

Meeting: Audit Committee

Members: Councillors and Independent Co-opted Members (non-voting) Cliff Lunn (Chair), Alyson Baker, Philip Broadbank, George Jabbour (Vice-Chair), Mike Jordan, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swannick, Peter Wilkinson, Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, David Chance, Mr David Marsh and Mr David Portlock

Date: Monday, 23rd September, 2024

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Brierley Room, County Hall, Northallerton

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AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes**

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June, 2024**

(Pages 5 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Edward Maxwell Tel: 0300 131 2131

or e-mail: edward.maxwell@northyorks.gov.uk

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

4. Public Participation

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 Edward Maxwell of Democratic Services (contact details below) by midday on Wednesday 18 September 2024, three working days before the day of the meeting. 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 Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

5. Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee (Pages 13 - 14)

Joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), attached.

6. Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report (Pages 15 - 42)

Report of the Head of Internal Audit.

7. External Audit Progress Update (Pages 43 - 58)

Report of the External Auditors, Forvis Mazars, attached.

8. Chairman's Annual Report (Pages 59 - 68)

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee.

9. Statement of Final Accounts including AGS (including letter of representation) (Pages 69 - 274)

Report of the Corporate Director Resources.

10. Directorate Risk Register - Environment (Pages 275 - 300)

Report of the Corporate Director, Environment.

11. Programme of Work (Pages 301 - 302)

Report of the Corporate Director - Resources

Purpose of report: To identify items of business scheduled for consideration at each of the Committee's forthcoming meetings.

12. Any other Items

Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th December, 2024 at 1.30pm.

Contact Details:

Edward Maxwell, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 0300 131 2131

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Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Friday, 13 September 2024

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North Yorkshire Council

Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 24th June, 2024 commencing at 1.30 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

Committee Members present: Councillor Cliff Lunn in the Chair; plus Councillors Alyson Baker, Philip Broadbank, David Chance, George Jabbour, Karin Sedgwick, Mike Jordan, Neil Swannick and Co-opted Members Mr David Marsh and Mr David Portlock.

Observing: Councillor Carl Les, OBE.

Officers present: Gary Fielding, Karen Iveson, Stuart Carlton, Howard Emmett, Rachel Woodward, Max Thomas, Stuart Cutts, Daniel Clubb, Paul Preston, Edward Maxwell.

Other Attendees: Nicola Wright and Nick Rayner, both Deloitte (virtual attendance), Rob Walker and Ellie Horsley (both Mazars).

Apology: Mark Kirkham, Mazars.

Announcement

Cllrs David Chance and Mike Jordan were welcomed to the meeting as newly appointed members of this Committee.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

121 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March, 2024

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March, 2024, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

122 Declarations of Interest

David Portlock, Co-opted Member, in the interests of transparency, declared a personal interest in Minute 131 - Internal Control Matters for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, as he was Chair of Governors of an Academy School in North Yorkshire which had current relationships with North Yorkshire Council, for example Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), Clerking Services; and that in November 2023 he was appointed Chair of the Audit Committee of the Academy Trust of which his School was a member.

123 Public Participation

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

124 Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee

Considered –

The joint report of the Corporate Director – 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 that had arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

Karen Iveson introduced the report and referenced the future training sessions that Members had raised and requested at the March, 2024 meeting of the Committee. She added that following consultation with Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit and John Raine, Head of Finance, Corporate and Technical, North Yorkshire Council, the following training sessions were proposed for the Committee in 2024 and 2025:

- September 2024 – Accounting issues and the Committee's role in approving the accounts (which would align with the 23/24 accounts approval);
- December 2024 – Counter Fraud;
- March 2025 – The role of Audit Committee (external audit, internal audit and risk management);
- June 2025 – Treasury Management refresh; and
- September 2025 - Data Protection / Information Security.

Mr David Marsh asked a question re the Audit functions of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and whether there would be any overlap in work and responsibilities of North Yorkshire Council. Gary Fielding, Corporate Director, Resources responded the two organisations were completely separately constituted legal entities but would be happy to provide a couple of slides explaining such and the responsibilities of NYC in relation to Audit and its Audit responsibilities at the March, 2025 training session for the Committee.

Councillor Jabbour mentioned that he had attended the last meeting of the Shareholder Committee and raised the issues that had been discussed under minute 119 "Commercial Governance Review" at the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 18th March, 2024. The main areas of feedback from the Audit Committee reported to the Shareholder Committee related to the recommendation around Elected Members on Boards. Several Members of the Audit Committee had expressed the view that Elected Members should be represented as they felt they were ultimately accountable for any decisions made by companies. Additionally, one Member of the Audit Committee had also queried whether non-executive directorship opportunities might be considered so that Elected Members with specific skills could put themselves forward for those roles.

Resolved –

(1) That the report be noted; and

(2) That training sessions be organised for Audit Committee Members in 2024 and 2025 as outlined in the pre-amble of this minute.

125 External Auditors - Deloitte

Considered – a verbal update from the former North Yorkshire County Council External Auditors - Deloitte

A verbal update was provided by Nicola Wright and Nick Rayner, Deloitte on progress of the 2022/23 of the former North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) accounts and provided an update in relation to Council pension fund.

David Portlock, Co-opted Member enquired about what information Deloitte were awaiting, Nicola Wright responded regarding audit samples and outstanding questions and she anticipated Deloitte would have completed their work on the 2022/23 accounts by the time of the next (September 2024) meeting of the Committee.

Karen Iveson, Assistant Director, Resources added that the NYC Finance team were currently dealing with 20 external audits including those from legacy Councils.

Other comments related to the impact of loss of “corporate memory”, whereby employees left, retired etc from the organisation; staffing levels in finance; the Council’s risk register; and the Whitby Harbour accounts (which was responded to by Mazars in its report later on the agenda).

Resolved –

That the verbal update be noted.

126 External Audit Progress Report - June 2024

Considered - the Audit Progress report: North Yorkshire Council, June 2024 of the external auditors, Forvis Mazars.

Rob Walker, Manager, and Ellie Horsley, both Forvis Mazars, attended the meeting for this item.

Mr Walker introduced the report and responded to questions and comments.

David Marsh, Co-opted Member asked a question around technical accounting changes to which Mr Walker responded.

In respect of Whitby and Scarborough Harbour accounts and objections an update was provided. Councillor Jabbour added that he had recently observed the recent Court hearing in London (in a personal capacity) and added an outcome was of the Court’s declaration was now awaited.

David Portlock asked a question about how the new NYC planned to retain “Corporate Memory on accounting matters relating to former legacy Councils. Gary Fielding, Corporate Director, Resources responded that the Council’s Human Resources Team were currently working on a three-point plan to address this matter.

David Portlock, Co-opted Member, asked what could be the impact of outstanding Audits of the former legacy Councils on completion of the 2023/24 Audit for NYC? Mr Walker responded that he could not say at this point. Several legacy Councils had not yet produced draft Accounts up to 31 March, 2023 so there could be uncertainty about the opening position of NYC on 1 April 2023. Mr Walker did however indicate that he was more optimistic about being able to complete the required audit work on the income and expenditure of NYC for the year 2023/24. It was noted that whilst the timeline for completing the 2023/24 Audit was now a matter of weeks, this was dependent on the status

of audits up to 31 March, 2023.

David Marsh, Co-opted Member commented on the outstanding queries in relation to the legacy Harrogate Borough Council 2021/22 audit work and progress.

Resolved –

The report be noted.

(Cllr Carl Les, OBE, joined the meeting at this juncture)

127 Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit

Considered – The annual report of the Head of Internal Audit which provided a summary of internal audit work performed in 2023/24 and expressed an opinion on the overall framework of governance, risk management and controls in place in North Yorkshire Council; and informed Members of Veritau’s conformance to professional standards and the conclusions arising from the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.

Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit introduced this report.

Councillor Jordan asked a question around housing audit matters. Mr Thomas responded that it was for Service Managers to consider and respond to audit recommendations, but added the service acknowledged and accepted improvements were needed.

Comments were made about the need to work on standardising and modernising the different operating systems that had been in place at the former legacy councils. Work was on-going in this regard.

Another comment related to the introduction of a new creditors system, which Karen Iveson, Assistant Director, Resources, responded was currently going through the procurement stage with the aim the system would go live in April, 2026.

A further comment related to working with the Social Housing Regulator. Gary Fielding, Corporate Director, Resources confirmed a meeting had taken place with the regulator. Cllr Jabbour commented that the Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also recently asked a question on this subject at a recent meeting.

Stuart Cutts, Assistant Director, Veritau commented on proposed future improvements to target timeframes for Audits and links to Committee dates.

Resolved –

That the Committee noted:

(i) the **Reasonable Assurance** opinion of the Head of Internal Audit regarding the overall framework of governance, risk management and control operating within North Yorkshire Council as set out in Appendix 1;

(ii) the four significant control issues which are recommended for inclusion in the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement;

(iii) the outcome of Veritau’s quality assurance and improvement programme and the confirmation that its internal audit service conforms with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

128 Information Governance - Annual Report

Considered – the report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided an update on governance matters, developments in the Council's information governance arrangements, details of related performance and compliance with relevant legislation.

Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit introduced the report.

Members commented on the number and nature of data breaches outlined in Section 5 of the report. In response, Mr Thomas responded that it was difficult to compare like for like with other Local Authorities in terms of how North Yorkshire Council (NYC) was performing regarding data breaches. He also commented on the meaning of what shared advice given in the form of "consideration" meant in correspondence with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in respect of one case reported and on "advice the ICO had provided to the Council with advice on additional security, which was currently being reviewed".

Resolved –

The Committee noted the Council's Information Governance arrangements and activities during the year.

(Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Services (CYPS); and Howard Emmett, Assistant Director, Resources entered the meeting at this juncture).

129 2024/25 Internal Audit and Information Governance Work Programmes

Considered –

The report of the Head of Internal Audit which sought approval for the internal audit work programme for 2024/25 and included details of the information governance work programme.

Stuart Cutts, Assistant Director, Veritau introduced the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

A question was asked by David Portlock, Co-opted Member about Annex B and current priorities for Internal Audit Work and timing of Audits and whether those items marked "Do Later" could be re-prioritised if deemed necessary for any reason. Mr Cutts confirmed re-prioritisation could take place if it was deemed necessary to do so.

Resolved -

The Committee approves the 2024/25 internal audit work programme and notes the information governance work programme.

130 Counter Fraud Annual Report

Considered – the report of the Head of Internal Audit which provided a summary of the counter fraud work performed in 2023/24 for North Yorkshire Council.

Daniel Clubb, Assistant Director, Counter Fraud, Veritau, introduced the report and

highlighted various aspects of the counter fraud activity undertaken during 2023/24.

Resolved –

That the Counter Fraud work undertaken during the year be noted.

(Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit left the meeting at this juncture).

131 Internal Control Matters for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate

Considered – the report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) which outlined some of the key service risks and governance related issues within the directorate and provided details of the updated risk register for the Children and Young People's Services directorate.

Mr Emmett, Assistant Director, Resources introduced the report and Mr Carlton expanded on matters contained within the risk register.

David Portlock, Co-opted Member asked a question regarding paragraph 4.4 of the report and the area SEND inspection of arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities undertaken by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during April, 2024. In response the Committee was informed the inspection report would be published on the website in due course.

Resolved –

That the Committee notes the updated risk register for the CYPS directorate and that the Committee's feedback and comments, as outlined at this meeting, on the CYPS directorate risk register, key risk and governance issues and other internal control matters be noted.

132 Procurement and Contract Management Strategy

Considered – the report of the Corporate Director, Resources which asked the Committee to note and comment on the Council's revised Procurement and Contract Management Strategy for the period April, 2024 to March, 2029.

Rachael Woodward, Head of Procurement introduced the report.

David Portlock, Co-opted Member queried the outturn for 2023/24 for the KPIs linked to the procurement strategy. In response, Ms Woodward stated she would obtain the requested information post-meeting and circulate to the Committee. She added that this information was monitored and reported on a quarterly basis through Management Board, Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Board, via the Executive Performance Report.

A further question was asked by David Marsh, Co-opted Member on policy and process, paragraph 3.5.3 of the report relating to the new procurement regime. Ms Woodward responded that the changes were welcomed and positive and would provide greater transparency and increased flexibility on how the Council undertook procurement and also commented on the Council's social value responsibilities as outlined at paragraph 3.5.9 of the report.

Councillor Swannick commented there was no direct reference to jobs under section 3.5.9 – social value.

In response to a question from David Portlock, Co-opted Member, Ms Woodward confirmed that all changes resultant from the new Procurement Act 2023 would be adopted in due course into the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and associated processes/procedures to ensure compliance and best practice were adopted across the Council.

Resolved – that the Audit Committee:

(a) notes the revised Procurement and Contract Management Strategy; and

(b) comments as provided at this meeting by the Committee be used to further add value to the on-going work on procurement and contract management, especially in relation to delivering the procurement and contract management strategy.

(Gary Fielding, Corporate Director, Resources left the meeting during the consideration of this item).

133 CIPFA Financial Management Code

Considered – the report of the Corporate Director, Resources which updated the Committee on the self-assessment of compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Financial Management Code (CIPFA FM Code).

Karen Iveson, Assistant Director, Resources responded to Members' questions regarding the process for identifying and implementing a replacement core financial system, currently ORACLE, which had recently commenced. A report would be going to an Executive for approval following the tender process to get agreement for a new system with an anticipated Go Live date of April, 2026.

Resolved – That the Committee

(a) notes the self-assessment of continued compliance with the code detailed in the appendix to the report; and

(b) for further update reports to be brought to Audit Committee if there were significant changes to the requirements of the CIPFA FM Code.

134 Corporate Governance

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director, Resources which asked the Committee to note progress on Corporate Governance and note improvements and changes made to governance arrangements.

Karen Iveson, Assistant Director, Resources introduced the report and responded to questions and comments.

Cllr Swannick made some comments regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) that Karen Iveson responded she would feedback to technology colleagues within the Council and

provide the Committee with a response post-meeting.

David Portlock, Co-opted Member enquired about changes in leadership following the recent retirement of Fiona Sowerby, Head of Insurance and Risk Management. In response, Karen Iveson informed the Committee that the Insurance and Risk Management service had been reviewed and a new Officer appointed to lead the service. She added it was envisaged there would be a closer working relationship with the internal auditors Veritau regarding governance moving forward.

Resolved – That the Audit Committee:

(a) note progress on Corporate Governance related matters; and

(b) note the improvements that had been made, and that were to be made on corporate governance, as detailed in Appendix A, summary of improvements of the submitted report.

135 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.

Karen Iveson, Assistant Director, Resources introduced the Programme of Work.

Resolved –

(1) That the Committee's Programme of Work be noted;

(2) That the Council's Calendar of meetings for 2025/26, when approved by Full Council be circulated to members of this Committee to make them aware of future Audit Committee meeting dates; and

(3) That the Value for Money (VfM) reports that had previously been submitted to this Committee be incorporated into the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) / Corporate Governance reports in the future to avoid duplication.

136 Any other Items

None.

137 Date of Next Meeting

1.30pm on Monday 23rd September, 2024.

The meeting concluded at 3.25pm

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 September 2024

PROGRESS ON ISSUES RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of

- (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?
11.12.23	102 – Audit Committee Terms of Reference / Review of Effectiveness	That the Committee felt it would be beneficial to undertake and complete a self-assessment exercise of the Committee’s effectiveness in the 2024/25 Municipal Year, circa during period Jan – March 2025. It was also felt that any review should be facilitated by officers	Not yet started	X
24.06.24	124 – Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee	That training session be organised for Audit Committee Members in 2024 and 2025 as outlined in the minutes	These will be scheduled as noted in the minutes.	
24.06.24	135 – Programme of Work	That the Council’s Calendar of meetings for 2025/26, when approved by Full Council be circulated to members of this Committee to make them aware of future Audit Committee meeting dates	This will be circulated once available	

Date	Minute number and subject	Audit Committee Resolution	Comment	Complete?
24.06.24	135 – Programme of Work	That the Value for Money (VfM) reports that had previously been submitted to this Committee, and to avoid duplication, be incorporated into the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) / Corporate Governance reports in the future	This will be done going forward.	

3.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Bank of England cut interest rates on 1 August from 5.25% to 5.00%. However, the accompanying guidance and forecasts from the Monetary Policy Committee suggest a cautious approach to further cuts to interest rates going forward. As a result, the Council's Treasury Advisors, Link have revised their interest rate forecast and now anticipate the next rate cut of 0.25% will be in November rather than in September.

