the Council Plan and in its service performance plans and strategies, are reviewed regularly throughout the year. This is achieved through – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ quarterly reports on key service performance plus corporate issues such as personnel, finance and commendations / complaints are considered by Management Board, the Executive and Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees ○ regular reports to Corporate Directors and Executive Portfolio Holders ○ publication of an Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny and statements to every Council meeting by the Scrutiny Committee Chairs 	
<p>i) Defining and documenting the roles and responsibilities of Members and management, with clear protocols for effective communication in respect of the authority, its commercial companies and partnership arrangements</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As explained in paragraph 4(g) above as per the Constitution ● All 72 Councillors meet together as the County Council. Meetings are open to the general public. At its annual meeting in May each year the County Council appoints its Chairman. The Leader is elected by the County Council at its annual meeting every four years in the election year, and s/he appoints the Executive Members, and determines their portfolios. The Leader allocates executive functions and maintains the Executive delegation scheme. The full Council is responsible for setting the budget and policy framework of the County Council ● The Executive is legally responsible for developing and making proposals to the County Council for the budget and the policy framework and taking the decisions to implement them once they are agreed. If the Executive wishes to make a decision that is outside the budget and policy framework, then this must be referred to the Council as a whole to decide. They are also responsible for all other functions not falling within the responsibility of the Council or any other committee. Each Member of the Executive has a portfolio responsibility that relates to a specific area(s) of the County Council’s services and responsibilities. The Executive meets formally at least once a month but will hold informal meetings on a more regular basis as required to progress the business of the County Council ● The Management Board (which comprises the Chief Executive and all Corporate Directors plus Assistant Chief Executives) is responsible for implementing all County Council policies and decisions at officer level, providing advice to Members, for co-ordinating the use of resources and the work of the Directorates. The ‘Role of Management Board’ is set out formally within the Constitution. Circumstances permitting, the Management Board meets weekly. ● There are four Overview and Scrutiny Committees that support the work of the County Council and the Executive, together with a Scrutiny of Health Committee. Their roles and responsibilities are detailed in Article 6 of the Constitution. ● Statutory Officers / Codes and Protocol – the County Council employs officers to give advice, implement decisions and manage the day-to-day delivery of its services. Certain officers have a designated duty to ensure that the County Council acts within the law and uses its resources wisely. A Protocol on Member / Officer relations, is part of the Constitution and, amongst other documents, governs the relationships between Officers and Members of the Council. 	<p>Constitution</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pursuant to its powers under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the County Council arranges for certain of its functions (non-executive functions) to be discharged by officers of the Council, these are included in the Officers Delegation Scheme ● Commercial Companies – the County Council has a number of companies which it uses to deliver specific services/functions. Along with the in-house traded services to schools, these companies are grouped together to form the ‘Brierley Group’. An Executive Shareholder Committee has been created to oversee the governance of the commercial companies and a number of delegations have been made to the Chief Executive for operational activities. Briefings have been provided for Members, Audit Committee and a further review is to take place on governance of commercial companies. ● Partnership Arrangements - the County Council’s Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules contain a number of important steps to be considered before the County Council enters into a partnership, including the need for approval by the Executive or under the terms of the Delegation Schemes, of appropriate written governance arrangements and interaction with the County Council’s decision making arrangements commensurate with the role of the partnership, the part played in it by the County Council, and the risks attached to that involvement. Detailed guidance is provided to Members and Officers who represent the County Council on external bodies. An annual report is made to the Audit Committee on the governance arrangements and work of partnerships. The Executive receives an ‘issues’ report when the Audit Committee determines there is a matter of concern relating to a partnership 	
j) Ensuring that financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the <i>Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2015)</i> and, where they do not, explain why and how they deliver the same impact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The statutory duties of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources in relation to financial management derive from five principal sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 ○ Section 114 of the Local Government Financial Act 1988 ○ Local Government Act 2000 (particular decisions contrary to policy or budget) ○ Local Government Act 2003 (prudential limits for borrowing and investment) ○ Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 ● The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources (CD-SR) drafts a Medium Term Financial Strategy and presents it (at least) annually to the Executive and the Council; linked to this Strategy are the detailed Revenue Budget, Savings Plan, Capital Plan, Treasury Management arrangements and Prudential Indicators ● The CD-SR is responsible for determining the accounting procedures, the form of financial records and statements and for maintaining the financial accounts of the County Council. The CD-SR also ensures that proper accounting arrangements are established in all Directorates. Individual Corporate Directors are responsible for the satisfactory operation of financial and accounting 	S.151 Local Government Act 1972 S.114 Local Government Financial Act 1988 Local Government Act 2000 Local Government Act 2003 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

systems, and associated controls, within their Directorates – this responsibility is defined in the Financial Procedure Rules.

- To support this process, there is an Assistant Director (qualified as an Accountant) allocated to each Directorate with specific responsibility for financial matters. The Assistant Director sits on the Management Team of the Service Directorate and Strategic Resources.
- It is the duty of all Service Managers within Directorates to plan and manage their budgets to meet the agreed bottom line budget figure for their Service Unit. This includes ensuring that adequate arrangements exist for monitoring revenue and capital budgets throughout the year, and taking action to adjust the budget to ensure that overall control of expenditure is maintained. The CD-SR is responsible for submitting a quarterly report to Executive on the overall Revenue Budget / Capital Plan position; this report is part of the Quarterly Performance and Improvement reporting arrangements
- The CD-SR prepares and publishes an annual **Statement of Final Accounts** that conforms to all statutory and professional requirements, codes of practice and timetables
- The County Council's appointed **external auditor** is Deloitte. They will publish an Annual Audit Letter on the completion of their audit that follows the end of each financial year
- Under the *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015*, the County Council has a legal responsibility to provide an adequate and effective **internal audit** of its records and control systems. The Council has delegated this responsibility to the CD-SR who provides the service through Veritau (Veritau provides internal audit and a range of related services to both the City of York Council and the County Council. Both authorities jointly own the company. For governance purposes, Veritau reports to the Audit Committee in the same way as an in-house function). The Head of Internal Audit is the CEO of Veritau.
- Using a risk assessment methodology, the Head of Internal Audit produces an **Annual Audit Plan** for approval by the Audit Committee; progress against this Plan is also reported quarterly to the CD-SR and to the Audit Committee. In addition to carrying out the work specified in the Annual Audit Plan, Veritau also provides –
 - advice and assistance to service managers in the design and implementation of internal controls
 - support to managers in the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption and other irregularities
 - advice and guidance on information governance related matters.
- The Head of Internal Audit provides an **audit opinion**, based on the level of assurance gained by the work carried out, for each audit undertaken. The results of audit work in each Directorate are reported to the Audit Committee in accordance with an agreed programme.
- The **Head of Internal Audit also submits an Annual Report** to the Audit Committee that includes his overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control operating in the County Council as a whole.

k) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the discharge of the monitoring officer function.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has appointed the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) as Monitoring Officer. The role and duties of the Monitoring Officer are contained in the Council's Constitution and appropriate resources are made available for him/her to undertake the role. The Monitoring Officer is a member of the County Council's Management Board, and has sight of all Committee and Executive reports before they are presented to Members. 	
<p>l) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the discharge of the Head of Paid Service function</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has appointed the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service. The role and duties of the Head of Paid Service are contained in the Council's Constitution, and the Chief Executive leads the County Council's Management Team and appropriate resources are made available for him/her to undertake the role. 	
<p>m) Providing induction and identifying the development needs of Members and senior officers in relation to their strategic roles, supported by appropriate training</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the skills of Members continues to be targeted through a Member Development Programme, a dedicated online learning site and a suite of resources and training events. There is also a specific induction programme for any newly elected Member(s) and comprehensive induction following the election. There are also regular Member seminars throughout the year on a whole series of areas in order to keep Members abreast of current issues and to ensure awareness of responsibilities for both County Council and individual Members. 	
<p>n) Reviewing the effectiveness of the framework for identifying and managing risks and for performance and demonstrating clear accountability</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council's comprehensive and well established approach to risk management is laid out in the Corporate Risk Management Policy and its associated Strategy. Risk Registers are developed and maintained at Corporate, Directorate and Service Unit levels. The generic risk assessment methodology is also applied to specific key projects or areas of policy development. The risk prioritisation process is designed to identify key risks that are a threat to the achievement of objectives, evaluate risk controls and ensure risk reduction actions are embedded within Service Performance Plans. Internal Audit (Veritau) review the effectiveness of the framework for identifying and managing risks on a regular basis. Any weaknesses identified are addressed and progress to rectify those weaknesses is monitored by the Corporate Risk Management Group as well as Internal Audit. An annual progress report on risk management is made to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee's role is to assess the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements and to review progress on the implementation of risk management throughout the authority. Corporate Directors provide an update on the progress of mitigating risks identified in their risk registers to Audit Committee once a year. Clear accountability is shown in both the Corporate Risk Management Policy and Strategy and as part of the risk register process. The Performance Management framework has been further refined in order to strengthen the links between individuals, teams and services. Benchmarking and best practice from other Authorities is an inherent part of the planning process to ensure that each plan can look for further improvements. The service planning process also involves identification of savings as an initial part of the generation of savings proposals for the Budget / MTFS. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is quarterly reporting of key performance information to Management Board and a quarterly meeting of the Executive and the Scrutiny Committee Chairs. This information brings together activity levels; financial information; quality issues; customer feedback; improvement areas; workforce; and compliments and complaints. Part of this approach is to ensure that the key components of value for money are considered together and that both senior management and Members can better understand and challenge key services and areas of Council spending. This is supplemented by more frequent reporting and monitoring processes within Directorates. 	
<p>o) Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are developed and maintained in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (CIPFA, 2014)</i>.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council has approved and implemented a formal Counter Fraud Strategy which is reviewed annually by the Audit Committee. The Strategy is designed to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption by adopting and maintaining measures which prevent fraud occurring, that ensure instances of fraud which do occur are detected promptly and enable robust action to be taken against any perpetrators. • The risks of fraud and corruption are kept under constant review. A formal Fraud and Loss Risk Assessment is also completed each year by Veritau and the results are report to the Audit Committee. Preventative measures are taken to address any new or emerging risks. • Where instances of fraud are detected, Veritau will work closely with management and other agencies to ensure that the allegations are fully investigated, the extent of any losses is quantified, evidence is properly collected for further action (including possible criminal or disciplinary action), losses are recovered where possible and appropriate measures are taken to prevent any further occurrences 	
<p>p) Ensuring an effective Scrutiny function is in place</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution sets out how the County Council operates, how decisions are made and by whom, and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. • The Executive is legally responsible for developing and making proposals to the County Council for the budget and the policy framework and taking the decisions to implement them once they are agreed. If the Executive wishes to make a decision that is outside the budget and policy framework, then this must be referred to the Council as a whole to decide. They are also responsible for all other functions not falling within the responsibility of the Council or any other committee. Each Member of the Executive has a portfolio responsibility that relates to a specific area(s) of the County Council's services and responsibilities. The Executive meets formally at least once a month but will hold informal meetings on a more regular basis as required to progress the business of the County Council. • There are four Overview and Scrutiny Committees that support the work of the Council and the Executive, together with a Scrutiny of Health Committee. Their roles and responsibilities are detailed in Article 6 of the Constitution and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. These Committees are supported by a small team of officers including a Statutory Scrutiny Officer (the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager). The Overview and Scrutiny Committees have continued to meet virtually (both formally and informally) throughout the pandemic which has led to only minor disruption to the ways of working. In addition Scrutiny Board has coordinated scrutiny of the recovery from the pandemic and how it has changed the way in which the County Council and partner agencies and organisations work. 	

q) Ensuring that assurance arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the *Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019)* and, where they do not, explain why and how they deliver the same impact

- The Head of Internal Audit is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the adequacy and effectiveness of the County Council's governance, risk management and control framework. The objective is to provide independent and objective assurance to management and those charged with governance, including the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Audit Committee. Where weaknesses in control are identified then Internal Audit will support management to make the necessary improvements. The Financial Procedure Rules provide the framework for internal audit activities within the County Council, and define the respective roles and responsibilities of management and the Head of Internal Audit as well as confirming Internal Audit's rights of access to premises, information, records and other documentation. The specific objectives, scope and approach to Internal Audit are set out in the **Audit Charter** which is reviewed annually and subject to approval by the Audit Committee.
 - The *CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit* contains five principles which set out the governance arrangements necessary to ensure that the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) is able to operate effectively and perform his/her core duties. These five principles are:
 - The HIA plays a critical role in delivering the organisation's strategic objectives by championing best practice in governance, objectively assessing the adequacy of governance and management of existing risks, commenting on responses to emerging risks and proposed developments.
 - The HIA plays a critical role in delivering the organisation's strategic objectives by giving an objective and evidence based opinion on all aspects of governance, risk management and internal control.
 - The HIA must be a senior manager with regular and open engagement across the organisation, particularly with the Leadership Team and with the Audit Committee.
 - The HIA must lead and direct an internal audit service that is resourced to be fit for purpose.
 - The HIA must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced.
- The County Council's arrangements for internal audit are assessed against the five principles on an annual basis and the HIA and Internal Audit were able to comply and operate in accordance with the five principles.

r) Undertaking the core functions of an audit committee, as identified in *Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities (CIPFA, 2018)*

- A separate Audit Committee, which includes external independent Members, has been in operation since April 2006. (**see section 5 below for activities during 2019/20**). A key role of the Audit Committee is to act as the responsible body charged with ensuring that a sound system of governance and internal control operates throughout the County Council. In doing so, it provides independent assurance to the Council on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment and independent scrutiny of the County Council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Council's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment. It also oversees the Procedure Rules that relate to Contracts, Finance and Property matters as well as Information Governance and Counter Fraud arrangements. It is also responsible for scrutinising the Treasury Management policies and activities of the County Council and for ensuring that arrangements exist to secure value for money. The appointment of external independent Members helps to bring additional knowledge and expertise to the working of the Audit Committee.

<p>s) Ensuring that the County Council provides timely support, information and responses to External Auditors and properly considers audit findings and recommendations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council's appointed External Auditor is Deloitte. The External Auditor attends Audit Committee meetings. • Each year the External Auditor provides an External Audit Plan which sets out their key objectives for the year which can include a review and report on Financial Statements including the Annual Governance Statement; providing an opinion on the Financial Statements and also the arrangements to secure value for money. • the External Auditor publishes an External Audit Report on the completion of their audit. • Throughout the year the County Council's Members and Officers work with the External Auditor to address any concerns and risks highlighted by the external auditor. • Findings and recommendations made by the External Auditor receive an appropriate management response setting out how the County Council will address such recommendations and areas of concern. 	
<p>t) Incorporating good governance arrangements in respect of partnerships and other joint working and ensuring that they are reflected across the County Council's overall governance structures</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council's Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules contain a number of issues to be considered before the County Council becomes involved in a partnership, including the need for approval by the Executive or under the terms of the Delegation Schemes, of appropriate written governance arrangements and interaction with the County Council's decision making arrangements commensurate with the role of the partnership, the part played in it by the County Council, and the risks attached to that involvement. An annual report is made to the Audit Committee on the governance arrangements and work of partnerships. • Where the County Council is a substantial equity holder in a company (NYnet, Veritau, Yorwaste, Align Property Partners, Brierley Homes, First North Law, N Y Highways) it ensures appropriate governance arrangements are in place both within the company and as between the company and the County Council. These will be based on the Local Code but also take into account the operational circumstances of the company. 	<p>Local Code of Corporate Governance</p>

5.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

5.1 During 2020/21 and up to the date this AGS was signed, the Audit Committee had met 5 times both formally and informally (not including this meeting). During this period it had:-

- approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.
- considered the County Council's overall counter fraud arrangements together with the outcome of the annual Fraud and Loss risk assessment. The Committee also reviewed the work of Veritau in respect of the management of fraud risks including the results of investigations into matters reported via the County Council's whistleblowing facilities or directly by management.
- assessed the performance of the County Council's internal audit provider, Veritau. The Committee also considered the outcome of the internal audit quality assurance and

improvement programme (QAIP). The Committee was pleased that internal audit practices continue to meet the required professional standards and therefore continued reliance could be placed on the results of internal audit work.

- continued to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in each Directorate Risk Register.
- considered changes to an updated Corporate Risk Management Policy and continued to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in each Directorate Risk Register.
- considered the annual report on partnership governance. The report included details of the County Council's current partnerships, changes which had occurred in the year and the arrangements in place to monitor the management and performance of key partnerships. The report included details of 60 partnerships. The reporting process helps to ensure that the governance arrangements of all high and medium risk partnerships are monitored on a regular basis.
- ensured that the ongoing work in relation to improvement issues on Corporate Governance, Information Governance (and in particular compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act), Business Continuity and Risk Management, was progressing
- considered the external audit plan prepared by Deloitte for the audit of the 2020/21 financial statements and the review of the County Council's arrangements for securing value for money;
- considered the arrangements made by the County Council for securing value for money
- reviewed the progress made to implement the Procurement and Contract Management Strategy, and the Strategy Action Plan.
- continued to scrutinise the Treasury Management arrangements of the County Council
- considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit expressing his opinion on the framework of governance, risk management and controls operating within the County Council. In giving an opinion, the Head of Internal Audit has recognised that Coronavirus has significantly affected the County Council over the last year, with a wide ranging impact on business operations, controls and risks.
- considered and approved the Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement of the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund submitted by the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources following detailed work by a sub group of the Committee.
- received details of the revised *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2019/20*. The updated Code resulted in certain changes to the classification and measurement of financial assets and the treatment of revenue from contracts. There was no impact as a result of these changes on the Statement of Accounts.
- received briefings on a number of topics including the Council's Treasury Management and Commercial Investment activities, the Property Rationalisation programme.
- reviewed its Terms of Reference and its own effectiveness.
- reviewed arrangements for Corporate Governance within the County Council including approval of changes to the County Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance
- received training on relevant topics

5.2 All this work has been used in supporting the preparation of the County Council's (ie this) Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21.

6.0 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

6.1 The County Council has responsibility for formally conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review relates to the Governance Framework which has been in place at the County Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts. Any issues identified as a significant governance issue are reported within the AGS, and the progress made by management in 2021/22 to address these issues will be reported regularly to the Audit Committee as the body charged with governance.

6.2 The review of effectiveness of governance and internal control systems is informed by the work of the Executive, the senior managers within the County Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment; by the Internal Audit function (as carried out by Veritau) and the Insurance and Risk Management Service; comments made by External Auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The Corporate Governance Officers Group is responsible for co-ordinating the review.

Delivery/Operational Area of Assurance

6.3 Management Board and all of the Corporate Directors have reviewed their service areas in relation to the governance and internal control procedures and confirm that the functions they are responsible for comply and conform to the Governance Framework. Significant governance issues are provided in section 7.

6.4 In addition the County Council has identified a suite of key performance indicators to help assess the effectiveness of its arrangements. These are reported quarterly to the Executive, and include the outcome of external inspections (see below in paragraph 6.6 for further details).

Oversight of Management Activity

6.5 A range of reports are produced annually or throughout the year from those responsible for the oversight of management activity which provide assurance on the operation of elements of the governance framework, including those listed below:

- The latest published version of the Constitution, and on the County Council website (see link above)
- Annual Report of the Standards Committee – The Standards Committee consider and approve the annual report on the work undertaken by the Committee which includes a review of ethical framework developments, Members attendance at Committees, dispensations and complaints. There are 2 independent persons on the Committee who provide independent assurance in respect of ethical behaviour and conduct. No significant ethical failings were found and the report was approved at Full Council.
- Counter Fraud annual report (including fraud and loss risk assessment) - the Audit Committee received and considered the annual report prepared by Veritau and the actions being taken to mitigate possible fraud risks. No significant frauds or losses occurred during the period.
- Internal audit - the 2020/21 Head of Internal Audit Report and Opinion - provided "substantial" assurance in relation to the County Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. In giving an opinion, the Head of Internal Audit has recognised

that Coronavirus has significantly affected the County Council over the last year, with a wide ranging impact on business operations, controls and risks. Information governance remains an area that requires improvement. (see Section 7 for further detail)

- Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the year ended 30 September 2020 – this is based on details of the work carried out by the Audit Committee and details of how the Audit Committee has fulfilled its Terms of Reference. See paragraph 5 above for further details of the activities of the Audit Committee.
- Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Report- regular reports are provided to the Audit Committee throughout the year, with an Annual report presented to Full Council. This shows compliance with investment policy and strategy.
- Annual Information Governance Report - the Audit Committee is provided with an annual update on developments in the County Council's information governance arrangements and compliance with relevant legislation. Progress has been made in developing the County Council's information governance arrangements during the year. However information governance continues to be identified as a high risk area on the corporate risk register. This is in part due to the consequences should the County Council suffer a serious data breach. See also Section 7 for further details.
- Annual Partnership Governance Report – the Audit Committee is provided with an annual update on partnerships and noted that in 2020/21 none of the partnerships were identified as being high risk and there had been no governance failures in the year.
- Risk Management – the Audit Committee is provided with an annual update on the risk management process, and regular audits on the risk management strategy and process are also carried out. Internal Audit activities show that the Council is managing its risks appropriately.
- Self-assessment against the “Role of Chief Financial Officer” – confirmed conformance in all material respects.
- Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership - the Independent Scrutineer's Annual Report detailed the establishment of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) which now undertakes the work formerly done by North Yorkshire Children's Trust and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board. The aim of the Partnership is to ensure all children in North Yorkshire are safe, happy, healthy and achieving, agree the Vision and Values and Priorities from Young and Yorkshire 2 at the first meeting of the NYSCP full Strategic Partnership Group. The Group will also develop future working arrangements and plans for the new Partnership.
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board - the latest annual report noted work with the North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board and Inclusion North to produce easy read books about 'Keeping Safe' for those with learning disabilities. There has also been the creation of a webpage full of information and advice on how to keep safe during the Coronavirus. It should also be noted that there is a decrease in the number of safeguarding concerns received from the previous year.
- Assurance is provided by the Monitoring Officer in relation to legality issues and a section 5 report is issued in circumstances where the County Council is not operating lawfully. No section 5 notices were issued during this period.
- Procurement and Contract Management - the Audit Committee is provided with an annual report on procurement and contract management activities. Activities this year included responding to the impact of Coronavirus and successfully sourcing personal protective equipment, sustaining a positive supply chain resilience, appropriate preparation for the end of the Brexit transition period and continuing delivery of savings.

- Attendance Management Annual Report – sickness absence is measured in number of FTE days lost and was 8 days per FTE in 2019/20, still amongst the lowest of county councils nationally. In the first 3 quarters of 2020/21 this decreased significantly with a projected 2020/21 figure of around 6.5 days. This reduction in sickness absence in year is seen nationally across sectors and is a response to Coronavirus whereby staff find it easier to manage illness where they are working from home and are less likely to feel they need to declare themselves “off sick”. This will be considered as part of the work looking at working arrangements in the future and “the new normal” post Coronavirus. In addition the furloughing of around 800 staff will have impacted on absence levels. Work continues to support staff to be resilient and providing support with mental health issues, much of which is in response to life challenges and events.
- Numerous qualitative and quantitative returns have been provided to Government in response to Coronavirus.
- Assessment of compliance with the latest CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 – the Audit Committee was provided with a report on a self-assessment and overview of compliance with the FM Code. See the link [CIPFA Financial Management Code report to Audit Committee in December 2020](#) for full details. The assessment found a high level of compliance with the Standards and no areas of significant concern. However some areas for improvement were identified and details can be found within the report along with the responsible officer or information. A further report will be provided to Audit Committee on progress of the identified areas ahead of the deadline for full compliance.

Independent Oversight

6.6 Independent oversight includes the following:

- *Ofsted outcomes for Primary and Secondary Schools*

Over the course of the past year, the proportion of all pupils in North Yorkshire primary schools graded as “Good” or “Outstanding” has fallen from 81.8% at January 2020 to 80.5% at December 2020, the national rate rose slightly from 87.7% to 88.2% over the same period.

Similarly, the proportion of all pupils in “Good” or “Outstanding” North Yorkshire secondary schools has fallen from 76.7% to 74.4% over the course of the year, whereas there was a slight increase nationally from 76.1% to 76.5%.

However, these statistics need to be considered against the wider picture, which saw Ofsted suspend routine graded inspections early in 2020/21, and a move to remote monitoring inspections of schools judged as “requires improvement” or “inadequate”. This means that a number of schools which may not have been previously graded as “good” or “outstanding” have not had the opportunity to be fully re-inspected and demonstrate the improvements that have been made since the schools’ previous inspection.

- *GCSE Examinations*

Our children continue to out-perform their peers across England at GCSE. In 2020 despite radical changes to assessment practices (cancellation of exams, use of algorithms and teacher assessment), 54% of children achieved a grade 9-5 in both English and Maths this year in North Yorkshire, compared to 50% nationally.

- *Care Market Quality*

Care Quality Commission (CQC) published inspection results show that the proportion of social care service provision in the County that is rated “good” or better (88.6%) remains higher than the national (84.6%) and regional (84.0%) averages. For in-house service provision this figure is higher still, at 97.3%.

- *Increasing Public Satisfaction with Highways and Transportation*

The 2020 National Highways and Transportation public satisfaction survey showed an increase in public satisfaction with the majority of the key measures including overall satisfaction with highways and transportation. For these key indicators, performance is in the top or second quartile nationally.

- *Kickstart*

Under the Government’s “Kickstart” scheme, part of their plan for jobs in response to Coronavirus, NYCC has plans approved to become a gateway organisation which will offer 33 placements for young people within NYCC, and a further 205 placements within 46 partner organisations.

- *Ombudsman Investigations to be updated*

In 2019/20 there were ?? Ombudsman investigations received. ?? decisions were made (some cases go across financial years), ?? of which were upheld.

7.0 SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS CHALLENGES to be completed

7.1 The governance and internal control arrangements can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are authorised and properly recorded, that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period and that significant risks impacting on the achievement of the County Council’s objectives have been mitigated. It also needs to be recognised that the current external challenges to local government and the wider public sector are such that there are an unparalleled number of business risks and challenges; an effective governance framework therefore helps but cannot by itself eliminate such issues.

7.2 On the basis of the review work carried out it was considered that the majority of the governance and internal control arrangements continue to be fit for purpose and the overall governance framework was effective during the financial year 2020/21. **There were, however, some areas identified which require attention either as a result of weaknesses or as a result of external challenges. The most significant of these areas (ie business challenges and Coronavirus recovery) are set out below in a spirit of ensuring continuous improvement of governance; internal control arrangements; and service delivery.**

7.3 At the time of writing the items included in the table below represent the list of key issues requiring attention in 2021/22.

Significant Governance and Business Challenges requiring attention in 2021/22	
Challenge	
A1	Information Governance Description
Actions	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
Challenge	
A2	Coronavirus

	Description
Actions	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
Challenge	
A3	Local Government Reorganisation Description
Actions	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
Challenge	
A4	Financial Uncertainty (under Review) Description
Actions	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	

8.0 **CONCLUSION to be amended on completion of AGS**

- 8.1 The County Council has in place strong governance arrangements which we are confident protect its interests and provide necessary assurances to our citizens and stakeholders. However, the County Council has a duty to seek continuous improvement and will take steps in 2021/22 to further enhance governance arrangements.
- 8.2 Issues that require attention have, however, been identified and these are set out in **Section 7** above together with details of how they will be addressed during 2021/22. Reports on progress will be submitted to the Audit Committee.
- 8.3 The governance arrangements that are in place already provide for scenarios such as Coronavirus, and have stood up to the test with decision making arrangements proving to be robust. There is now a will for the decision making arrangements that changed during the immediate crisis to revert back to previous arrangements.

9.0 **SIGNATURES**

- 9.1 We, the undersigned, accept primary responsibility for the content of this Annual Governance Statement and will over the coming year, take steps to address the matters identified in Section 7 of this Statement to further enhance the governance arrangements of the County Council. We are

satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in the significant governance and business challenges and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of the next annual review.

Signed:

Cllr Carl Les
Leader of the County Council

Richard Flinton
Chief Executive

Date:

Date:

9.2 I confirm that the Audit Committee (meeting on the xx September 2021) was satisfied, on the basis of the information available to it, that this Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 has been prepared and approved after due and careful enquiry.

Cllr Clifford Lunn
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Date:

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accruals

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

Actuary

An actuary is an expert on pension scheme assets and liabilities. The Local Government Pension Scheme Actuary determines the rate of employer contributions due to the Pension Fund every three years.

Amortised

Written off over a suitable period of time (usually in line with the useful life of a fixed asset). This is a proxy for depreciation for intangible assets.

Appropriations

Amounts transferred from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement through the Movement in General Fund Balance to revenue or capital reserves.

Asset Rental Charges

The County Council charges Asset Rentals to Services in order to reflect the economic costs of the assets they use in service provision. These charges do not impact on Council Tax.

Assets

Anything which has a monetary value e.g. property, investments or cash.

Assets Held for Sale

Those assets that are actively being marketed with the expectation that disposal will occur within a 12 month period.

Associate

An entity is an associate of a reporting authority if it has a participating interest and over whose operating and financial policies the reporting authority is able to exercise significant influence.

AVC

Additional Voluntary Contributions.

Benchmark

A measure against which investment performance is assessed. The benchmark may take the form of a "market index" where performance is measured by comparison with a particular market or where measurement is against an average established by reference to the performance of a peer group or league table.

BCF

Better Care Fund

Bid Price

In the context of stock trading on a stock exchange, the bid price is the highest price a buyer of a stock is willing to pay for a share of that given stock.

Bond

A type of investment where cash is exchanged for a certificate of debt issued by the government or company, promising regular payment on a specified date, or range of dates, usually involving a final lump sum capital payment at the time the bond is given up by the investor.

Budget

A statement of the County Council's expected level of service and spending over a set period, usually one year.

Callable Deposit

Deposit with a bank or building society for an agreed term but where the bank has the option of repaying the full amount at set intervals. For example, a three year deposit with six monthly calls.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to, or enhances, the life or value of an existing fixed asset.

Capital Financing

Funds used to pay for capital expenditure. These funds can come from both external and internal sources.

Capital Plan

The proposed budget for capital expenditure and funding for the County Council.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of Fixed Assets. These are used to finance new capital expenditure.

Carrying Amount

The amount at which an asset is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

A Balance Sheet heading to identify both cash (or overdraft) and other highly liquid resources, these liquid resources are deemed to be short term investments that are held with maturity periods of three months or less and are for the purposes of cash management.

CCG

Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Code

In relation to the financial statements The Code refers to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. The Code of Practice is based upon approved accounting standards and provides the accounting standards under which the Statement of Accounts are prepared.

CFR

Capital Financing Requirement.

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy is the lead accountancy body for the Public Sector on accounting practice and the preparation of local authority Accounts.

Consolidation

The process of adjusting and combining financial information from the individual financial statements of a reporting authority and its subsidiaries. The overall aim is to prepare consolidated financial statements that present financial information for the group as a single entity.

Contingencies

Sums set aside to meet either the potential costs of activities expected to occur during the year, over and above those costs included in the services budget (pay and price), or items which are difficult to predict in terms of financial impact or timing (uncertain items).

Corporate Governance

The authoritative rules and controls in place within an organisation required to promote openness, inclusivity, integrity and accountability.

Council Tax

The means of raising money locally to pay for local authority services. This is a property based tax where the amount levied depends on the valuation of each dwelling.

Credit Rating

A published ranking, based on detailed financial analysis by a credit bureau, of an organisation's financial history, specifically relating to an organisation's ability to meet its debt obligations.

Creditors

Amounts owed by the County Council for goods or services that it has received but for which payment had not been made by the last day of the financial year (31st March).

Current Assets and Liabilities

Current assets are items that are owed to County Council and can be readily converted into cash. Current liabilities are items that are due for payment immediately or in the short term.

Current Service Cost IAS 19

Employer pension contributions charged during the year have been removed from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and replaced with an amount (i.e. current service cost) which reflects the increase in the scheme liabilities expected to arise from employee membership of the scheme in the year of account.

Debtors

Amounts owed to the County Council at the last day of the financial year (31st March) where services have been delivered but payment has not been received.

Delegated Budgets

Budgets for which schools and other services have complete autonomy in spending decisions.

Depreciation

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

DfE

Department for Education.

DSG

Dedicated Schools Grant. A ring-fenced grant which can only be applied to expenditure properly included in the Schools budget.

Earmarked Reserves

These reserves represent monies set aside that can only be used for a specific purpose.

EFA

Expenditure & Funding Analysis

Expected Return on Assets

The average rate of return expected on the actual assets held by the Local Government Pension Fund.

Fair Value

A rational and unbiased estimate of the potential market price of a good, service or asset.

Finance Leases

Under a finance lease agreement, most of the risks and rewards associated with ownership are transferred to the lessee. The accounting policy is to recognise these assets.

FRS

Financial Reporting Standard

FVOCI

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income

FVPL

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

GAAP

Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Government Grants

Revenue grants and contributions are credited to the appropriate service Revenue Account where they relate to a specific service; general grants including capital grants are credited to non-specific grant income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the extent that the conditions of the grant have been met.

HWRC

Household Waste Recycling Centre

IAS

International Accounting Standard

ICT

Information and Communications Technology.

IFRIC

Interpretations originated from the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee.

IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards. Guidelines and rules set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that companies and organisations can follow when compiling financial statements.

Impairment

The worsening of an asset, through damage, dilapidation etc., which affects the value of that asset.

Income

Amounts which the County Council receives, or expects to receive, from any source. Income includes fees, charges, sales, capital receipts, government grants, the precept on Council Tax collection funds, Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rate.

Income in Advance

Amounts received by the County Council during the current financial year relating to services to be delivered in the following financial year.

Intangible Assets

Assets that do not have physical substance but are identified and are controlled by the County Council through custody or legal rights.

Interest Cost

A financing charge reflecting the increases in the present value of Pension Fund scheme liabilities.

Investments

Short term investments comprise of deposits of funds with banks or similar institutions.

Investment Properties

Properties that are held for income or capital appreciation only, rather than used for any service delivery purposes.

ISAB

International Accounting Standards Board.

ISB

Individual School Budgets.

ISP

Internet Service Provider.

Joint Venture

An entity in which the reporting authority has an interest on a long term basis and is jointly controlled by the reporting authority and one or more entities under a contractual or other binding arrangement.

LAA

Local Area Agreement. A partnership with other public bodies involving the pooling of government grants to finance work towards jointly agreed objectives for local public services.

LAAP

Local Authority Accounting Panel. Bulletins issued by CIPFA to provide guidance on topical issues and accounting developments and when appropriate provide clarification on the detailed accounting requirements.

LASAAC

Local Authorities (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee.

LDDF

Learning Difficulties Development Fund.

LGPS

Local Government Pension Scheme.

LIBOR

The London Interbank Offered Rate. A daily reference rate based on the interest rates at which banks borrow unsecured funds from other banks in the London wholesale money.

LOBO

Lender Option Borrower Option. Financial instrument used to borrow from the money market such loans feature on initial fixed interest period followed by a specified series of calls where the lender has the option to request an interest rate increase. The borrower has the option of repaying the loan (at no penalty) or accepting the higher rate.

LPSA

Local Public Service Agreement.

LSP

Local Strategic Partnership. A non-statutory, multi-agency partnership, which matches a local authority boundary, and includes representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sector.

LMS

Local Management of Schools.

Long Term Borrowing

Long term borrowing is loans that have been raised to finance capital expenditure.

Market Value

The monetary value of an asset as determined by current market conditions.

Mid-market price

The mid-point between the bid price and the offer price for a security based on quotations for transactions of normal market size by recognised market-makers or recognised trading exchanges.

Minimum Revenue Provision

The statutory minimum amount that must be charged to a Revenue Account in each financial year to repay external debt.

Minority Interest

The interest in a subsidiary entity that is attributable to the share held by, or on behalf of persons other than the reporting authority.

MHCLG

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly DCLG - Department of Communities and Local Government).

MTFS

Medium Term Financial Strategy

NAHT

National Association of Head Teachers.

NASUWT

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers.

National Non-Domestic Rate

The Government levies a standard rate on all properties used for commercial purposes. The rates are collected on behalf of the government by District Councils, and then redistributed nationally on the basis of resident population.

Net Book Value

The amount at which Fixed Assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

Net Current Replacement Cost

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

Net Debt

This comprises cash in hand, cash overdrawn, short term investments and long term borrowing.

Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets) less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NEU

National Education Union (formerly NUT National Union of Teachers and ATL Association of Teachers and Lecturers).

NHS

National Health Service.

NJC

National Joint Council.

Non-Current Assets

Assets that yield benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

NYBEP

North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership.

NYES

North Yorkshire Education Services.

NYnet Limited

A company providing broadband connectivity within North Yorkshire.

Past Service Cost

The increase in Pension Fund liabilities arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

PFC

Pension Fund Committee.

PFI

Private Finance Initiative. A means of securing new assets and associated services in partnership with the private sector.

PIP

The Pending Issues Provision (PIP) was set up in 2008/09 as part of the budget and medium term financial strategy process to underpin a financial strategy that would ensure sufficient recurring funds are available in future years to meet the predicted year on year costs of the Waste Strategy.

The provision was funded by increasing the annual Council Tax charge in the three year period 2008/09 to 2010/11 by more than was strictly needed to pay for the annual cost of the County Council's services in those year's.

In addition to providing the longer term funding required for the Waste Strategy, the funding paid into the PIP but not yet drawn down by the Waste Strategy is available for non-recurring items of urgent expenditure and investment in services.

Portfolio

A block of assets managed by a fund manager, to an agreed performance specification, on behalf of an investor.

PPP

Public Private Partnership. A long-term contract between a private party and a government entity for providing a public asset.

Precept

The amount of money the County Council has to levy on Council Tax payers (via district collection funds) to pay for County Council services.

Prepayments

Amounts paid by the County Council in the current financial year that relate to goods and services not received until the following financial year.

Provisions

Provisions represent sums set aside for any liabilities of uncertain amount or timing that have been incurred.

PWLB

Public Works Loan Board. The Government agency set up to provide loans to Local Authorities to finance capital expenditure.

REFCUS (Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute)

Expenditure which may be properly capitalised, but which does not result in the creation of any fixed asset.

Reserves

There are two types of reserves, usable and unusable reserves. Usable reserves are those reserves that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation. Unusable reserves are other reserves, such as the revaluation reserve, that arise from accounting requirements.

Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure is spending on the day to day running costs of the County Council. It includes expenditure on employees, premises, transport and supplies and services.

RICS

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

RSG

Revenue Support Grant. Central Government grant support towards local government expenditure.

SEN

Special educational needs.

SEND

Special educational needs and disability.

SDT

Standard Desktop.

Section 151 Officer

The Officer designated to assume overall responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the County Council and for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Settlements and Curtailments

Settlements and liabilities settled at a cost materially different to the IAS 19 reserve during the year. Curtailments represent the cost arising from early payment of accrued pensions in respect of any redundancies during the year.

Simple Investment

The reporting authority's interest does not qualify the entity as a subsidiary, associate or a joint venture because the reporting authority has limited influence or its interest is not long term.

SIF

Special Investment Fund.

SIP

Statement of Investment Principles.

Subsidiary

An entity is a subsidiary of a reporting authority if the authority is able to exercise control over the operating and financial policies of the entity and is able to gain benefits / be exposed to risk of potential losses from this control.

Surplus Properties

Those properties that are not used in service delivery but neither do they meet the classification of investment properties or assets held for sale.

T&C

Technology and Change.

Term Deposit

A deposit held in a financial institution for a fixed term at a fixed rate.

TMP

Treasury Management Practices.

TMPS

Treasury Management Policy Statement.

VAT

Value Added Tax.

Veritau Limited

A company providing Internal Audit, Counter fraud and Information Governance Services.

VOICE

This is a union for Education Professionals.

Work in Progress

The value of rechargeable work which has not been recharged at the end of the financial year.

YDHTP

Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership.

Yorwaste Limited

A subsidiary waste disposal company.

YPO

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

North Yorkshire County Council

Audit Committee

28 June 2021

Value for Money

Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 Purpose of report

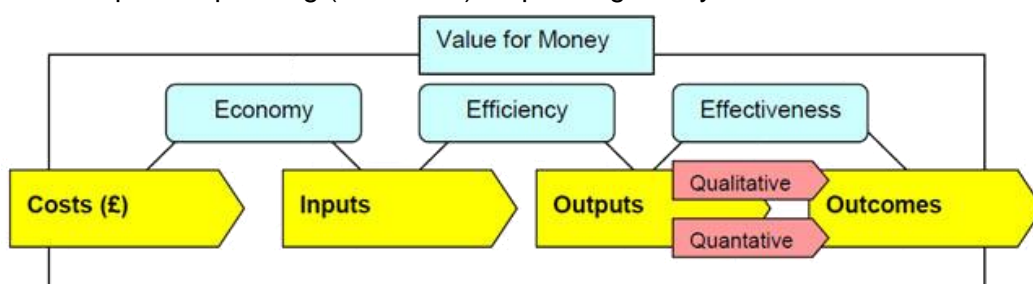
- 1.1. To consider the ongoing arrangements made within the County Council in respect of achieving Value for Money (VfM).
- 1.2. To consider how overall assurance is obtained about the effectiveness of these arrangements.

2.0 National Context

- 2.1 Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) and the Code of Audit Practice (the Code), requires the Councils Auditors to form an opinion on the Authorities arrangement for VFM.
- 2.2 Section 20(1) of the Act requires that: 'In auditing the accounts of a relevant authority other than a health service body, a local auditor must, by examination of the accounts and otherwise, be satisfied that the authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources'.

3.0 Local Context

- 3.1 The Audit Committee's terms of reference in respect of Value for Money are:
"To have oversight of the arrangements across the County Council in securing Value for Money"
- 3.2 This is to be achieved through the on-going evaluation of a range of activity within the Council, however it is felt that an annual report is to be considered by the Committee in order to give due focus to value for money.
- 3.3 The National Audit Office (NAO) uses three broad criteria to assess the value for money, for authorities spending, commonly called the 3Es. These are:
 - **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used or required (inputs) – spending less;
 - **Efficiency:** the relationship between the output from goods or services and the resources to produce them – spending well; and
 - **Effectiveness:** the relationship between the intended and actual results of public spending (outcomes) – spending wisely.



3.4 Overall, this can be summarised as: *“The assessment of the cost of a product or service against the quality of output received”* **It is therefore not simply about buying at the cheapest price.**

3.5 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) makes the National Audit Office’s (NAO) Comptroller and Auditor General responsible for the preparation, publication and maintenance of the Code of Audit Practice (the Code). The Code sets out what auditors are required to do to fulfil their statutory responsibilities under the Act. Auditors must comply with the Code of Audit Practice. The Code must be reviewed at least every five years, so the Code that applies will depend on the financial year being audited. A new Code came into force on 1 April 2020, after being approved by Parliament. It was developed following a consultation process during 2019. The revised Code will therefore apply to the audit of the Council accounts from 2020/21 and replace the 2015 Code which preceded it. Under these arrangements the accounts for 2019/20 will be audited under the 2015 code and accounts from 2020/21 will be audited under the 2020 code.

3.6 **Auditor responsibilities under the new Code of Audit Practice**

Under the 2020 Code of Audit Practice there is still a requirement to consider whether the Council has put in place ‘proper arrangements’ to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness, the 3E’s on its use of resources. However, there is no longer an overall evaluation criterion which needs to be concluded on. Where auditors identify a significant weakness in proper arrangements, they are required to report by exception within the audit report on the statement of accounts.

3.7 The 2020 Code requires the auditor to design their work to provide them with sufficient assurance to enable them to **report to the Council a commentary against specified reporting criteria (see below) on the arrangements the Council has in place to secure value for money** through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the relevant period.

The specified reporting criteria are:

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

4.0 **Proper Arrangements**

However, under the new code there is still a requirement to maintain proper arrangements with regard to the 3Es.

4.1 Informed decision-making

- Acting in the public interest, through demonstrating and applying the principles and values of sound governance
- Understanding and using appropriate and reliable financial and performance information (including, where relevant, information from regulatory/monitoring bodies) to support informed decision making and performance management
- Reliable and timely financial reporting that supports the delivery of strategic priorities
- Managing risks effectively and maintaining a sound system of internal control

4.2 Sustainable resource deployment

- Planning finances effectively to support the sustainable delivery of strategic priorities and maintain statutory functions

- Managing and utilising assets effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities
- Planning, organising and developing the workforce effectively to deliver strategic priorities

4.3 Working with partners and other third parties

- Working with third parties effectively to deliver strategic priorities
- Commissioning services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities
- Procuring supplies and services effectively to support the delivery of strategic priorities

4.4 In the Annual Audit report for 2019/20, the Councils Auditors, Deloitte LLP said about the council's arrangements for VfM;

“Under the National Audit Office’s Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code and supporting Auditor Guidance Notes require us to perform a risk assessment to identify any risks that have the potential to cause us to reach an inappropriate conclusion on the audited body’s arrangements. We are required to carry out further work where we identify a significant risk - if we do not identify any significant risks, there is no requirement to carry out further work.”

4.5 Value for Money Conclusion

“We have satisfied ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.”

To perform this work, we have:

- planned our work based on consideration of the significant risks of giving a wrong conclusion;
- carried out as much work as is appropriate to enable us to give a safe conclusion on the arrangements to secure VFM.

5.0 Assurance for 2020/21 and beyond.

5.1 It is not possible to simply produce definitive and objective information that can determine whether VfM is achieved or not. There are a number of areas within the Council, however, that contribute towards evaluating and securing VfM. The following is not an exhaustive list of the range of actions that occur but do stand to illustrate the broad approach that takes place to secure good VfM for the council.

5.2 The Council Plan

The Council Plan continues to be the strategic framework that is used to align objectives and resources. The Council Plan for 2021/25 was approved in February 2021 and identified five ambitions up to 2025. These are:

- Leading for North Yorkshire
- Every child and young person has the best possible start in life;
- Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life;
- North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth, and
- Innovative and forward thinking Council

5.3 Leading for North Yorkshire” – this ambition sets out our place shaping outcomes and priorities, including: Rural Commission, Climate Change, Stronger Communities and volunteering, Health and Wellbeing, Broadband, Equalities and Devolution. Importantly providing leadership for the people of North Yorkshire over the past year during the Covid 19 outbreak.

- 5.4 The three outward facing ambitions remain largely unchanged from the existing plan:
- Every Child and young person has the best possible start in life.
 - Every adult has a longer, healthier, independent life.
 - North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy & commitment to sustainable growth

5.5 A new ambition “Innovative and forward thinking Council” is a sharper clearer version of what was the Modern Council ambition. The outcomes and priorities have been carried over and modified. However, this ambition now places a greater emphasis on the delivery of our support services and ensuring that the Council is keeping pace with the requirements of society and its residents.

5.6 The Council Plan is inevitably a high-level document but it helps to provide alignment to service plans, internally and with partners, to deliver the desired outcomes.

5.7 **MTFS**

In addition to the annual budget setting process, the Council also completes a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The value of this is to look further ahead when planning resources with the aim of optimising them over multiple years. For 2021/22 service planning has again been framed on the same three-year period. The purpose of this longer term view is to avoid the issue created by focusing solely on the short term or decisions may inhibit longer term decision making which drives long term value. To the end of 2020-21 the County Council has made savings totalling £181.8m. It has identified that a further £29.2m is estimated to be required from 2021/22 to 2023/24. Savings of £10.7m have already been identified, with £18.5m remaining to be found. These aggregate savings of £211.0m broadly equate to an almost 40% reduction in the Council's spending power since 2011. During this period the Council has broadly seen its responsibilities grow, rather than shrink, so it would be a fair assessment to conclude that the Council delivers stronger VfM in 2021 than it did in 2011. Austerity has undoubtedly put significant pressure on councils and their services but it has also meant that councils have had to increasingly focus on doing the same / more with less.

5.8 The MTFS identifies a recurring shortfall of £18.5m over the period to 2023/24. After ten years of austerity it is inevitable that savings proposals are harder to identify and deliver without the addition of a global pandemic and possible structural reform. The Beyond 2020 Programme remains the Council's response to the on-going need for savings but the need to divert resources to support the pandemic has meant that progress on the transformation programme has been slower than planned. The thrust of the programme remains valid but it will need to be reviewed in a post-Covid environment and with due regard to the outcome of local government reorganisation which is discussed further below.

5.9 **Transformational programme**

The Programme is still in its relatively early days but significant work to date has identified a number of opportunities which it is believed will generate some financial savings in the near future. The Beyond 2020 transformation programme is structured initially around four key themes:

5.10 **Beyond 2020 Transformational themes:**

- **Assess & Decide** – how we carry out assessments across a range of services and how this informs decision making on provision of services.
- **Healthy People, Healthy Places** – prevention and early intervention, working with communities and individuals.
- **Modern Council** – equipping staff to do the best job they can in a working environment that helps to deliver the best outcomes for our customers. This includes further improvements to internal processes, technology, culture and

the working environment to continuously improve the Council's efficiency and effectiveness

- **Infrastructure** – This theme brings together a number of significant programmes which invest in the infrastructure of North Yorkshire including **Transport; Waste; and Highways** with the implementation of a new highways company to replace the current supplier

5.11 Focussed Reviews

Focussed reviews provide a precise and data led approach to reviewing processes across the organisation. Reviews use research on how the class leading peers deliver services, detailed analysis of North Yorkshire data and process mapping.

5.12 Reviews are delivered by a core central team who work with services to provide an unbiased view of improvement opportunity. Including process redesign and revised performance and financial models.

5.13 Initially, reviews are targeted at areas of overspend or poor performance, but eventually will provide universal coverage of all services on a 3 year rolling cycle. To date the following reviews have been under taken :

2019/20

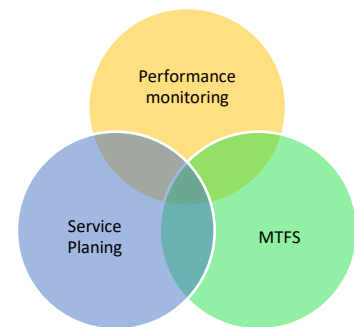
1. SEN Transport
2. Social Service Assessments
3. Has Transport
4. Home to school Transport

2020/21

- 1 Brokerage
- 2 Financial assessments
- 3 EDT Out of Hours

5.14 Service Planning

Service planning is now well embedded and is central to the Council Plan, the MTFs and the performance monitoring regime. This approach was further strengthened in 2020/21 with the introduction of the Grant Thornton CFO Insights tool, to give better benchmarking, financial and community data.



5.15 The starting point for the exercise is benchmarking North Yorkshires performance, spend and unit cost data against that of the class leaders, whether Counties, Unitary or Met Districts. The challenge is then to understand why they are performing as well as they are and what can North Yorkshire learn from them? This is then considered alongside the MTFs for the next three years, any pre-agreed saving targets are factored in, the expenditure profile over the next three years and any additional savings requirements, currently set at 2.5% and 5%.

5.16 The service planning regime also includes a challenge session with the Chief Executive and Corporate Director, Strategic Resources to focus on VfM by reviewing performance levels and identifying savings opportunities that do not impact adversely upon outcomes and performance levels. The outcome of these sessions is then built in to the following Budget process. These challenge session are being spread out more evenly in 2021 due to Covid and LGR pressures but all should be completed by November 2021.

5.17 Local Government Reorganisation

The business cases put forward by both the County Council and six of the District Councils set out a belief that there were opportunities to save over £56m - £69m per annum through unitarisation of local government in North Yorkshire. This is through the reduction in senior management, back office staff and systems, reduced property needs, removal of duplication / unnecessary interfaces in some services and an ability to make better procurement decisions.

- 5.18 The Council has put forward a business case for change and has contributed towards the government consultation. A decision is expected from government imminently and at that point the largest single transformation programme for the Council (regardless of which option is chosen) will begin. The transition to a unitary council(s) will be resource and time intensive but should result in financial savings and no detriment to customers with many areas resulting in improvements from a customer perspective. This transition can therefore be seen as the largest contributing strand towards greater VfM.

5.19 Procurement and Contract Management

The Committee is familiar with the Procurement Strategy. This sets out how the Council will achieve its procurement and contract management ambitions, aims and objectives. Across the life of this strategy the Procurement and Contract Management Service will manage spend of around £1.6 billion. This strategy sets out the plans to achieve best value, efficient use of resources, technology, innovation and procedures to ensure we make the best use of that spend.

- 5.20 The Procurement and Contract Management Service had a target of delivering an additional £1.15 million cashable saving up to 2020. The delivery of these savings was completed in the first financial quarter of 2021/22. Work is now underway to plan the delivery of an additional £1 million cashable savings up to 2024. There are headwinds that need to be considered in this approach given the wider supply chain and market instability due to the effects of the pandemic and global trade conflicts. It is important that this situation is monitored to ensure that savings are not made at the expense of quality / performance or this would be contrary to the pursuit of VfM.
- 5.21 In responding to Covid, all public bodies including North Yorkshire, have needed to procure enormous volumes of goods, services and works with extreme urgency. On 18 March 2020, the Cabinet Office issued information and guidance on public procurement regulations and responding to the pandemic. This guidance noted that public bodies are permitted to procure goods, services and works with extreme urgency using regulation 32(2) (c) under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. This sets out the various options available to public bodies if they have an urgent requirement for goods, services or works due to an emergency such as COVID-19, including the use of direct awards to suppliers without any competition.
- 5.22 Although nationally concerns have been raised about the risks to public money that could arise from greater use of this regulation. These concerns revolve about the transparency of contracts being awarded during the pandemic, potential bias or conflicts of interest in the procurement process, and that some contracts may have been given to unsuitable suppliers. None have been directed at North Yorkshire CC. The Council created a Supply Chain Resilience Board during Covid to strengthen the Councils response to the pandemic which helped to ensure a strong grip on contract management during a difficult period.