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 – Resources

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

23 September 2024

Background Documents: Report to, and Minutes of, Audit Committee meetings held on 24 June 2024

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

INTERNAL AUDIT AND COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress made to date in delivering the 2024/25 internal audit programme of work, and the other related services provided to the Council by Veritau (information governance and counter fraud). The report also highlights any issues likely to impact on the programme of work throughout the remainder of the year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The work of internal audit is governed by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The Council has formalised its arrangements for internal audit within an Audit Charter, which was approved by the Audit Committee in March 2023. In accordance with these standards and the Audit Charter, the Head of Internal Audit is required to report to the Council on the programme of internal audit work and to highlight any emerging significant risks and/or control issues.

3.0 PROGRESS

Internal Audit

- 3.1 The 2024/25 internal audit work programme was approved by this Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2024.
- 3.2 **Annex 1** to this report provides an update on the progress made in the period to 31 August 2024, to complete the work programme. This annex includes a summary of completed audits and work in progress.
- 3.3 Five audits have been finalised since our last report to the Committee, and a further three audits are at the draft report stage. Twelve audits are in progress with half of these nearing the final stages of fieldwork at the time of writing this report. A further sixteen audits are at the planning stage and due to be undertaken in the next quarter along with some other assurance work.

Counter Fraud

- 3.4 Annex 2 provides a report on counter fraud activity in 2024/25. The report highlights activity undertaken to promote awareness of fraud risks, work with external agencies, and information on the level of fraud reported to date.

- 3.5 To date, 164 cases of suspected fraud have been reported to the counter fraud team. Seventy-five investigations have been completed and savings achieved by the Council as a result of the team's work have been over £178.9k.
- 3.6 The Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) has invited Veritau to join a new "Community of Practice". The fraud team will represent the Council in this forum which aims to share best practice on preventing and detecting fraud across central and local government.

Information Governance

- 3.7 Veritau's Information Governance Team (IGT) continues to handle a significant number of information requests received in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). The number of FOI requests received in the 5 months to 31 August 2024 was 822 compared with 766 received during the corresponding period in 2023/24 (a 7.3% increase). The number of requests received in 2024/25 and answered within 20 working days is currently 85% (2023/24 – 76%). The IGT also coordinates the Council's subject access requests (SARs) and has received 192 such requests between 1 April 2024 and 31 August 2024 compared to 139 requests received during the corresponding period in 2023/24 (a 38% increase).
- 3.8 Veritau acts as the Council's Data Protection Officer and provides advice and support to the Council on all aspect of data protection. The IGT also reviews compliance with the legislation and liaises with the regulator, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Other work includes reviewing data protection impact assessments, preparing data sharing agreements, recording data security incidents and investigating serious data security incidents. Further details about the work of the IGT will be included in the annual information governance report.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is for information only. There are no local member, financial, human resources, legal, equalities or climate change implications.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the progress made in delivering the 2024/25 Internal Audit programme of work and the other assurance related services provided by Veritau.

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
31 August 2024

Internal Audit Progress Report 2024/25

Date: 23 September 2024

Annex 1

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3	Internal audit progress
4	Follow up of agreed actions
5	Appendix A: Internal audit work in 2024/25
8	Appendix B: Summary of key issues from audits finalised since the last report to the Committee
14	Appendix C: Current priorities for internal audit work
17	Appendix D: Audit opinions and priorities for actions



Background

- 1 Internal audit provides independent and objective assurance and advice about the council's operations. It helps the organisation to achieve its overall objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to the evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.
- 2 The work of internal audit is governed by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and relevant professional standards. These include the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), CIPFA guidance on the application of those standards in Local Government and the CIPFA Statement on the role of the Head of Internal Audit.
- 3 In accordance with the PSIAS, the Head of Internal Audit is required to report progress against the internal audit plan (the work programme) agreed by the Audit Committee, and to identify any emerging issues which need to be brought to the attention of the committee.
- 4 The internal audit work programme was agreed by this committee in June 2024. The plan is flexible in nature and work is kept under review to ensure that audit resources are deployed to the areas of greatest risk and importance to the council.
- 5 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on internal audit activity up to 31 August 2024.



Internal audit progress

- 6 A summary of specific internal audit reviews currently underway, as well as work finalised in the year to date is included in appendix A. Appendix A also shows the range of other work completed by internal audit during the year.
- 7 Five audits have been finalised since the last report to this committee in June. Further information on these audits is included in appendix B. The appendix summarises the key findings from these audits, and includes actions agreed with officers to address identified control weaknesses. A further three audits are currently at the draft report stage.
- 8 Twelve audits are currently in progress. Approximately half of these audits are nearing the final stages of fieldwork. We are currently planning a further sixteen assignments.
- 9 The work programme showing current priorities for internal audit work is included in appendix C where we categorise audits as 'do now', 'do next' and 'do later'. These timescales are subject to change and work priorities may also change during the year depending on the ongoing consideration of risk.
- 10 Appendix D lists our current definitions for action priorities and overall assurance levels.

Follow up of agreed actions

- 11 All actions agreed with services as a result of internal audit work are followed up after the agreed implementation deadline to ensure that the identified issues have been addressed.
- 12 The dates for completion of agreed actions are included, where appropriate, as part of Appendix C reporting. In some instances, ongoing internal audit work in the same area will pick up the progress being made.
- 13 We currently have no matters to report to the committee as a result of our follow up work.

Professional standards

- 14 The PSIAS are based on the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF). New IIA professional standards were published in January 2024 and will apply from 9 January 2025. The UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board (IASAB) is currently reviewing the implications for the PSIAS. Any subsequent changes to the UK's PSIAS will be subject to consultation and will apply from 1 April 2025.
- 15 In July 2024, CIPFA announced that they plan to introduce a code of practice for the governance of internal audit. The code will apply to all principal authorities in UK local government and is complementary to CIPFA's ongoing work to update the current Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- 16 Subject to consultation, it is proposed that both the new standards and the code will be effective from 1 April 2025.

APPENDIX A: Internal audit work in 2024/25

Audits in progress

Audit	Status
ICT governance	Draft report issued
Early years payments	Draft report issued
Scarborough waterpark	Draft report issued
ICT access controls	Draft report issued
Claro Road depot	Fieldwork close to completion
Children leaving care	Fieldwork close to completion
Governance arrangements (constitution, schemes of delegation, decision making and call-in arrangements)	Fieldwork close to completion
HAS personal bank accounts	Fieldwork close to completion
Schools themed audit – purchasing	Fieldwork in progress
Schools themed audit – ring fenced funding	Fieldwork in progress
Transformation governance	Fieldwork in progress
Power of Attorney and Court of Protection	Fieldwork in progress
Climate change	Fieldwork in progress
Purchasing Cards	Fieldwork in progress
Procurement Act – preparedness assessment	Fieldwork in progress
ICT asset management	Planning
HAS financial assessments	Planning
Liberty Protection Safeguards	Planning
Adult safeguarding	Planning
Adult direct payments	Planning
Business continuity	Planning
Project management	Planning
Performance management	Planning
Customer complaints	Planning
Harbours	Planning
Contract management - Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	Planning
Payroll	Planning

Audit	Status
Bank reconciliations and bank accounts	Planning
Creditors	Planning
Cash handling	Planning
Housing rents	Planning

Final reports issued

Audit	Reported to Committee	Opinion
Schools themed audit – Business Continuity	September 2024	Limited Assurance
CCTV office review	September 2024	Reasonable Assurance
Revenue budget monitoring	September 2024	Reasonable Assurance
Housing rents	September 2024	Reasonable Assurance
Contract management -waivers	September 2024	Reasonable Assurance
ICT governance	September 2024	Reasonable Assurance

Other work completed in 2024/25

Internal audit work has been undertaken in a range of other areas during the year, including those listed below.

- Follow up of agreed actions
- Grant certification work:
 - ▲ Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) growth hub
 - ▲ Bus subsidy operators grant
 - ▲ Heritage Action Zone - Selby
 - ▲ Supporting Families Programme
- Consultative engagements:
 - ▲ Data cleansing of feeder information to support the new general ledger project
 - ▲ Grant schemes including UK shared prosperity fund,
- Completing financial appraisals
- Certifying Scarborough and Harrogate Charter Trustee annual returns
- Completion of specific maintained schools review and follow up of previously agreed actions.
- Additional assurance gathering to inform our opinion
 - ▲ Updating our knowledge on the control and risk management arrangements of the council within the 11 key areas for our annual

Internal audit work has been undertaken in a range of other areas during the year, including those listed below.

opinion. This includes targeted reviews covering areas such as performance and property asset management.

APPENDIX B: Summary of key issues from audits finalised since the previous committee

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
Schools Themed Audit – Business Continuity	Limited Assurance	<p>We reviewed the arrangements in place at 12 maintained schools to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a clear and up to date business continuity and ICT disaster recovery plan was in place to minimise potential service disruption business impact assessments were complete and up to date, with critical functions identified and prioritised 	June 2024	<p>Half of the schools sampled either did not have a business continuity plan, or plans were out of date/contained out of date information. Some schools referenced informal arrangements with a local town hall or school, but these were not formalised or documented.</p> <p>Over half of the schools did not have an ICT disaster recovery plan. Many schools were unclear as to the incident response arrangements in place with their managed service provider.</p> <p>The majority of schools had not completed a business impact assessment and were not able to evidence that they were testing business continuity and ICT disaster recovery plans.</p> <p>Only half of the schools were able to confirm back-ups were taken by their nominated ICT back up service provider, and could provide evidence of this, including a back-up schedule. For the remaining schools, back-up arrangements were not confirmed.</p>	<p>5 x Priority 2 actions and 1 x Priority 3 action were agreed.</p> <p>Responsible Officer: Assistant Director, Education and Skills</p> <p>It is the responsibly of schools to ensure plans are in place and tested. Maintained schools provide annual assurance on plans to the council through the Health and Safety Process. Officers will review the uptake of schools providing assurance they have completed their plan.</p> <p>Resilience and Emergencies have offered briefing events to Head Teachers and School Business Managers to support with testing plans.</p> <p>Date for completion of all actions is 31 March 2025.</p>

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	Reasonable Assurance	<p>The council operates public space surveillance systems in North Yorkshire. We visited one of the operations hubs to assess compliance and support improvement.</p> <p>We reviewed whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective mechanisms were in place to ensure key legal and regulatory requirements were being followed staff were aware of their responsibilities and appropriate training had been delivered effective operational and security arrangements were in place for staff, buildings and assets 	July 2024	<p>Some documentation and key procedures contained out of date information and were due for review.</p> <p>Release, retention and deletion of footage was not always in line with UK GDPR requirements.</p> <p>Improvements could be made to ensure the accurate recording of incidents in the electronic management log/shift report.</p> <p>Records and observation totals were not accurately or consistently recorded in the electronic management log, meaning that statistical data was not accurate and could not be relied upon for performance monitoring.</p> <p>Staff training and licence records were incomplete.</p> <p>Entry to the control room was controlled by electronic access and keys. However arrangements for non-staff entry into the control room were not always being complied with.</p>	<p>3 x Priority 2 actions and 5 x Priority 3 actions were agreed.</p> <p>Responsible Officer: Head of Community Safety and CCTV</p> <p>Procedures will be reinforced regarding retention and collection of footage. The retention and deletion of emails will be discussed with the Data Governance team.</p> <p>Procedures for non-staff entry into the control room will be followed.</p> <p>All priority 2 actions will be completed by 30 September 2024. All other actions will be completed by 31 December 2024.</p>

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
Revenue Budget Monitoring	Reasonable Assurance	<p>We reviewed the arrangements in place to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> budget managers are receiving appropriate, timely and useful budget monitoring information and support from the finance team budget managers understand the monitoring reports and suitable training is provided. Responsibilities are defined and understood significant variances are identified, examined, and challenged throughout the organisation, with appropriate remedial action taken to minimise over- or underspend 	July 2024	<p>Budget managers were receiving appropriate, timely and useful budget monitoring information. Arrangements in the first year involved mainly accessing and using Oracle Financials and Oracle Planning and Budgeting Cloud Services. As arrangements in the Community Development were not set up within Oracle, they instead used monthly monitoring spreadsheets provided by Strategic Finance.</p> <p>Our testing of budget monitoring information for three directorates confirmed the logic and calculations were working as intended thereby providing the correct information to the relevant budget managers.</p> <p>Some cost centres had not been mapped correctly to those with operational responsibility for budgets.</p> <p>Budget managers roles and responsibilities are defined in the Council's constitution, and this is supplemented by detailed guidance available on the Council intranet. In addition to the support provided by finance officers, training is also provided to budget managers on budget forecasting and using Oracle.</p>	<p>1x Priority 2 & 1x Priority 3 action were agreed.</p> <p>Responsible officer(s): Assistant Director Resources</p> <p>Work to consolidate budgets alongside organisational restructures was ongoing throughout the year and the majority of budgets had been consolidated by the completion of the audit. Progress is being tracked as part of the wider transformation programme.</p> <p>Actions to address the two findings have been completed.</p>

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
Housing Rents	Reasonable Assurance	<p>The council has three areas (Harrogate, Richmondshire and Selby) with housing stock and these are using those legacy rents systems transferred as part of LGR. We reviewed the arrangements in place to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rents are appropriately calculated and correctly recorded and accounted for tenants are correctly billed for rent due rent arrears are subject to appropriate recovery action <p>Two of the three areas were reviewed as part of this audit. The remaining area will be included in planned 2024/25 work.</p>	August 2024	<p>The annual rent review is calculated for each property type by the respective finance teams. Processes in place in the two areas reviewed were found to be well controlled and the 2024/25 uplift calculations appropriately applied.</p> <p>Robust systems are in place to ensure that expected rent is calculated and reconciled frequently to rent due in the two areas we tested. Likewise in the two areas tested, we found signed tenancy agreements that set out the agreed rent level were retained.</p> <p>A review of the reconciliations undertaken for rent payments received and recorded on the finance management system compared to the housing rents system found these to be effective. Any variances which are identified are quickly resolved in the two areas we tested.</p> <p>Established procedures are in place for monitoring and chasing overdue rent payments.</p>	No management actions.
Contract management - waivers	Reasonable Assurance	Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules (PCPRs) are set out in the council's	August 2024	Registers of contract waivers, director recommendations, and best value forms are kept by the Procurement and	2x Priority 2 & 1x Priority 3 actions were agreed.

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
		<p>Constitution. Where a service is unable to comply in full with the PCPRs, an exemption ('waiver') may be permitted where certain criteria are met.</p> <p>We reviewed the arrangements in place that ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exemptions are monitored and appropriate records are maintained waiver and exemption requests are completed and authorised in line with relevant rules Best value forms are completed and authorised appropriately. <p>The audit included testing of new council exemptions and a sample of pre-1 April 2023 former council exemptions.</p>		<p>Contract Management service (PCMS). Compliance with PCPRs is monitored and reviewed by the PCMS to confirm forms have been completed and the correct authorisation obtained.</p> <p>Sample testing of waivers and director recommendations confirmed applications were appropriately completed.</p> <p>We found that there were inconsistencies in the completion of fields including contract dates and supplier names.</p> <p>A register is maintained for all contracts with an aggregate value of £25k or more, and director recommendations and waivers awarded for contracts over £30k must be published on Contracts Finder. We found a number of omissions from both the register and Contracts Finder.</p> <p>Information relating to two legacy council pre LGR exemptions could not be provided.</p>	<p>Responsible officer(s): Head of Procurement and Contract Management.</p> <p>Senior Commercial Managers (who oversee the processes covered by the audit) will have all audit findings shared and discussed with them.</p> <p>Missing entries will be added to Contracts Finder.</p> <p>Quarterly performance on compliance with publication will be monitored as part of PCMS management meetings.</p>
ICT governance	Reasonable Assurance	ICT governance is a key element of the wider council's		Individual officers had clear roles and responsibilities. Processes are also in place to ensure work was monitored	2x Priority 2 & 2x Priority 3 actions proposed. No

System/area	Opinion	Area reviewed	Date issued	Comments	Management actions agreed
		<p>corporate governance framework.</p> <p>We reviewed whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Technology directorate had appropriate structures in place that included clear lines of reporting and role responsibility the Technology directorate monitor and report the performance of their functions risks are identified, monitored and actions implemented to ensure risks are kept within the council's risk tolerance the Technology directorate had up-to-date policies in place to direct working practices 		<p>and reviewed to meet the needs of stakeholders.</p> <p>A suite of policies is in place that covered all the areas of required best practice (ISO 20000 and 27001).</p> <p>However, there is currently no overall IT strategy and not all teams within the directorate have a strategy/service plan in place.</p> <p>There is no formal process for determining the priority of projects within the Technology directorate.</p> <p>The technology directorate had clear KPIs for front-line IT services. However, KPIs were not in place for all teams.</p> <p>Risks were clearly documented however some risks were not reviewed within the required timescales.</p>	<p>management response received.</p> <p>Responsible officer(s): N/A</p>