5.23 Qualitative Measures

In talking about VFM, both the qualitative and quantitative aspects must be considered. The Council is rated as “Outstanding” on children’s services by OFSTED. Again, however, Covid has reduced some of the regulatory reviews so this last year has seen little change in this area.

5.24 Both the service planning and the quarterly performance monitoring regimes involve an assessment of quality measures including customer feedback and compliments / complaints. This requires services to consider how quality is assessed specifically in their own areas.

5.25 Financial Resilience

During an exceptional year, councils have had to cope with significant levels of unexpected expenditure and large losses on income. Whilst various grants have been introduced to support these costs, including lost income, it remains unclear at this stage what the longer term impact of the pandemic will mean for local authorities and future settlements.

5.26 The Council’s relatively high level of financial resilience, including good reserve balances, has proven to be extremely valuable this year and will provide some ‘breathing space’ to more fully understand the medium term implications for the Council’s finances and to develop an appropriate longer term financial strategy to reflect these.

5.27 The Committee will also be aware that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have issued a new Financial Management code and an assessment has been undertaken which compares the Council against this standard. This initial assessment, reported to Audit Committee, found that the Council’s processes, structures and procedures are largely compliant with the new code but which also put forward a small number of areas to enhance compliance with an appropriate responsible officer identified.

5.28 The quarterly performance reports - Q reports

The quarterly performance reports (Q reports) have continued to develop, based on comments from Management Board, Executive, Scrutiny Committee Members and other Members.

5.29 The reports now have a stronger emphasis on challenging the directorates over their performance. The reports remain to be themed around the now five key ambitions of the Council. With each ambition taking the lead for greater scrutiny once in the annual reporting cycle.

5.30 A major part of the performance framework and thus the quarterly performance reports is the corporate KPI suite. Drawing them together and framing them in this way provides Management Board & Executive a broader overview of performance across the Council, as well as progress against the council ambitions and service plan objectives. The suite has been further reviewed to ensure it remains relevant to Councils ambitions.

5.31 Overview and Scrutiny continue to provide an additional level of challenge. Quarterly performance briefings are provided to Chairs of Scrutiny Committee’s (Scrutiny Board) and plans are in train to align elements of performance with individual Scrutiny Committee’s future work programme and forward plans.

6.0 Development Areas

- 6.1 Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, resources have been redirected at the immediate challenge of fighting the virus and ensuring our communities are safe and supported. This means there has been less capacity to focus on planned activity to improve VFM. Progress has therefore been slowed in some areas. However, the forced social distancing and homeworking has accelerated our approach to modern ways of working, for example as an organisation we travelled 5.5m less business miles than average, emitting around 1500 cubic tonnes less carbon dioxide and saving 28,000 working days in travel time. Whilst some services such as social care will need to return to a degree of direct customer contact and travel in the future, the lessons learned from the Covid crisis will provide valuable evidence to support new and efficient ways of working going forward.

- 6.2 As we move out of the Covid crisis in to recovery, capacity will be refocussed on our transformation objectives which are based upon;
 - Demand management – can we deliver better customer outcomes by working differently with partners, communities and individuals to be more resilient and avoid the need for services.
 - Professional decision making – Can we be more cost effective at delivering the most appropriate outcomes to meet customer need
 - Overall efficiency of process – can we deliver better customer outcomes and reduce wasteful effort by improving our ways or working, systems and procedures
 - Our Beyond 2020 transformation programme will re-commence as set out above.
 - Continued development of the Quarterly Reporting Framework (Q Reports) to improve transparency and highlight areas in need of performance scrutiny.
 - Progression towards Local Government Reorganisation in North Yorkshire. If this goes ahead as expected then this programme is likely to subsume all of the other areas identified above as part of a medium-term plan.

<p>7.0 Recommendations</p> <p>7.1 That the Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Review the arrangements currently in place for assuring value for money;b) Identify any areas for further development in the assurance arrangements;c) Confirm if they are satisfied that this report adequately contributes to the requirements of fulfilling the terms of reference noted in section 2.1.

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources
28 June 2021

Report prepared by Tony Law
Team Leader Strategy and Performance
Tel no. 01609 532375

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2021

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report of the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To note progress and improvements on Corporate Governance related matters.
- 1.2 To note governance arrangements and changes made due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 and associated Guidance Notes, set out the standard for local authority governance in the UK. The Framework defines the principles that should underpin the governance of an organisation and provides a structure to assist individual authorities with their approach to governance. Local authorities should review existing governance arrangements against these Principles, develop and maintain an up-to-date Local Code of Corporate Governance, and report publicly on compliance with their own Code on an annual basis, and on how they have monitored the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year and on planned changes. This is done through the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.2 According to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, which have been reviewed and revised, its role in respect of Corporate Governance is:
 - (i) to assess the effectiveness of the County Council's Corporate Governance arrangements
 - (ii) to review progress on the implementation of Corporate Governance arrangements throughout the County Council
 - (iii) to approve the Annual Governance Statements for both the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund

- (iv) to liaise, as necessary, with the Standards Committee on any matter(s) relating to the Codes of Conduct for both Members and Officers
 - (v) to review the arrangements in place for ensuring good governance in the County Council's key partnerships and owned companies.
- 2.3 In relation to (i), (ii) and (v) above, an annual report is submitted as set out in the Programme of Work and item (iii) is considered as part of the report relating to the Statement of Accounts. Issues are addressed by the respective Corporate Director alongside a report on internal audit work relating to that Directorate which is produced by the Head of Internal Audit.

3.0 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 At the last meeting of this Committee it was resolved that the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance be recommended for formal approval by the Chief Executive (as permitted in the Constitution under the Officers' Delegation Scheme) in March 2021.
- 3.2 The Local Code was approved and as a result the updated Local Code is now available on the County Council website [here](#) .

4.0 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

- 4.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is being updated to reflect the current status of governance and internal control arrangements which continue to be fit for purpose within the County Council. The latest governance guidance issued by CIPFA is called Bulletin 06 Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21. The updating of the Statement has taken the guidance into account and has been amended to conform where appropriate. It also provides an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements in supporting the planned outcomes. However it is recognised that there can be areas identified that require attention to address weaknesses and/or external challenges.
- 4.2 The impact of the Coronavirus has been taken into account again this year along with other significant issues, and Section 7 of the final draft of the AGS which is due to come to this Committee in September will reflect the lessons learned and actions to be taken in the recovery from the Virus during 2021/22. This has been and continues to be an extra challenge for the Council, as well as facing delivery of a range of statutory services in a climate of ongoing financial challenge.

4.3 The draft AGS accompanies the Statement of Accounts (SoA) and will be circulated to the Committee.

5.0 DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020/21

5.1 Although the responsibility for managing the day to day aspects of the Corporate Governance agenda belongs to the Executive and the Management Board, wider Members also have to be actively engaged – the role of this Committee is therefore critical in this regard.

5.2 This Committee receives progress reports on a range of specific governance issues such as risk management and partnership governance through the year.

5.3 A full review and update of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement are also carried out, as has already been mentioned in the paragraphs above.

5.4 Other notable areas of recent work undertaken as part of the Corporate Governance agenda include the following:-

- ➔ Standards Committee received a report about the LG Model Code of Conduct and Guidance from the Committee of Standards in Public Life and plans are underway to make amendments to the NYCC Standards Regime.
- ➔ Information governance issues such as data quality continue to be addressed and improved as part of ensuring the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and Data Protection Act compliance
- ➔ The Counter Fraud Policy framework has been updated in line with Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) strategy.
- ➔ a Pulse staff survey was carried out, and we have begun reviewing the ways in which we engage with staff including use of tools such as Microsoft products Yammer and Teams.
- ➔ Equality objectives work progresses, a BAME network has been established, and there is a programme of engagement with disability groups ongoing in the Health and Adult Services Directorate.
- ➔ Further data intelligence work has been carried out to provide and enable greater use of performance dashboards.
- ➔ the Audit Committee sub group which carried out a review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee with reference to the CIPFA checklist submitted its findings.

6.0 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CHECKLIST SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS

- 6.1 The Corporate Governance Checklist is a self-assessment checklist and is in line with the 7 principles defined in the Local Code of Corporate Governance. The requirements of the document CIPFA Statement of the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government are also incorporated within the Checklist.
- 6.2 The Checklist is effectively a “live” document to monitor and review the overall Corporate Governance process within the County Council. Although a copy of the latest “version” is available to Members, a Summary is attached as **Appendix A** for ease of reference. This Summary shows:
- ➔ a sample of the improvements made in corporate governance between April 2020 and March 2021 in the left hand column.
 - ➔ some examples of improvements in corporate governance to be made between April 2021 and March 2022.
- 6.3 Areas of development and / or improvement continue to be identified as a result of the need to comply with new guidance and requirements as they are published.
- 6.4 The Checklist is used by officers in order to provide some assurance that all relevant areas of governance are being adequately addressed and, where relevant, gaps are identified with consequential actions to fill such gaps.

7.0 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND CHANGES MADE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Chief Executive Emergency Powers for Decision Making

- 7.1 Following the restriction of public gatherings and promoting social isolation and distancing on 23 March 2020, the Council agreed to invoke the emergency decision making process that is identified in the Council’s Constitution. This allowed the Chief Executive to make all appropriate decisions with appropriate consultation.
- A successful adoption of a technological solution that enabled the requirements laid out in the *Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020* to be complied with then followed, and virtual meetings for committees were introduced.

- 7.2 The *Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020* lapsed on 7 May 2021. The County Council at its Annual General Meeting on 5 May 2021 resolved to continue with remote access, live broadcast committee meetings over the next months as the national Coronavirus recovery roadmap is implemented. These meetings are informal but open to the public to view and participate in, in accordance with the procedures set out in the County Council Constitution.
- 7.3 Any formal decisions that the Committee needs to make that are legally binding will be made in consultation by the Chief Executive Officer using his emergency delegated powers, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee. All formal meetings of the County Council's committees will continue to be held using video conferencing with a live broadcast to the Council's YouTube site.

Governance Arrangements in Directorates

- 7.4 Procedures and processes continue to be followed within Directorates alongside the added responsibilities and governance arrangements linked to the Coronavirus pandemic (see below in para 7.5). Services continue largely to manage successfully and adapt their ways of working to deliver services to the community, within both governance requirements and guidance issued by Central Government relating to the pandemic. Decision making tends to be delegated to Corporate Directors and / or Executive Members and whilst consultation has taken place electronically, the process remains mostly unaffected.
- 7.5 Examples of some notable improvements/changes to corporate governance arrangements linked to the impact of Coronavirus include the following:
- ➔ significant Coronavirus related work to ensure information sharing agreements were in place and privacy notices were produced / updated as required.
 - ➔ the Supply Chain Resilience Board was created to implement a managed corporate approach with supply chains including financial assistance where appropriate.
 - ➔ Local Resilience Forum led, multi-agency recovery coordination group established following emergence from lockdown due to Coronavirus, including themes of economy, poverty and debt, bereavement, voluntary and community sector and volunteering
 - ➔ introduction of an online recruitment and induction process together with support to assist during Coronavirus.

- ➔ Coronavirus secure property arrangements are in place including compliance with Health and Safety Regulations.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Members note progress on Corporate Governance related matters.
- 8.2 That Members note the improvements that have been made, and that are to be made in corporate governance (**Appendix A**)
- 8.3 That Members note the governance arrangements and changes made due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

GARY FIELDING

Corporate Director, Strategic Resources, County Hall, Northallerton
June 2021

Report prepared by Fiona Sowerby, Head of Insurance and Risk Management, ext
2400

Background papers: None

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CHECKLIST

Examples of Improvements made between April 2020 and March 2021

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
	Principle A	Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported to Standards Committee re LGA model code of conduct and guidance on report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and plans to make amendments to NYCC standards regime. (MoB) Mar 2021 The counter fraud policy framework has been updated in line with Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) strategy (MT) Oct 2020. Significant Covid related work to ensure information sharing agreements were in place and privacy notices were produced / updated as required (MT/GF) 	A.1.1	Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation introduced to allow for remote/virtual meetings and decision making to ensure council business continued. Interim arrangements involved Chief Exec taking delegated decisions under emergency powers. (BK) 	A.1.3	Leading by example and using these standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created the Supply Chain Resilience Board to implement a managed corporate approach with supply chains including financial assistance where appropriate. (GF) 	A.2.3	Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronavirus response team established in Legal and Democratic Services to monitor and advise on pandemic related legislative changes. (BK) 	A.3.1	Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations
	Principle B	Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various reports have been discussed at management board and action plans produced; Equality objectives work progresses, BAME network established. • Programme of engagement with disability groups in HAS 	B.1.1	Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation’s commitment to openness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of high volume of urgent decisions required during pandemic. A blanket consent was put in place from all O&S Comms and Chair of Council, to allow Chief Exec to make decisions in line with emergency powers. (BK) 	B.1.3	Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and revised arrangements for the LEP model when appropriate; a standalone company has been put in place alongside other actions in response to BEIS annual review. (JF/ML) 	CFO (Principle 1) B.2.2	Review partnership arrangements to ensure that the authority always has access to financial advice in relations to its role in partnership.
	Principle C	Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change officers group established. (NI) • Environmental impact assessment process established for all significant decisions. (NI) • Established the baseline carbon footprint measurements and built pump priming funding into the 21/22 budget to enable establishment of carbon reduction business cases. (NI) • Rural Commission established to make recommendation on actions needed to ensure the sustainability of the most rural parts of the county. (NI) 	C.2.1	Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions when taking decisions about service provision
	Principle D	Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Appendix A

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out Pulse Staff Survey (JB/PY) Summer 2020 Began reviewing the ways in which we engage with staff including use of tools such as Microsoft products Yammer and Teams (JB/PY) Mar 2021 	D.2.2	Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Resilience Forum led, multi-agency recovery coordination group established following emergence from lockdown due to Covid 19, including themes of (economy, poverty and debt, bereavement, voluntary and community sector and volunteering) (NI) 	D.2.4	Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering outputs can be adapted to changing circumstances
	Principle E	Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out targeted internal skills assessment to assist with staff redeployment during Covid. (JB/PY) 	E.1.1	Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced online recruitment and induction process and support to assist during Covid (JB/PY) Online learning on leading and managing remote teams 	E.1.4	Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially increased the amount of Health and Wellbeing Support material under the heading 'Team North Yorkshire together through Covid-19 - Looking after you' which also contains links to a number of websites / organisations that offer information and support (JB) 	E.2.8	Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Coronavirus updates have been provided including number of cases and infection rates across the County (GF) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronavirus secure property arrangements are in place including compliance with Health and Safety Regulations (GF) 		
	Principle F	Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further data intelligence work has been carried out to provide and enable greater use of performance dashboards. (GF) 	F.2.2	Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to improve information governance issues such as data quality (as part of ensuring GDPR and Data Protection Act compliance) (GF/MT). 	F.4.1	Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some elements of the Beyond 2020 Change Programme have been progressed where there is sufficient capacity given Covid and LGR (GF) 	F.5.1	Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance
	Principle G	Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported to Audit Committee on the findings of the sub group review of effectiveness of the Audit Committee (GF/MT) 	CFO Principle 3 G.3.2a	Ensure an effective internal audit function is resourced and maintained (Audit Committee review own effectiveness resulting in Improvement Plan)

Examples of Improvements to be made between April 2021 and March 2022

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
	Principle A	Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise, refresh and embed Behaviours Framework - work started at Senior Managers Seminar Mar 2019, will continue once Beyond 2020 Modern Council strand progresses (JB/PY) Mar 2022. 	A.1.1	Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the organisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further update of Anti Money Laundering policy to incorporate the latest anti money laundering regulations (MT/MoB) Mar 2022 (completion and sign off delayed by Covid-19 issues). 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with IT to develop a digital decision making flowchart solution for Officers (MoB) Mar 2022. Take standards regime amendments from LGA model code of conduct to Standards Committee for approval (MoB) Oct 2021 Further review and see if mod.gov system can be used to implement an electronic Member Register of Interests (BK) Mar 2022 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out review of Code of Conduct for Planning (BK) Mar 2022 	A.2.3	Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with a managed corporate approach with supply chains (GF) Mar 2022 Carry out an update of the Procurement Framework following the EU Exit (GF) Dec 2021 		
	Principle B	Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out a review of the Equality and Diversity Statement (NI) Aug 2021 	B.1.1	Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the organisation's commitment to openness

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement plan to improve FOI and SAR performance back to pre Covid levels (MT) Mar 2022 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out further training for Directors of companies (BK) Mar 2022 	B.2.2	Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revise arrangements for the LEP model when appropriate. Further review paused pending outcome of the national review of LEPs. (JF/VD) Oct 2021 	CFO (Principle 1) B.2.2	Review partnership arrangements to ensure that the authority always has access to financial advice in relations to its role in partnership.
	Principle C	Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Group to produce a carbon reduction plan (NI) Mar 2022 Develop a Climate Change programme under B2020 (NI) Mar 2022 Rural Commission to produce its final report for consideration by elected members (NI) Aug 2021 	C.2.1	Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions when taking decisions about service provision
	Principle D	Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out full staff survey (JB/PY) summer 2021. Further develop the ways in which we engage with staff including use of tools such as Microsoft products Yammer and Teams as part of B2020 (JB/PY) Mar 2022. 	D.2.2	Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish how meetings will continue after the expiry of the virtual meetings regulations on 7th May 2021 (BK) June 2021 	D.2.4	Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering outputs can be adapted to changing circumstances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit Service Continuity Planning in light of Covid-19; SCP has been in operation, need to build on this and complete the further scheduled work to review SCPs. (GF) Mar 2022 		

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and embed new enhanced ways of working such as less reliance on property and change in approach to delivery of services; linked to Coronavirus recovery work (GF) Mar 2022 		
	Principle E	Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a wider understanding of staff skills to build an internal skills network for use across the council; still intended to include as part of B2020 Modern Council (JB/PY) Mar 2022. 	E.1.1	Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish agreed updates to Induction Policy including video (JB/PY) Oct 2021. 	E.1.4	Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a training programme following the review of the Pension Fund Committee self-assessment. The Programme will include the Pension Board where appropriate. GF (Mar 2022) 	E.2.4	Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective shared leadership and to enable the organisation to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risks by: ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that on-going training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish implementation of the HR system module to replace IPM that will integrate more effectively with the core HR/Payroll system; being developed by Autumn 2021 ready for use in 2022 annual reviews. (JB) Mar 2022. 	E.2.7	Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ongoing compliance of Coronavirus secure property arrangements with any future H& S compliance requirements (GF) Mar 2022 	E.2.8	Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing

Appendix A

Improvements	Reference	Requirement
	Principle F	Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop further definition and refinement of elements of the Beyond 2020 Change Programme (for example, agreeing the scope for transformational areas and identification of the priorities for focussed reviews) need to complete those elements deferred due to Covid (such as work within ASC). (GF/RL) Mar 2022 	F.5.1	Ensuring financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance
	Principle G	Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce action plan to address the issues raised by the sub group on Audit Committee effectiveness and begin delivery (GF/MT) Oct 2021 	CFO Principle 3 G.3.2a	Ensure an effective internal audit function is resourced and maintained (Audit Committee review own effectiveness resulting in Improvement Plan)

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the internal audit work performed during the year ended 31 March 2021 and to express an opinion on the overall framework of governance, risk management and control in place within the County Council.
- 1.2 To inform Members of Veritau's conformance to professional standards and the conclusions arising from the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The work of internal audit is governed by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, relevant professional standards and the County Council's Internal Audit Charter. The applicable standards for local government are the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). These comply with the international standards issued by the global Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). As well as providing a definition of internal auditing, the PSIAS detail the Code of Ethics for internal auditors and provide quality criteria against which performance can be evaluated. The latest version of the standards was published in April 2017. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has also issued further guidance in the form of an application note. The application note includes a checklist to assist internal audit practitioners to review and update working practices.
- 2.2 To comply with the Standards, the Audit Committee approved an Audit Charter which sets out the purpose, authority and responsibility of internal audit. The Audit Charter also defined certain elements of the internal audit framework including the 'board', 'senior management' and the 'chief audit executive', as follows:
 - 'Board' – was defined as the Audit Committee (given its responsibilities in relation to internal audit standards and activities);
 - 'Senior Management' – was defined as the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources in his role as s151 officer. In addition, senior management may also refer to the Management Board or the Chief Executive and/or any other Corporate Director;
 - 'Chief audit executive' – was defined as the Head of Internal Audit (Veritau).
- 2.3 The Audit Charter is reviewed on an annual basis and any proposed changes are brought to the Audit Committee. The Charter was last updated in October 2019. No further changes are considered necessary at this time.

- 2.4 In accordance with the Standards, the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual internal audit opinion based on an objective assessment of the framework of governance, risk management and control operating within the County Council. The Head of Internal Audit should also contribute to the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement by identifying any significant control issues identified during the course of audit work, and report any material breaches of the County Council's Finance, Contract and Property Procedure Rules to the Audit Committee.
- 2.5 The Head of Internal Audit is also required to develop and maintain an ongoing quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP). The objective of the QAIP is to ensure that working practices continue to conform to the required professional standards. The results of the QAIP should be reported to senior management and the Audit Committee along with any areas of non-conformance with the Standards. The QAIP consists of various elements, including:
- maintenance of a detailed audit procedures manual and standard operating practices
 - ongoing performance monitoring of internal audit activity
 - regular customer feedback
 - training plans and associated training and development activities
 - periodic self-assessments of internal audit working practices (to evaluate conformance to the Standards).
- 2.6 In addition, a formal external assessment must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside the organisation. The most recent external assessment of Veritau internal audit working practices was undertaken in November 2018¹. This concluded that Veritau internal audit activity generally conforms to the PSIAS².
- 2.7 The results of customer feedback and the self-assessment are used to identify any areas requiring further development and/or improvement. Any specific changes or improvements are included in the annual Improvement Action Plan. Specific actions may also be included in the Veritau business plan and/or individual personal development action plans.
- 3.0 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT**
- 3.1 The annual report of the Head of Internal Audit is attached at **appendix 1**. The report includes details of the internal audit work completed during 2020/21, the annual opinion of the Head of Internal Audit and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.
- 3.2 In addition to the annual opinion the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide:
- (a) details of any qualifications to the opinion, together with the reasons for those qualifications (including any impairment to independence or objectivity)

¹ Reported to the Audit Committee in March 2019.

² PSIAS guidance suggests a scale of three ratings, 'generally conforms', 'partially conforms' and 'does not conform'. 'Generally conforms' is the top rating.

- (b) details of any particular control weakness judged to be relevant to the preparation of the annual governance statement
- (c) a summary of work undertaken to support the opinion including any reliance placed on the work of other assurance bodies
- (d) an overall summary of internal audit performance and the results of the internal audit service's quality assurance and improvement programme, including a statement on conformance with the PSIAS.

3.2 As well as completing internal audit work we have also provided a counter fraud service to the County Council. This has included the maintenance of policies, risk assessments, fraud prevention and detection measures, fraud awareness training and the investigation of suspected fraud. Further details of this work are provided in the annual counter fraud report for 2020/21 which is a separate item on this agenda.

4.0 **BREACHES OF FINANCE, CONTRACT AND PROPERTY PROCEDURE RULES**

4.1 As in previous years, breaches of Finance, Contract and Property procedures rules are identified through ongoing internal audit work.

4.2 Where breaches are identified, it is usually sufficient to draw the matter to the attention of management for the appropriate remedial action to be taken. If a wider training need is identified this will be addressed accordingly. Finally in those cases where the breach identifies a fundamental weakness/deficiency in the relevant Procedure Rule this will be addressed separately as part of the ongoing review process for all the County Council's Procedure Rules.

4.3 There were no material breaches of the Procedure Rules identified during the year although a number of issues were raised with management through the normal audit reporting process.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members are asked to note:-

- (i) the "**Substantial Assurance**" opinion of the Head of Internal Audit regarding the overall framework of governance, risk management and control operating within the County Council as set out in appendix 1
- (ii) the significant control issue which is recommended for inclusion in the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement
- (iii) the outcome of the quality assurance and improvement programme and the confirmation that the internal audit service conforms with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards

MAX THOMAS
Head of Internal Audit

Report prepared and presented by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit

Veritau - Assurance Services for the Public Sector
County Hall
Northallerton

10 June 2021



North Yorkshire County Council

**Annual report of the Head of Internal
Audit**

2020/21

Head of Internal Audit: Max Thomas

Circulation List: Members of the Audit Committee

Date: 28 June 2021



Internal audit work completed in 2020/21

- 1 A draft internal audit plan was originally prepared for approval at the March 2020 Audit Committee meeting. However, this meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the programme of work was then updated to reflect the ongoing impact of the pandemic on council processes and control arrangements. The updated plan was subsequently agreed by the S151 officer. The agreed plan was then presented to the audit committee in July 2020.
- 2 During the year, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the Council's working practices. In addition, much of the Council's resources have been directed towards responding to Covid-19 related issues. This has also impacted upon the work of internal audit. During the first quarter of the year, work on audit assignments was put on hold. This included finalisation of audit work from the previous year and the follow up of previously agreed actions. During this period, Veritau continued to provide advice and support to the Council. Much of this work was directly related to measures being taken by the Council to respond to the pandemic. Once routine audit work recommenced the majority of audits have been undertaken remotely.
- 3 **Annex A** provides details of 2020/21 completed work. At the time of writing, a further 7 audit reports have been issued but remain in draft. Other work is continuing with a number of other audits close to draft report stage. **Annex B** provides an explanation of our current assurance levels and priority rankings.
- 4 We have also continued to promote good governance, provide advice and make recommendations to management to help improve controls. Auditors meet with the s151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and other senior officers on a regular basis to help identify and address key governance issues and concerns.
- 5 The results of completed audit work have been reported to the relevant managers, the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Audit Committee. Audit findings relating to 2020/21, which have not yet been reported to this Committee, will be presented in due course as part of the agreed Audit Committee programme of work. On the basis of the follow up work undertaken during the year, satisfactory progress has been made by management to address identified control weaknesses. Outstanding actions continue to be monitored and in most cases progress is considered to be acceptable.

Internal audit performance management

- 6 Veritau continues to deliver cost effective internal audit, counter fraud and information governance services to the County Council and its other member councils together with a number of other public sector bodies. These services are valued by the company's clients particularly at a time of significant change.
- 7 Investment in professional training and new initiatives has also continued, particularly in respect to GDPR/data protection, IT audit and data analytics. A new internal audit strategy has also been prepared which will introduce agile auditing techniques (with more flexible risk based audit plans, shorter focused audit reviews, and the increased use of assurance mapping and continuous auditing). This will ensure future internal audit work remains closely aligned to the needs of the County Council and adds value.

- 8 Internal audit traditionally measures performance by the number of audit reports issued and other outputs compared to the agreed plan. However, as noted in paragraph 2 above, most audit work was suspended in quarter 1 due to the pandemic. The audit plan for 2020/21 was also intentionally flexible so that we could respond to any Covid-19 related risks and issues. Given this, no specific performance measures were set for the year.

Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP)

- 9 Veritau maintains a quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) to ensure that internal audit work is conducted to the required professional standards. As well as undertaking an annual survey of senior management in each client organisation and completing a detailed self-assessment to evaluate performance against the Standards, the service is also subject to a periodic external assessment.
- 10 The outcome of the QAIP demonstrates that the service continues to 'generally conform' to the PSIAS including the Code of Ethics and the Standards. Further details of the QAIP and Improvement Action Plan prepared by Veritau are given in **Annex C**.

2020/21 Internal Audit Opinion

- 11 The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework of governance, risk management and control operating within the County Council is that it provides **Substantial Assurance**. No reliance was placed on the work of other assurance bodies in reaching this opinion.
- 12 The opinion given is based on work that has been undertaken directly by internal audit, and on the cumulative knowledge gained through our ongoing liaison and planning with officers. However, in giving the opinion, we would note that Covid-19 has significantly affected the County Council over the last year, with a wide ranging impact on business operations and controls. While the work of internal audit is directed to the areas that are most at risk, or provide most value for the Council, it is not possible to conclude on the full extent of the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's operations.
- 13 In giving this opinion Members attention is also drawn to the following significant control issue which is considered relevant to the preparation of the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement:

Information security

Further improvements are still required to ensure compliance with the Council's data protection policies. Ongoing work has identified continuing poor practice with the handling of documents and information security. There have also been a number of serious data security breaches in the year, including two incidents that have required reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Final internal audit reports issued – 2020/21

Audit Area	Directorate	Overall Opinion
Assurance frameworks at council companies - procurement	Corporate	Reasonable assurance
Governance at council companies	Corporate	Substantial assurance
County catering	CS	No opinion given
Extra care housing	HAS	Reasonable assurance
Mental health aftercare (s117)	HAS	Limited assurance
Care provider review – Henshaws	HAS	No opinion given
Fleet management	BES	Substantial assurance
Trading Standards	BES	Substantial assurance
Minerals planning (investigation)	BES	No opinion given
High Needs SEN	CYPS	Reasonable assurance
Developing Stronger Families - June 2020 claim	CYPS	No opinion given
Developing Stronger Families - September 2020 claim	CYPS	No opinion given
North Yorkshire Pension Fund – expenditure	NYPF	Substantial assurance

Internal audit opinions / priority rankings – 2020/21

Opinion	Definition
Substantial Assurance	A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited
Reasonable Assurance	There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited
Limited Assurance	Significant gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance were identified. Improvement is required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited
No Assurance	Immediate action is required to address fundamental gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance identified. The system of governance, risk management and control is inadequate to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited

Priorities for Actions	
Priority 1	A fundamental system weakness, which presents unacceptable risk to the system objectives and requires urgent attention by management.
Priority 2	A significant system weakness, whose impact or frequency presents risks to the system objectives, which needs to be addressed by management.
Priority 3	The system objectives are not exposed to significant risk, but the issue merits attention by management.

Internal audit – Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

1.0 Background

Ongoing quality assurance arrangements

Veritau maintains appropriate ongoing quality assurance arrangements designed to ensure that internal audit work is undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards (specifically the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards). These arrangements include:

- the maintenance of a detailed audit procedures manual
- the requirement for all audit staff to conform to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct Policy
- the requirement for all audit staff to complete annual declarations of interest
- detailed job descriptions and competency profiles for each internal audit post
- regular performance appraisals
- regular 1:2:1 meetings to monitor progress with audit engagements
- induction programmes, training plans and associated training activities
- attendance on relevant courses and access to e-learning material
- the maintenance of training records and training evaluation procedures
- membership of professional networks
- agreement of the objectives, scope and expected timescales for each audit engagement with the client before detailed work commences (audit specification)
- the results of all audit testing and other associated work documented using the company's automated working paper system (Sword Audit Manager)
- file review by senior auditors and audit managers and sign-off at each stage of the audit process
- the ongoing investment in tools to support the effective performance of internal audit work (for example data interrogation software)
- post audit questionnaires (customer satisfaction surveys) issued following each audit engagement
- performance against agreed quality targets monitored and reported to each client on a regular basis
- regular client liaison meetings to discuss progress, share information and evaluate performance

On an ongoing basis, samples of completed audit work are subject to internal peer review by a Quality Assurance group. The review process is designed to ensure audit work is completed consistently and to the required quality standards. The work of the Quality Assurance group is overseen by an Assistant

Director. Any key learning points are shared with the relevant internal auditors and audit managers. The Head of Internal Audit will also be informed of any general areas requiring improvement. Appropriate mitigating action will be taken where required (for example, increased supervision of individual internal auditors or further training).

Annual self-assessment

On an annual basis, the Head of Internal Audit will seek feedback from each client on the quality of the overall internal audit service. The Head of Internal Audit will also update the PSIAS self-assessment checklist and obtain evidence to demonstrate conformance with the Code of Ethics and the Standards. As part of ongoing performance management arrangements, each internal auditor is also required to assess their current skills and knowledge against the competency profile relevant for their role. Where necessary, further training or support will be provided to address any development needs.

The Head of Internal Audit is also a member of various professional networks and obtains information on operating arrangements and relevant best practice from other similar audit providers for comparison purposes.

The results of the annual client survey, PSIAS self-assessment, professional networking, and ongoing quality assurance and performance management arrangements are used to identify any areas requiring further development and/or improvement. Any specific changes or improvements are included in the annual Improvement Action Plan. Specific actions may also be included in the Veritau business plan and/or individual personal development action plans. The outcomes from this exercise, including details of the Improvement Action Plan are also reported to each client. The results will also be used to evaluate overall conformance with the PSIAS, the results of which are reported to senior management and the board¹ as part of the annual report of the Head of Internal Audit.

External assessment

At least once every five years, arrangements must be made to subject internal audit working practices to external assessment to ensure the continued application of professional standards. The assessment should be conducted by an independent and suitably qualified person or organisation and the results reported to the Head of Internal Audit. The outcome of the external assessment also forms part of the overall reporting process to each client (as set out above). Any specific areas identified as requiring further development and/or improvement will be included in the annual Improvement Action Plan for that year.

2.0 Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021

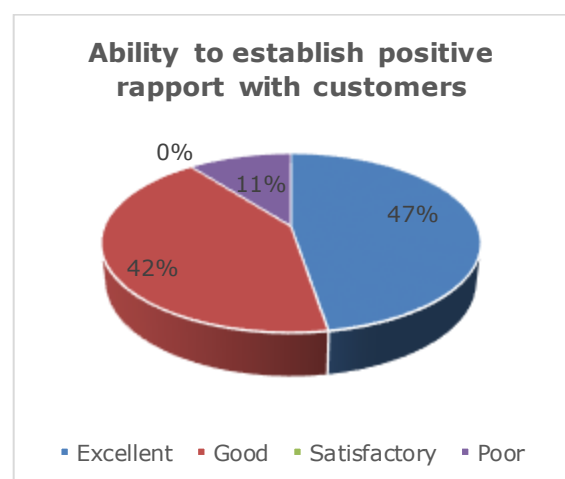
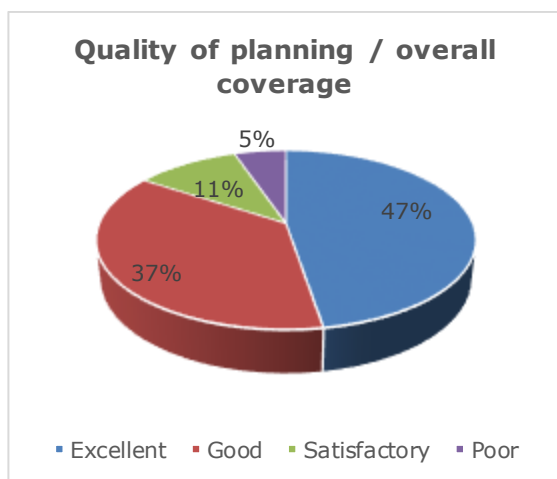
In March 2021 we asked clients for feedback on the overall quality of the internal audit service provided by Veritau. Where relevant, the survey also asked questions about counter fraud and information governance services. A total of

¹ As defined by the relevant audit charter.

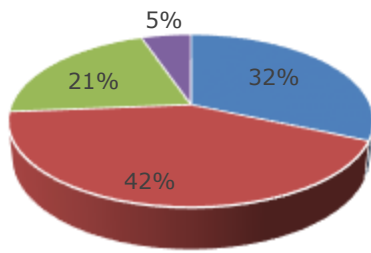
165 surveys (2020 – 136) were issued to senior managers in client organisations. A total of 19 responses were received representing a response rate of 12% (2020 – 11%). The surveys were sent using Survey Monkey and the respondents were required to identify who they were. Respondents were asked to rate the different elements of the audit process, as follows:

- Excellent (1)
- Good (2)
- Satisfactory (3)
- Poor (4)

Respondents were also asked to provide an overall rating for the service. The results of the survey are set out in the charts below. These are presented as percentages, for consistency with previous years. However, it is recognised that the low number of respondents means that the percentage for each category is sensitive to small changes in actual responses (1 respondent represents about 5%).

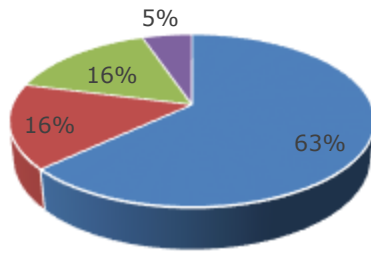


Knowledge of system / service being audited



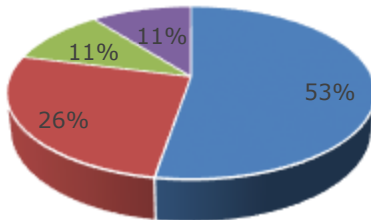
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

Minimising disruption to the service being audited



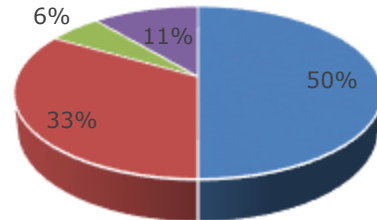
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

Communicating issues during the audit



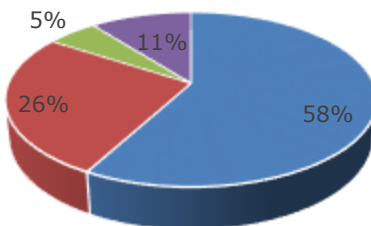
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

Quality of feedback at end of audit



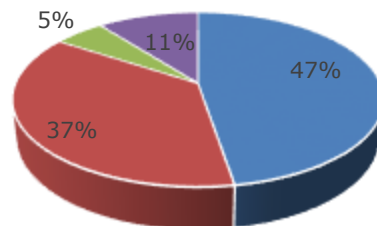
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

Accuracy, format, length & style of audit report

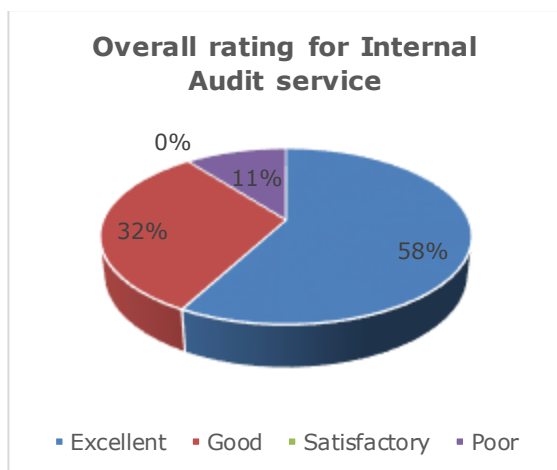


■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor

Relevance of audit opinions & conclusions



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Poor



The overall ratings in 2021 were:

	2021		2020	
Excellent	11	58%	3	20%
Good	6	32%	11	73%
Satisfactory	0	0%	0	0%
Poor	2	11%	1	7%

The feedback shows that the majority of respondents continue to value the service being delivered.

3.0 Self-Assessment Checklist 2021

CIPFA has prepared a detailed checklist to enable conformance with the PSIAS and the Local Government Application Note to be assessed. The checklist was originally completed in March 2014 and has since been reviewed and updated annually. Documentary evidence is provided where current working practices are considered to fully or partially conform to the standards. A comprehensive update of the checklist was undertaken in 2020, following revisions by CIPFA.

Current working practices are considered to be at standard. However, as in previous years there are a few areas of non-conformance. These areas are mostly as a result of Veritau being a shared service delivering internal audit to a number of clients as well as providing other related governance services. None of the issues identified are considered to be significant. Existing arrangements are considered appropriate for the circumstances and require no further action.

The following areas of non-compliance remain largely unchanged from last year.

Conformance with Standard	Current Position
Where there have been significant additional consulting services agreed during the year that were not already included in the audit plan, was approval sought from the audit committee before the engagement was accepted?	Consultancy services are usually commissioned by the relevant client officer (generally the s151 officer). The scope (and charging arrangements) for any specific engagement will be agreed by the Head of Internal Audit and the

Conformance with Standard	Current Position
	relevant client officer. Engagements will not be accepted if there is any actual or perceived conflict of interest, or which might otherwise be detrimental to the reputation of Veritau.
Does the risk-based plan set out the respective priorities of audit work?	<p>Audit plans detail the work to be carried out and the estimated time requirement. The relative priority of each assignment will be considered before any subsequent changes are made to plans. Any significant changes to the plan will need to be discussed and agreed with the respective client officers (and reported to the audit committee).</p> <p>Work is currently ongoing to introduce flexible audit planning arrangements. As part of this exercise, we will be seeking to assign priorities to audit activities on an ongoing basis during the course of the relevant reporting period. Once complete, the new arrangements will remove this area of non-compliance.</p>
Are consulting engagements that have been accepted included in the risk-based plan?	Consulting engagements are commissioned and agreed separately.
Does the risk-based plan include the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work that may be required to place reliance upon those sources?	An approach to using other sources of assurance, where appropriate is currently being developed (see below).

4.0 External Assessment

As noted above, the PSIAS require the Head of Internal Audit to arrange for an external assessment to be conducted at least once every five years to ensure the continued application of professional standards. The assessment is intended to provide an independent and objective opinion on the quality of internal audit practices.

An external assessment of Veritau internal audit working practices was last undertaken in November 2018 by the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP). SWAP is a not for profit public services company operating primarily in the South West of England. As a large shared service internal audit provider it has the

relevant knowledge and expertise to undertake external inspections of other shared services and is independent of Veritau.

The assessment consisted of a review of documentary evidence, including the self-assessment, and face to face interviews with a number of senior client officers and Veritau auditors. The assessors also interviewed audit committee chairs.

A copy the external assessment report was reported to this committee on 06/02/2019.

The report concluded that Veritau internal audit activity generally conforms to the PSIAS² and, overall, the findings were very positive. The feedback included comments that the internal audit service was highly valued by its member councils and other clients, and that services had continued to improve since the last external assessment in 2014.

5.0 Improvement Action Plan

The external assessment identified a number of areas for further consideration and possible improvement. An action plan was developed to address these areas. These actions have all been completed, other than one area (shown below) which remains in progress.

Recommendation	Current Position
<p>Whilst reliance may be placed on other sources of assurance, the self-assessment brought attention to the fact that there has not been an assurance mapping exercise to determine the approach to using other sources of assurance. Completion of such an exercise would ensure that work is coordinated with other assurance bodies and limited resources are not duplicating effort. (Attribute Standard 2050).</p>	<p>This work is in progress. Work has been undertaken over the last two years to identify other sources of assurance for each client. This exercise is ongoing, and more detailed actions have been incorporated into a longer term development strategy for Veritau internal audit services (see below).</p>

In 2020/21, the Quality Assurance group reviewed internal processes for the follow up of actions agreed during internal audit assignments. It found that follow up work is generally being undertaken routinely, and in line with expected procedures. In the majority of cases, actions raised in our reports are completed by the client and these actions address the issues originally raised.

Findings from follow up work are recorded on the Veritau internal audit management system. In most cases, sufficient evidence is held on the system to show that actions have been completed. However there are some cases where responses received from clients do not fully demonstrate that those actions have

² PSIAS guidance suggests a scale of three ratings, 'generally conforms', 'partially conforms' and 'does not conform'. 'Generally conforms' is the top rating.

addressed the original findings. We also found that some improvements are needed to documenting and updating of information on the system. In particular, records were not always up to date, with some actions which had passed the agreed deadline remaining outstanding. This is partly due to the impact of Covid 19 – with a number of clients requesting an easing of follow up work during the pandemic. In 2021 we will review all outstanding actions, to bring details up to date. We will also be providing further training to the audit teams on documenting evidence to support the findings from follow up work.

In the last year, we have also recognised the need for a more fundamental review of internal audit practices within Veritau. While current arrangements meet the standards, the pace of change in local government and the wider public sector mean that we need to update aspects of the service to ensure it stays up to date and continues to deliver good value. We have therefore developed a three year strategy to help us improve the service. The strategy sets out the actions we will be taking within Veritau to modernise our practices, from April 2021. The five key areas we are focussing on are:

- increasing engagement across all clients
- further development of strategic planning frameworks
- redesign and modernisation of audit processes (for example flexible work planning and reducing the time to deliver findings)
- increasing investment in high value data analytics work
- introducing better measures of outcomes from audit work, to enable us to direct resources to areas of most value to our clients.

6.0 Overall Conformance with PSIAS ***(Opinion of the Head of Internal Audit)***

Based on the results of the quality assurance process I consider that the service generally conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, including the *Code of Ethics* and the *Standards*.

The guidance suggests a scale of three ratings, 'generally conforms', 'partially conforms' and 'does not conform'. 'Generally conforms' is the top rating and means that the internal audit service has a charter, policies and processes that are judged to be in conformance to the Standards.

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2021

COUNTER FRAUD ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Head of Internal Audit

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on counter fraud matters, developments in the County Council's arrangements to minimise fraud risk, and details of work completed and related performance in 2020/21.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Fraud is a serious risk to the public sector in the UK. When fraud is committed against the public sector, money is diverted from important public services into the hands of criminals. Fraudsters are constantly refining their tactics and techniques in order to circumvent the checks and controls put in place to prevent fraud from occurring. In order to protect resources, public sector bodies must therefore continuously review and develop their counter fraud arrangements to meet these evolving threats.

3.0 NATIONAL PICTURE

- 3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has provided opportunities for fraudsters operating locally, nationally, and internationally. As well as national schemes to support businesses during the pandemic, local authorities have been responsible for issuing specific grants to eligible businesses. Fraudsters have attempted to divert grants from legitimate businesses and ineligible businesses have attempted to mislead councils about their circumstances in order to receive these grants.
- 3.2 Cyber-crime is also a growing concern for local government and the wider public sector. Two councils have recently suffered significant cyber-attacks. Schools, further and higher education establishments and the health sector have also been targeted by criminals. Where cyber-attacks have occurred they have disrupted services, caused reputational damage and involved substantial costs to rectify. It is therefore important that councils put in place technical measures to reduce the risk, raise awareness of the threat with staff and other stakeholders, and ensure disaster recovery plans are effective.
- 3.3 CIPFA's annual Fraud and Corruption tracker was released last year. The report details levels of fraud detected by local authorities in 2019/20. The number of councils who participated in the survey was significantly down on previous years, probably as a result of the pandemic. Key findings of the report include the following:

- The total value of fraud identified and prevented by councils in 2019/20 was £239.4m (2018/19 - £253m).
- 47,000 cases of fraud were identified by councils during 2019/20 (2018/19 – 71,000)
- Procurement is seen as a high fraud risk area for local authorities, alongside council tax single person discounts and business rates. Fraud can take place at any point in the supply chain of goods and services making it difficult to detect and address. The number of proven cases is therefore generally low. In 2019/20, only 87 cases of procurement related fraud were reported by councils. The total value of fraud involved was £1.5m.
- Adult social care fraud is also seen to be one of the highest fraud risk areas for county and unitary councils. The total number of reported cases and value of fraud detected has declined from the previous financial year but the average value of fraud remains high at £18k per case.

3.4 A copy of the CIPFA annual Fraud and Corruption tracker report is attached at **appendix 1** for information.

4.0 THE COUNTER FRAUD POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 The Council's counter fraud policy framework includes the Counter Fraud Strategy, the Whistleblowing Policy, Fraud Prosecution and Loss Recovery (FPLR) Policy and the Anti Money Laundering (AML) Policy. The policy framework is reviewed annually and updated to reflect best practice as required.

4.2 Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally is the national counter fraud strategy for local government. The strategy is refreshed periodically and has the support of counter fraud professionals, the LGA, and HM Government. The most recent iteration, Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – A Strategy for the 2020s was published in April 2020. The Strategy identified five areas for local authorities to focus on:

- **Govern** – having robust arrangements and executive support to ensure counter fraud measures are embedded
- **Acknowledge** – understanding fraud risks and committing resources to tackle fraud
- **Prevent** – developing an anti-fraud culture, maintaining controls and using information and technology to help prevent and detect fraud
- **Pursue** – investigating fraud and recovering losses
- **Protect** – protecting individuals from becoming victims of fraud, and protecting against the harm that fraud can do to the community (including from serious and organised criminals)

4.3 The Council's Counter Fraud Strategy was updated to reflect the approach recommended in the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally strategy. The Council's updated Strategy was approved by this Committee in October 2020.

4.4 The FPLR, Whistleblowing, and AML policies are currently being reviewed. The updated policies will be presented to the Committee in accordance with the agreed work programme.

5.0 COUNTER FRAUD WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2020/21

- 5.1 Details of the counter fraud activities undertaken in 2020/21 and the outcomes from this work are contained in the annual performance report which is attached at **appendix 2**.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the recent developments in the County Council's counter fraud arrangements and the work completed in 2020/21 to prevent, detect and investigate fraud.

M A THOMAS
Head of Internal Audit

15 June 2021

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Relevant audit and fraud reports kept by Veritau

Report prepared and presented by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit.

Veritau - Assurance Services for the Public Sector
County Hall
Northallerton

Fraud and corruption tracker

National Report 2020



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 - Business rates
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 - Insurance
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Foreword



Rob Whiteman
Chief Executive, CIPFA

As managers of public resources, every public sector organisation has a responsibility to fight fraud and corruption. Successful organisational efforts to prevent, identify and manage various types of financial crime not only strengthens the state of public finances, but also mitigates moral and reputational risks across the public sector. During times of unprecedented uncertainty, the importance of these principles cannot be overstated.

Each year, the CIPFA Fraud and Corruption Tracker (CFaCT) aims to provide a current national picture of public sector fraud and corrupt activity help local authorities identify and implement mitigating actions. The tracker's findings provide valuable insights that help counter fraud practitioners in local government better understand national trends and emerging risks. Our intention is that the tracker serves as a resource for both public sector organisations and citizens who are invested in, and engaged with, their local communities.

Although the information in this year's report does not capture the impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it does provide useful insight about the local government landscape in the period prior to the national response effort.

This publication forms part of CIPFA's commitment to support the public sector and promote the principles of good governance and strong public financial management. Not only do our findings offer insight on the fraudulent activities that occur across the UK's public sector organisations, but the survey also highlights the important role that counter-fraud protocols play in the fight against fraud and corruption.

Understanding ever-changing risks can help public sector professionals increase their individual awareness, collaborate more effectively with others in the sector and take tailored action to prevent illegal activity from growing in the public sphere.

The survey was supported by:



The CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre

The CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre (CCFC), launched in July 2014, was created to fill the gap in the UK counter fraud arena following the closure of the National Fraud Authority (NFA) and the Audit Commission, and the subsequent transfer of benefit investigations to the Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS), run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It was named in the UK Government's 2014 Anti-Corruption plan and in the 2017-22 Anti-Corruption strategy as having a key role to play in combating fraud and corruption. We provide a range of services and solutions that measurably impact the fight against fraud in the public sector, and are committed to helping organisations prevent, detect and recover financial loss; protecting their reputation and developing counter fraud skills.

Our annual CIPFA Fraud and Corruption Tracker (CFaCT) survey is the definitive survey of fraud and corruption activity in local government. It tracks the levels of fraud and corruption local authorities have detected, the number of investigations undertaken and the types of fraud encountered. Understanding where fraud losses are occurring – and the actions being taken to stem the flow – is essential to helping senior leaders across the public sector understand the value of counter fraud activity.



Acknowledgements

CIPFA would like to thank all the organisations that completed the survey along with those that helped by distributing the survey or contributing insights and best practices, including:

- LGA
- MHCLG
- NAO
- NCA
- SOLACE
- SLT
- Home Office
- The Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally board

Introduction

CIPFA recognises that each pound lost to fraud represents a loss to the public purse and reduces the ability of the public sector to provide services to people who need them. According to the Annual Fraud Indicator 2017, which provides the last set of government sanctioned estimates, fraud costs the public sector at least £40.3bn annually, with £7.3bn of this total being lost in local government.

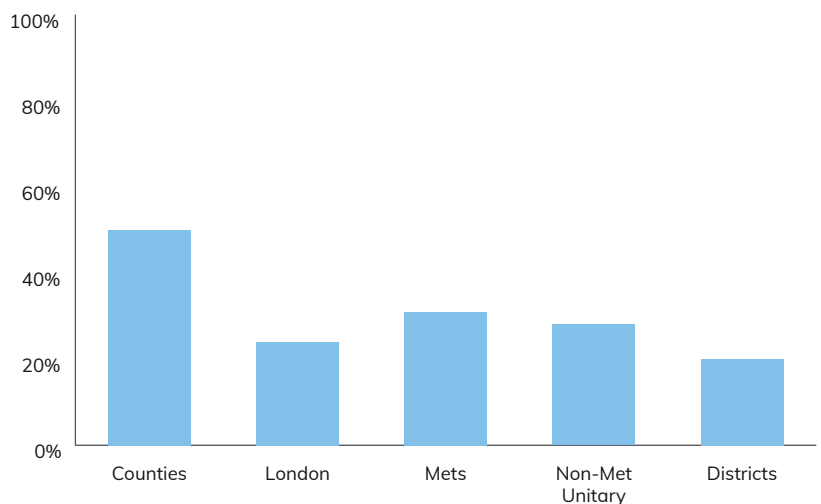
Fraud is a prevalent cause of concern in the public sector and continues to pose financial threats to local authorities. CIPFA's partners, such as the LGA, the NAO and Home Office, work towards new ways of finding solutions to the challenges that the public sector faces.