APPENDIX C: Current priorities for Internal Audit work

Audit	Timing		
	Do now	Do next	Do later
Strategic and Corporate risks			
Council transformation plans and savings programme	✓	✓	✓
Revenue budget setting, monitoring and management		✓	
Capital budget management	✓		
Governance	✓		✓
Information security incident reviews and support			✓
Records management		✓	
Risk management		✓	
Property asset management		✓	
Procurement Act – preparedness assessment	✓		
Procurement – specific reviews		✓	✓
Contract management – specific reviews	✓	✓	✓
Business continuity	✓		
Climate change	✓		
Health and safety		✓	
Partnership working and governance		✓	
Performance management framework	✓		✓
Project management arrangements	✓		
Management of external funding		✓	
Council companies and other commercial operations		✓	
Agency staff and consultants			✓
Complaints	✓		
Technical / Project Risks			
Support and advice for council and service transformation	✓	✓	✓
Involvement in specific service areas developments	✓	✓	✓
Project advice / implementation and support	✓	✓	✓
ICT disaster recovery and incident management	✓		
ICT cyber security	✓	✓	
ICT asset management	✓		
IT information security operations centres		✓	
ICT applications – including Highways Aurora System			✓
Financial Systems			
Main accounting system	✓	✓	✓
Creditor payments	✓	✓	✓
Purchase cards	✓		
Sundry debtors, including debt recovery		✓	
Payroll	✓		
Income collection and management		✓	
Revenues	✓		✓

Audit	Timing		
	Do now	Do next	Do later
Benefits	✓		✓
Housing rents	✓		✓
Service Area Related			
Locality working			✓
Community infrastructure levy and s106 agreements		✓	
Planning systems		✓	
Housing regulation		✓	
Council house stock and repairs		✓	
Homelessness			✓
Leisure – cash handling procedures	✓		
Economic development			✓
Harbours	✓		
Licensing			✓
Car Parking		✓	
Highways		✓	
CCTV	✓		
Developing stronger families	✓		✓
Special educational needs – transition planning	✓	✓	
Early years funding expansion		✓	✓
Maintained school's visits	✓	✓	✓
Schools themed audits	✓	✓	✓
Schools financial value standard			✓
Home to school transport	✓		
Social care provider visits		✓	
Social care financial assessments	✓		
Safeguarding	✓		
Power of Attorney and Court of Protection	✓		
Payment to care providers (Provider Portal)		✓	
Liberty protection safeguards	✓		
Continuing Healthcare		✓	
Public health		✓	
Pensions Fund			
Pensions expenditure	✓		
Pensions income		✓	
Pensions investments		✓	
Attendance at pensions board	✓	✓	✓
Other assurance work			
Follow-up of previously agreed management actions	✓	✓	✓
Gaining understanding on the evolving systems and processes at the new council	✓	✓	✓
Continuous audit planning and additional assurance gathering to help support our opinion on the framework of risk management, governance and internal control	✓	✓	✓
Continuous assurance work, including data analytics and data matching projects	✓	✓	✓

Audit	Timing		
	Do now	Do next	Do later
Attendance at, and contribution to, governance- and assurance-related working groups	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX D: Audit opinions and priorities for actions

Audit opinions	
Our work is based on using 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.

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Counter Fraud Progress First Report 2024/25

Date: 23 September 2024

ANNEX 2

CONTENTS

- 3** Background
- 3** Counter fraud management
- 4** Multi-agency work
- 4** Investigative work
- 5** Appendix A: Summary of investigative work



Background

- 1 Fraud is a significant risk to the public sector. The government estimated that between £33.2 and £58.8 billion of public spending was lost to fraud in 2020/21¹. Financial loss due to fraud can reduce a Council's ability to support public services and it can cause reputational damage.
- 2 The Council engages Veritau to undertake counter fraud work on its behalf. We employ qualified criminal investigators to deliver a range of work that helps the authority prevent, detect, and deter fraud and related criminality. This includes officer training to help prevent fraud, proactive identification of issues through data matching exercises, and the investigation of suspected fraud. To deter fraud, offenders face a range of outcomes, including prosecution in the most serious cases.
- 3 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on counter fraud activity undertaken between 1 April and 31 August 2024.



COUNTER FRAUD MANAGEMENT

- 4 Veritau was invited to join the Public Sector Fraud Authority's (PSFA) "Community of Practice". An initial meeting with PSFA representatives and a Cabinet Office Minister took place in May. Veritau now attends regular meetings to share best practice between central and local government counter fraud professionals.
- 5 The Council has established processes for whistleblowers to raise concerns. Veritau support the council by raising awareness of whistleblowing through regular communications to staff. This has included information shared with officers in June as part of World Whistleblowers' Day.
- 6 The Council is required to publish data on counter fraud work as part of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. Veritau provided the relevant data for work completed in 2023/24 to help fulfil this obligation. The Council publishes this information online.
- 7 The team share and receive alerts on fraud threats from partners in the counter fraud community, including the National Anti-Fraud Network. We share this information with relevant services to help prevent and identify attempted fraud. Information has recently been shared on identities and bank accounts being used in "Career Polygamy" fraud where someone claims to concurrently work full-time for more than one organisation.



MULTI-AGENCY WORK

- 8 The PSFA will be completing the bi-annual National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise later this year. The counter fraud team are in the process of reviewing the Council's privacy notices to ensure compliance

¹ Tackling fraud and corruption against Government, HM Treasury / Cabinet Office

with relevant data protection legislation and best practice, before matching takes place. Data collection is expected to take place from October 2024.

- 9 The counter fraud team pursue opportunities to work with external agencies to tackle fraud that affects the Council. Veritau has worked with the Police as part of adult social care safeguarding processes where the Council may be at risk of financial losses. We also have processes in place to undertake investigations alongside the Department for Work and Pensions. There are currently eight joint investigations being conducted.

INVESTIGATIVE WORK

- 10 Veritau receives reports of suspected fraud from Council officers, members of the public, and external agencies. We evaluate each report to determine the appropriate response.
- 11 To date, the team has received 164 referrals. These relate to adult social care fraud, abuse of the council tax reduction scheme, attempts to evade or reduce business rates and council tax liabilities, housing related frauds and parking scheme frauds.
- 12 The counter fraud team has completed 75 investigations. Warnings were issued to 13 people in relation to incorrect claims for council tax and NNDR reductions or exemptions, claims for central government funding distributed by the Council, and an incorrect claim to the Council's local assistance fund. There are 89 investigations currently ongoing.
- 13 To date, investigative work has helped the Council to achieve £178.9k in actual savings. This figure includes the repayment of debt arising from investigative work, and a maximum of one year future savings if an investigation has stopped an ongoing fraud that would otherwise have continued.
- 14 A summary of investigative work can be found in appendix A, below.

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE WORK 2024/25

The table below shows the success rate of investigations and levels of savings achieved through counter fraud work in 2024/25.

	2024/25 (As at 31/08/24)
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - eg repayment of loss) identified through fraud investigation	£178,927
% of investigations completed which result in a successful outcome (for example payments stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions, properties recovered, housing allocations blocked)	43%

Caseload figures for the period are:

	2024/25 (As at 31/08/24)
Referrals received	164
Number of cases under investigation	89
Number of investigations completed	75
Number of verifications completed ²	3

² Verification cases are reviews of applications for school placements.

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Fraud detection and investigation	<p>The service promotes the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to respond to any fraud perpetrated against the Council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care fraud – fraud in this area relates to deprivation of capital, financial abuse, direct payment fraud, and abuse of position (eg by a power of attorney). Seven investigations have been completed to date, and 13 investigations are ongoing. The Council has achieved £72.5k of savings as a result of the team’s work. • Council Tax and NNDR fraud – Council Tax and NNDR fraud often involves false applications for discounts and exemptions from liabilities. The team has 18 ongoing investigations in this area. Fourteen cases have been completed, resulting in five people being issued with warnings. Investigative work has helped the Council achieve savings of £83k. • Council Tax Reduction fraud – fraud in this area can occur when people claiming a reduction provide false information when they apply or fail to declare changes to their circumstances relating to income, capital, or household occupation. To date, 28 cases have been completed, and 29 investigations are ongoing. Individuals received warnings in relation to seven of the completed cases and amounts due for recovery were identified in a further three cases. No fraud was substantiated in six cases. The Council has achieved £16.8k of savings as a result of the counter fraud team’s work in this area. • External (or third party) fraud – fraud in this area can relate to financial crime or error perpetrated against the Council, eg mandate fraud, cybercrime, or supplier over charging. Veritau has completed 12 investigations. In one case a warning was issued to someone who inappropriately obtained central government funding distributed by the Council. Information to support services’ decision making was provided in a further six cases. • Housing fraud – housing fraud can relate to sub-letting of council properties and potential abuse of the housing allocation system. The team has completed one investigation in this area but no fraud was found. Six investigations are ongoing.

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal investigations – the team has 18 cases ongoing in this area. Nine cases have been completed with recommendations to support improvements to procedures being made in five cases. An employee resigned in one case. • Local assistance fund – this funding provides support for household goods and necessities to those in need. The counter fraud team investigate the submission of fraudulent applications and misuse of the scheme. One investigation was completed in this area which resulted in an applicant being issued with a warning for providing incorrect information. • Parking fraud – fraud in this area includes the abuse of the blue badge scheme, such as the use of forged or altered badges, and misuse of residential parking schemes. The team has completed one investigation in this area in which no fraud was substantiated. There are no ongoing cases relating to parking fraud. • School admissions – Veritau supports Council officers to verify applications for school placements where there is a discrepancy in home address records that affect school catchment areas. Three investigations have been completed this year. One allocation was stopped as a result of our investigation findings, and two applications were upheld.

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Audit Progress Report

North Yorkshire Pension Fund and Council

September 2024

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- 02 Publications and other updates

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01

Audit progress

Audit progress

Status of audits for the year ending 31 March 2023 and earlier

Forvis Mazars LLP was the appointed auditor for Selby District Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Craven District Council and Harrogate District Council

Completion of the outstanding prior year audits continues to be a challenge for officers who have subsequently taken on new roles in North Yorkshire Council. We have therefore made limited progress on the district council audits since the last meeting of the Committee

We will continue to work with officers and it is important to note that, while we aim to avoid disruption, delays in responses can create significant inefficiencies in delivering our audit procedures.

Selby District Council

Our audit work is ongoing. We issued the Audit strategy memorandum in October 2023 and have several queries with officers and are awaiting responses. There are no matters to report at this stage.

Harrogate District Council

We have several significant outstanding queries on the 2021/22 audit in particular those associated with property valuations and group accounts. These queries have been outstanding for several months and, given their significance, need resolution before we could commence audit work on the 2022/23 accounts. We expect to issue a 2022/23 Audit Strategy Memorandum by the end of November 2024.

Craven District Council

The 2021/22 and 2022/23 draft financial statements were published in August 2024. We have substantially completed our work on the Council's value for money arrangements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and intend to report the outcome to the October 2024 Audit Committee meeting.

We also plan to issue an Audit Strategy memorandum by the end of November 2024.

Scarborough Borough Council

We await the declaration from the Court following the Whitby Harbour hearing. For our routine audit work:

- we have completed detailed planning for 2022/23 and intend to issue an Audit Strategy Memorandum before the end of November 2024;
- we have completed value for money (VFM) arrangements work for 2015/16 to 2019/20 under the 2015 Code of Practice and our draft findings are under consideration by our moderation panel and we plan to issue a multi-year Annual Audit Letter on conclusion of this work;
- we have also completed our VFM arrangements work for 2020/21 to 2022/23 under the 2020 Code of Practice. Our Auditors Annual Report is under consideration by our moderation panel and on completion of the process we will issue report; and
- we are reporting a risk of significant weakness in the Borough Council's arrangements.

VFM Risk – Scarborough Borough Council – Whitby Harbour

Delays in completing audits from 2015/16 are a consequence of the ongoing uncertainty about the extent of the Whitby Harbour undertaking. In March 2021 following our analysis of a statutory objection, the underlying records and relevant legislation we issued a recommendation under section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Borough Council then agreed to seek a declaration from the Court as to the status of the land in contention.

The uncertainty could have a material impact on the final financial position of the Borough Council and its level of General Fund reserves and the Whitby Harbour statutory reserve. With a potentially uncertainty in 2015/16 and subsequent financial years we have been unable to complete our audit work.

Audit progress

NYC 2023/24

Accounts

We received draft Accounts on 21 August 2024 and a slightly updated version was published on 27 August 2024. At the time of writing, we are aware of the need for corrections identified by management to gross expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Property Plant and Equipment which we expect to receive shortly.

We have commenced detailed work on the statements and systems including:

- General IT Controls;
- system walk-through tests;
- income and expenditure testing; and
- journal testing.

Challenges in completing the audit are ongoing and the availability of officers to respond to our requests for information has resulted in some delays. We recognise that officers responsible for the production of the financial statements and supporting records have a range of other duties which sometimes leads to numerous and conflicting demands. Our audit work, however, can only progress when sufficient appropriate evidence is available.

We are now holding weekly meetings with key finance staff to focus on ensuring responses are timely. We hope to complete detailed testing by the end of October 2024 but that will only be possible if we receive timely responses for all audit queries.

At this stage there are no other matters we wish to raise with Members.

VFM arrangements

We have completed most of our work and have drafted our VFM commentary which is subject to moderation. We will issue the report in draft when the moderation process is completed.

At this stage there are no matters we wish to raise with Members.

2023/24 update the Pension Fund

Accounts

We received a full set of draft Accounts on 27 August 2024. Prior to this only partial accounts had been received.

We have commenced detailed work on the statements and systems including:

- General IT Controls for the pensions admin system;
- system walk-through;
- testing of contributions receivable and benefits payable; and
- testing of investment assets and investment income.

We began our audit work in July, following agreement with officers as to the timetable. However, the availability of officers to respond to audit queries and produce a full set of financial statements has led to delays in our audit work. Officers have indicated that all outstanding information will be provided by 13 September.

We are holding regular catch up calls with the key finance team.

At this stage there are no other matters we wish to raise with members.

Audit progress

Back-stop proposals

We have reported to previous Committees the national backlog in local authority financial reporting and local audit. After over 6 months of discussions with the sector and local auditors, on 7 February 2024, the government and the National Audit Office released a 4-week consultation on their proposals to address the national backlog. The plans were to reset, recover and reform the system.

DLHUC proposals

To clear the backlog of accounts and 'reset' the system, the previous government department DLHUC proposed putting a date in law (the "backstop date") – 30 September 2024 – by which point local councils would publish audited accounts for all outstanding years up to and including 2022/23.

Local auditors would issue a modified or disclaimed opinion on outstanding accounts if they do not have enough time to complete all audit work before the backstop date.

To 'recover' the system, DLUHC proposed to put further backstop dates into law for the publication of audited accounts by local bodies.

On 30 July 2024, the newly renamed Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a statement including the proposed backstop dates, set out below.

- Financial years up to and including 2022/23: 13 December 2024
- Financial year 2023/24: 28 February 2025
- Financial year 2024/25: 27 February 2026
- Financial year 2025/26: 31 January 2027
- Financial year 2026/27: 30 November 2027
- Financial year 2027/28: 30 November 2028

CIPFA proposals

CIPFA consulted on temporary changes to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which include extending overrides on infrastructure assets, simplifying the professional revaluation of operational property, and reducing disclosure requirements around net pension assets and liabilities for at least two years.

As of July 2024, CIPFA is no longer considering the temporary measures from earlier in the year, it is instead considering longer-term measures.

02

Publications and other updates

National publications

	Publication/update	Key points
National Audit Office (NAO)		
1	NAO report: Improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children	The NAO has published its report Improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children which examines whether the Department for Education (DfE) is achieving value for money through its funding to support the attainment of disadvantaged children in educational settings in England.
2	NAO report: The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness	The NAO has published its report The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness.
3	NAO report: DWP customer service	The NAO has published its report DWP customer service which examines whether the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) has an effective approach to customer service.
4	NAO report: The condition and maintenance of local roads in England	The NAO has published its report The condition and maintenance of local roads in England which examines whether the Department for Transport (DfT) is ensuring value for money through its funding provision for local road maintenance.
5	NAO insight: Digital transformation in government: a guide for senior leaders and audit and risk committees	The NAO has published a guide for senior leaders and audit and risk committees on Digital transformation in government. The guide can support those tasked with overseeing large-scale digital change to understand the core issues and pitfalls to avoid.
6	NAO insight: Good practice in annual reporting	Transparent, timely, and clear annual reporting in the public sector has never been more important. A good annual report is a key opportunity for bodies in the public sector.
Other		
7	Financial Reporting Council (FRC) – FRC report on quality of major local audits	Report on the quality of major local audits
8	Forvis Mazars – Preparing for the Procurement Act 2023	The Procurement Act 2023 is set to transform the procurement procedures for public sector bodies. Our latest article provides an in-depth overview of the new Procurement Act.
9	Forvis Mazars – Understanding the new ‘Failure to Prevent Fraud’ Offence in a Public Sector context	The UK Government has recently announced a new corporate criminal offence – the ‘failure to prevent fraud’ offence – within the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023.

National publications and other updates

1. NAO report: Improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children

The NAO has published its report Improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children which examines whether the Department for Education (DfE) is achieving value for money through its funding to support the attainment of disadvantaged children in educational settings in England, from early years to the end of key stage 4 (the end of compulsory schooling). It assesses:

- whether DfE has a coherent approach to support the attainment of disadvantaged children, and its progress against its objectives;
- how DfE understands the attainment of children and how it evaluates what works to effectively allocate resources; and
- the accountability arrangements and support DfE provides schools and early years providers to ensure value for money.

The report concludes that each year, DfE spends around £60 billion to support all children across schools and early years settings. For 2023-24, this included an estimated £9.2 billion focused on supporting disadvantaged children and narrowing the attainment gap between them and their peers, with half of this comprising disadvantage elements of its core funding for schools.

Despite this investment, disadvantaged children performed less well than their peers across all areas and school phases in 2022/23. The gap in children's attainment had been narrowing before the COVID-19 pandemic, which then had a detrimental impact. The gap continues to widen for key stage 4, which is when children leave school, and, while the attainment gap for those finishing primary school narrowed slightly in the past year, it remains wider than it was a decade ago.

DfE has evidence to support some of its interventions and uses this to help schools and early years providers to make decisions. However, it does not yet understand the outcomes resulting from a significant proportion of its expenditure on disadvantaged children. It also does not have a fully integrated view of its interventions, or milestones to assess progress and when more may need to be done.

The, and the lack of sustained progress reducing the disadvantage attainment gap since 2010/11, means that DfE cannot demonstrate it is achieving value for money. To make progress, and secure value for money, it should build more evidence of what works, look strategically across its interventions and how it allocates its funding, and work effectively across government to address the wider factors to make progress on this complex issue.

[Improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children](#)

National publications and other updates

2. NAO report: The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness

The NAO has published its report *The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness*. Note: On 9 July 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) was renamed the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). The report refers to DLUHC throughout, as that was the name in use at the time of fieldwork.

This report follows on the NAO's last report on homelessness in 2017 – around six months before Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 came into force. The report assesses value for money in terms of whether DLUHC is working with government departments and local authorities in a way that maximises government's ability to tackle homelessness. Specifically, it looks to establish whether DLUHC: has a good understanding of the nature of homelessness; is delivering appropriate system leadership; and supports local authorities well.

The report concludes that homelessness is a highly complex issue affected by a wide range of social and economic factors, and by government policy in areas such as housing, welfare and asylum. Statutory homelessness has increased significantly in recent years, meaning that more people are finding themselves either with no stable place to live or in temporary accommodation provided by their local authority.

Providing temporary accommodation alone cost local authorities over £1.6 billion in 2022-23, but it varies in quality and there are gaps in regulation, while some of it – such as B&Bs being used for households with children – is unsuitable. Dealing with homelessness is creating unsustainable financial pressure for some local authorities.

The situation has worsened since the NAO last examined the issue in 2017. Despite the introduction of HRA 2017, homelessness numbers are at a record level and expected to increase. While DLUHC has developed much better homelessness data and stronger links with local authorities, the government still has no strategy or public targets for reducing statutory homelessness, and DLUHC is falling behind on key programmes to improve housing supply. Funding remains fragmented and generally short-term, inhibiting homelessness prevention work and limiting investment in good-quality temporary accommodation or other forms of housing.

Until these factors are addressed across government, DLUHC will not be able to demonstrate that it is delivering optimal value for money from its efforts to tackle homelessness.

[The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness](#)

National publications and other updates

3. NAO report: DWP customer service

The NAO has published its report DWP customer service which examines whether the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) has an effective approach to customer service. The evaluative criteria used to assess value for money included whether DWP:

- has a clear framework for monitoring customer service, such as clear objectives, measures and performance reporting;
- has provided good customer service over recent years in relation to four key areas – satisfaction, payment accuracy, payment timeliness and telephony; and
- has clear plans to improve customer service

The report concludes that DWP has a responsibility to provide good customer service, not least because its customers cannot switch to an alternative welfare provider if they are unhappy with the service they receive. Its customers include some of the most vulnerable in society, who rely on DWP for the accurate and timely payment of the benefits to which they are entitled.

Faced with growing demand and a challenging operational context, DWP's customer service has fallen short of the expected standards over recent years, particularly for certain benefits, such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP). It is generally not meeting its performance benchmarks or standards for customer satisfaction, payment timeliness and answering calls to its in-house telephone lines.

There are some areas of strong performance with, for example, the proportion of State Pension customers satisfied with the service they receive consistently above DWP's benchmark of 85%, and Universal Credit performing well on payment timeliness and telephony.

But there are also areas of poor performance, in particular payment timeliness for PIP with only 52% of claims processed in line with the 75-day standard in 2023-24 – although this represents a considerable improvement compared with previous years.

DWP recognises that it needs to transform its services to be a customer-focused organisation. Its modernisation plans are based on a good understanding of the issues that need to be addressed and are necessarily ambitious. However, the scale and complexity of the plans mean delivery is risky, and DWP is unlikely to achieve in the short term the improvements that are needed.

DWP must now set out how it will assess whether its actions to improve customer service are working and how it will track progress towards its goals. This will provide assurance on value for money and help DWP keep its plans on track so that it can consistently provide a good service to those people who rely on it.

[DWP customer service](#)

National publications and other updates

4. NAO report: The condition and maintenance of local roads in England

The NAO has published its report The condition and maintenance of local roads in England which examines whether the Department for Transport (DfT) is ensuring value for money through its funding provision for local road maintenance, and whether it is effectively fulfilling its role in supporting local authorities to deliver local road maintenance. The NAO has assessed whether:

- DfT understands the condition of local roads in England;
- DfT is using its data and information to inform its funding decisions; and
- DfT is supporting local authorities effectively through providing guidance on asset maintenance.

The report concludes that local roads are a vital part of local transport infrastructure, used every day by millions of people. Despite their importance, the condition of local roads is declining and the backlog to return them to a good state of repair is increasing.

DfT has provided between £1.1 and £1.6 billion of capital funding each year to local authorities and has set out plans for additional funding through to 2034. Given the fiscal constraints, it is essential that DfT secures maximum value from the funding it has available.

However, at present DfT does not have a good enough understanding of the condition of local roads and does not use the limited data it does have to allocate its funding as effectively as possible. It does not know whether the funds it allocates are delivering improvements in road condition, and has not updated its

guidance to local authorities, to share good practice and help them make the most of their limited funds, for some years.

Managing the local road network is becoming increasingly complex – for example, as climate change and autonomous vehicles demand more from it – and the additional funding that DfT has secured provides an opportunity to equip local authorities to better meet these challenges.

If DfT is able to address the issues in its current approach it will be much better placed to improve the value for money of funding in this area and secure an improved and more resilient local roads network.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/the-condition-and-maintenance-of-local-roads-in-england/>

National publications

5. NAO insight: Digital transformation in government: a guide for senior leaders and audit and risk committees

The NAO has published a guide for senior leaders and audit and risk committees on Digital transformation in government. The guide can support those tasked with overseeing large-scale digital change to understand the core issues and pitfalls to avoid. The guide identifies seven areas where the more persistent obstacles stand in the way of successful digital transformation in government and have grouped them into three themes:

- constraints of the existing environment;
- under-estimating the scope of early work; and
- lack of skills and leadership.

[Digital transformation in government: a guide for senior leaders and audit and risk committees](#)

6. NAO insight: Good practice in annual reporting

Transparent, timely, and clear annual reporting in the public sector has never been more important.

A good annual report is a key opportunity for bodies in the public sector to:

- weave a compelling narrative that resonates with the public;
- serve as a tool for accountability by shedding light on how taxpayer's money has been spent; and
- equip stakeholders with information to hold organisations to account.

The list is not definitive but should provide ideas on content and format for all bodies in both the public and private sector as they plan their annual reporting for 2023-24.

[Good practice in annual reporting](#)

National publications

Other

7. Financial Reporting Council (FRC) - FRC report on quality of major local audits

The FRC has published its report on the quality of major local audits which summarises the FRC's regulatory approach for financial years up to and including the year ended 31 March 2023 and sets out the findings from the 2022-23 inspections cycle.

The FRC reviews in the 2022-23 inspection cycle comprised six health and four local government audits. The audits inspected had year-ends in March (or in one case May) 2021 (local government) and March 2022 (health). For local government audits, inspections were selected from those finished in the 2022 calendar year (regardless of the financial year the audit related to) due to the challenges brought on by the backlog. Therefore, more audits were inspected from the health sector and as a result, the findings in the report are more indicative of audit quality in the health sector. Across all suppliers, all financial statement audits were assessed as "good" or "limited improvements required". Areas requiring limited improvements included:

- audit procedures regarding completeness and accuracy of expenditure; and
- the audit of one NHS Trust, the inspection concluded that audit procedures were not sufficiently tailored to address the impact of backlog maintenance on property, plant and equipment valuations.

In terms of value for money (VFM) inspections, six related to health and three local government bodies. This is less than the number of financial statement audits inspected because the auditor's work on VFM arrangements was not complete on one audit that was inspected. All VFM inspections were assessed as good or limited improvements required. Areas requiring limited improvements included:

- risk assessment procedures not being performed in a timely manner;
- not considering the arrangements in place at the body to manage, monitor and oversee its subsidiaries; and
- the audit team not updating their initial risk assessment or reporting to consider how the body had achieved its outturn financial position.

Examples of good practice have also been included in the report regarding risk assessment, execution of the audit, and audit completion and reporting.

[FRC publishes report on the quality of major local audits amid delays in local government](#)

National publications

Other

8. Forvis Mazars – Preparing for the Procurement Act 2023

The Procurement Act 2023 is set to transform the procurement procedures for public sector bodies in the UK by:

- enhancing transparency in procurement processes, requiring greater disclosure of information about procurement opportunities;
- improving efficiency by introducing new measures such as electronic procurement platforms; and
- promoting fairness to ensure all suppliers have equal access to government contracts.

Our latest article provides an in-depth overview of the new Procurement Act, including when it will be implemented, key provisions and how public sector organisations can prepare.

[Preparing for the Procurement Act 2023](#)

9. Forvis Mazars – Understanding the new ‘Failure to Prevent Fraud’ Offence in a Public Sector context

The UK Government has recently announced a new corporate criminal offence – the 'failure to prevent fraud' offence – within the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023.

Fraud is currently the most common crime in the UK, and this new offence is designed to drive a cultural shift, encouraging organisations to improve their prevention procedures and reduce instances of fraud. It strengthens existing powers to fine and prosecute organisations for fraud committed by their employees and agents, closing loopholes that have allowed organisations to avoid prosecution in the past.

This new offence holds large organisations, both in the public and private sectors, accountable for fraudulent activities committed by their employees or agents.

[‘Failure to Prevent Fraud’ in the Public Sector](#)

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider the draft annual report of the Audit Committee for the year ended 30 September 2024, prior to its submission to full Council.

2.0 ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance which recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities. A copy of the draft annual report of this Audit Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**. A copy of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference is attached to the report as **Appendix A**, for information.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) note this report; and
- (ii) consider and approve the draft annual report of the Audit Committee prior to its submission to full Council.

Cllr Cliff Lunn

CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Relevant public reports presented to the Audit Committee and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee

Report prepared by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit and presented by Cllr Clifford Lunn, Chair of the Audit Committee

County Hall
Northallerton

10 September 2024

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Members of the Council with details of the work carried out by the Audit Committee during the year ended 30 September 2024. The report also details how the Audit Committee has fulfilled its Terms of Reference during this period.

BACKGROUND

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's corporate governance, audit and risk management arrangements. The Committee is also responsible for approving the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement. The Committee's specific powers and duties are set out in Schedule 1 of the Constitution under the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached at **Appendix A** for information.

Audit Committees are a key component of corporate governance and provide an important source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees are operating effectively¹. The guidance recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

WORK UNDERTAKEN AND OPINION

The Audit Committee has met on 5 occasions during the year. This has enabled the Committee to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers and the internal auditors, Veritau. The Committee has also received reports from the former external auditors, Deloitte and the Council's current external auditors, Mazars.

The Audit Committee is satisfied that adequate and effective controls have been maintained throughout the period covered by this report.

The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out below.

¹ CIPFA – Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2022 edition)

The Committee:

External Audit

- 1 Received progress reports and updates from the former external auditors, Deloitte relating to the audit of the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the former County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. The completion of the 2021/22 audit had been delayed due to a number of issues including changes to the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets;
- 2 Considered the external audit plan presented by Deloitte for the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) and the review of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money. Deloitte have also provided verbal updates on the progress being made to complete the audit;
- 3 Considered the external audit plan presented by Deloitte for the audit of the 2022/23 financial statements for the North Yorkshire Pension Fund;
- 4 Considered the external audit plan prepared by Mazars for the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the former Selby District Council, and the review of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money. Mazars also provided updates on the progress made to complete the audits of the financial statements for the former Harrogate and Scarborough Borough Councils;
- 5 Considered the draft external audit plan prepared by Mazars for the audit of the Council's 2023/24 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) and the review of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money. Mazars have also provided updates on the progress being made to complete the audit;
- 6 Considered the audit strategy memorandum prepared by Mazars for the audit of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund for 2023/24;
- 7 Received the report prepared by Ernst & Young (EY) following the completion of the audit of the former Hambleton District Council's financial statements for 2019/20;
- 8 Received the report prepared by Grant Thornton following the completion of the audit of the former Ryedale District Council's financial statements for 2022/23;

Internal Audit

- 9 Continued to oversee the internal audit arrangements for the Council and North Yorkshire Pension Fund;
- 10 Approved the Internal Audit work programme for 2024/25. The work programme is designed to ensure that limited internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are considered to be the most risky or which contribute most to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives. The Committee noted that the plan is flexible and will be kept under review to ensure it continues to reflect the changing risk environment and the Council's priorities;
- 11 Monitored the delivery of the annual Internal Audit work programme through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit. Reviewed changes to the

work programme to reflect new or changed Council priorities, and monitored the progress made by management to address identified control weaknesses;

- 12 Received and considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit for 2023/24 which provided an overall opinion on the Council's governance arrangements and control environment. The Committee noted that the work of internal audit was primarily focused on those areas which represented the highest risk for the Council. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control provided reasonable assurance. In forming this opinion, the Head of Internal Audit had considered the progress made by management during the year to address identified control weaknesses. A number of areas were also highlighted by internal audit which require continuing attention including creditor payment systems, housing stock management, property asset management and information security. The Head of Internal Audit asked that these areas should be considered for inclusion in the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement;
- 13 Considered the outcomes of the annual internal audit quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP) and an external assessment of internal audit working practices conducted by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIIA). The CIIA concluded that the internal audit service 'generally conforms' to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the International Professional Practices Framework for internal audit (IPPF). The Committee was pleased that internal audit practices continue to meet the required professional standards and therefore continued reliance could be placed on the arrangements operating within the Council;
- 14 Considered the award of a new contract for internal audit services;
- 15 Counter Fraud
- 16 Received regular reports summarising the work being done to prevent and detect potential fraud committed against the Council, and to investigate cases of suspected fraud which occur;
- 17 Approved changes to the Council's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing policy;
- 18 Considered the results of the annual fraud risk assessment and approved the Counter Fraud Strategy and workplan for 2024/25;
- 19 Received and considered the annual counter fraud report for 2023/24. The report summarised the counter activities undertaken during the year including the outcome of completed investigations. The Committee noted that council tax and business rates represented the largest proportion of cases although fraud had been detected across a number of other service areas. It was also noted that fraud investigations had delivered £82k in savings during the year;

Financial Statements

- 20 Received regular reports on the work being done to complete the Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) and audits for the legacy North Yorkshire councils. With the exception of the former Craven District Council, all of the 2022/23 accounts have been approved. However, the accounts are still subject to audit by the respective external auditors. In addition, a number of accounts relating to the legacy North

Yorkshire councils are also outstanding from earlier years due to a combination of technical issues and capacity problems within the external audit teams. The accounts will be approved once those issues have been resolved and the audits completed;

- 21 Approved the amended Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the former Hambleton District Council in respect of 2019/20, and for the former Ryedale District Council in respect of 2022/23 together with the respective Letters of Representation;
- 22 *Established a working group to review the draft 2023/24 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the Council and the associated governance documents. The SOFA incorporates the accounts of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. The working group will report back to the Audit Committee in advance of the SOFA being approved;*