The sixth annual CIPFA Fraud and Corruption Tracker (CFaCT) survey was conducted in August 2020, with the aim of creating a national picture of the types and volume of fraud detected and prevented in local authorities. The results were collated from local authorities in all regions in the UK, allowing CIPFA to estimate the total figures for fraud across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It should be noted that the response rate for the 2019/20 survey was significantly lower than previous years, which was to be expected, due to the impact of COVID-19 on local government resources. The figures mentioned in this report were captured in the time period before the pandemic and the data therefore represents what local authorities were experiencing before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Moreover, for each fraud breakdown, there was an additional option in this year's survey to record the 'overall number of cases identified' which may have included cases where fraud was not ultimately proven. The other option was to record the 'number of cases proven to be fraudulent' including cases where, following an investigation, action has taken place or a payment has been prevented and, on the balance of probabilities, fraud or corruption has

Response rate



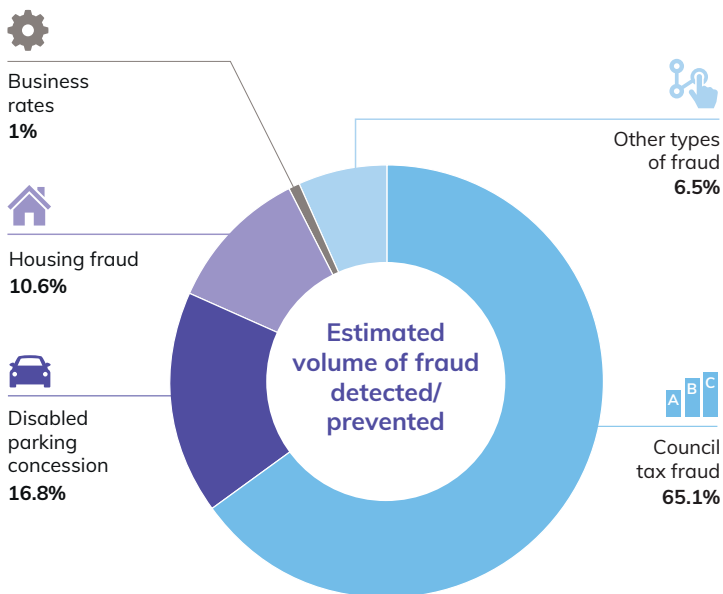
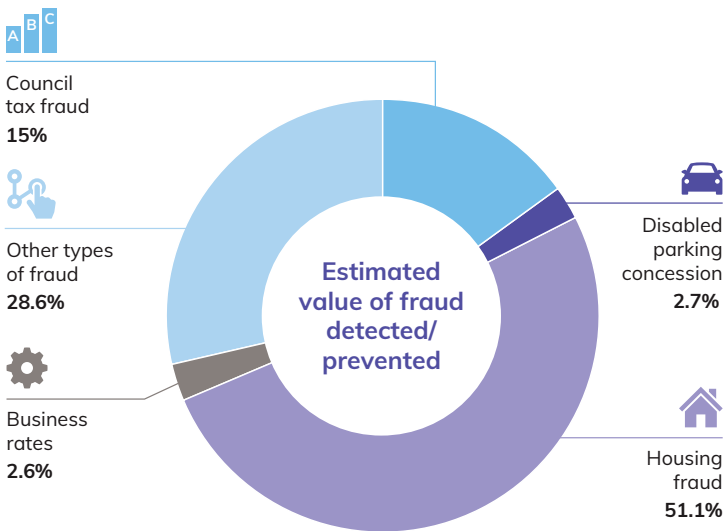
occurred. To enable comparisons with previous years' data, for consistency and the volumes mentioned refer to the number of cases proven to be fraudulent.

This report highlights the following:

- the types of fraud identified in the 2019/20 CFaCT survey
- the monetary cost value of fraud in 2019/20
- the impact of counter fraud and prevention activities to improve the public sector budget
- the emerging risks and threats impacting the fraud and corruption landscape.

Executive summary

For local authorities in the UK, CIPFA has estimated that the total value of fraud identified and prevented in 2019/20 is approximately £239.4m, which is an average value of £5,090 per fraud case. Last year, there was an estimated value of £253m with a lower average of £3,600 per case detected and prevented.



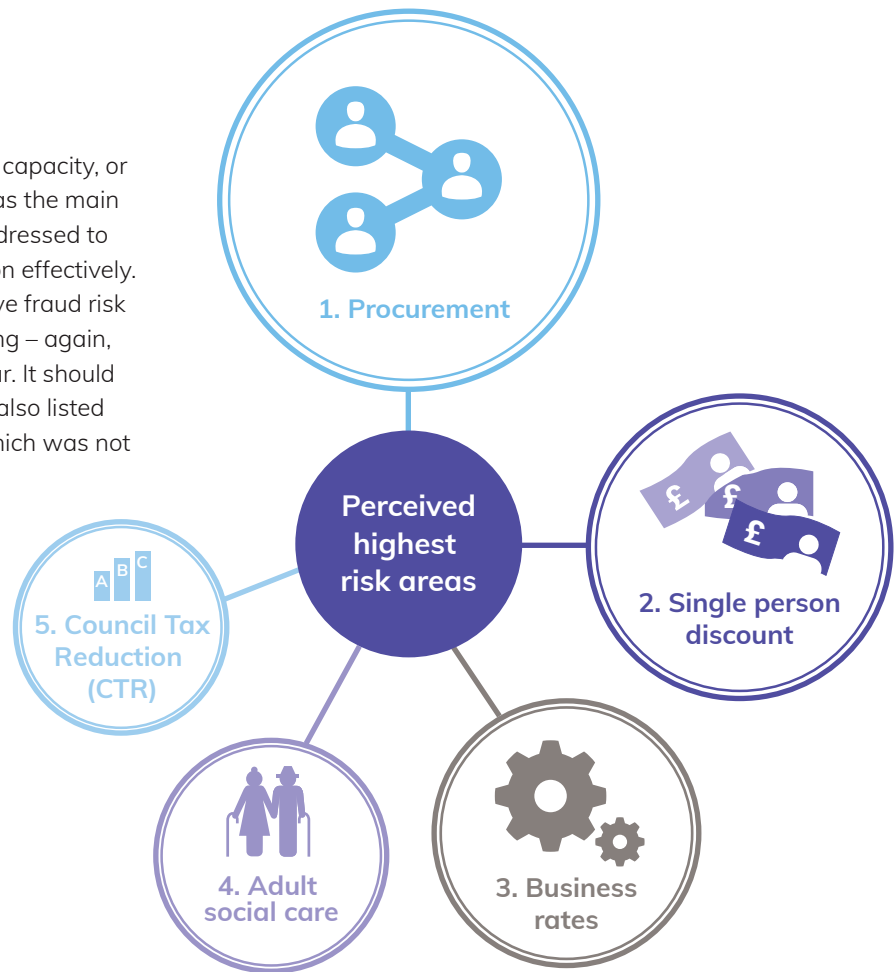
Councils reported that approximately 47,000 instances of fraud had been detected or prevented in 2019/20, which is lower than the approximation of 71,000 reported by CIPFA in 2018/19. Council tax fraud represents almost two thirds (65%) of these identified instances of fraud with an estimated value of £35.9m, followed by disabled parking concession (Blue Badge Scheme) and housing fraud which represent 17% and 11% of the total cases of UK public sector fraud, respectively.

This year, we also measured the impact of grant fraud (prior to the COVID-19 grant disbursement), which represents 0.3% of the total identified instances of UK public sector fraud and 15% of the total value (£36.6m).

The largest growing fraud area is housing tenancy (other), with an estimated £60.1m lost in 2019/20 compared to £47.7m in 2018/19. This is followed by council tax single person discount (SPD) which has an estimated increase of £9.6m to an estimated value of £29.0m for cases detected/prevented in 2018/19.

The two highest perceived fraud risk areas for 2019/20 are the same as last year: procurement and council tax SPD. This shows these are the areas that require strict controls and support. The perceived third, fourth and fifth highest fraud risk areas are business rates, adult social care and council tax reduction (CTR) respectively.

Survey results show that nationally, capacity, or sufficient counter fraud resource, was the main perceived issue that needs to be addressed to tackle the risk of fraud and corruption effectively. This was followed closely by effective fraud risk management and better data sharing – again, following the same trend as last year. It should be noted that multiple respondents also listed ‘increased awareness’, an option which was not originally considered in the survey. Results from respondents indicate that they expect to increase the number of counter fraud specialist staff by 5% in 2021.



Major fraud areas

For 2019/20, the CFaCT survey has shown that the four main areas of fraud (by volume) that local authorities are tackling are:

- council tax
- disabled parking (Blue Badge)
- housing
- business rates.

Council tax

Council tax continues to be the largest area of identified fraud in the last six years and is the top fraud risk area for district and unitary councils, 57% and 32% respectively. This is likely a result of the targeted effort by authorities to identify fraud that has a direct impact on their income. Data matching and analytic exercises continue to reap rewards and will continue to improve as authorities work smarter and use tools made available to them. The total number of council tax fraud cases identified by participating local authorities, which may not have ultimately proven to be fraudulent, was 24,105.

volume/low value area continues to be a leading trend each year, where there are many incidents of smaller value, requiring higher vigilance on a more frequent basis.

Since 2018/19, the estimated number of council tax cases proven to be fraudulent has decreased by 45%, while the estimated value has increased by £5.3m. This may be evidence that in proven cases offenders are less likely to reoffend. It may also be an indicator that fraud risk exercises continue to identify the high volume/low value frauds year on year, with more effort being focussed on the long-term offenders, or that more authorities are choosing to claw back fraudulent discounts from previous billing periods.

Since 2017/18, the cases pertaining to single person discount (SPD) have decreased yearly; there is a vast difference of 20,069 (46%) between the 2018/19 and 2019/20 volumes. Nonetheless, the money lost to SPD fraud has increased by £9.5m. The opposite is seen for council tax reduction (CTR) and other council tax-related fraud, where the values have decreased by £2.3m and £2.1m respectively.

The overall estimated value of council tax fraud has continued to increase, primarily due to the increase in the value of cases for SPD fraud detected in 2019/20.

Estimated council tax fraud

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
SPD	46,278	£15.8m	44,051	£19.4m	23,982	£28.9m
CTR	8,759	£6.1m	8,973	£7.2m	3,845	£4.9m
Other	2,857	£4.5m	2,831	£4.0m	2,794	£1.9m
Total	57,894	£26.3m	55,855	£30.6m	30,622	£35.9m

Though the volume of cases proven to be fraudulent is significantly higher when compared to other fraud risk areas, Council tax does not represent the highest cumulative value amongst all surveyed types of fraud, estimated to total £35.9m. This high



Disabled parking (Blue Badge)

The survey identified fraud from the misuse of the Blue Badges scheme was one of the steadily increasing fraud risk areas. The estimated number of cases proven to be fraudulent has increased by 938, and the national estimated average value per case increased from £661 to £811 in 2019/20.

This indicates that though procurement, council tax SPD and adult social care are identified nationally as the three main fraud risk areas, Blue Badge fraud is an area of increasing risk and prominence.



Housing and tenancy fraud

In relation to housing fraud, councils record the income lost using different valuations, ranging from a notional cost of replacing a property to the average cost for keeping a family in bed and breakfast accommodation for a year. These differences in approach can make it hard to formulate clear comparisons. On a national scale, the value of fraud detected or prevented will be looked at in two ways:

- if the cases were pertaining to new build accommodation
- if the cases were pertaining to temporary accommodation.

If the cases were regarding new build accommodations, there would be an average of £150,000 per fraud case, in comparison to £18,000 if they were pertaining to temporary accommodation. This can be further explored by looking at the comparison by tier.

Before 2019/20, there was a steady decline of around 20% a year in the number of housing and tenancy related frauds detected or prevented. However, this year there was an increase of 37% overall.

While illegally sublet properties and right to buy frauds continue to fall year on year, the volume of other housing fraud such as succession and application fraud has increased significantly. This

is predominantly down to the continued efforts to review housing tenancies, including proactive exercises and conducting appropriate due diligence on applications.

Estimated housing fraud

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Right to buy	1,518	£92.0m	652	£46.0m	584	£30.7m
Illegal sublet	1,051	£55.8m	826	£41.8m	605	£31.6m
Other *	2,164	£68.3m	2,154	£47.7m	3,802	£60.1m
Total	4,733	£216.1m	3,632	£135.6m	4,991	£122.4m

* Other includes tenancy frauds that are neither right to buy nor illegal sublet and may include succession and false applications.



Business rates

Business rate fraud represents 1.0% of the total estimated number of cases proven to be fraudulent in 2019/20. This represents a marginal decrease from the previous year's figure of 2.0% and is reflected in the fact that the estimated loss decreased from £8.0m in 2018/19 to £6.2m this year.

Nonetheless, it was recorded as the third highest fraud risk area on a national scale, as well as fourth highest specific to districts.

Other types of fraud

This part of the report examines the survey responses related to other notable frauds that did not emerge as major types of fraud within the national picture. This section includes the following fraud types:

- adult social care
- insurance
- procurement
- no recourse to public funds/ welfare assistance
- payroll, recruitment, expenses and pension
- economic and voluntary sector support and debt
- mandate fraud, manipulation of data and grant fraud.

Adult social care

Adult social care is viewed by survey respondents to be the fourth highest fraud risk area. Over the past year, the average value per adult social care fraud has decreased by £11k, following the trend seen in years prior to 2018/19.

Generally, the total volume and value of estimated fraud cases have decreased to 460 cases and £8.2m respectively, but the volume of personal budget frauds has increased by 30% in the past year. Nonetheless, the estimated value for personal budget frauds is £4.9m – lower than the estimated 2018/19 value.

Other fraud also showed a decline in the numbers of cases proven to be fraudulent.

Estimated adult social care fraud

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Personal budget	334	£3.3m	234	£9.6m*	306	£4.9m
Other	403	£3.4m	246	£4.1m	154	£3.3m
Total	737	£6.7m	480	£13.7m*	460	£8.2m
Average value per fraud		£9k		£29k*		£18k

* Please note that this figure is made up predominantly of a handful of authorities and though it is not comparable, it shows the scope of fraud possible in this area.



Insurance fraud

This year's survey found an estimated number of 349 insurance fraud cases with a value of £3.9m. Since last year, the estimated insurance fraud case value has more than halved. However, the figure for 2019/20 is very similar to the estimated value from 2017/18 of £3.5m.

A respondent who identified insurance fraud also reported one confirmed insider fraud case with a

combined value of £9.2k – a significant drop from last year's combined value of £43k.

Considerable work has been done in the area of insurance fraud, and insurance companies are working with local authorities to develop new ways to identify fraud and abuse within the system, which seems to be effective given the steady decline in volume and value of cases reported.



Procurement fraud

For the fourth year in a row, procurement fraud was perceived to be the highest fraud risk area. This year, there was an estimated number of 87 prevented procurement frauds, with 8% of cases reported as insider fraud. This is a continued decline from 125 estimated fraudulent cases with a value of

£20.3m in 2018/19, and 142 cases with a value of £5.2m in 2017/18. It is widely accepted that procurement fraud continues to be the hardest type of fraud to detect, can be very high in value and difficult to prove.

On 8 June 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a review into risks of fraud and corruption in local government procurement.

It reported that councils in England spend around £55bn a year on goods, work and services. A survey conducted as part of the review showed 23% of respondents reported fraud and/or corruption in the procurement lifecycle during the 2017 to 2018 financial year.

Estimated procurement fraud

2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
142	£5.2m	125	£20.3m*	87	£1.5m

* Please note this figure is attributable to mainly one organisation and though it is not comparable to other respondents, it shows the scope for fraud in this area.



Welfare assistance and no recourse to public funds

In 2019/20, the estimated number of fraud cases related to welfare assistance increased significantly to 307. Estimates for 2018/19 and 2017/18 approximated 24 and 109 cases respectively.

2019/20 saw the number of no recourse to public funds cases increase to an estimated figure of

193; the previous year's figure had declined to an estimated volume of 148, from a volume of 334 in 2017/18. This is mainly due to the reduction in the number of respondents who detected and prevented fraudulent activity in this area.



Economic and voluntary sector support and debt

There was only one economic and voluntary sector support fraud case reported by local authorities in this survey, with a value of £25,000. In the 2017/18 survey, there were 24 actual cases of fraud reported with an average estimated loss of £14,000 per case. These figures decreased in 2018/19, with six actual cases of fraud reported and an average value per fraud loss of £4,000.

The number of reported cases of debt has significantly dropped to just three, with a fraud loss of £82,600, in comparison with 53 reported in 2018/19 valued at over £495,000.



Payroll, expenses, recruitment and pension

The total value of fraud loss for all four areas in 2019/20 is an estimated £0.82m, a very significant decrease from 2018/19, where there was a total estimated loss of £9.42m. The inflated figure in

2018/19 is due to one incident of payroll fraud prevented by a local authority.

Measuring the cost of these frauds can be quite difficult as they carry implications that include reputational damage, the costs of further recruitment and investigations into the motives behind the fraud. As a result, some organisations could be less likely to investigate or report investigations in these areas.

Payroll had the highest volume of fraud out of these four areas (payroll, expenses, recruitment and pension) for each year since 2016/17. In 2019/20, the area with the highest estimated average per case was pensions with £13,278, followed by recruitment fraud with an estimated average per case of £4,797.

Estimated fraud

Type	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Payroll	167	£1.01m	168	£8.77m*	113	£0.30m
Expenses	34	£0.03m	32	£0.04m	69	£0.12m
Recruitment	52	£0.49m	33	£0.38m	16	£0.08m
Pension	164	£0.57m	153	£0.23m	24	£0.32m
Total	417	£2.10m	386	£9.42m*	222	£0.82m

* Please note this figure is attributable to mainly one organisation and though it is not comparable to other respondents, it shows the scope for fraud in this area.



Mandate and grant fraud

In 2019/20, CIPFA estimates that there have been 344 cases of mandate fraud across the UK, which is a slight increase from the estimate of 322 in 2018/19.

This year, an extra section for grant specific fraud was added to the survey. Overall, there was an estimated number of 161 grant frauds, with a fraud loss value of £36.6m. The additional fraud type was

included in this year's survey to separate reported figures from expense fraud, so we have some specifically reported grant fraud to compare with the 2020/21 results, when COVID-19 grant fraud will be reported.

Serious and organised crime

Organised crime often involves complicated and large-scale fraudulent activities which cross more than one boundary, such as payroll, mandate fraud, insurance claims, business rates and procurement. These activities demand considerable resources to investigate and require organisations to co-operate in order to successfully bring criminals to justice.

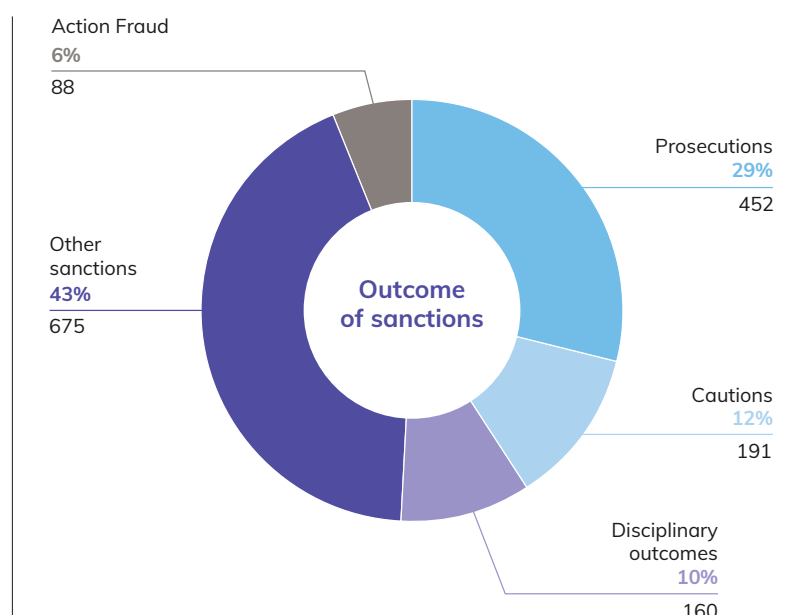
The responses show that councils share a significant amount of data both internally and externally, with 73% sharing data with the Cabinet Office/National Fraud Initiative, 52% sharing data with the police and 51% sharing data with their peers (other similar organisations).

In addition, of the organisations that responded, 35% identified serious and organised crime within their organisation's risk register and 52% reported that their counter fraud and corruption plan includes serious and organised crime risks.

Sanctions

The following shows some of the key findings from sanctions that were being used in 2019/20:

- 452 prosecutions were completed in 2019/20 and of those, 10 involved insider fraud. All these insider fraud cases were found guilty.
- The number of cautions as a proportion of the total sanctions reduced from 13% in 2017/18 to 7% in 2018/19 but increased to 13% again in 2019/20.
- The percentage of other sanctions increased from 46% in 2017/18 to 55% in 2018/19. Over the past year, this proportion decreased to 46% again.



Cyber fraud

Results from the CFaCT survey show that 82% of respondents underwent a cyber/e-fraud risk assessment during or after 2019/20. More than three quarters (78%) state that the IT team/Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) is responsible for the management of cyber risk in their organisation, matching last year's figure.

One third (32%) of respondents stated that their organisation had been a victim of hacking/ Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDOS) attacks in the last month, an increase of 5% over the past year.

In response to the threat of cyber-crime against local government, the LGA has set up a cyber security programme and a stakeholder group, working together to address the issues of cyber-crime.

The LGA programme received three years of funding from the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) in 2018 to support councils in remaining safe and secure from cyber-attacks and to have the appropriate arrangements in place to deal effectively with a cyber-incident should it occur, ie both prevention and response.

Whistleblowing

This year, 64% of respondents reported that they annually reviewed their whistleblowing arrangements in line with the [ISO 37002 "Whistleblowing Management Systems" guidelines](#).

Of those questioned, 85% confirmed that staff and the public had access to a helpdesk and 66% said that the helpline conformed to the ISO 37002 guidelines.

Respondents reported a total of 486 whistleblowing cases logged, made in line with the ISO 37002 *Whistleblowing Management Systems* guidelines.

This is an average of six cases logged per authority, which equals the 2018/19 figure. The majority of cases logged by respondents were in metropolitan districts.

Counter fraud structure

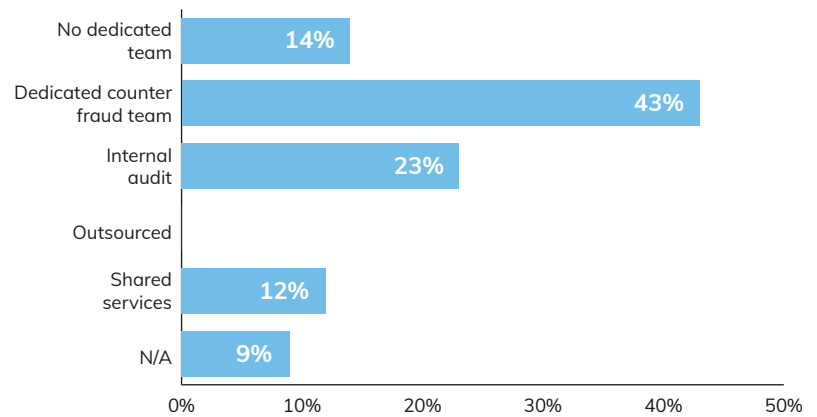
Fraud teams across local government continue to detect and prevent a significant amount of fraud, although having sufficient counter fraud resources is the main perceived issue that needs to be addressed to tackle fraud. Councils are responding to this and expect the number of counter fraud specialist staff to grow by around 5% in the next year, with a small increase of 3% in 2022.

In addition to the reductions in resources, having a shared services structure has decreased this year to 12%, in comparison with 19% of respondents who reported having a shared services structure in 2018/19.

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of authorities that have a dedicated counter fraud team, from 40% in 2018/19 to 43% in 2019/20. However, it is worth noting there may be a potential bias in this figure as those who have a dedicated counter fraud team are more likely and able to return data for the CFaCT survey.

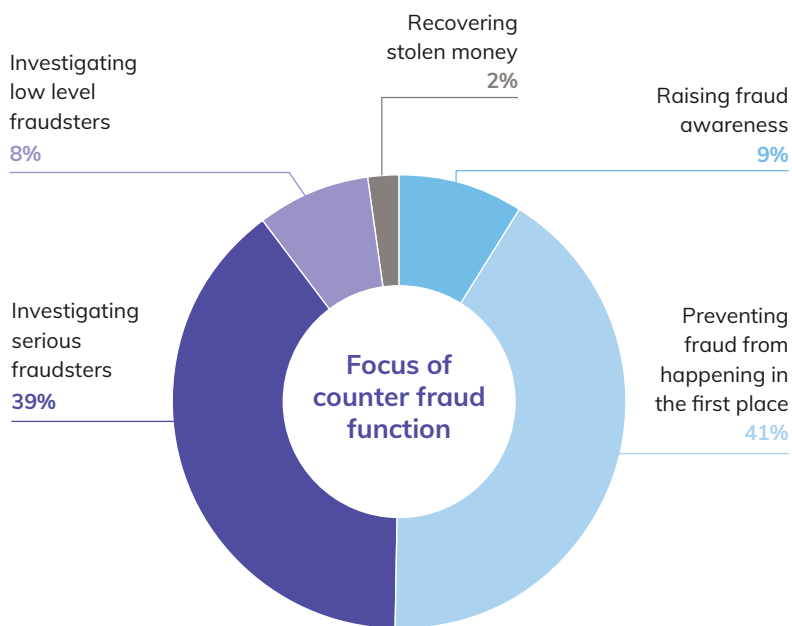
In 2019/20, the proportion of authorities that have available in-house qualified financial investigators was 24%. In addition, the percentage of authorities that have a non-DWP qualified financial investigator increased from 23% in 2018/19 to 27% in 2019/20. However, the proportion of authorities that do not have a qualified financial investigator available to their organisation has increased slightly from 43% last year to 44% this year, showing the potential strain on resources.

Counter fraud structure breakdown



Focus of counter fraud function

A new section was added to this year's survey, where local authorities were asked to identify the main priority of their counter fraud function.



The greatest proportion of respondents (41%) reported that the most important priority was 'preventing fraud from occurring in the first place' and the second most important was 'investigating serious fraudsters' with 39%. In comparison, the area that was seen to have the least importance, with no authorities listing this as a priority, was 'gathering intelligence'.

The other options included were recovering stolen money, investigating low level fraudsters and raising fraud awareness.

Joint working and data sharing

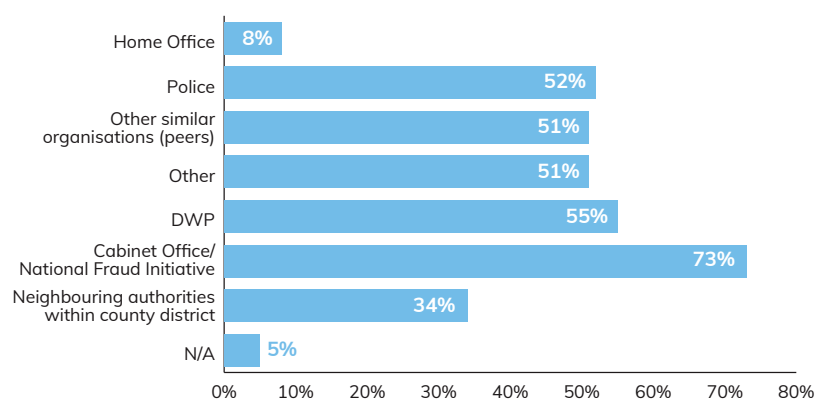
85% of survey respondents stated that they share data internally, mainly with housing, council tax and revenue and benefits departments.