Risk Management

- 23 Continued to oversee the effectiveness of the Council's risk management policy and procedures. This has included considering the updated Corporate Risk Register and the associated mitigating actions. At the time of the report (in December 2023) officers highlighted three new or significantly changed risks. These were achieving net zero by 2030, delivering the North Yorkshire transformation and savings requirements, and property and housing regulation compliance. The Committee noted that a number of other risks had been downgraded and would now be managed at a directorate level;
- 24 Assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate's risk management arrangements through consideration of the risks and mitigating actions identified in Directorate risk registers;
- 25 Noted the completion of two additional risks workshops relating to the Catterick Garrison Levelling Up Fund (LUF) project and the Libraries Improvement Fund (LIF) mobile library replacement;

Corporate Governance

- 26 Considered changes to the Local Code of Corporate Governance prior to its approval;
- 27 Received details of the latest update to the Corporate Governance self-assessment checklist. The Committee noted the changes made to the Council's governance arrangements during the year, and planned future developments;
- 28 Considered the annual partnership governance reports for the former County Council for 2022/23 *and the Council for 2023/24*. The reports included details of key partnerships, changes which had occurred during each year and the arrangements in place to monitor the management and performance of those partnerships. The Committee noted that none of the partnerships had been categorised as high risk and there had been no significant governance failures reported in either year. The Committee concluded that partnership governance remains effective, and the arrangements for overseeing these arrangements are proportionate and commensurate to the risks;
- 29 Received a report outlining the work of the Procurement and Contract Management Service (PCMS) during the year. The report noted that the PCMS had worked with

the directorates and service areas to ensure continuity of service following the creation of the new North Yorkshire Council, and to clarify roles and responsibilities in respect of procurement and contract monitoring. Work was also continuing to identify opportunities to consolidate existing contracts, update the Council's contracts register and prepare a forward procurement plan. The report highlighted the continuing challenges caused by inflation and supply chain resilience, and the lack of capacity within the corporate team caused by staff turnover. The Committee noted that the Council continues to work with the Go4Growth Programme, a partnership with other local councils, which invests in local business development. The Committee noted the support that had been provided to local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) as part of the re-procurement of the Social Care Approved Provider Lists. The PCMS also continues to play a leading role in developing regional and national strategy within local government. The Council is the deputy chair of the YorProcure Strategic Procurement Group and represents the region on the Local Government Association National Advisory Group for Procurement. The Committee also noted that plans are being developed ahead of the implementation of the new Procurement Act, which is expected to take effect from 28 October 2024;

- 30 Received and considered an updated Procurement and Contract Management Strategy. The revised Strategy is now aligned with the Council Plan and sets out the direction of travel for the next 5 years. It was noted that the Strategy will focus on measures to encourage sustainability and market stability, providing support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE) sectors, ensuring social value in the Council's supply chain and building a stronger economy in North Yorkshire. The revised Strategy will be implemented in line with a Strategy Action Plan;
- 31 Considered the ongoing work of the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) which is responsible for updating the corporate information policy framework, identifying new or emerging risks, sharing best practice, and monitoring compliance with corporate information governance standards. The Committee received details of the work being done to mitigate cyber security risks and to raise awareness of the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. The Committee was also informed of the work being undertaken to ensure the Council was compliant with the relevant legislation following local government reorganisation. This included reviewing processes, training and awareness raising. The Committee also considered recent data security incidents and the move to MS Office 365. The Committee considers that information governance remains a key corporate risk;
- 32 Received a report outlining the Council's business continuity arrangements following local government reorganisation. The report provided details of the updated corporate business continuity policy, programme and plan, and the emergency and major incident plan. These plans are intended to ensure a consistent and coordinated response to any emergency or incident. The report also outlined the work of the Resilience and Emergencies Team (RET) to raise awareness of risks and train staff within service areas to respond to incidents. Business continuity champions in each service area oversee arrangements, take ownership of the process and attend meetings of the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG). This approach helps to improve engagement, prioritise the allocation of resources and ensure consistency. Each service area is required to maintain a Business Impact Analysis which prioritises business functions and quantifies the impact of any loss of those functions,

and an Incident Management Plan which sets out the planned response to a range of possible incidents. Members of the RET review these plans and facilitate business continuity exercises to test their adequacy. The Committee noted that the RET is now providing support to the City of York Council which will allow a more consistent approach by the two councils and potentially improved resilience;

- 33 Received a report summarising the outcome of a review of the governance arrangements in place within the Council's Brierley Group companies. The report also set out the existing framework for the oversight of those companies. The review had taken account of relevant guidance issued by CIPFA. The guidance represents best practice for the establishment and monitoring of companies. It also identifies the possible risks and problems which can occur, highlighting some of the recent failures at other local authorities. The review had concluded that the governance structures in place are largely compliant with the guidance and considered to be robust and appropriate for each company. The report contained a number of recommendations covering conflicts of interest, the membership of company boards, the requirement for business plans to be prepared, external audit arrangements, compliance with Teckal rules and the maintenance of risk registers. The Committee asked the Shareholder Committee to consider its comments, particularly in respect of the role of Elected Members on company boards;

Financial Management

- 34 Received details of the outcome of the latest self-assessment of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code. The Code is intended to support good practice in financial management and to help local authorities demonstrate financial sustainability. The Code requires local authorities to assess compliance with the Financial Management Standards and to report this as part of the Annual Governance Statement. Inevitably there have been a number of issues with some aspects of financial management as a result of local government reorganisation. These have included the need for more intensive intervention from finance to support some budget managers, a number of systems and process issues which have required workarounds or more manual interim processes and delays in the full alignment of budgets to the new structures which have led to a greater reliance on ad hoc financial reporting. However, none of these issues have impacted fundamentally on the key financial management and control functions identified in the Code. The Committee noted the results of the self-assessment and those areas which had been identified as requiring further improvement;
- 35 Received details of possible changes to the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and the impact of these changes on the Council's accounting policies. Whilst no immediate changes were required to the accounting policies, the Committee noted that CIPFA had completed a consultation exercise on the planned adoption of IFRS 16 (covering the accounting treatment of leases) from 2024/25 onwards. This will have an impact on all the main elements of the Council's SOFA, including the balance sheet, comprehensive income and expenditure statement, and cashflow statement. A number of new disclosure notes will be required, and the reclassification of leases may also have implications for the Council's prudential borrowing;

Other

- 36 Continued to scrutinise the Council's treasury management arrangements. This included reviewing the updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25. The Strategy includes details of treasury indicators covering the investment of surplus funds, the future investment and borrowing strategies, capital financing and expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators, and a minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy. The Strategy meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, investment and MRP guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and the CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management Codes;
- 37 Noted the outcome of the insurance tender exercise for the new North Yorkshire Council;
- 38 Considered a motion on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which had been referred to the Audit Committee by Full Council. The motion was also referred to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review. The Committee debated the motion in detail and noted that the Council is already working towards delivering a number of the objectives set out by the UN. The Committee recommended that the Executive reviewed the motion with the aim of ensuring that its quarterly monitoring reports incorporate the Council's progress with respect to the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- 39 Reviewed the progress which had been made by officers to address other issues raised at meetings of the Committee;
- 40 During the year, the Committee continued to benefit from the attendance and participation of its two independent co-opted members, David Portlock and David Marsh. Following a recruitment exercise, both co-opted members were also appointed for a further term. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their contribution to the work of the Committee and their diligence, enthusiasm and support during the period;
- 41 No changes are considered necessary to the Committee's Terms of Reference at this time. The Committee intends to complete a self-assessment of its effectiveness in early 2025. This exercise may result in future changes being proposed.

Councillor Clifford Lunn
Chair of the Audit Committee

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In respect of **Internal Audit**

- to approve the Internal Audit Charter, Annual Audit Plan and performance criteria for the Internal Audit Service.
- to review summary findings and the main issues arising from internal audit reports and seek assurance that management action has been taken where necessary.
- to review the effectiveness of the anti-fraud and corruption arrangements throughout the Council.
- consider the annual report from the Head of Internal Audit.
- to obtain assurance that the work of internal audit conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

2. In respect of **External Audit**

- to ensure the independence of External Audit is maintained
- to review the annual audit plan and monitor its delivery

3. To review, and recommend to the Executive, changes to Procurement and Contract, Finance and Property Procedure Rules.

4. In respect of **financial statements**

For both the Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund

- to approve the respective annual Statements of Final Accounts
- to receive and review the Annual Audit Letters and associated documents issued by the External Auditor
- to review changes in accounting policy

5. In respect of **Corporate Governance**

- to assess the effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements
- to review progress on the implementation of Corporate Governance arrangements throughout the Council
- to approve Annual Governance Statements for both the Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund
- to liaise, as necessary, with the Standards and Governance Committee on any matter(s) relating to the Codes of Conduct for both Members and Officers
- to work with the Standards and Governance Committee to promote good ethical standards within the Council
- to review the arrangements in place for ensuring good governance in the Council's key partnerships and owned companies

6. In respect of **Risk Management**

- to assess the effectiveness of the Council's Risk Management arrangements.

- to review progress on the implementation of Risk Management throughout the Council.
7. In respect of **Information Governance**
- to review all corporate policies and procedures in relation to Information Governance.
 - to oversee the implementation of Information Governance policies and procedures throughout the Council.
8. In respect of **Treasury Management**
- to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Council's Treasury Management strategy and policies as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.
 - To review these Treasury Management strategies, policies and arrangements and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive.
9. In respect of **Value for Money**
- to have oversight of the arrangements across the Council in securing Value for Money.
10. To consider any other relevant matter referred to it by the Council, Executive or any other Committee. In addition any matter of concern can be raised by this Committee to the full Council, Executive or any other Member body.
11. To exercise all functions in relation to the making and changing of policy relating to such audit and counter-fraud matters which fall within the remit of the Committee (save as may be delegated otherwise).
12. To periodically review the effectiveness of the Audit Committee itself.
13. To meet not less than four times a year on normal business and review its Terms of Reference on an annual basis.

North Yorkshire Council

Audit Committee

23 September 2024

Final Accounts Audit Update

Report of the Corporate Director Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update on the audits of the Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for legacy councils in light of the Government's backstop arrangements.
- 1.2 To seek delegated authority to approve the remaining legacy district and borough SOFAs following completion of the various external audits.
- 1.3 To update on the publication of the North Yorkshire Council draft SOFA for 2023/24.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1. This report provides an update on the audit, certification and publication of the outstanding final audited Statement of Accounts for legacy Councils. All draft accounts for the years up to 2023/24 have now been published. Following announcement of the Governments plans for dealing with the external audit backlog, it is proposed that the existing Corporate Governance Working Group's terms of reference be extended to include the review of the legacy district and borough accounts that remain outstanding at this time. In addition, it is recommended that final approval of these accounts is delegated to the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. 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 Statement of Accounts (SOFA).
- 3.2. The regulations set out the requirement for the Statement of Accounts (SOFA) to be certified by the Section 151 Officer (Corporate Director – Resources) and approved by Members (the Audit Committee) in advance of the certification and publication.
- 3.3 In response to mounting delays and pressures in the external audit market, the Government have announced measures to tackle a worsening backlog in local audit and restore transparency and accountability over how public money is spent across England. Backstop dates cover the historic backlog and future audits through to 2027/28.
- 3.4 The proposed backstop dates are:
 - Financial years up-to-and-including 2022/23: 13 December 2024
 - Financial year 2023/24: 28 February 2025
 - Financial year 2024/25: 27 February 2026

- Financial year 2025/26: 31 January 2027
- Financial year 2026/27: 30 November 2027
- Financial year 2027/28: 30 November 2028

3.5 Draft 2022/23 accounts for all of the legacy councils and the draft 2023/24 accounts for NYC have now been published. The 2022/23 accounts for Ryedale District Council have been audited and were approved at the Audit Committee meeting on subject to assurance on the North Yorkshire Pension Fund, which remains outstanding.

3.6 At this stage, significant work to complete the audits up to 2022/23 is required, and there are no guarantees that this will be achieved by the 13 December 2024. Therefore, in order to work with our external auditors to achieve sign-off of accounts by the December deadline, a streamlined approach to review and approval is proposed.

4.0 PROPOSED SIGN-OFF ARRANGEMENTS AND AUDIT UPDATE FOR PERIODS TO 31 MARCH 23

4.1 Subject to the views of the Audit Committee, it is recommended that the remit of the Corporate Governance Working Group (the Working Group), which has previously been established to review North Yorkshire County Council's accounts for 2022/23, be extended to include the district and borough accounts that remain outstanding.

4.2 It is proposed that the Working Group will consider the external audit reports and make recommendations for approval to the Corporate Director Resources (s151 Officer) and the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

4.3 The membership and terms of reference of the Working Group is set out at **Appendix A**.

4.4 A summary sheet giving an overview of the status of the accounts and the audits in progress for the legacy councils is shown in **Appendix B**.

5.0 NYC UPDATE FOR 2023/24

5.1 The Council's draft accounts for 2023/24 were published on 27 August 2024 – a copy is attached at **Appendix C**. The audit has commenced but progress has been challenged by the added complexity of merging 8 sets of accounts into 1, and some capacity issues, with the NYC finance team stretched across the various audits that are currently running. We are working closely with Mazars to enable the work to progress in order to meet the backstop date.

5.2 At this stage, there is no requirement for Member approval of the draft SOFA prior to the review by external audit. The SOFA is circulated for information in advance of the final SOFA, which will be submitted to Audit Committee following conclusion of the external audit.

5.3 It is also proposed that the Working Group referenced above will review the 2023/24 draft NYC accounts and then report back to the full committee for final approval.

5.4 The backstop date for 2023/24 is 28 February 2025, with Audit Committee scheduled for December and March and therefore we may need to schedule an extra meeting to achieve the February backstop.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 No alternative options were considered.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific financial implications.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal implications.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equalities implications.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no climate change implications.

12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Member approval is required to sign off audited SOFAs in order to fulfil the obligations of those charged with the council's governance (i.e. the Audit Committee).

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That Members approve the membership and extended remit of the Corporate Governance Working Group as set out at **Appendix A**;
- ii) That members delegate authority to the Corporate Director Resources and the Chairman of the Audit Committee to approve the legacy district and borough accounts and sign the letters of representation, up to 2022/23.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Corporate Governance Working Group Membership and Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Summary update on Legacy Council Accounts

Appendix C – NYC draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Resources
County Hall
Northallerton
September 2024

Report Author – Karen Iveson Assistant Director Resources

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed questions.

Corporate Governance Working Group

Membership

Subject to confirmation and any amendments the committee may wish to make, the following Audit Committee Members as previously agreed are:

Councillor Philip Broadbank
Councillor Cliff Lunn
Councillor George Jabbour
Councillor Neil Swannick
Co-opted member – David Portlock

Terms of Reference

- To consider the Statement of Final Accounts for North Yorkshire County Council for 2022/23 and make recommendations to Audit Committee;
- to consider the Statement of Final Accounts for North Yorkshire Council for 2023/24 and make recommendations to Audit Committee;
- In respect of the outstanding accounts for the legacy North Yorkshire districts and boroughs, to consider in overview, the Statements of Final Accounts and Annual Governance Statements, and Annual External Audit reports and make recommendations to the Corporate Director Resources and Chairman of Audit Committee.

Meeting Frequency

To be determined and subject to the audit completion reports received.

Update on Legacy Council Accounts

Council	Audit Firm	Draft Accounts Published	Audit of Accounts Completed						
		22/23	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20	18/19	17/18	16/17
Craven	Mazars	√	x	x	√	√	√	√	√
Hambleton	EY	√	x	x	x	x	√	√	√
Harrogate	Mazars	√	x	x	√	√	√	√	√
NYCC	Deloitte	√	x	√	√	√	√	√	√
Richmondshire	EY	√	x	x	x	√	√	√	√
Ryedale	GT	√	x	√	√	√	√	√	√
Scarborough	Mazars	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Selby	Mazars	√	x	√	√	√	√	√	√

Red – Not started

Amber - In progress

Green – Completed

Craven District Council

The 2021/22 and 2022/23 draft financial statements were published in August 2024. The external auditors report that they have almost completed the VFM work for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and will report their findings to Audit Committee. The auditor also plans to issue an Audit Strategy memorandum by the end of November 2024.

Hambleton District Council

VFM work has almost been completed for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and feedback from the auditor is awaited. Final changes to the Going Concern disclosure note in the 2019/20 accounts have been provided and confirmation from the auditor that there are no other outstanding issues is awaited. Audits of the financial statements for 2020/21 to 2022/23 have not yet commenced. Recent correspondence from the auditor infers that they are working towards the relevant backstop deadlines for these outstanding audits as recently laid in Parliament.