Eighty two per cent of local authorities share data externally – a decrease of 14% since 2018/19. This data is mainly shared with Cabinet Office/National Fraud Initiative (73%), the DWP (55%), police (52%) or other authorities/similar organisations (51%).

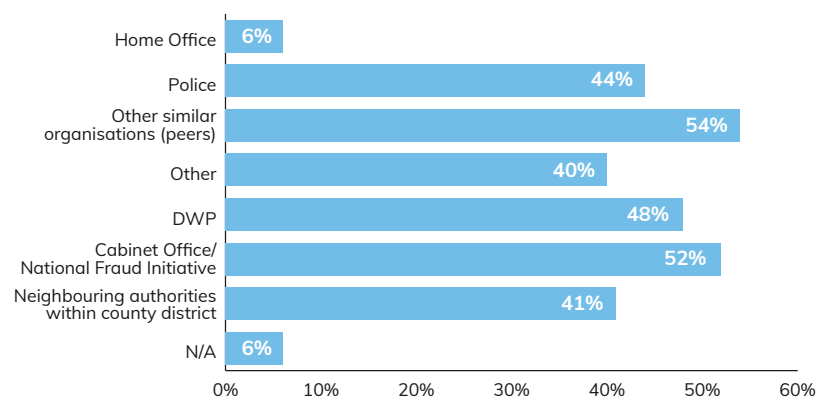
The sort of data that is shared relates to persons of interest, areas of interest and emerging frauds. Some authorities also highlighted that the data they share is for data matching purposes.

Of the CFaCT respondents, 54% say they work jointly with other similar organisations/peers, 52% work with the Cabinet Office/National Fraud Initiative, 48% with the DWP and 44% with the police. Further breakdown is shown in the charts to the right.

Share/exchange data with:

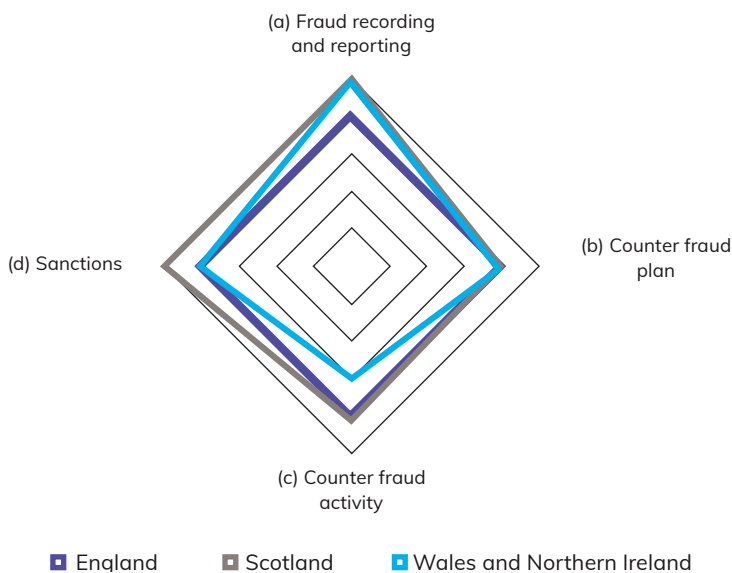


Work jointly with:



Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally

The FFCL strategy 2016-2019, developed by local authorities and counter fraud experts, was the definitive guide for local authority leaders, chief executives, finance directors and all those with governance responsibilities for the period covered by this survey. The strategy has since been reviewed and replaced with the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2020 strategy. It provides a blueprint for a coordinated response to fraud and corruption perpetrated against local authorities with the support of those at the top.



This strategy is available for councils to use freely so that everyone can benefit from shared good practice, and is aimed specifically at local authority leaders. It provides advice on how to lead and communicate counter fraud and corruption activity for the greatest impact, as well as covering resource management and investment in counter fraud operations.

To measure the effectiveness of the initiatives in the 2016-2019 strategy, the FFCL board included questions in the CFaCT survey and

the results are shown below. The questions ask respondents whether they agree or disagree that their organisation is carrying out certain actions, based on FFCL recommendations. The diagram to the left illustrates the results: lines closest to the outside edge indicate strong agreement while those towards the centre indicate disagreement.

For the 2019/20 survey, a few additional questions were added to this section, with regards to resources, staff and training.

When asked if their organisation secured appropriate training for fraud practitioners in line with agreed professional standards, for all types of investigation, a significant proportion (81%) of local authorities said they did.

More than two thirds (71%) of authorities employ staff who are suitably qualified and trained to undertake counter fraud investigations.

Respondents were also asked to select what they perceived to be the most important strategies for countering fraud in the future. Local authorities reported that 'managing evolving risks' and 'ensuring staff are trained' are the most important strategies. The additional strategies listed in the questionnaire were increased funding, leadership, technology and working in partnerships.

Impact of COVID-19

It should be noted that the CFaCT survey covers the pre-pandemic period of 2019/20 and therefore the data in this report represents what local authorities were experiencing before the outbreak in 2020. However, a qualitative question was added to the 2019/20 survey regarding the observed impact of COVID-19 on any fraudulent behaviours in local government. Key themes emerging from responses were:

- Instances of potential frauds involving empty properties where fraudsters were claiming to occupy with the intention of claiming business grants.
These included applications from those that traditionally would not have considered committing any fraud offences now feeling financially pressured to do so, owing to the downturn in the economy.
- Adult social care services being exploited during a time where resources are limited and usually robust assessments such as home visits not being possible due to health risks.
- Parents and carers of children in receipt of free school meals being targeted by fraudsters who email with messages to harvest bank details with a promise to help with funding while the school is closed.
- The risk of fraudsters impersonating key personnel in both the purchase and supply chain in an attempt to commit mandate fraud has significantly increased with staff predominantly working from home. It has become more difficult to validate supplier details while pressures to process payments at speed have increased, therefore usually robust controls are weakened.
- The inability of councils to tackle usual areas of fraud due to resources being re-directed into the processing and review of business grants associated with COVID-19. This has restricted the ability to tackle fraud face-to-face, including visits and interviews due to public health concerns and uncertainty over the legality of conducting remote interviews under caution.

Recommendations

CIPFA recommends

- The cumulative value of fraud prevented/detected by local authorities continues to decline year-on-year. Local authorities must remain vigilant and determined in identifying and preventing fraud, raising the awareness of fraud risk across all areas of service delivery and all levels of the organisation.
- This year's findings show that a dedicated counter fraud team remains the preferred method of delivery amongst respondents, and although there has been a slight reduction in the number of shared services reported, it remains important for organisations to work collaboratively with their neighbours and business partners, share resources, skills and best practice to effectively detect and prevent fraud.
- There has been a 14% reduction since 2018/19 in the volume of local authorities share data externally and only 73% of authorities sharing data with the Cabinet Office/National Fraud Initiative. Public sector organisations should maximise opportunities to share data where these initiatives are made available and explore and invest in additional innovative use of data sharing and fraud prevention technology, reducing the risk of loss through fraud.
- This year the majority of authorities reported fraud prevention as their main priority with none listing intelligence gathering at any level. Authorities should reconsider the value of intelligence in connection with identifying fraud risk, informing and focusing their planned activity and helping protect the organisation, therefore further preventing fraud.
- The level of whistleblowing allegations received this year remained constant with 2018/19 and 85% of authorities confirmed that staff and the public had access to a helpdesk. CIPFA recommends active publicity campaigns across all levels of the organisation to ensure staff are aware of whistleblowing procedures and accessibility to supporting services.
- Cyber security continues to increase in importance relative to the increase in remote working and electronic service application. Where controls need to be strengthened authorities should seek assistance from the LGA's cyber security programme stakeholder group.
- The new Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2020 strategy has been released and councils are encouraged to review their working practices against the FFCL checklist, strengthening controls where weakness is identified.

Appendix 1: Fraud types and estimated value/volume

The table below shows the types of frauds reported in the survey and the estimated volume and value during 2019/20.

Types of fraud	Fraud cases	% of the total	Value	% of the total value	Average
Council tax frauds	30,622	65.4%	£35.9m	15.0%	£1,173
Disabled parking concession	7,889	16.8%	£6.4m	2.7%	£809
Housing frauds	4,991	10.7%	£122.4m	51.1%	£24,534
Business rates	476	1.0%	£6.2m	2.6%	£13,126
Other types of fraud	2,865	6.1%	£68.5m	28.6%	£23,890
Adult social care	460	1.0%	£8.2m	3.4%	£17,767
Insurance claim	349	0.7%	£3.9m	1.6%	£11,271
Mandate fraud	344	0.7%	£9.4m	3.9%	£27,227
Welfare assistance	307	0.7%	£0.2m	0.1%	£684
Schools frauds (excl. transport)	211	0.5%	£0.2m	0.1%	£1,174
No recourse to public funds	193	0.4%	£2.2m	0.9%	£11,132
Grant fraud	161	0.3%	£36.6m	15.3%	£226,997
Payroll	113	0.2%	£0.3m	0.1%	£2,629
Procurement	87	0.2%	£1.5m	0.6%	£16,696
Expenses	69	0.2%	£0.1m	0.1%	£1,743
Children's social care	40	0.1%	£0.4m	0.2%	£9,903
Pensions	24	0.1%	£0.3m	0.1%	£13,278
Recruitment	16	0.0%	£0.1m	0.0%	£4,797
Debt	11	0.0%	£0.3m	0.1%	£27,533
School transport	6	0.0%	£0.2m	0.1%	£32,750
Economic and voluntary sector support	4	0.0%	£0.1m	0.0%	£25,000
Investments	0	0.0%	na*	na*	na*
Manipulation of data	0	0.0%	na*	na*	na*

*The figures for investments and manipulation of data are not available as no responses were received and thus the amount is not representative of the national average. In addition, these figures are affected by few councils who had high value frauds not indicative of the national average.

Appendix 2: Methodology

This year's results are based on responses from 98 local authorities. An estimated total volume and value of fraud has been calculated for all local authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Missing values are calculated according to the size of the authority and, for each type of fraud, an appropriate universal measure of size has been selected such as local authority housing stock for housing frauds.

From the responses, the number of cases per each unit of the measure is calculated and used to estimate the missing values. Then, for each missing authority, the estimated number of cases is multiplied by the average value per case provided by respondents to give an estimated total value. As an illustration, if the number of housing frauds per

house is 0.01 and a missing authority has 1,000 houses in its housing stock, we estimate the number of frauds as 10. If the average value per case is £100,000 then the total estimated value of fraud for that authority is £1m.

Appendix 3: Glossary

Definitions below are taken from CIPFA's CFaCT survey, AFI and other government sources.

Adult social care fraud:

Adult social care fraud can happen in a number of ways but the increase in personal budgets gives a greater opportunity for misuse.

Investigations cover cases where:

- direct payments were not being used to pay for the care of the vulnerable adult
- care workers were claiming money for time they had not worked or were spending the allocated budget inappropriately.

Blue Badge:

The Blue Badge is a Europe-wide scheme entitling holders of the permit to parking concessions. This scheme is locally administered and badges issued to those with disabilities so they can park nearer to their destination.

At present, a badge issued to a deceased person is classified as fraudulent, even if it is not being used for fraudulent purposes.

Business rates fraud:

Business rates fraud is not a transparent landscape for the fraud investigator, with legislation making it difficult to separate evasion and avoidance. Business rate fraud may include the fraudulent applications for exemptions and reliefs and unlisted properties, and fraud staff may be used to visit properties in question.

Cautions:

Cautions relate to a verbal warning given in circumstances where there is enough evidence to prosecute, but it is felt that it is not in the public interest to do so in that instance.

Council tax fraud:

Council tax is the tax levied on domestic properties and collected by district and unitary authorities in England and Wales and levying authorities in Scotland.

Council tax fraud is split into three sections:

- **Council tax single person discount** – where a tenant claims to be the only adult resident to be eligible for a 25% discount when in fact other adults reside in the property.
- **Council tax reduction support** – where the council tax payer fails to declare their income correctly.
- **Other types of council tax fraud** – eg claims for exemptions or discounts to which the council tax payer has no entitlement.

Debt fraud:

Debt fraud includes fraudulently avoiding a payment of debt to an organisation, excluding council tax discount.

Disciplinary outcomes:

Disciplinary outcomes relate to the number of instances where as a result of an investigation by a fraud team, disciplinary action is undertaken, or where, a subject resigns during the disciplinary process.

Economic and voluntary sector (grant fraud):

This type of fraud relates to the false application or payment of grants or financial support to any person and any type of agency or organisation.

Housing fraud:

Fraud within housing takes a number of forms, including sub-letting for profit, providing false information to gain a tenancy, wrongful tenancy assignment and succession, failing to use the property as the principle home, abandonment, and right to buy fraud.

Insurance fraud:

Insurance fraud includes any insurance claim that is proved to be false, made against the organisation or the organisation's insurers.

Mandate fraud:

Action Fraud defines mandate fraud as "when someone gets you to change a direct debit, standing order or bank transfer mandate, by purporting to be an organisation you make regular payments to, for example a subscription or membership organisation or your business supplier".

Manipulation of data fraud:

The majority of manipulation of data frauds relate to employees changing data in order to indicate better performance than actually occurred and staff removing data from the organisation. It also includes individuals using their position to change and manipulate data fraudulently or in assisting or providing access to a family member or friend.

No recourse to public funds:

No recourse to public funds prevents any person with that restriction from accessing certain public funds. A person who claims public funds despite such a condition is committing a criminal offence.

Organised crime:

The widely used definition of organised crime is one planned, co-ordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain.

Payroll fraud:

Payroll fraud covers a wide range of areas such as ghost employees on the payroll, diversion of payments into fraudulent accounts, employees set up to receive higher salaries than they are entitled to by either grade or hours worked and false overtime claims.

Procurement fraud:

The procurement of goods and services often accounts for a significant proportion of an organisation's expenditure and is open to a wide range of potential fraud risks. This is because there are usually multiple individuals involved in a process who often do not work closely together: ie the person who wants something purchased does not always work directly with the people who initiate orders and with those responsible for paying.

This includes any fraud associated with the false procurement of goods and services for an organisation by an internal or external person(s) or organisations in the 'purchase to pay' or post contract procedure, including contract monitoring.

Recruitment fraud:

Recruitment fraud includes applicants providing false CVs, job histories, qualifications, references, immigration status (ie the right to work in the UK) or the use of a false identity to hide criminal convictions or immigration status.

Right to buy:

Right to buy is the scheme that allows tenants who have lived in their properties for a qualifying period the right to purchase the property at a discount. Fraud is committed when an applicant has made false representations regarding the qualifying criteria, such as being resident in the property they are purchasing for a 12 month continuous period prior to application.

Welfare assistance:

Organisations have a limited amount of money available for welfare assistance claims so the criteria for applications are becoming increasingly stringent. Awards are discretionary and may come as either a crisis payment or some form of support payment.

Whistleblowing:

Effective whistleblowing allows staff or the public to raise concerns about a crime, criminal offence, miscarriage of justice or dangers to health and safety in a structured and defined way. It can enable teams to uncover significant frauds that may otherwise have gone undiscovered. Organisations should therefore ensure that whistleblowing processes are reviewed regularly.

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North Yorkshire County Council
Annual Counter Fraud Report
2020/21

Assistant Director – Corporate Fraud: Jonathan Dodsworth
Head of Internal Audit: Max Thomas

Circulation List: Members of the Audit Committee

Date: 28 June 2021



Background

- 1 Fraud is a significant risk to the public sector. Annual losses are estimated to exceed £40 billion in the United Kingdom. Financial loss due to fraud can reduce a council's ability to support public services and can cause reputational damage.
- 2 Veritau delivers a corporate fraud service to the council which aims to prevent, detect and deter fraud and related criminality. We use qualified criminal investigators to support departments with fraud prevention, proactively identify issues through data matching exercises, and investigate any suspected fraud found. To deter fraud, offenders face a range of outcomes, including prosecution in the most serious cases.
- 3 The purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Audit Committee that the council has effective counter fraud arrangements in place and to summarise counter fraud activity in 2020/21. The report also updates the Committee on whistleblowing reports and outcomes.

Key performance figures

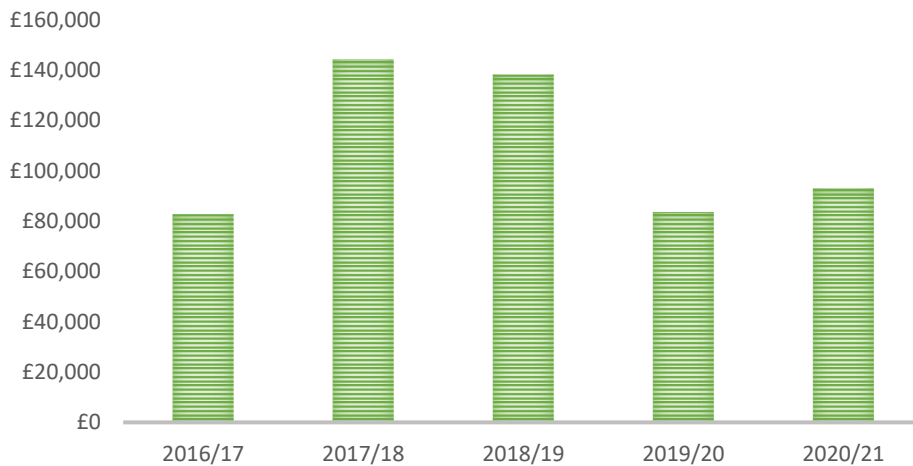
- 4 The counter fraud team helped the Council deliver £93k of counter fraud savings in 2020/21, against an annual target of £50k.
- 5 The team received over 47 referrals of suspected cases of fraud during the year including reports from the public, council staff, external agencies, as well as issues identified through proactive exercises. Forty-six investigations were completed in 2020/21 with successful outcomes achieved in 54% of cases.¹
- 6 Ten internal fraud investigations were concluded, one person was formally cautioned, four warnings to members of the public were issued, nine invoices were issued as a result of adult social care fraud investigations, and four false applications for school places were blocked.
- 7 A detailed summary of performance can be found in **Annex A**, below.

¹ Actual outcomes vary by case type but include, for example, payments being stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions, or management action taken.

Analysis of results

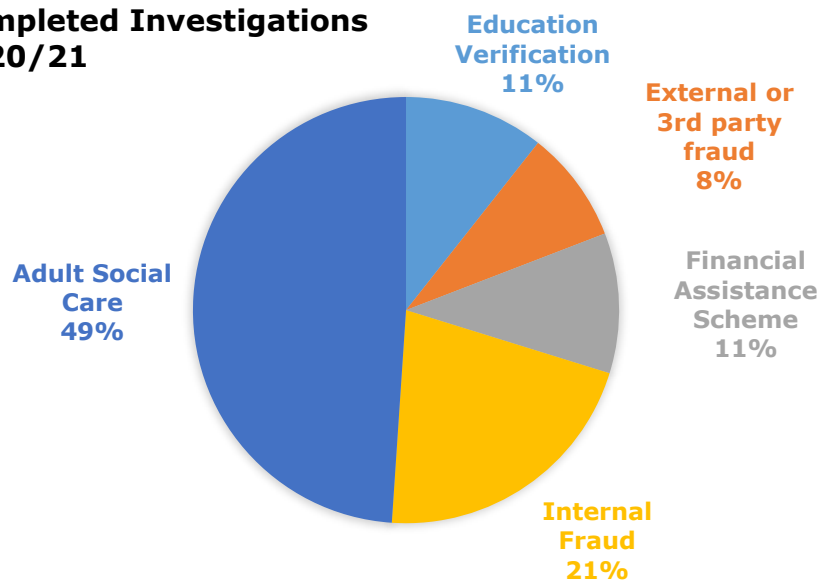
- 8 The counter fraud team has an annual target to achieve £50k in fraud related savings. These comprise three elements: repayment of debt arising from investigative work; the prevention of any one-off payments due to be made by the council; and a maximum of one years' future savings following the cancellation of ongoing payments, which would otherwise have continued without the intervention of the team e.g. an application for financial assistance. Over 90% of the savings achieved in 2020/21 related to the investigation of adult social care fraud.
- 9 Over the past 5 years Veritau has helped the council to achieve over £500k in counter fraud savings, averaging £108k per financial year.

Annual Counter Fraud Savings



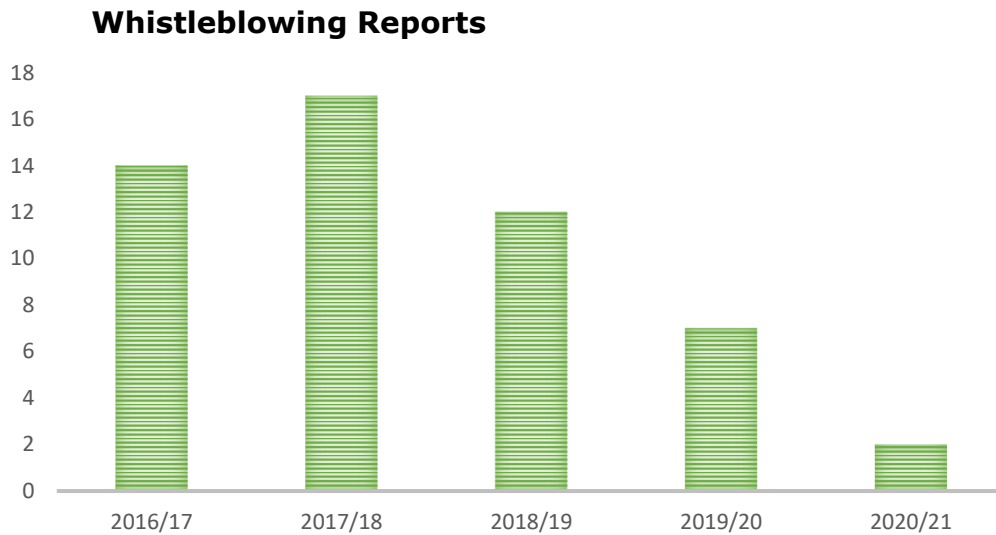
- 10 Whilst the overwhelming majority of savings to the council are produced as a result of work within the adult social care system, the team investigates a range of fraud types for the council. The chart below shows the breakdown of completed investigations in the last financial year.

Completed Investigations 2020/21

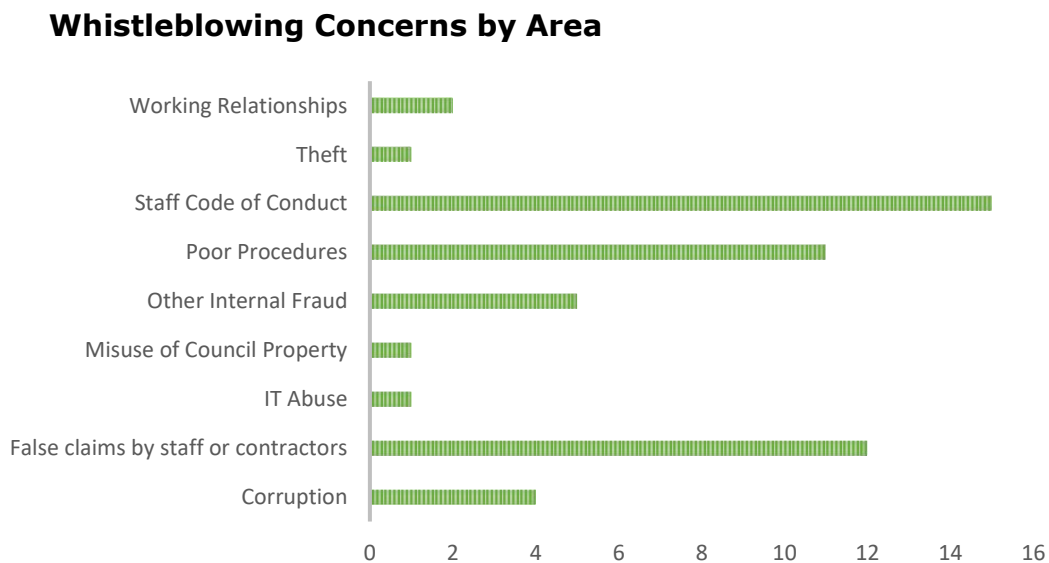


Whistleblowing

- 11 Veritau supports the council’s whistleblowing processes and has overall responsibility for the policy. The chart below shows the number of whistleblowing reports recorded over the past five years – 52 in total. There was a marked decrease in reports in the last year, possibly related to the Covid-19 pandemic.



- 12 The following figure details the categories of whistleblowing reports received over the same period.



- 13 Two whistleblowing reports were received in 2020/21. One report related to an allegation of poor procedures within a council department. Following the investigation a report was issued to the service with recommendations. The other report concerned an allegation that a member of staff was running a

business during their contracted hours. No fraud or wrongdoing was found in this case.

Counter fraud management

- 14 Veritau undertakes a range of non-investigative activity to support the Council's counter fraud policy framework. In 2020/21, a new counter fraud strategy and action plan for the council was produced².
- 15 Raising awareness of fraud amongst council staff and the public is an important function of the counter fraud team. Training sessions were delivered throughout the year to council departments by the counter fraud team. This year awareness sessions were delivered via video conferencing instead of in person.
- 16 Veritau contributes to national counter fraud publications. Data was provided to the annual CIPFA counter fraud tracker which documents fraud against local authorities. In addition, Veritau contributed to and supported development of the national counter fraud strategy for local authorities, Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally, which was published in April 2020.
- 17 The counter fraud team ensures that the council meets its legal obligations surrounding counter fraud work. It manages work connected to the National Fraud Initiative, an exercise run by the Cabinet Office, in which council participation is mandatory. Data is gathered from a range of sources within the council, formatted to specification, and securely uploaded for datamatching across all UK councils and other participating bodies. The counter fraud team also provides annual transparency data for publication by the council.
- 18 The work of the counter fraud team was recognised in October when it was nominated as a finalist for outstanding team in the Tackling Economic Crime Awards.

² Approved by the Audit Committee in October 2020.

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2020/21

The table below shows the success rate of investigations and the levels of savings achieved through counter fraud work in 2020/21.

	2020/21 (Actual: Full Yr)	2020/21 (Target: Full Yr)	2019/20 (Actual: Full Yr)
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. repayment of loss) identified through fraud investigation.	£93,038	£50,000	£83,634
% of investigations completed which result in a successful outcome (for example payments stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions).	54%	30%	36%

Case load figures for the period are:

	2020/21 (Full Year)	2019/20 (Full Year)
Referrals received	47	71
Number of cases under investigation	23 ³	52 ⁴
Number of investigations completed	48	67

³ As at 31/3/21

⁴ As at 31/3/20

Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed in 2020/21
Data matching	<p>The 2020/21 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) commenced in 2020. Data was gathered from a range of Council areas, formatted, and securely sent to the Cabinet Office for datamatching. Resulting matches have been released periodically from February 2021 onwards. Over 17,000 matches have been released to date for the Council.</p>
Fraud detection and investigation Page 290	<p>The service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity completed in 2020/21 includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care fraud – The counter fraud team completed 20 investigations in this area in 2020/21. One person received a formal caution about their conduct. Invoices were raised in a further nine cases and fraud was prevented in one case. Savings of £90k were made during the financial year. • Internal fraud - Ten internal fraud investigations were completed in 2020/21. • External or third party fraud – The team completed three investigations in this area in the last financial year. One investigation led to a warning being issued and no fraud was found in the other two. • Education verification – The counter fraud team works with CYPS to investigate and deter false applications for school places. Five applications for school places were verified in 2020/21 which resulted in two places being blocked. • Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – The counter fraud team completed five investigations in this area in the last financial year which resulted in three warnings being issued to members of the public and one application blocked.

Activity	Work completed in 2020/21
Fraud Management	<p>In 2020/21 a range of activity was undertaken to support the Council’s counter fraud framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s fraud risk assessment was updated and reported to the Audit Committee in October 2020. The risk assessment is informed by national and regional reports of fraud affecting local authorities as well as the fraud reported to and investigated by the counter fraud team within the Council. The results of the assessment are used to strengthen existing fraud prevention and detection measures, make changes to the counter fraud policy framework and to prioritise future audit and counter fraud work. • The counter fraud team regularly alerts council departments to emerging local and national fraud threats. • The Council’s counter fraud transparency data was updated to include the most recent data on counter fraud performance, meeting the Council’s obligation under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. • The council participated in the annual CIPFA Counter Fraud and Corruption Tracker (CFaCT) survey in September 2020. The information contributed to CIPFA’s annual report detailing the extent of fraud against local authorities. • In October 2020, the counter fraud team delivered cybercrime awareness information to council employees through a number of bulletins provided during National Cyber Security Awareness Month. • The Veritau counter fraud team was nominated as a finalist for Outstanding Team in the Tackling Economic Crime Awards in October 2020. • In November 2020, the counter fraud team raised awareness of fraud internally and amongst the general public as part of International Fraud Week.

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2021

2021/22 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Report of the Head of Internal Audit

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the internal audit programme of work for 2021/22.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In accordance with professional standards¹ and the County Council's Audit Charter, internal audit work must be risk based and take into account the requirement to produce an evidence based annual internal audit opinion. Audit work should be reviewed and adjusted in response to changes in the business, risks, operations, programmes, systems and controls.

2.2 The Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion is based on an objective assessment of the effectiveness of the framework of risk management, governance and internal control. Our programme of work for 2021/22 will therefore cover all three areas so that we can develop a wider understanding of the Council's assurance framework and provide an evidence based opinion.

2.3 Responsibility for effective governance, risk management and control arrangements remains with the Council. The Head of Internal Audit cannot be expected to prevent or detect all weaknesses or failures in internal control, nor can audit work cover all areas of risk across the organisation.

3.0 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22

3.1 The draft internal audit work programme was previously presented to this Committee on 22 March 2021. The internal audit plan is now attached at **Appendix 1** and requires approval by the Committee. The Plan also includes details of the other services provided to the County Council by Veritau (counter fraud and information governance).

¹ As set out in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and specific guidance on the application of those standards for local government, issued by CIPFA.

- 3.2 The internal audit plan has been prepared on the basis of a risk assessment. This is intended to ensure that limited audit resources are prioritised towards those areas which are considered to be carry the most risk and/or which contribute the most to the achievement of the County Council's strategic priorities and objectives.
- 3.3 The identification of risks has been informed in a number of ways; including review of the organisational risk management processes, sector wide risk information, understanding the Council's strategies and objectives, other known risk areas (for example areas of concern highlighted by management), the results of recent audit work and other changes in the Council. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has also been considered as well as the possible consequences of Local Government Reorganisation.
- 3.4 The programme of work was subject to consultation with senior officers. Officers have highlighted a number of change projects (for example involving key financial processes) where they are keen for internal audit to add value and be positively involved in developing and improving organisational arrangements.
- 3.5 To meet professional aims and objectives, good practice for internal audit requires us to adopt a flexible planning process. This helps to ensure that audit work undertaken during the year is adapted on an ongoing basis to reflect changing risks within the organisation. The programme of work therefore represents a summary of the overall areas where we expect to undertake work in the current year, based on our current assessment of risk. We will prioritise work in the short term and regularly review and update plans for actual work to be undertaken throughout the year. The Plan should therefore be viewed as a relatively flexible document.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are requested to approve the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.

Report prepared and presented by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit

Max Thomas
Head of Internal Audit
Veritau Limited
County Hall
Northallerton

10 June 2021

Background Documents: None



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22**



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22**

Area	Days	Potential audits / activity
Strategic, Corporate & cross cutting risks	150	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) preparedness Post Covid 19 recovery and response plans HR and workforce planning Performance management and data quality Risk Management Project Management Partnerships Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Climate change IDEA data analytics and data matching Assurance Mapping
Health and Adult Services (HAS)	170	Partnership working with the NHS Income from health (CCGs) S117 aftercare (Mental Health Act 1983) and Transferring of Care Programme Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Court of Protection Online financial assessments Deferred Payment Agreements Brokerage Visits to Care Providers Public Health
Business and Environmental Services (BES)	90	Highways Maintenance new arrangements Waste Management Planning Services Countryside Services
Central Services	100	Financial Systems redesign and modernisation support review

Area	Days	Potential audits / activity
		Debt management and Income collection Registration Services
Children's and Young People Services (CYPS)	170	Early Years High Needs Developing Stronger Families Maintained schools themed audits x 3
Computer Audit	50	Strategy and governance ICT Cyber Security ICT information security ICT Asset Management ICT Disaster Recovery
Procurement and Contract Audit	50	Targeted contract management and procurement reviews Supporting new procurement and contract management arrangements Transparency in supply chains Public Procurement and Health Procurement Regulations
North Yorkshire Pension Fund	50	Pension Fund Payroll Pension Fund Income Pension Fund Investments Attendance at Pension Fund Board
Contingency	20	New or emerging risks
Follow-ups	40	Follow-up of previous actions

Area	Days	Potential audits / activity
Liaison, reporting and other chargeable audit work	60	Liaison, support and advice Committee reporting Audit planning and resourcing External audit liaison
Internal Audit Total	950	
Other services provided by Veritau:		
Counter Fraud and Corruption	335	Policy framework updates Fraud risk assessment Investigations NFI Training and fraud awareness Advice and guidance
Information Governance	891	Data Protection Officer (including monitoring compliance with policy framework and data protection legislation, review of data protection impact assessments and investigation of serious data breaches) Co-ordination of responses to Data Protection and Freedom of Information requests Advice and guidance
TOTAL	2,176	

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22**

RESOURCE ALLOCATION 2018 TO 2022

Area	2021/ 22	2020/ 21	2019/ 20	2018/ 19
Corporate / Cross cutting	150	90	150	200
Health and Adult Services	170	180	220	180
Business & Environmental Services	90	100	100	80
Central Services	100	110	110	130
Children & Young People's Services	170	180	212	212
Computer Audit	50	60	70	70
Procurement and Contract Audit	50	60	60	60
Pension Fund	50	50	50	50
Other Chargeable Audit Work	120	120	118	118
Internal audit - total	950	950	1,090	1,100
Other services:				
Counter Fraud & Corruption	335	335	350	350
Information Governance	891	891	606	606
TOTAL DAYS	2,176	2,176	2,046	2,056

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26 JUNE 2021

INTERNAL AUDIT WORK FOR THE CENTRAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Report of the Head of Internal Audit

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the internal audit work performed during the year ended 31 May 2021 for the Central Services directorate.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Audit Committee is required to assess the quality and effectiveness of the corporate governance arrangements operating within the County Council. In relation to the Central Services Directorate, the Committee receives assurance through the work of internal audit (delivered by the council's shared service provider, Veritau), as well as receiving a copy of the latest directorate risk register.
- 2.2 This agenda item is considered in two parts. This first report considers the work carried out by Veritau and is presented by the Head of Internal Audit. The second part is presented by the Corporate Director and considers the risks relevant to the directorate and the actions being taken to manage those risks.

3.0 WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR TO 31 MAY 2021

- 3.1 Details of the final reports issued during the year for the directorate and the outcomes of these audits are provided in **Appendix 1**. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused some delays in audit work. A number of other audits are therefore currently at draft report stage or fieldwork is progressing. No significant issues have been identified in the work completed to date.
- 3.2 Veritau has also been involved in carrying out a number of other assignments for the directorate. This work has included;
- Attendance at various project groups and providing advice and support to a variety of specific project leads;
 - Undertaking financial assessments on behalf of Central Services to support the Council's procurement process
 - Meeting regularly with Central Services management and maintaining ongoing awareness and understanding of key risk areas.

- 3.3 As with previous audit reports, an overall opinion has been given for each of the specific systems or areas under review. The opinion given has been based on an assessment of the risks associated with any weaknesses in control identified. Where weaknesses are identified then remedial actions will be agreed with management. Each agreed action has been given a priority ranking. The opinions and priority rankings used by Veritau are detailed in **Appendix 2**. Where the scope of the audit work is limited or the audit focused on value for money or the review of specific risks as requested by management then no audit opinion will be given. The work completed for the directorate and the opinions given following each audit contribute to the annual report and opinion of the Head of Internal Audit.
- 3.4 It is important that agreed actions are formally followed up to ensure that they have been implemented. Veritau follow up all agreed actions on a regular basis, taking account of the timescales previously agreed with management for implementation. **On the basis of the follow up work undertaken during the period, the Head of Internal Audit is satisfied with the progress that has been made by management to implement previously agreed actions necessary to address identified control weaknesses.**
- 3.5 The programme of audit work is risk based. Areas that are assessed as well controlled or low risk are reviewed less often with audit work instead focused on the areas of highest risk. Veritau's auditors work closely with directorate senior managers to address any areas of concern.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That Members consider the information provided in this report and determine whether they are satisfied that the internal control environment operating in the Central Services Directorate is both adequate and effective.

MAX THOMAS
Head of Internal Audit

Veritau
County Hall
Northallerton

10 June 2021

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Relevant audit reports kept by Veritau.

Report prepared by Ian Morton, Assistant Director – Audit Assurance, Veritau and presented by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit, Veritau

FINAL AUDIT REPORTS ISSUED IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

	System/Area	Audit Opinion	Areas Reviewed	Date Issued	Comments	Action Taken
A	Purchasing Cards and VAT (2019/20)	Reasonable Assurance	The audit reviewed compliance with NYCC policy on the use of purchase cards. Usage was reviewed to ensure cards are not used to avoid normal purchasing procedures, and checks were carried out to ensure payments are reconciled and valid VAT receipts/invoices were available.	July 2020	<p>VAT invoices/receipts were not available for all purchases and in one instance VAT had been deducted when the purchase was zero VAT.</p> <p>In more than half the cases tested, the card logs had not been submitted by the cardholder's manager to evidence independent verification of expenditure and reconciliation.</p> <p>Card logs also lacked detailed descriptions for individual transactions.</p>	<p>Two P2 actions and two P3 actions were agreed</p> <p>Responsible Officer Senior Accountant – Statutory Accounts, Strategic Resources</p> <p>A VAT Training course has been written and is being rolled out to staff.</p> <p>The Senior Accountant will send Barclaycard guidance to staff. A new agreement has been developed in Exchequer to be sent to all card holders. When returns are not sent to Exchequer from Budget Managers an email will be sent requesting authorisation and the card will be suspended if this is not actioned. A new platform will be introduced which has the functionality to control and suspend cards.</p>

System/Area	Audit Opinion	Areas Reviewed	Date Issued	Comments	Action Taken	
					Exchequer will download statements retrospectively and will challenge inappropriate expenditure.	
B	Debtors (2019/20)	Reasonable Assurance	The audit reviewed the processes in place to ensure the timely and accurate raising of invoices, appropriate authorisation of credit memos and debit notes, and the prompt recovery of outstanding debt and write offs.	September 2020	<p>The debt management system is reliant on a number of manual process and therefore includes elements of duplication and inefficiency. The additional workload that this creates then impacts on the ability to undertake prompt recovery action and review.</p> <p>Some debts had been significantly delayed and recovery action was not being taken promptly.</p> <p>VAT rates were not being robustly checked and VAT types were not being accurately stated on invoices.</p> <p>Invoice request forms were being turned around within the 5 working day timescale. However, there were some minor inaccuracies regarding</p>	<p>One P2 action and three P3 actions were agreed.</p> <p>Responsible Officer Credit Control Manager and Senior Accountant – Statutory Accounts, Strategic Resources (CSD).</p> <p>Plans are in place to explore ways to automate and streamline the debt management process as currently there is no automation in Oracle for reminders.</p> <p>The 'Raising an AR Invoice' page will be linked to the invoice request forms where staff can access the VAT Guide A random sample will be tested and built into checks finance staff undertake.</p>

	System/Area	Audit Opinion	Areas Reviewed	Date Issued	Comments	Action Taken
					<p>supplier addresses and company names.</p> <p>No issues were found with credit memos, debit notes or write offs although we were unable to see some hard copy information due to Covid-19.</p>	<p>Credit Control did not previously receive updates from the Legal Department regarding delayed cases, however this has now been resolved</p>

Audit Opinions and Priorities for Actions

Audit Opinions	
Our work is based on using a variety of audit techniques to test the operation of systems. This may include sampling and data analysis of wider populations. It cannot guarantee the elimination of fraud or error. Our opinion relates only to the objectives set out in the audit scope and is based on risks related to those objectives that we identify at the time of the audit.	
Opinion	Assessment of internal control
Substantial Assurance	A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied to support the achievement of objectives in the area audited.
Reasonable Assurance	There is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.
Limited Assurance	Significant gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance were identified. Improvement is required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.
No Assurance	Immediate action is required to address fundamental gaps, weaknesses or non-compliance identified. The system of governance, risk management and control is inadequate to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited.

Priorities for Actions	
Priority 1	A fundamental system weakness, which presents unacceptable risk to the system objectives and requires urgent attention by management
Priority 2	A significant system weakness, whose impact or frequency presents risks to the system objectives, which needs to be addressed by management.
Priority 3	The system objectives are not exposed to significant risk, but the issue merits attention by management.

North Yorkshire County Council

Audit Committee

28 June 2021

Internal Control Matters for the Central Services Directorate

Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an update to Members of issues and progress against governance related areas identified within Central Services (CS) Directorate.
- 1.2 To provide details of the latest Risk Register for the CS Directorate.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Audit Committee is required to assess the quality and effectiveness of the corporate governance arrangements operating within the County Council. In relation to the CS Directorate, the Committee receives assurance through the work of internal audit (detailed in a separate report to the Committee), details of the areas of improvement in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), together with the Directorate Risk Register.

3.0 Directorate update

3.1 Covid-19

- 3.1.1 Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on all walks of life, this update covers the involvement of the Directorate only at a high level. Naturally, there is a lot of activity beyond this frame which cannot be covered through this report.
- 3.1.2 A key issue throughout the pandemic has been the access vulnerable people have to basic necessities, particularly those who were clinically vulnerable and advised to self-isolate (“shielding”) and those who had to self-isolate following a positive test or when requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace. The Stronger Communities team has continued to support the 23 Community Support Organisations it rapidly commissioned at the start of the pandemic to coordinate community led activity in localities. The CSOs have worked with mutual aid groups, volunteers and district councils for essentials such as shopping, prescription delivery; pet walking and befriending services amongst others. The Local Assistance Fund was also extended to support the most vulnerable people. Other County Council services were also coordinated through this approach to enhance the community approach. The collaborative approach has been well received and has been extremely effective. Consideration is now being given to retaining and optimising the opportunities of the CSOs in a way that is sustainable over the longer term.
- 3.1.3 The Customer Service Centre has continued to play a key role in keeping members of the public informed throughout the period. The team continue to provide updates on how to access NYCC services, e.g. schools, transport, HWRCs, etc... as well as general public information. More broadly the Council uses a variety of channels, e.g. telephone, website, social media, to ensure messages are clear and timely.
- 3.1.4 Since January 2020 the NYCC Resilience and Emergencies Team (RET) has been involved in national, regional and local co-ordination and response to Covid-19. The

NYCC RET, as secretariat for the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF), has co-ordinated the strategic, tactical and operational multi-agency incident response across the county.

- 3.1.5 At the start of the pandemic it was evident that aspects of NYCC's supply chain would struggle to continue to meet the demands made of it. An example of this was when schools were closed, operators in the transport sector stated their business would not survive without financial support. NYCC responded to such issues by creating a Supply Chain Resilience Board which was one of the leading examples in the country. The role of the Board is to assess both the financial health of those suppliers as well as the risk to Council services and then to decide the extent any financial support is required. The work of this board continues, meeting every two weeks. The board was also used to coordinate supply chain risks and readiness around the end of the Brexit transition period.
- 3.1.6 In addition, the council continues to encourage remote working where possible, maintains Covid Secure buildings in line with government guidance e.g. social distancing and that relevant staff are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) thereby ensuring that (staff and members of the public) are protected from spread of infection. This is also supported by regular staff updates. Premises are regularly visited by colleagues from the Property and Health and Safety services to monitor controls and that these are being followed. This helps keep the reproductive value of the virus ('r number') low. The Council worked hard to secure PPE, and is now well stocked with the supplies it needs. The Council is now able to source free PPE from central government sourced stock if required, and this will continue to be available until March 2022.
- 3.1.7 At the point of lockdown, all staff who were able to were obliged to work from home. This work from home policy has been in place throughout 2020/21 and continues into 2021/22. Support services have adapted well to this new way of working and helped to ensure the Council was still able to perform as effectively as possible across all its services. In particular, ICT services have been vital to ensure staff have been able to work in an agile way throughout the pandemic and on the whole, technology has worked well and has been appreciated and well received by staff. Looking ahead, when lockdown starts to ease, staff will be seeking to return to an office environment and where that occurs, it is important to do so in a safe fashion. To this end, working groups have been established to develop proposals for what a 'new normal' way of working may look like and the views of staff continue to be sought through a variety of staff and management events to inform the process.

3.2 I.T. Security

- 3.2.1 There continues to be an increase in the number of cyber-attacks on individuals and organisations, Local Councils have not been immune to that risk. Notable examples exist across the Public Sector including some closer to home in Redcar & Cleveland in February last year and the London Borough of Hackney with both having service delivery seriously impacted. The key issues in respect of this topic range from having effective measures in place to protect NYCC as far as reasonably possible, to having robust plans in the event that such an attack takes place.
- 3.2.2 During the year T&C continue to maintain the technical elements of our security product portfolio to improve our resilience against cyber-attack and implement any guidance produced by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to improve our overall security posture.
- 3.2.3 The Head of Tech Solutions and the SISCO are now working with our emergency planning team running sessions with service areas to consider the impact of a cyber-

attack on their ability to deliver services and update their business continuity plans accordingly.

- 3.2.4 The Technology and Change service maintained its certification of ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System standards which demonstrates we continue to provide reliable documentation of how the Information Security Management System (ISMS) is achieving the intended outcomes, and how T&C continues to focus its efforts on maturing and improving the ISMS and the policies and procedures to embed information security to further optimise the business benefits.
- 3.2.5 All officers of the organisation play an important role in reducing the risk of a successful cyber-attack and this year we are rolling out two sets of training to raise awareness and guidance and test the organisations ability identify phishing attacks.
- 3.2.6 Throughout the year there have been a few minor incidents involving users clicking on email links. No matter how good our security, a small percentage of phishing emails will always get through. These emails tend to be from compromised external accounts which our security applications see as coming from a legitimate domain, has a plausible subject line, and does not obviously contain malicious attachments.

3.3 Legal and Democratic Assurance

- 3.3.1 Part of the role of Central Services is to review risk within the Council and offer assurance against activity it undertakes. Within a Legal and Democratic Services context there are good measures in place to protect the Council through the Legal and Democratic Services team, regular staff training and development and networking and forums. As a result of the pandemic there has been a significant change in how meetings and decision taking has been undertaken by the authority. The Council's Constitution has worked in enabling decision making to continue effectively and appropriately with minor variations as new regulations were issued. The Democratic services team have been key in ensuring that the governance arrangements, virtual meetings and recording of decisions has continued seamlessly. The legal team has also been key in ensuring the changes to the procurement regime throughout the pandemic have been implemented appropriately and the team has also provided particular support in the area of COVID relief to suppliers ensuring this is documented and state aid/ subsidy control compliant.
- 3.3.2 The Council can be subject to prosecution, but the last prosecution which was in the context of PSVAR did not proceed and no new prosecutions have been brought against the authority over the last year.

3.4 Carbon Reduction

A Carbon Reduction Plan is in the process of being produced which sets out the Council's aspirations in relation to carbon reduction in the context of national and regional commitments. Central Services teams are part of a dedicated project team driving the Carbon Reduction Programme for North Yorkshire County Council and to this end a specific risk in relation to Carbon neutrality has been included on the Central Services Risk Register and it is also highlighted as a corporate objective. The Beyond Carbon programme is within the Council's change management governance structure and has been established to oversee the main strands of the plan and a one-off £1m fund for pump-priming and development of business cases has been committed in the Council's 2021-22 budget.

3.5 Commercial Agenda

Establishment of North Yorkshire Highways Limited

Central Services teams have played key roles in the successful set up and go live of North Yorkshire County Council's new wholly owned teckal company which has been established to deliver highways maintenance services. This project has taken significant time and resource over the last 18 months from Finance, T&C, HR, BSS, Legal, Property and Procurement to ensure a successful company could go live on 1 June 2021 with the appropriate governance and internal control processes in place.

3.6 Other Issues

- 3.6.1 Capacity and prioritisation continue to be significant issues in the Directorate, particularly in light of the challenges presented by Covid and the impending Local Government Review. In addition to the existing capacity pressures presented by continuing to deliver Value for Money services, the Beyond 2020 Programme (including the ongoing need to achieve savings) and the various risks & issues outlined in this report; the Directorate will play a key supporting role in a range of wider council initiatives (eg Local Government Review; devolution).
- 3.6.2 Other key issues facing the Directorate, however the detail of those having been covered elsewhere through the Audit Committee programme of work, include:
- Property portfolio and rationalisation
 - Information security
 - Beyond 2020

4.0 Directorate Risk Register

- 4.1 The Directorate Risk Register (DRR) is the end product of a systematic process that initially identifies risks at Service level, which then aggregates these via a sieving process to Directorate level. A similar process sieves Directorate level risks into the Corporate Risk Register.
- 4.2 The Risk Prioritisation System used to derive risk registers across the County Council categorises risks as follows:
- Category 1 and 2 are high risk (RED)
 - Category 3 and 4 are medium risk (AMBER)
 - Category 5 is low risk (GREEN)
- The DRR represents the principal risks that may materially impact on the performance and financial outcomes of the Directorate.
- 4.3 A summary of the DRR is attached at Appendix A. As well as providing a quick overview of the risks and their ranking, it also provides details of the change or movement in the ranking of the risk since the last review in the left hand column.
- 4.4 The latest detailed DRR is shown at Appendix B showing a range of key risks with existing controls and additional actions to minimise them. The detail also shows a ranking of the risks both at the present time and after mitigating action.
- 4.5 An annual and six-month review of the Risk Register has taken place since the last report to this Committee. The last review was carried out in February so some of the dates for the actions are now out of date. The Risk Register reflects the range of Services but also includes many corporate initiatives given the leadership role of Central Services on such issues as the Information Governance and Health and Safety.

- 4.6 The Risk Register has primarily stayed the same for this year but there has been the following changes since the last progress report to this Committee:

New risks

The Capacity and Skills risk has been significantly changed to include Workplace Health and Wellbeing which effectively has made this a new risk with extra actions.

Deleted risks

No risks have been deleted.

Other Notable Changes/Actions

- i) Beyond 2020 Change Programme risk – a review of this risk has been deferred and will be next updated as part of the review of the Corporate Risk Register.
- ii) Health and Safety risk – actions have focussed on ensuring Coronavirus security for all activities.
- iii) Commercial Strategy risk – the emphasis of this risk has changed to the governance arrangements. Since the last review the probability of this risk has changed from medium to high, which has increased the ranking from 4 to 2.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That the Committee:

- i) Note the position on the Central Services Directorate key governance issues;
- ii) Note the Directorate Risk Register for the Central Services Directorate; and
- iii) Provide feedback and comments on the Directorate Risk Register and any other related internal control issues.