Harrogate Borough Council

The external auditors report that they have several significant outstanding queries on the 2021/22 audit in particular those associated with property valuations and group accounts. These queries need resolution before audit work can commence on the 2022/23 accounts.

North Yorkshire County Council

The audit of the 2022/23 accounts is currently in progress. Officers are working with the external auditor to resolve outstanding queries and remaining audit work. The audit of the Pension Fund accounts is substantially complete and at review stage. The accounts are expected to be approved in advance of the backstop deadlines recently laid in Parliament.

Richmondshire District Council

The auditor advised in March 2024 that the audits for 2020/21 and 2021/22 were almost complete but no further update has been received since. The 2022/23 audit has not yet commenced. Recent correspondence from the auditor infers that they are working towards the relevant backstop deadlines for these outstanding years as recently laid in Parliament.

Ryedale District Council

The 2022/23 accounts have been audited and were approved at the Audit Committee meeting on 18 Mach 2024 subject to assurance on the North Yorkshire Pension Fund, which remains outstanding.

Scarborough Borough Council

The declaration from the court following the Whitby Harbour hearing is still awaited to understand its impact on the legacy audits from 2015/16 onwards. The external auditor reports that they have completed detailed planning for 2022/23. VFM work has been completed for 2015/16 to 2022/23 and will issue a report on the conclusion of a review of this work by their internal moderation panel.

Selby District Council

The audit of the 2022/23 accounts has almost been completed. Officers are currently working with the external auditor to resolve the few outstanding queries and no issues are anticipated as a result. The accounts are expected to be approved in advance of the backstop deadlines recently laid in Parliament.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

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Contact us

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Tel: 0300 131 2 131

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NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. North Yorkshire Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 are presented in the format laid down in *The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (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 Council's finances. It gives an indication of where the 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 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 - Resources.
 - (d) **the Statement of Accounting Policies**; which explains the principles, bases, conventions and rules applied by the 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 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 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 Council and shows the Balances and Reserves at the 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 Council during the financial year. The statement shows how the 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) **the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement**; this Statement shows the economic cost in the year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the

year, on the basis on which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Statement.

- (k) **movement on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Statement;** which shows how the HRA Income and Expenditure Account surplus or deficit for the year reconciles to the movement on the HRA Balance for the year.
- (l) **the Collection Fund (England) Statement;** this shows income and expenditure relating to Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate Collection.
- (m) **Group Accounts;** the Council conducts some of its activities through partnerships and separate undertakings. Some of these are not directly reflected in the statements (e) – (i) above on the basis of materiality. These Group Accounts are required to present a full picture of the Council's economic activities and financial position in order to support the primary financial statements.
- (n) **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 2024.
- (o) **the Annual Governance Statement;** this sets out the framework within which financial control and corporate governance is managed and reviewed by the Council and the main components of the system. It also reports on significant identified weaknesses and the actions undertaken to rectify these.

OVERVIEW

2. Established on 1 April 2023 from the former County, District and Borough councils in North Yorkshire, 2023/24 is the first year of the new unitary council. Our first year has been one of challenge and change as we have embarked upon a far-reaching transformation programme to bring the operations of the former 8 councils together, whilst ensuring services continue for the benefit of our communities and customers.

The new council plan 2024-2028 sets out the council's vision, ambitions and priorities, as well as the approach we will take to achieve them.

We start life in good financial shape having inherited a strong financial management culture from our legacy councils, but like all councils in the country, we are facing major challenges from the impact of inflation, increased demand for our services, climate change, and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our communities.

However, we also know that we have the opportunity of re-organisation to help drive efficiency and maximise spending power, which will be critical to sustaining essential services in the face of the many significant challenges.

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

North Yorkshire is the largest county in England – covering 8,654 km² with an estimated population of over 620k. The Council is responsible for many key local services and organised into 5 directorates each responsible for a range of 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.
- Environmental Services – including: highways and transportation, parking, street scene, parks and grounds; environmental services and climate change; integrated passenger transport, licensing. Public rights of way and harbours; regulatory services, registration, bereavement and coroners.
- Community Development – including: planning; economic development, regeneration, tourism and skills; culture, libraries and leisure; housing; and economic partnership unit.
- Central Services – including: customer, revenues and benefits; property, procurement and commercial service; transformation; technology; finance; local engagement; human resources and business support, legal and democratic services.

Alongside the reorganisation of local government in North Yorkshire a mayoral combined authority covering the areas of York and North Yorkshire was established in 2023, with the election of our first Mayor in May 2024.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE SPENDING

3. The main components of the final Budget for 2023/24 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	106.9	108.4	1.5
Environmental Services	110.4	108.9	(1.5)
Health and Adult Services	223.7	228.8	5.1
Resource, Central Services and Corporate Miscellaneous	89.6	74.3	(15.3)
Community Development	29.0	27.9	(1.1)
Total Directorate Net Expenditure	<u>559.6</u>	<u>548.3</u>	<u>(11.3)</u>
Financed by:			
Business Rates	119.5	119.5	0.0
Council Tax Revenue	427.7	427.7	0.0
Contribution from Reserves	12.4	12.4	0.0
Total	<u>559.6</u>	<u>559.6</u>	<u>0.0</u>
(Deficit) / Surplus in Year	<u>0.0</u>	<u>11.3</u>	<u>11.3</u>
General Working Balance			
Start of Year	67.0	67.0	0.0
(Deficit) / Surplus in Year	0.0	11.3	11.3
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	0.0	8.1	8.1
Transfers (to) / from Strategic Capacity Reserve	0.0	(11.3)	(11.3)
Closing Balance	<u>67.0</u>	<u>75.1</u>	<u>8.1</u>

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
Council's Actual Directorate Net Expenditure	548.3	(559.6)	(11.3)
*Different treatment of some Government Funding	22.1	(22.1)	0.0
Other required accounting entries reflected in the Income and Expenditure Statement			
- Capital Accounting	134.5	(125.3)	9.2
- NNDR Collection Fund Accounting	0.0	(4.1)	(4.1)
- Accumulated Absences Adjustment	(2.0)	0.0	(2.0)
- Pension Accounting	0.9	0.0	0.9
- Financial Instruments	1.6	0.0	1.6
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Adjustment Account	0.4	0.0	0.4
- Movement in Earmarked Reserves	(17.3)	12.4	(4.9)
Net expenditure / funding and surplus per Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	688.5	(698.7)	(10.2)

* Refers to non-ringfenced grants reported within revenue budgets.

WHAT THE MONEY IS SPENT ON AND HOW IT IS FINANCED

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

	2023/24 £m
Children and Young People's Service	528.8
Environmental Service	267.4
Health and Adult Services	426.8
Resources and Central Services	267.6
Community Development Service	136.3
Housing Revenue Account	44.7
Corporate Miscellaneous	644.6
Gross Cost of Services	2,316.2
Precepts Paid to Other Authorities	0.8
Interest Payable	32.0
Capital Adjustment Account Movements	(9.0)
IAS 19 Pension Adjustments *	(3.3)
Financial Instruments	1.6
DSG Adjustment Account	(0.4)
Reserve Movements	8.1
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	10.3
Corporate Trading Account Deficit	0.0
Accumulated Absences Adjustment	2.0
= Actual Spending financed from Income, Government Grants, Council Tax, Business Rates and other Government funding	2,358.3

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

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

	2023/24 £m
Government Specific Grants	
- Dedicated Schools Grant	290.7
- Other Specific Grants	310.7
Council Tax Revenue	427.7
Fees and Charges etc.	1,002.9
Business Rates Receipts	119.5
Capital Grants	144.8
Other General Government Funding	22.1
Interest and Investment Income	39.5
Corporate Trading Account Surplus	-0.6
Dividends Received	1.0
	<u>2,358.3</u>

6. The Council employed 12,326 full time equivalent staff at the end of the financial year and a breakdown across Service Directorates is as follows:

	2023/24	
	No.	No.
Central Services		2,258
North Yorkshire Education Service		593
Children and Young People's Service		
Schools	4,060	
Other	<u>1,111</u>	5,171
Environment Service		1,633
Health and Adult Services		1,651
Community Development		<u>1,020</u>
		<u>12,326</u>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

7. In 2023/24 the Council spent £180.0m on capital expenditure and a comparison with the original and revised Capital Plan is set out below:-

	Revised Budget £m	Actual £m
Capital Plan	231.9	178.2
Other expenditure on fixed assets funded directly from the revenue budget	0.4	1.8
	<u>232.3</u>	<u>180.0</u>

Actual Capital Plan spending was therefore £178.2m compared with a Revised Capital Plan of £231.9m approved in February 2024.

In addition, £1.8m was spent on Fixed Assets from Directorate revenue budgets, principally on plant and equipment. The above Capital expenditure was funded as follows:-

	2023/24 £m
Borrowing	
- from external sources	0.0
- from internal sources (cash balances)	20.9
Grants from Government Departments	98.3
Contributions from External Bodies	9.9
Capital Receipts from Sale of Assets etc.	8.5
Direct Revenue Funding	40.6
	<u>178.2</u>
Expenditure on Fixed Assets funded directly from Revenue Budgets	1.8
	<u>180.0</u>

8. The major part of this capital expenditure related to spending on programmes in Community Development and Environmental Services. There were several large individual schemes including Kex Gill (£13.1m) and Knaresborough Pool Redevelopment (£8.1m).
9. Total outstanding borrowing for capital purposes as at 31st March 2024 was £579.4m, which includes both external borrowing and borrowing from internal sources and consists of the following:-

	2023/24 £m
External Borrowing	
Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	353.7
Other Institutions	24.0
Total External Borrowing	<u>377.7</u>
Temporary Borrowing from Internal Cash Balances	201.7
Total Capital Spending funded by borrowing	<u>579.4</u>
PFI and Leases	140.6
Total Borrowing	<u>720.0</u>

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2024 was £720.0m which includes the Capital Borrowing Requirement of £579.4m reported above together with other long term Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and finance lease liabilities of £140.6m.

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 Council's participation in this Fund is reflected in the 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 2022 Triennial Valuation were produced in 2022/23 when the Actuary completed a detailed analysis of the Fund's liabilities. These results were used to determine the employer contributions from 2023/24 to 2025/26. The IAS 19 calculations have been updated in 2023/24 to reflect the 2022 Triennial Valuation that took place during the period and the changes that have occurred since then.

The assets of North Yorkshire Pension Fund increased in value by 10.1% over the year. 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 Council stood at £7.4m as at 31st March 2024. This has decreased by £28.0m from an Opening Asset Balance of £20.6m. This opening balance has been adjusted by the Actuary to reflect LGR and the consolidation of the opening position of the legacy Councils

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

The 2022 Triennial Valuation has set appropriate employer contribution rates for 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/26 with no deficit payments required from the Council.

Due to its nature, the pension 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 2023/24 Accounts.

CHANGES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

14. For 2023/24, there are only relatively minor presentational changes reflected in the years Statement of Accounts as there were no significant updates arising from the 2022/23 Code of Practice on Local Authority Funding.

MATERIAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

15. The 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 2023/24 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 Council and their financial relationship. Following Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on Group Accounts, it has been established that the Council has group relations with:-

- Align Property Partners Limited;
- Align Property Services Limited;

- Bracewell Homes Limited;
- Brierley Homes Limited;
- Brimhams Active Limited;
- First North Law Limited;
- Maple Park LLP;
- NY Highways Limited;
- NYnet Limited;
- Veritau Limited;
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation; and
- Yorwaste Limited.

Three of these bodies have been consolidated into the financial statements of the 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 Council’s financial results are in relation to:-

- NYnet Limited, a company providing a broadband infrastructure in North Yorkshire;
- Yorwaste Limited, a subsidiary waste disposal company; and
- NY Highways Limited, a company providing construction, maintenance and repair of highways.

Align Property Partners Limited, Align Property Services Limited, Veritau Limited, First North Law Limited, Brimhams Active Limited, Maple Park LLP, Bracewell Homes Limited and Brierley Homes Limited have not been consolidated in the 2023/24 Group Accounts as their values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation is not consolidated into the financial statements as the 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 119 to 134.

THE COUNCIL PLAN

17. The Council Plan 2024-2028 sets out the council’s vision, ambitions and priorities for the next four years, as well as the approach we will take to achieve them. The plan addresses the exciting opportunity the creation of NYC gives us to transform services, drive innovation and improve outcomes, but also the many significant challenges ahead including the impact of inflation, increased demand for our services, climate change, and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our communities.

Our vision: We want to build on North Yorkshire’s natural capital, strong local economy and resilient communities, to improve the way local services are delivered and support a good quality of life for all.

The plan is based around five key themes:-

- place and environment;
- economy;
- health and wellbeing;
- people, and
- organisation.

The plan 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 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 2024):-

Performance

North Yorkshire 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 themes. Our approach to assessing and delivering Value for Money has also developed following new audit requirements for 2023/24 and the CIPFA Financial Management Code.

General Fund

There was an overall net underspend of £11.3m against a budget for 2023/24. This should be seen in the context of the savings required in 2024/25, with a number of savings being delivered ahead of schedule, for example £5m utility savings, and a number of savings delivered early through service restructures.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Outturn for the financial year was £1.8m surplus against a balanced budget, this was transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), along with planned contributions and drawdowns to give a closing balance of £8.9m (£4.7m brought forward from 22/23) to support future capital programme spending. The HRA Working Balance as at 31st March 2024 was £19.3m against a benchmark minimum balance of £12.5m, this provides an additional level of headroom within HRA business plan.

Whilst the performance metrics were introduced as part of the 2024-25 HRA Business plan and Medium Term Financial plan, the 2023/24 estimates were calculated to establish a baseline for tracking performance going forwards.

The table below sets out the actual results of the four key metrics, showing the benchmark / 'golden rule' values, against the budgeted position and outturn. All four measures exceeded target and an improvement against budget, as a direct result of the financial performance above, along with no new borrowing being undertaken in year.

Measure	Benchmark / Golden Rule	Budget	Actual
Operating Margin	(Min) 20%	28%	33%
Interest Cover	(Min) 2.00	2.95	3.71
Debt Turnover	(Max) 4.00	2.57	2.55
Minimum Working Balance	£12,450,000	£18,703,266	£19,284,788

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Gross Capital spend of £178.2m was £53.7m below the last Capital Plan update of £231.9m in January 2024. After accounting for £40.8m less capital income however there was a net capital underspend of £12.9m.

Allowing for corporate Capital Plan variations of £0.5m, an adjusted net underspend of £12.4m is being carried over into 2024/25. Financing of the Capital spend included £0.2m capital receipts resulting from the sale of land and property. After utilising other capital income the balancing figure of £20.9m has increased the level of internal borrowing.

Annual Treasury Management

External Debt for Capital purposes reduced from £379.8m as at 1st April 2023 to £377.7m at 31st March 2024, through scheduled loan repayments and no new external borrowing being taken. The average interest rate of this debt was 3.76% at 31st March 2024.

The total borrowing requirement in the year was £1.1m which increased the total internal capital financing to £200.7m at 31st March 2024 (£68.4m at 31st March 2022). The total underlying borrowing need at 31st March 2024 was therefore £578.4m consisting of £377.7m external debt and £200.7m internally financed capital debt.

For cash invested in 2023/24, the average rate of interest achieved was 4.98% which was slightly above the average 7-day market rate of 4.96% and slightly below the average bank rate of 5.03%. The balance at 31st March 2023 was £549.6m of which £42.0m belonged to other organisations who are part of the Council's investment pool arrangements.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

19. The 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 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 Council.

Digital Strategy

This gives clear direction as to how North Yorkshire will become a smart county. It is a response to the massive changes as the 'Digital Revolution' accelerates and impacts on the county, our citizens and businesses in fundamental ways.

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.

Corporate Equality Policy Statement

The Council is committed to equality and to making fair treatment an important part of everything which the Council does. This statement sets out how the Council will achieve these aims.

Modern Slavery Statement

This statement sets out our actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own business or our supply chains.

Health and Safety Policy

The health and safety policy includes our financial and legal responsibilities and duties that we have for the health, safety and welfare of our employees and others affected by our activities.

Being Young in North Yorkshire	The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy for children and young people living in North Yorkshire.
Local Development Framework	The 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 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.
Joint Health and Wellbeing	The joint health and wellbeing strategy, is produced by the health and wellbeing board. It 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.
Dignity in Care	The Dignity in Care campaign aims to stimulate debate around the need for people receiving care services to be treated with dignity and respect.
People Strategy	Our People Strategy 2023-25 is our workforce plan. It is a key building block to ensure we will be in the best possible position to achieve our ambitions as a new council and set us on strong foundations so we can rise to current and new challenges that face us.

The 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 Council is classified as a 'data controller'. This means the 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 Council for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Unions Recognised	UNISON (Corporate)	NEU (was NUT/ATL) (Education)	ASCL (Education)	NAHT (Education)	NAS/UWT (Education)
Number of relevant Union Officials during the period	8	2	0	2	0
FTE of Union Officials during the period	7.43	2.3	0.0	1.32	0.0

Percentage of working time spent on facilities time	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total cost of facility time	£282,875	£139,300	£0	£62,677	£0
Total pay bill	£367,331,967	£196,249,586	£196,249,586	£196,249,586	£196,249,586
Percentage of pay bill for facility time	0.08%	0.071%	0%	0.032%	0%
Paid trade union activities:- Percentage of the hours spent on trade union activities	1.98%	0% - Voluntary	n/a	0% - voluntary	n/a

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES AFFECTING THE COUNCIL

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

The Corporate Risk Register is included in the February 2024 Budget / Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report and highlights the following risks:-

failure to deliver the Council's aim to achieve carbon neutrality of its own operations by 2030, carbon neutrality of the region by 2034 and a carbon negative region by 2040, and also ensure that appropriate mitigations and adaptations are progressed, failure would result in continued / increasing damaging events (eg. floods, heat waves), unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction;

- failure to deliver the Council's aim to achieve carbon neutrality of its own operations by 2030, carbon neutrality of the region by 2034 and a carbon negative region by 2040, and also ensure that appropriate mitigations and adaptations are progressed, failure would result in continued / increasing damaging events (eg. floods, heat waves), unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction;
- major disruption in care markets results in being unable to meet the needs of vulnerable children, adults and families who use services. This could be caused by economic performance or resource capabilities including recruitment and retention. The impact could include loss of trust in the Care Markets, increased budgetary implications and inability to protect service users from harm;
- ineffective information governance and cyber security 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 (including Brierley Group companies) Failure to put in place the appropriate cyber security arrangements could potentially lead to breach, loss of data, loss of systems, loss of reputation and inability to operate effectively and discharge our responsibilities;
- failure to deliver a coherent NY transformation programme which meets the needs of moving to the Council's Operating Model, LGR transition, transformation service operational requirements and deliver the savings requirements as a result of financial challenges;
- failure to comply with building and housing legislation including asbestos, legionella, building services and preparation for the new Social Housing Regulation Bill resulting in potential injury or ill health, prosecution and subsequent financial and reputational damage to the council;
- failure to recruit and retain appropriately skilled staff and have sufficient resources resulting in inability to deliver services, key projects and the desired organisational transformation also increased staff workload, decreased morale and impact on staff wellbeing;

- 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; and

The February 2024 Budget / Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report also sets out some of the key financial risks, many of which are connected to those on the Risk Register above, and warns that this should not be regarded as exhaustive due to many national and local uncertainties.

- cost pressures – the legacy of the last few years, including the impact of the pandemic, has seen an increase in supply chain distress, but particularly in the high impact areas of adult social care, transport and major capital projects. In addition, higher levels of inflation potentially impact upon pay award levels for council staff;
- inability to deliver existing savings whilst also trying to deliver stretch targets – the new Council plans to deliver over £40m worth of savings over the next four years but has also identified a number of stretch areas to help address the budget deficit. Resource will need to be prioritised to ensure savings can be delivered;
- workforce – Insufficient resource to deal with competing demands of the authority and inability to deliver service and/or progress strategically important initiatives;
- financial assumptions – the MTFS includes assumptions around council tax levels and base; continuation of core funding streams; business rates levels; pay; income levels and inflation all of which carry a degree of uncertainty and risk especially so close to a general election;
- demand for services – certain services such as children’s social care, SEN, home to school transport, adult social care, homelessness and welfare and benefits are likely to be subject to increased demand and / or increased care needs;
- legal challenge – savings proposals and the way in which the Council delivers services may be subject to legal challenge from third parties resulting in delays and additional costs;
- emergencies / incidents – incidents such as flooding, severe winters and cyber security will incur additional costs which it is simply not possible to predict and will compound costs and pressures;
- schools / DSG – increasing levels of deficit budgets; and
- unfunded additional responsibilities.

The on-going monitoring of the above and other risks will be essential throughout 2024/25 as there is less headroom to work with.

Gary Fielding
 Corporate Director – Resources
 County Hall
 Northallerton
 23rd August 2024

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STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Authority 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – RESOURCES

I certify that the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund at the accounting date and their income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Gary Fielding
Corporate Director – Resources
23rd August 2024

Co-signed by,
Richard Flinton
Chief Executive
23rd August 2024

CERTIFICATE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

I confirm that these Accounts were approved by the Audit Committee on 23rd September 2024 following completion of the External Audit.

Chair of the Audit Committee
(to be signed at the 23rd September 2024 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.

The authority is required to prepare an annual statement of accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with *The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (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 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 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 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;
- Council dwellings are included in the Balance Sheet at their existing use value for council housing (EUV-SH);

- 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.

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.

Council Dwellings are fully revalued as part of a five-year programme to comply with Resource Accounting for the Housing Revenue Account. In the intervening years the portfolio is subject to annual 'desk top reviews' with material changes being reflected in the year in which they occur. The next full revaluation is due as at April 2025

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 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 Council. A proportion of receipts relating to Housing Revenue Account dwellings (buildings) is payable into a Government pool, based on a central government formula.

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. This is normally between ten and fifty years.
- 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.

2.1 Highways Infrastructure Assets

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost – opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April (1994 England and Scotland) (1996 Wales), which was deemed at that time to be historical cost.

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

Depreciation

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

Annual depreciation is the depreciation amount allocated each year. Infrastructure is depreciated over a 40 year period.

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.

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 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 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 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 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 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 for a period of up to twenty-five 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 Council does not raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, impairment loss or amortisations. The Council does, however, make an annual contribution 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 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 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 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 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 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 2024.

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 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 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 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 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 Council because:-

- the 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 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 Council to carry the Assets used under this type of contract onto its Balance Sheet. In addition the 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 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 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 Council which are measured at:

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

The Council largely holds investments to collect contractual cashflows i.e. payments of interest and principal. Most of the 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 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 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 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 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Council, but where the amounts or dates on which they will arise are uncertain.

Provisions are required to be recognised when the 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 Council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent Liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent Liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a Note to the Core Financial Statements.

Contingent Assets

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

18. Reserves

The Council maintains separate balances for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account to or from which appropriations are made for annual surpluses or deficits.

The Council also holds reserves earmarked for specific purposes which are detailed in note 34b to 34d in 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, Financial Instruments revaluation Reserve, DSG Adjustment Account 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 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 Council are to be accounted for using IAS 19 principles. The 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 Council;
- The Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pension 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 and Social Care.

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 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 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 unitised 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 increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
- 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 relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the pensions reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the pensions reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

20. Trust Funds Administered by the Council

Trust Funds administered by the Council have not been included in the Balance Sheet, in accordance with the provisions of The Code.

21. Group Accounts

The 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 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 (FRS101), this may give rise to inconsistent accounting treatments to those applied within the 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 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 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.

Council Tax Income

North Yorkshire Council is a billing authority and is required by statute to maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and non-domestic rates. The Fund's key features relevant to accounting for council tax in the core financial statements are detailed below.

In its capacity as a billing authority the Council acts as an agent: it collects and distributes Council Tax income on behalf of the major preceptors and itself. The major preceptors are North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

While the Council Tax income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and transferred to the General Fund of the billing authority or paid out of the Collection Fund to major preceptors. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is the Council's precept or demand for the year plus the Council's share of the surplus on the Collection Fund for the previous year or less its share of the deficit on the Collection fund for the previous year; and this amount may be more or less than the accrued income for the year in accordance with GAAP, although in practice the difference would usually be small.

Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year is the accrued income for the year. The difference between the income included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Since collection of Council Tax is in substance an agency arrangement, the cash collected by the Council as billing authority from Council Tax debtors belongs proportionately to the billing authority and the major preceptors. There will therefore be a debtor/creditor position between the billing authority and each major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of cash collected from Council Tax payers.

If the net cash paid to a major preceptor in the year is more than its proportionate share of net cash collected from Council Tax debtors/creditors in the year the Council as billing authority shall recognise a debit adjustment for the amount overpaid to the major preceptor in the year and the major preceptor shall recognise a credit adjustment for the same amount to the debtor/creditor position between them brought forward from the previous year.

If the cash paid to a major preceptor is less than its proportionate share of net cash collected in the year from Council Tax debtors/creditors the Council as billing authority shall recognise a credit adjustment for the amount underpaid to the major preceptor in the year and the major preceptor shall recognise a debit adjustment for the same amount to the debtor/creditor position between them brought forward from the previous year.

The Cash Flow Statement of the Council includes in Revenue Activities cash flows only of its own share of Council Tax net cash collected from Council Tax debtors in the year; and the amount included for precepts paid excludes amounts paid to major preceptors. The difference between the major preceptors' share of the net cash collected from Council Tax debtors and net cash paid to major preceptors as precepts and settlement of the previous year's surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund is included as a net increase/decrease in other liquid resources.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Income

With effect from 1 April 2013 the Government's localisation of business rates was introduced and the financing and accounting arrangements for NDR billing and income collection were changed. The following policy applies from 1 April 2013.

North Yorkshire Council is a billing authority and as such is required by statute to maintain a separate fund for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of council tax and non-domestic rates.

In its capacity as a billing authority the Council acts as an agent: it collects and distributes NDR income on behalf of the government, major preceptors and itself. The major preceptors are North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

While the NDR income for the year credited to the Collection Fund is the accrued income for the year, regulations determine when it should be released from the Collection Fund and transferred to the General Fund of the billing authority or paid out of the Collection Fund to the government and major preceptors. The amount credited to the General Fund under statute is the Council's pre-determined share for the year plus the Council's share of the surplus on the Collection Fund for the previous year or less its share of the deficit on the Collection fund for the previous year; and this amount may be more or less than the accrued income for the year, although in practice the difference would usually be small.

NDR income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year is the accrued income for the year.

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

Since collection of NDR is in substance an agency arrangement, the cash collected by the Council as billing authority from NDR debtors belongs proportionately to the billing authority, the government and the major preceptors. There will therefore be a debtor/creditor position between the billing authority and the government and each major preceptor to be recognised since the net cash paid to the government and each major preceptor in the year will not be its share of cash collected from NDR payers.

Of the net cash paid to the government and the major preceptors in the year is more or less than its proportionate share of net cash collected from NDR debtors/creditors in the year, then the Council as billing authority shall recognise either a debit or credit adjustment for the amount over or underpaid to the government and major preceptors in the year and the government and major preceptors shall recognise a credit or debit adjustment for the same amount to the debtor/creditor position between them brought forward from the previous year.

The Council's Cash Flow Statement only includes the Council's share of NDR net cash flows; and the amount included for precepts paid excludes amounts paid to the government and major preceptors. The difference between the government and major preceptors' share of the net cash collected from NDR debtors and net cash paid to the government and major preceptors is included as a net increase/decrease in other liquid resources.

23. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash Equivalents are short term investments that are of a highly liquid nature. The 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 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 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 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 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.

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

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COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2023/24

Year to 31st March 2024

	Expenditure	Income	Net
	£000	£000	£000
Children and Young Peoples Service	528,757	(397,394)	131,363
Environmental Services	267,429	(104,742)	162,687
Health and Adult Services	426,833	(188,911)	237,922
Resources and Central Services	267,596	(123,693)	143,903
Community Development	136,343	(63,548)	72,795
Housing Revenue Account	44,747	(40,200)	4,547
Corporate Miscellaneous	<u>644,642</u>	<u>(708,127)</u>	<u>(63,485)</u>
Cost of Services	2,316,347	(1,626,615)	689,732
Other Operating Expenditure			
Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment (note 20)			10,316
Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities			<u>765</u>
			11,081
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			
Interest payable and similar charges (note 39b)			29,642
Interest receivable and similar income			(38,947)
Financial Instruments (note 35f)			1,604
Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment (note 25)			(1,576)
(Surplus)/Deficit of trading activities (note 6)			(624)
Net interest on the net defined pension benefit liability / (asset) (note 10)			<u>(2,390)</u>
			(12,291)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			
Council Tax Income (note 7)			(425,284)
Non-Domestic Rates Income (note 8)			(126,031)
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants (note 9)			(22,069)
Capital Grants (note 9)			(125,271)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income			<u>(698,655)</u>
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			<u>(10,133)</u>

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (continued)

	Year to 31st March 2024		
	Expenditure	Income	Net
	£000	£000	£000
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(10,133)
(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment			(263,191)
Impairment (gains) / losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			21,643
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Pension Benefit Liability/(asset)			6,420
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			<u>(235,128)</u>
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			<u><u>(245,261)</u></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)	Housing Revenue Account £000 (note 40)	Earmarked Reserves £000 (note 34)	Major Repairs Reserve £000	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 2023/24									
Balance at 1st April 2023	(45,529)	(21,505)	(444,172)	(4,674)	(21,700)	(80,117)	(617,697)	(2,311,808)	(2,929,505)
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(17,092)	6,959	0	0	0	0	(10,133)	(242,815)	(252,948)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(419)	(1,449)	0	(4,189)	(5,485)	(39,807)	(51,349)	51,349	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(17,511)	5,510	0	(4,189)	(5,485)	(39,807)	(61,482)	(191,466)	(252,948)
Transfers (to) / from Earmarked Reserves	7,168	(3,290)	(3,878)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase) / Decrease in Year	(10,343)	2,220	(3,878)	(4,189)	(5,485)	(39,807)	(61,482)	(191,466)	(252,948)
Balance at 31st March 2024	(55,872)	(19,285)	(448,050)	(8,863)	(27,185)	(119,924)	(679,179)	(2,503,274)	(3,182,453)

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the 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 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.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

31st March 2023 £000		31st March 2024 £000
2,521,798	Property, Plant and Equipment (note 18)	2,446,446
72,771	Investment Property (note 25)	69,504
10,721	Intangible Assets (note 24)	10,873
52,022	Heritage Assets (note 26)	52,019
279,219	Council Dwellings (note 40)	557,574
629	Community Assets	4,616
19,960	Long Term Investments (note 29)	18,280
74,991	Long Term Debtors (note 30)	60,240
3,032,111	Long Term Assets	3,219,552
408,820	Short Term Investments (note 39a)	464,690
2,362	Inventories	2,264
208,907	Short Term Debtors (note 31)	211,397
126,665	Cash and Cash Equivalents (note 28)	94,588
4,697	Assets held for sale (note 27)	2,932
751,451	Current Assets	775,871
(62,130)	Short Term Borrowing (note 39a)	(51,506)
(217,693)	Short Term Creditors (note 32)	(174,577)
(3,650)	PFI/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months (note 12)	(3,795)
(162)	Finance Lease repayable within 12 months (note 13)	(168)
(9,813)	Provisions to be used within 12 months (note 33)	(13,584)
(13,019)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance (note 9)	(14,969)
(306,467)	Current Liabilities	(258,599)
(7,806)	Long Term Creditors (note 23)	(15,099)
(138,961)	PFI/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months (note 12)	(134,751)
(1,296)	Finance Lease repayable in excess of 12 months (note 13)	(1,132)
(13,083)	Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months (note 33)	(12,760)
(7,687)	Pensions Liability (note 10)	(7,357)
(367,974)	Long Term Borrowing (note 39a and 39d)	(371,113)
(10,783)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance (note 9)	(12,159)
(547,590)	Long Term Liabilities	(554,371)
2,929,505	Net Assets	3,182,453

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024 (continued)

31st March 2023 £000		31st March 2024 £000
Usable Reserves		
45,529	General Working Balance (note 34a)	55,872
21,505	General Working Balance HRA (note 40)	19,285
444,172	Earmarked Reserves (note 34b)	448,050
4,674	Major Repairs Reserve (40d)	8,863
21,700	Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve (note 34c)	27,185
80,117	Capital Grant Unapplied Reserve (note 34d)	119,924
617,697	Total Usable Reserves	679,179
Unusable Reserves		
716,876	Revaluation Reserve (note 35a)	897,288
8,005	Collection Fund Adjustment Account (note 35b)	12,137
3,403	DSG Adjustment Account (note 35g)	3,015
(537)	Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve (note 35f)	(2,141)
(8,677)	Accumulated Absences Account (note 35c)	(6,704)
(7,687)	Pension Reserve (note 35d)	(7,357)
1,600,425	Capital Adjustment Account (note 35e)	1,607,036
2,311,808	Total Unusable Reserves	2,503,274
2,929,505	Total Reserves	3,182,453

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

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

With 2023/24 being the first year for North Yorkshire Council, prior year figures are not available for comparison. However, consolidated opening amounts for balance sheet items are given and also disclosed further, where appropriate, in the notes to the accounts to show movements during the year.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT – YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	31st March 2024 £000
Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services - See Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	10,133
Adjust net surplus / (deficit) on the provision of services for non cash movements	
Depreciation / Amortisation (note 34a)	107,590
Impairment and revaluations charged to the provision of services (note 34a)	82,042
Movement in Creditors (Decrease)/increase	(58,134)
Movement in Debtors Decrease/(increase)	2,424
Movement in Inventories Decrease/(increase)	98
Movement in Provisions (Decrease)/increase (note 33)	3,448
Pensions Liability	937
Carrying Amount of Non-current Assets sold (note 34a)	24,300
	<u>162,705</u>
Adjust for items included in the net deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	
Grants received for investment purposes (note 9)	(125,271)
Proceeds from the sale of property and other assets	(2,889)
	<u>(128,160)</u>
Net cash flows from Operating Activities	<u>44,678</u>

CASH FLOW STATEMENT (continued)

31st March
2024
£000

Net cash flows from Operating Activities **44,678**

Investing Activities

Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	(153,754)
Purchase of Short Term and Long Term investments	(1,502,370)
Proceeds from the Sale of Property (and other Assets)	2,889
Proceeds from Short Term and Long Term Investments	1,451,514
Other receipts for investing activities	137,182
Net cash flows from / (for) Investing Activities	(64,539)

Financing Activities

Cash receipts of Short and Long Term Borrowing	0
Other receipts from Financing Activities	(126)
Repayment of the outstanding liability of Finance Lease and similar arrangements (notes 12 and 13)	(4,223)
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(7,867)
Other payments for Financing Activities	0
Net cash flows (from) / for Financing Activities	(12,216)

Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents **(32,077)**

Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	126,665
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	94,588
	(32,077)

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

IFRS 16 – Leases issued in January 2016. This standard was originally expected to be adopted in the Statements of Accounts for 2020/2021 but was originally deferred and expected to be adopted in 2022/23.