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director, Strategic Resources
June 2021

Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – summary

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Identity			Person		Classification												Fallback Plan			
Change	Risk Title	Risk Description	Risk Owner	Risk Manager	Pre					RR		Post					FBPlan	Action Manager		
					Prob	Obj	Fin	Serv	Rep	Cat	RRs	Next Action	Prob	Obj	Fin	Serv			Rep	Cat
◀▶	15/161 - Information Governance (corporate risk)	Ineffective information governance arrangements lead to unacceptable levels of unauthorised disclosure of personal and sensitive data, poor quality or delayed responses to Fol requests, and inability to locate key data upon which the Council relies resulting in loss of reputation, poor decision making, fine, etc	Chief Exec	CD SR	H	L	M	L	H	1	11	30/06/2021	M	L	M	L	H	2	Y	CD SR
◀▶	15/11 - Beyond 2020 Change Programme (corporate risk) - defer review of this risk until April 2021	Failure to implement a coherent transformation and savings programme "Beyond 2020" which delivers the improvements and forecast funding shortfall resulting in short term and sub optimal savings decisions ie service cuts	Chief Exec	CD SR	H	H	H	H	H	1	11	31/03/2021	M	H	H	H	H	2	Y	All Mgt Board
▶	15/162 - Effectiveness, Capacity and Skills of Staff and Workplace Health and Wellbeing	A lack of capacity and skills within Central Services together with insufficiently supported staff leads to a significant decline in effectiveness, service quality &/or insufficient progress in carrying out required developments and our financial and commercial requirements, increased absence and potential claims.	Chief Exec	CSD Mgt Team	H	M	L	M	M	2	11	31/07/2021	H	M	L	M	L	2	Y	CSD Mgt Team
▶	15/201 - Commercial Strategy	Failure to put effective governance arrangements in place including transparency and oversight for commercial operations (eg. NY companies and NYES) and commercial investments leading to poor decision making and financial loss.	Chief Exec	CSD Mgt Team	H	M	M	M	L	2	5	31/03/2021	H	M	M	M	L	2	Y	CSD Mgt Team
◀▶	15/184 - Central Services Savings Plan	Failure to deliver the Central Services savings plan as set out in the MTFs resulting in inability to meet the budget, rationalise support services and enable the programme	Chief Exec	CSD Mgt Team	M	M	H	M	M	2	5	30/09/2021	L	M	H	M	M	3	Y	Chief Exec
◀▶	15/183 - Health & Safety	Major Corporate Health and Safety failure resulting in injuries, claims, reputational and service delivery impact and possible prosecution	Chief Exec	CD SR	L	M	M	M	H	3	6	31/03/2021	L	M	M	M	H	3	Y	CSD SR HoHSRM
◀▶	15/200 - Significant Incidents	Failure to plan, respond to and recover effectively from significant incidents in the community resulting in risk to life and limb, impact on statutory responsibilities, impact on financial stability and reputation	Chief Exec	Chief Exec	L	L	H	L	H	3	5	30/06/2021	L	L	H	L	M	3	Y	Chief Exec

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Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – summary

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Identity			Person		Classification												Fallback Plan			
Change	Risk Title	Risk Description	Risk Owner	Risk Manager	Pre						RR		Post						FBPlan	Action Manager
					Prob	Obj	Fin	Serv	Rep	Cat	RRs	Next Action	Prob	Obj	Fin	Serv	Rep	Cat		
◀▶	15/243 - Carbon Neutral	Failure to support the Council's aspiration to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 resulting in unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction	Chief Exec	CSD AD PPC	L	L	M	L	H	3	3	30/06/2021	L	L	M	L	H	3	N	
◀▶	15/29 - Corporate Governance and Ensuring Legality	Failure to ensure adequate Corporate Governance arrangements across the County Council to ensure that the Council acts lawfully in its operations and decision making resulting in inadequate control and stewardship; given the environment of greater risk taking and expansion of the types of activities the Council is now involved in resulting in challenge and non delivery of decisions, financial implications and loss of reputation particularly given service and statutory obligations	Chief Exec	CSD ACE LDS	M	L	M	M	M	4	13	31/03/2021	M	L	M	M	M	4	Y	CSD ACE LDS

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Key	
▲	Risk Ranking has worsened since last review.
▼	Risk Ranking has improved since last review
◀▶	Risk Ranking is same as last review
- new -	New or significantly altered risk

Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**
 Next review due: **August 2021**
 Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/161	Risk Title	15/161 - Information Governance (corporate risk)				Risk Owner	Chief Exec	Manager	CD SR	
Description	Ineffective information governance arrangements lead to unacceptable levels of unauthorised disclosure of personal and sensitive data, poor quality or delayed responses to FoI requests, and inability to locate key data upon which the Council relies resulting in loss of reputation, poor decision making, fine, etc					Risk Group	Legislative	Risk Type	Corp 20/187		
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			Information Governance Strategy including the associated Policy and Procedure Framework; CIGG Action Plan; data breach process; messages from senior management; on-line training; staff induction; Information Asset Owners identified; information asset registers regularly updated; Internal Data Governance team with an identified representative for each Directorate (replacing DIGCs); Veritau appointed as DPO; posters; intranet information; regular monitoring of electronic communication by T&C; series of unannounced security compliance visits by internal audit; application of all the features of the Information Security Management System (ISMS); FoI – controls include central monitoring of receipt and progress, regular review by Veritau and review of outstanding cases by the Chief Exec on a monthly basis; proactive monitoring of all data; terms of reference reviewed; Veritau investigate significant data breaches; CIGG consider reasons for data breaches and cascade lessons learned; secure physical storage and internal info transfer issues resolved; Non NYCC Network Access Policy produced; e learning training packages refreshed; targeted phishing campaign; Information Sharing Protocol in place; SAR - controls include central monitoring of receipt and progress; refreshed Information Governance page on intranet; Information Governance risk register completed; Data Quality Improvement Action Plan agreed; Directorates' discussion on the potential outcome of a cyber-attack carried out; DPIAs in place;								
Probability	H	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	L	Reputation	H	Category	I
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
						Action Manager	Action by	Completed			
Reduction	15/423 - Continue to emphasise personal responsibility of staff for all information in this area and consider disciplinary action in cases of data breaches					CD SR CSD ACE BS	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/424 - Continue to review information asset registers and target training where appropriate (ongoing)					CSD SR AD T&C Ho Int Audit	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/426 - Continue to ensure individual information sharing agreements completed for each data sharing activity - (ongoing)					Ho Int Audit	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/431 - Continue to work within services in a prioritised order to ensure information (electronic and physical) is secure and transferred securely (ongoing) (linked to Microsoft 365 roll out)					CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/433 - Continue communications to staff to ensure good Information Governance including messages from Management Board and associated campaigns (ongoing)					CSD SR AD T&C Ho Int Audit	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/611 - Ensure Data Protection risks are managed to comply with GDPR (ongoing)					CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31- Aug-21				
Reduction	15/612 - Data Quality Improvement - implement an action plan to address the Data Quality issues that are impacting on the accuracy of operational management information, performance reports, transparency publications and statutory returns					CSD SR AD T&C	Thu-30- Sep-21				

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Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**

Next review due: **August 2021**

Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Reduction	15/613 - Documents and Record Management - implement the approach to document and records management and storage with the Council that encompasses both physical and electronic information (linked to Microsoft 365 roll out)	CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31-Aug-21								
Reduction	15/636 - Review existing training and continue to develop and implement appropriate training relating to quality and security of information	CSD SR AD T&C Ho Int Audit	Tue-31-Aug-21								
Reduction	15/793 - Review impact on Veritau and audit days required and implement actions required (ongoing)	CD SR	Tue-31-Aug-21								
Reduction	15/1105 - Review and revise Business Continuity Plans with Directorates to take into account actions required following a cyber-attack	CSD SR AD T&C	Wed-30-Jun-21								
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	M	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	L	Reputation	H	Category	2
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
										Action Manager	
Fallback Plan	15/514 - Review Action Plan and new technology and continue to raise awareness. Invite ICO to carry out an audit of NYCC IG systems									CD SR	

Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/11	Risk Title	15/11 - Beyond 2020 Change Programme (corporate risk) - defer review of this risk until April 2021				Risk Owner	Chief Exec	Manager	CD SR	
Description	Failure to implement a coherent transformation and savings programme "Beyond 2020" which delivers the improvements and forecast funding shortfall resulting in short term and sub optimal savings decisions ie service cuts					Risk Group	Strategic	Risk Type	Corp 20/207		
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			Transformation programme; alignment with Council Plan and corporate priorities; Members workshops & political group sessions completed; briefings of Cabinet; regular Mgt Board/Programme Board meetings; staff communication constantly reviewed and cross cutting themes programme board continue to meet and follow the governance structure; quarterly meetings with finance ADs and programme managers to align savings against programme budgets; review carried out of governance and areas of future focus for Programme Board; all major change programmes are captured within this Programme to better manage dependencies and resources; Enhanced Strategic Support service to ensure high quality and robust service and team planning; action plan following peer review monitored; intensive review of areas of overspend and actions to mitigate; review (deep dives) into specific high-risk base budgets such as HAS Care and Support, SEN Transport and School Improvement carried out; fundamental review of the organisation's design and development programme carried out; BEST approach embedded into service planning;								
Probability	H	Objectives	H	Financial	H	Services	H	Reputation	H	Category	I
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
						Action Manager	Action by	Completed			
Reduction	15/634 - Further shape the emerging Beyond 2020 Programme (taking into account Covid-19 and LGR) to lead to identifying new areas of cross cutting programmes for implementation going forward					CSD SR AD T&C	Wed-31-Mar-21				
Reduction	15/635 - Continue to carry out fundamental review of projects, reassessment of priority and agree outcomes					CD SR CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/639 - Continue to carry out focussed reviews on areas of overspend, poor performance and/or opportunities for improvement					CD SR CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/831 - Continue to monitor delay of Programmes and the effect on benefits (ongoing)					CSD SR AD T&C	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	20/52 - Refresh and carry out a revised plan for reviewing base budgets in 2020/21 on a risk based assessment and linked to focussed reviews					CD SR	Wed-31-Mar-21				
Reduction	20/386 - Approve detailed business plans for all businesses within the Brierley Group. by Shareholder Committee and Brierley Board and report progress to those bodies					CD SR	Thu-30-Sep-21				
Reduction	20/403 - Carry out monthly monitoring of communications and engagement plan including key messages and themes (ongoing)					CSD HoC	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	20/491 - Identify and target additional savings through corporate Procurement Strategy (ongoing)					CD SR	Thu-30-Sep-21				
Reduction	20/526 - Continue to develop effective Commercial operations where appropriate (ongoing)					All Mgt Board Chief Exec	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	20/595 - Develop transformational themes and produce outline business cases for Assess and Decide; Resilience and Wellbeing; Modern Council +; Environment					All Mgt Board	Wed-31-Mar-21				
Reduction	20/729 - Fundamental review of Change Programme in light of Covid 19 issues and Local Government Reorganisation					All Mgt Board CSD SR AD T&C	Wed-31-Mar-21				

Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**
 Next review due: **August 2021**
 Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	M	Objectives	H	Financial	H	Services	H	Reputation	H	Category	2
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
										Action Manager	
Fallback Plan	15/561 - Carry out service cuts									All Mgt Board	

Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**
 Next review due: **August 2021**
 Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/162	Risk Title	15/162 - Effectiveness, Capacity and Skills of Staff and Workplace Health and Wellbeing			Risk Owner	Chief Exec	Manager	CSD Mgt Team		
Description	A lack of capacity and skills within Central Services together with insufficiently supported staff leads to a significant decline in effectiveness, service quality &/or insufficient progress in carrying out required developments and our financial and commercial requirements, increased absence and potential claims.					Risk Group	Capacity	Risk Type			
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures		Capacity and Skills: Various restructures across Central Services in order to improve resilience; daily reviews of Covid capacity; routine reviewing of 2020 resources; savings re-profiled and included in budget/MTFS report; Covid: Provision of training, PPE, sanitiser etc; Looking After You North Yorkshire intranet area; #askSAL; return to office based work risk assessments and induction; redeploy staff who are unable to undertake their established roles due to vulnerabilities General: Corporate Workplace Health and Wellbeing Group established including Directorate representatives; Boost H&W intranet pages; Health Assured 24 staff care network helpline; post established within H&W to lead on development of H&W promotion materials for the workforce; communications plan established including regular intranet communications on health and wellbeing campaigns and initiatives, 6 weekly blog; regular updates to HRSMT and Corporate Management Board									
Probability	H	Objectives	M	Financial	L	Services	M	Reputation	M	Category	2
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
							Action Manager	Action by	Completed		
Reduction	15/111 - Regularly perform skills gap analysis and review succession planning based on current and future requirements and use to inform CS workforce training plan and monitor effectiveness					CSD Mgt Team		Tue-31-Aug-21			
Reduction	15/181 - Ongoing review of service structures to ensure fit for purpose going forward including post implementation reviews					CSD Mgt Team		Tue-31-Aug-21			
Reduction	15/475 - Continue to prioritise and manage pressures on services on an ongoing basis					CSD Mgt Team		Tue-31-Aug-21			
Reduction	15/520 - Identify means of securing capacity for professional areas where there is a shortfall for example ICT technical and Legal					CSD SR AD T&C		Tue-31-Aug-21			
Reduction	15/590 - Collate / Review and revise approach on customer feedback on quality of services (on hold)					CSD Mgt Team		Tue-31-Aug-21			
Reduction	18/819 - Continue to enable staff to initiate and develop initiatives to improve their health and wellbeing at work including the long term effect of Covid					HAS HoHR		Sat-31-Jul-21			
Reduction	18/820 - Progress a series on health and wellbeing initiatives (eg. Introduction of eBikes; wellbeing roadshows; local yoga classes; craft groups; green gym; walking / running groups etc including the long term effect of Covid					HAS HoHR		Sat-31-Jul-21			
Reduction	18/821 - Continued promotion of good mental health including Mental Health Awareness week activities					HAS HoHR		Sat-31-Jul-21			
Reduction	18/823 - Establish new post of Workplace Health Improvement Adviser within the Health and Wellbeing Team to develop and deliver a proactive health and wellbeing offer.					HAS HoHR		Sat-31-Jul-21			
Reduction	18/824 - Develop wellbeing spaces in major offices and workplaces					HAS HoHR		Sat-31-Jul-21			

Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**

Next review due: **August 2021**

Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Reduction	18/825 - Establish a range of support groups for staff including: Parenting; Carers; Parents of Children with Autism; Menopause; Mens Health				HAS HoHR	Sat-31-Jul-21						
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment												
Probability	H	Objectives	M	Financial	L	Services	M	Reputation	L	Category	2	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan												
										Action Manager		
Fallback Plan	15/515 - Review and revise resource allocation where possible and consider additional funding and capacity where required										CSD Mgt Team	

Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/201	Risk Title	15/201 - Commercial Strategy				Risk Owner	Chief Exec	Manager	CSD Mgt Team	
Description	Failure to put effective governance arrangements in place including transparency and oversight for commercial operations (eg. NY companies and NYES) and commercial investments leading to poor decision making and financial loss.					Risk Group	Strategic	Risk Type			
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			Brierley Group of Companies (including NYES); Brierley Group Board; Shareholder Committee; regular reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Brierley Group companies business plans in place; commercial challenge sessions for each company on an annual basis; Brierley Group Performance report on a quarterly basis; selection criteria for commercial opportunities; NYCC Commercial: Commercial strategy; service plan challenge sessions on an annual basis; Commercial Investments Board; investment decisions scrutinised; decision process for investments in place; internal communications plan to publicise the Commercial Strategy								
Probability	H	Objectives	M	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	L	Category	2
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
							Action Manager	Action by	Completed		
Reduction	15/609 - Review and refresh training modules on commercial and take appropriate actions						CSD AD SR (ML)	Wed-31-Mar-21			
Reduction	15/610 - Ensure appropriate visibility around commercial decision making eg purchase of asset for dementia village						CSD AD SR (ML)	Wed-31-Mar-21			
Reduction	15/721 - Ensure the Council takes advantage of available central government incentives such as grants and any potential funding is monitored, together with engagement in relevant consultations						CD SR CSD ACE BS CSD AD SR (ML)	Wed-31-Mar-21			
Reduction	15/781 - Ensure full awareness of developments and changes to legislation and/or guidance that affect commercial investment s in a detrimental way						CSD AD SR (ML)	Wed-31-Mar-21			
Reduction	15/783 - Carry out a review of Commissioning and Contract Management including impacts of EU Exit						CSD AD SR (HE) CSD HoP&CM	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	H	Objectives	M	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	L	Category	2
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
									Action Manager		
Fallback Plan	15/550 - Review financial position and invoke budget cuts as necessary							CSD Mgt Team			

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Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/184	Risk Title	15/184 - Central Services Savings Plan				Risk Owner	Chief Exec		Manager	CSD Mgt Team
Description	Failure to deliver the Central Services savings plan as set out in the MTFS resulting in inability to meet the budget, rationalise support services and enable the programme					Risk Group	Financial		Risk Type		
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			CS Management Team meetings; AD T&C providing CS Programme updates to CSMT and Programme Board; individual project monitoring regimes with RAG status; nominated lead officers and associated governance structure; CS programme plan; business mandates; briefs and business cases as appropriate; savings re-profiled and included in budget/MTFS report; Beyond 2020 programme developed;								
Probability	M	Objectives	M	Financial	H	Services	M	Reputation	M	Category	2
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
							Action Manager	Action by	Completed		
Reduction	15/182 - Ongoing review of impact at Management Teams and overall consideration at CSMT						CD SR	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Reduction	15/183 - Periodic reviews at Programme Board						CD SR	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Reduction	15/184 - Implementation of plans of individual projects						CSD Mgt Team	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Reduction	15/185 - Secure commercial opportunities where appropriate						CSD Mgt Team	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Reduction	15/208 - Reassessment of savings alongside Covid and LGR pressures						CSD Mgt Team	Thu-30-Sep-21			
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	L	Objectives	M	Financial	H	Services	M	Reputation	M	Category	3
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
									Action Manager		
Fallback Plan	15/540 - Review savings plan and implement alternative savings								Chief Exec		

Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed

Next review due: August 2021

Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/183	Risk Title	15/183 - Health & Safety				Risk Owner	Chief Exec		Manager	CD SR
Description	Major Corporate Health and Safety failure resulting in injuries, claims, reputational and service delivery impact and possible prosecution					Risk Group	Legislative		Risk Type	SR 32/194	
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			HSRM Service Plan feeding into Directorate Action Plans; H&S team; Corporate H&S Policy; Corporate and Directorate H&S procedures; intranet and NYES sites; Directorate RM groups; H&S Champions and lead officers; reporting on a regular basis; on-going H&S risk assessment, training, monitoring and audit; managers' and employees' online H&S training and other modules; shared service with City of York Council; BondApp B-Safe system implemented;								
Probability	L	Objectives	M	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	H	Category	3
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
						Action Manager	Action by	Completed			
Reduction	15/248 - Continue delivery of the programme of H&S monitoring of audits and inspections (and ensuring that all visits that are undertaken are Covid Secure) (ongoing)					CSD SR HoHSRM	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/255 - Ensure appropriate operating standards of H&S risk assessments exist and are being implemented locally and particularly focussing on Covid related risks					CSD SR HoHSRM	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/257 - Review and revise the corporate H&S procedures alongside alignment with the Safety Management System (intranet revision has taken place, Safety Management System to complete) (ongoing)					CSD SR HoHSRM	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/417 - Consider H&S implications of significant changes for delivery of services within the Council and factor into Directorate H&S action plans (risks from Covid and revised priorities due to the pandemic being reflected in action plans) (ongoing)					CSD SR HoHSRM	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/651 - Ensure understanding of H&S operating environment of NYCC through regular attendance at Corporate and Directorate Risk Management Groups, and develop H&S Improvement Plans which are agreed by the relevant Groups (particularly reflecting risks from Covid and revised priorities due to the pandemic). (ongoing)					CSD SR HoHSRM	Tue-31-Aug-21				
Reduction	15/837 - Review implementation of BondApp B-Safe system for accident and incident reporting. And implementation of Risk Assessment and Safe System of Work modules					CSD SR HoHSRM	Wed-31-Mar-21				
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	L	Objectives	M	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	H	Category	3
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
						Action Manager					
Fallback Plan	15/538 - Liaise with HSE, media management, implement fatal/serious injury response guide					CSD SR HoHSRM					

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Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**
 Next review due: **August 2021**
 Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/200	Risk Title	15/200 - Significant Incidents				Risk Owner	Chief Exec		Manager	Chief Exec
Description	Failure to plan, respond to and recover effectively from significant incidents in the community resulting in risk to life and limb, impact on statutory responsibilities, impact on financial stability and reputation					Risk Group	Performance		Risk Type	Corp 20/244	
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			NYLRF and RMCI; experience and resources of partners; existing plans incl public health (training and exercises); RET; partnership working with District Councils; community resilience; silver response in the County Council major incident plan tested; approach to BCP refreshed to strengthen service resilience; Resilience Direct portal; regional multi agency pandemic exercise held; effectiveness and robustness of resilience plans relating to the public health and social care of the NY population tested; NYCC action plan developed and implemented based on the debrief report recommendations and all multi agency learning (including the flood reporting tool and simplification of information flow); members of national steering group on volunteers; BCP post audit action plan; Multi Agency cyber threat event held; Ready for Anything campaign; provided input to and engaged with national learning and development of best practice following incidents locally, regionally and nationally;								
Probability	L	Objectives	L	Financial	H	Services	L	Reputation	H	Category	3
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
							Action Manager	Action by	Completed		
Reduction	15/614 - Continue to work with our partners in Public Health England, the NHS and the wider North Yorkshire local resilience forum to share the information and messages of reassurance being issued by the lead agencies						CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/637 - Continue to ensure business continuity plans are reviewed, exercised and kept up to date						CD SR	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	20/464 - Through NYLRF, consider, understand and prepare for any threats that the EU Exit transition period may bring to the Authority; complete in respect of NYLRF, certain trade aspects still to be understood and resolved.						CSD AD PPC	Sun-31-Jan-21	Sun-31-Jan-21		
Reduction	20/970 - Continue to ensure effective co-ordination and communication with County and District/Borough Council services & NYLRF in light of reduction in resources (ongoing)						CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	20/971 - Continue to ensure effective and efficient processes are embedded amongst all partners to prioritise workstreams (incl. plans, training and exercises) (ongoing)						CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	L	Objectives	L	Financial	H	Services	L	Reputation	M	Category	3
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
Fallback Plan	20/207 - Embedded practice based on Response to Major and Critical Incident protocols									Action Manager	Chief Exec

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Risk Register: month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed
 Next review due: August 2021
 Report Date: 16th February 2021 (pw)

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/243	Risk Title	15/243 - Carbon Neutral				Risk Owner	Chief Exec		Manager	CSD AD PPC
Description	Failure to support the Council's aspiration to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 resulting in unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction					Risk Group	Environmental		Risk Type	PPC 343/241	
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			Leadership commitment; Executive task group; Scrutiny working group; street light conversion to LEDs; Corporate Building energy efficiency schemes; LGA guidance for councillors; robust governance in place so that this is an integral part of Council plan and performance reporting								
Probability	L	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	L	Reputation	H	Category	3
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
						Action Manager	Action by	Completed			
Reduction	343/777 - Work to understand and communicate the Council's carbon footprint and establish a robust way of reporting this in a way that enables priorities for action to be determined and progress to be monitored					CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21				
Reduction	343/785 - Scope and develop a carbon reduction plan with options that are properly costed and deliverable; pathway tool developed, project areas being identified					CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21				
Reduction	343/786 - Fully implement the use of the new climate change impact assessment tool that enables decision makers to better understand the impact of the decisions that they are being asked to make					CSD AD PPC	Wed-30-Jun-21				
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment											
Probability	L	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	L	Reputation	H	Category	3
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan											
									Action Manager		
Fallback Plan											

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Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**
 Next review due: **August 2021**
 Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Phase 1 - Identification											
Risk Number	15/29	Risk Title	15/29 - Corporate Governance and Ensuring Legality				Risk Owner	Chief Exec	Manager	CSD ACE LDS	
Description	Failure to ensure adequate Corporate Governance arrangements across the County Council to ensure that the Council acts lawfully in its operations and decision making resulting in inadequate control and stewardship; given the environment of greater risk taking and expansion of the types of activities the Council is now involved in resulting in challenge and non delivery of decisions, financial implications and loss of reputation particularly given service and statutory obligations					Risk Group	Legislative	Risk Type	LDS 17/6		
Phase 2 - Current Assessment											
Current Control Measures			Lawyers and DSO's engage with 2020 Programme and services; delegation scheme; constitution; training; legislation monitoring and advice notes/briefings; increased monitoring of committee reports; ACE LDS on MB; Proforma for Executive Reports covering major issues; Monitoring complaints and commendation policy and system; monitoring of the Forward Plan; Democratic Services IT system; compliance with rules on access to information; Corporate Governance Officers Group; Local Code of CG; Corporate Governance Checklist; Annual Governance Statement; Statements of Assurance across the Council; Controls in Risk management, Business Continuity and Information Governance; views of external Auditors; Audit Committee in-depth consideration; LGA corporate peer review; GDPR impacts understood; Exec subcommittee and Brierley Board established as part of governance arrangements; introduction of virtual decision making processes								
Probability	M	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	M	Category	4
Phase 3 - Risk Reduction Actions											
							Action Manager	Action by	Completed		
Reduction	15/57 - Continue to ensure effective monitoring of governance and operational requirements of new legislation (eg. Health Integration, Combined Authorities) and make sure services and teams are aware impact on their areas						CD SR CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/251 - Continue to ensure compliance with rules on access to information						CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/369 - Review decision and procedures after a successful challenge						CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/370 - Ensure early legal advice is provided within the Beyond 2020 programme which is particularly important due to diminishing resources						CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/449 - Continue to provide governance and legal advice on key issues (eg. impact of Covid, devolution, LGR &/or EU Withdrawal agreement)						CD SR CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/512 - Carry out review of Governance Framework in line with latest guidance						CD SR	Thu-31-Dec-20	Thu-31-Dec-20		
Reduction	15/513 - Annual Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements by Audit Committee						CD SR	Thu-31-Dec-20	Thu-31-Dec-20		
Reduction	15/824 - Continue to strengthen links with Directorates including liaison by Monitoring Officer and team with Directorates and ensure consultation on legality of major initiatives						CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			
Reduction	15/825 - Ongoing monitoring of committee reports and decision making to ensure Council decision making takes account of relevant considerations including EIAs and consultation requirements						CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21			

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Risk Register: **month 6 (Feb 2021) – detailed**

Next review due: **August 2021**

Report Date: **16th February 2021 (pw)**

Reduction	15/838 - Carry out mandatory governance training for Members covering key areas eg data protection, ethical standards	CSD ACE LDS	Wed-31-Mar-21									
Reduction	17/47 - Ensure the council recognises that health integration is a large area of new and complex business that needs the right approach to ensure sustainable success	CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21									
Reduction	17/502 - Ensure we continue to provide adequate support to the newer councillors to enable them to make appropriate decisions within the legislative framework	CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21									
Reduction	17/588 - Continued liaison with procurement to ensure that processes remain robust and resistant to challenge	CSD ACE LDS	Wed-30-Jun-21									
Phase 4 - Post Risk Reduction Assessment												
Probability	M	Objectives	L	Financial	M	Services	M	Reputation	M	Category	4	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan												
										Action Manager		
Fallback Plan	15/169 - Review failing areas in existing arrangements and plan for improvement										CSD ACE LDS	

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AUDIT COMMITTEE - PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020 / 21

	ANNUAL WORKPLAN	DEC 20	MAR 21	JUNE 21	SEPT 21	OCT 21	DEC 21
	Audit Committee Agenda Items						
A	Training for Members (as necessary)		4	2	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Annual Internal Audit Plan		*	*			
	Annual report of Head of Internal Audit			*			
	Progress Report on Annual Internal Audit Plan		*				
	Internal Audit report on Children and YP's Service				*		
	Internal Audit report on Computer Audit/Corporate Themes/Contracts					*	
	Internal Audit report on Health and Adult Services	*					*
	Internal Audit report on BES					*	
	Internal Audit report on Central Services			*			
B	Annual Audit Letter					*	
	Annual Audit Plan (NYCC & NYPF)				*		
	Annual Report / Letter of the External Auditor (ISA 260)				*		
	Interim Audit Report						
C	Statement of Final Accounts including AGS (NYCC + NYPF)			*	*		
	Letter of Representation				*		
	Chairman's Annual Report					*	
	Audit Committee - terms of reference / effectiveness		*				
	Changes in Accounting Policies		*				
	Corporate Governance – review of Local Code + AGS		*				
	– annual report inc re AGS			*			
	Risk Management (inc Corporate R/R) – annual report	*					*
	Partnership Governance – annual report	*				*	*
	Information Governance – annual report		*				
	Review of Finance/Contract/Property Procedure Rules					TBA	TBA
	Business Continuity – annual report					*	
	Counter Fraud (inc risk assessment) – annual report			*		*	
	Procurement and Contract Management – annual report	*					*
	CIPFA FM Code	*					*
Treasury Management – Executive February			*				
				*			
VFM – annual assurance review				*			
D	Work Programme	*	*		*	*	*
	Progress on issues raised by the Committee (inc Treasury Management)	*	*		*	*	*
E	Agenda planning / briefing meeting						
	Audit Committee Agenda/Reports deadline						
	Audit Committee Meeting Dates	14/12	22/03	28/06	20/09	25/10	13/12

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- A = Internal Audit
- B = External Audit
- C = Statement of Final Accounts / Governance
- D = Other
- E = Dates

- ◊ before formal meeting
- 1 Beyond 2020 including Property rationalisation
- 2 Pensions Governance
- 3 Governance of the Highways Teckal
- 4 Governance of external companies
- Sessions to be sorted
- Pension Governance

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