However, as a result of only 9% of local authority accounts in England meeting the audit publication deadline of 30th September 2021 the Department of Levelling-up Housing and Communities asked CIPFA in December 2021 to consider ways in which the Code may ameliorate this crisis position. In response, CIPFA issued an emergency consultation on exploratory proposals for making time-limited changes to the Code and subsequently made the decision to defer the implementation of IFRS 16 until 1 April 2024. Local authorities can choose to voluntarily adopt IFRS 16 – Leases however North Yorkshire Council has not.

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

- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020. The amendments:
 - specify that an entity's right to defer settlement must exist at the end of the reporting period;
 - clarify that classification is unaffected by management's intentions or expectations about whether the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement;
 - clarify how lending conditions affect classification, and
 - clarify requirements for classifying liabilities an entity will or may settle by issuing its own equity instruments.
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions;
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022. The amendments improved the information an entity provides when its right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months is subject to compliance with covenants;
- International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduced:
 - a temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
 - targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023. The amendments require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance arrangements. The IASB developed the new requirements to provide users of financial statements with information to enable them to:

- assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities and cash flows, and
- understand the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's exposure to liquidity risk and how the entity might be affected if the arrangements were no longer available to it.

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, although the adoption of IFRS 16 from 1st April 2024 will see significant changes in the accounting for Leases in the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

3. Critical Judgements in applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies as set out at the Statement of Accounting Policies the 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 Council continues to review the provision of services by the Authority, in response to known and forecast future funding reductions. In 2022/23 funding from Central Government (Dedicated Schools Grant, Other Specific Grants, Uniform Business Rates proceeds and Capital Grants) totalled £748.0m. A change in this funding of 1% is equivalent to £7.5m;
- the Council, via its external valuer, has conducted an impairment review on land and property assets not being revalued in 2023/24, 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 Council's balance sheet by £24.5m.
- 12 schools transferred to Academy Status in 2023/24. It is the 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 Council's balance sheet would have been £19.6m higher if the 12 schools had not been removed. Further schools may transfer to Academy Status in 2024/25;
- the 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 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 £23.5m. 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 Council's balance sheet if the schools had not been removed;
- the 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 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 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 Council's Bad Debt Provision would equate to £178.1k;
- judgement is required to determine whether the 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 re-paid 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 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 Council currently has commitments to make payments under operating leases in future years of £23m. 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 Council's Balance Sheet would increase by £0.2k.

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 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 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 £7.4m 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 £38.1m;
- a +0.1%pa increase in pension payments inflation would increase the deficit by £35.7m;
- a +0.1%pa pay growth would increase the deficit by £2.4m; and
- an additional 1 year increase in life expectancy would increase the deficit by £61.9m.

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.

5. Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund & HRA Balances £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	108,408	(6,212)	102,196	29,167	131,363
Environmental Services	108,878	(235)	108,643	54,044	162,687
Health and Adult Services	228,842	4,259	233,101	4,821	237,922
Resources and Central Services	127,678	19,870	147,548	(3,645)	143,903
Community Development HRA	27,855	12,592	40,447	32,348	72,795
		1,321	1,321	3,226	4,547
Corporate Miscellaneous	(53,350)	(47,895)	(101,245)	37,760	(63,485)
North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES)	0	(1,018)	(1,018)	1,018	0
Net Cost of Services	548,311	(17,318)	530,993	158,739	689,732
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	11,081	11,081
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	0	0	0	(12,291)	(12,291)
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	(559,629)	12,446	(547,183)	(151,472)	(698,655)
(Surplus) or Deficit	(11,318)	(4,872)	(16,190)	6,057	(10,133)
Opening General Fund & HRA Balance			(515,880)		
Less/Plus (Surplus) or Deficit on General Fund & HRA in Year			(16,190)		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31st March 2024			(532,070)		
General Working Balance			(75,157)		
Earmarked Reserves			(448,050)		
General Fund			(8,863)		
			(532,070)		

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis demonstrates how the funding available to the 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 Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	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	34,039	(580)	(4,292)	29,167
Environmental Services	78,568	285	(24,809)	54,044
Health and Adult Services	4,436	329	56	4,821
Resources and Central Services	6,150	443	(10,238)	(3,645)
Community Development	41,338	130	(9,120)	32,348
HRA	25,101	33	(21,908)	3,226
Corporate Miscellaneous	0	2,561	35,199	37,760
NYES	0	126	892	1,018
Net Cost of Services	189,632	3,327	(34,220)	158,739
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	10,316	0	765	11,081
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	(2,390)	(9,901)	(12,291)
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(151,472)	(151,472)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	199,948	937	(194,828)	6,057

Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:-

	2023/24 £000
Services	
Children and Young People's Service	(387,134)
Environmental Services	(129,351)
Health and Adult Services	(195,016)
Resources and Central Services	(144,268)
Corporate Miscellaneous	(776,239)
NYES	(49,681)
Community Development	(53,412)
HRA	(42,112)
Total income analysed on a segmental basis	<u>(1,777,213)</u>

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

	2023/24 £000
Expenditure	
Employee benefits expenses	564,936
Other services expenses	1,547,297
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	209,128
Interest payments	28,420
Precepts and levies	765
Loss on the disposal of assets	10,316
Total expenditure	<u>2,360,862</u>
Income	
Fees, charges and other service income	(1,030,081)
Interest and investment income	(41,304)
Income from council tax, non domestic rates income	(551,315)
Government grants and contributions	(747,986)
Investment Properties	(309)
Total income	<u>(2,370,995)</u>
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>(10,133)</u>

Fees, charges and other service income includes £96.9m 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:-

	2023/24 £000
Interest received	(36,060)
Interest paid	29,642
Dividends received	(162)
Total	<u>(6,580)</u>

6. Trading Activities

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

Service	2023/24			
	Total Cost £000	Total Income £000	Transfer (to) / from Reserves £000	Net Surplus / (Deficit) £000
Building Cleaning Services	12,147	12,854	(707)	0
County Caterers Service	15,512	15,958	(446)	0
Maintenance and Servicing Scheme	3,310	3,520	(210)	0
NYES Digital	5,473	5,569	(96)	0
Staff Absence Scheme	2,905	3,138	(233)	0
Other Services (< £2 Million individually)	9,315	8,642	673	0
Total Results for Trading Units	48,662	49,681	(1,019)	0

During 2023/24, 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 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 Council's services to the public, whilst others are support services to the Council's activities e.g. Cleaning. Where the trading activities are not integral to the 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 2023 £000
Net (surplus)/ deficit included within Cost of Services	(395)
Net (surplus) / deficit credited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(624)
Net (surplus) / deficit on trading operations	<u>(1,019)</u>

7. Council Tax Income

Council Tax Income totalled £425.3m consisting of:-

	2023/24 £000
Receipts in year	427,730
Collection Fund Adjustment	<u>(2,446)</u>
	<u>425,284</u>

The income from Council Tax is equivalent to a basic amount of £1,759.58 for an average band D property.

8. Non-Domestic Rates

	2023/24 £000
Localised Receipts in year	91,532
Multiplier Cap	27,921
Collection Fund Adjustment	<u>6,578</u>
	<u>126,031</u>

9. Grant Income

The 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

	2023/24	
	£000	£000
Revenue Support Grant		977
Other Government Funding		
- Rural Services Delivery Grant	12,343	
- New Homes Bonus	4,332	
- Services Grant	3,435	
- Private Finance Initiative	982	
		<u>21,092</u>
Total		<u>22,069</u>

Capital Grants

	2023/24
	£000
S31 Kex Gill Grant	40,150
Local Transport Plan	28,508
Pothole Grant	15,889
Rural England Prosperity Grant	13,075
Other Capital Grants / Contributions	3,506
S106 Developer Contributions	7,538
Special Provision Capital Fund	7,474
School Condition Grant	3,481
Safer Roads Grant	2,960
Transforming Cities Fund Grant	<u>2,690</u>
Total	<u>125,271</u>

Revenue Grants Credited to Services	2023/24 £000
Dedicated Schools Grant	290,748
Housing Benefit Subsidy	86,640
Adult Social Care Support Grant	31,992
Public Health	23,721
Education Funding Agency	18,139
Retail Hospitality Relief	17,954
Multiplier Cap	17,806
Improved Better Care Fund Phase 1	13,912
Pupil Premium	9,744
ASC Discharge Fund / Urgent & Emergency Care Fund	9,574
Market Sustainability	9,361
Teachers Pay Grant	8,275
Household Support Grant	7,075
Sustainable Warmth Grant	4,152
Universal Infant Free School Meals	3,594
Homelessness Grant	3,281
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	3,259
Physical Education & School Sport	3,237
Homes for Ukraine	3,085
Shared Prosperity Fund	2,677
COVID-19 Test & Trace/Contain Outbreak Management Fund	2,523
Other Individual Grants <£2m	30,653
Total	<u>601,402</u>

The 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 2024 £000
To be used within 1 year	
Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Capital Grant 2022-24	7,800
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant	4,402
Earmarked S106/Developer Contributions	1,347
Private Contributions (Highways Schemes)	675
Other	458
District Contributions (Flood Risk Management Schemes)	187
Levelling Up Fund Grant (Catterick Garrison)	100
Total	<u>14,969</u>
To be used in excess of 1 year	
Earmarked S106/Developer Contributions	10,819
Other Grants and Contributions	1,340
Total	<u>12,159</u>

Capital Grants Credited to Services

31st March 2024
£000

Disabled Facilities Grant Funded Programme	6,029
Housing Programme	3,613
School Condition Grant	2,563
Devolved Formula Capital Grant	2,305
Other	1,832
Rural Englnd Prosperity Fund	859
Towns Fund	651
Self Help Schemes (Schools)	587
S106 Developer Contributions	549
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	468
Basic Need Grant	81
Transforming Cities Fund Grant	(58)
Special Provision Capital Fund	18
Total	<u>19,497</u>

10. Pension Arrangements

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

- Local Government Pension Scheme, for employees other than teachers, administered by North Yorkshire Council. This is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the 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 Council remain the liability of the 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 2023/24 were £47k.

The 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 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 2023/24:-

	Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24 £000	Teachers' Pension Scheme 2023/24 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			
Net Cost of Service			
Current Service Cost	63,049	0	63,049
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	630	0	630
Settlement Costs	0	0	0
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			
Net Interest Expense	(2,726)	336	(2,390)
Total post employment Benefits charged to the (Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services	60,953	336	61,289
Other Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	26,576	432	27,008
Total Post Employment Benefits charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	87,529	768	88,297
Movement in Reserves Statement			
Reversal of Net Charge to the (Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	(60,953)	(336)	(61,289)
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance in the Year			
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	60,169	0	60,169
Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	0	1,098	1,098
			61,267

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 £7,452k higher than the amount charged against the General Fund. This is as a result of the following:

- the Councils contributions of £60,169k to the Local Government Pension Scheme being replaced with a current service cost of £63,962k. This £3,793k adjustment equates to a 6.30% decrease 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 (£1,098k) is removed from the net cost of services as it relates to periods of service prior to 2023/24;
- a past service cost including curtailments and settlements of £630k relating to decisions taken in previous financial years; and
- administration expenses of £1,931k.

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

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

	Funded Liabilities Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24 £m	Unfunded Liabilities Discretionary Benefits 2023/24 £m
Opening balance at 1st April	(2,381.4)	(7.7)
Current Service Cost	(64.0)	0.0
Interest Cost	(110.1)	(0.3)
Contributions by scheme participants	(20.2)	0.0
Remeasurement liabilities	54.6	(0.6)
Demographic Assumptions (Gain)/Loss	37.3	0.2
Benefits Paid	102.6	1.0
Settlements / Curtailments	(0.6)	0.0
Closing Balance at 31st March	<u>(2,381.8)</u>	<u>(7.4)</u>

Reconciliation of the fair value of the scheme assets

	Funded Liabilities Local Government Pension Scheme 2023/24 £m	Unfunded Liabilities Discretionary Benefits 2023/24 £m
Opening balance at 1st April	2,409.7	0.0
Interest on Plan Assets	112.8	0.0
Remeasurement assets	138.5	0.0
Employer Contributions	60.2	1.1
Contributions by scheme participants	20.2	0.0
Settlements	0.0	0.0
Benefits Paid	(102.6)	(1.1)
Closing Balance at 31st March	<u>2,638.8</u>	<u>0.0</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was £251.3m.

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long-run to pay for retirement benefits. The total net liability of £7.4m has a sustained impact on the net worth of the 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 2024 %
Rate of CPI inflation	2.6
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9
Rate of increase in pensions	2.6
Rate for discounting schemes liabilities	4.8
Proportion of employees opting to take a commuted lump sum (not Teachers Scheme)	50.0
	Years
Post retirement mortality assumptions	
- Male future pensioner aged 65 in 20 years time	23.0
- Female future pensioner aged 65 in 20 years time	25.6
- Male current Pensioner aged 65	22.1
- Female current Pensioner aged 65	24.6

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 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 Council's share of the assets totals £2,638.8m at 31st March 2024. 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 2024 %
Equity investments	47.9
Government Bonds	12.4
Corporate Bonds / Other Bonds	7.3
Property	5.6
Multi Asset Credit	5.2
Other	17.3
Cash / Liquidity Assets	<u>4.3</u>
	<u>100.0</u>

Surplus / (Deficit) in the Scheme

	2023/24 £m
Present Value of defined benefit obligations	(2,389.2)
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2,638.8
Adjustment due to restriction of surplus	<u>(257.0)</u>
Surplus/Deficit in the Scheme	<u>(7.4)</u>

Actuarial Gains and Losses

The actuarial gains / (losses) identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve in 2023/24 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as absolute amounts and as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31st March 2024:-

	2023/24	
	£m	%
Experience adjustments on scheme assets	138.5	5.2
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities	25.8	1.1
	<u>164.3</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 2024/25 financial year is £62.3m.

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita. It provides teachers with defined benefits upon their retirement, and the 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 2023/24 the Council paid £22.6m to the Teachers' Pension Agency as a contribution towards teachers' pension costs, which represents 23.6% of teachers' pensionable pay.

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 Council to identify a share of the underlying liabilities in the scheme attributable to its own employees.

The 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 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 2023/24 the Council incurred the following fees relating to external audit:-

	2023/24 £000
Fees payable to the External Auditor with regard to :-	
External audit service carried out by appointed auditor	757
External audit service additional work carried out by appointed auditor	35
	<u>792</u>

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

In April 2002 the Council commenced payments on a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme which provides for four replacement primary schools at Barby 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 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 Council balance sheet along with that of Barby CPS.

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

In March 2018, the Council commenced payments on a Public Private Partnership project in conjunction with York City Council, for a Waste treatment plant provided by Amey CESPA, AWPR Ltd. The payments made by North Yorkshire 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 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

	Schools	2023/24 Waste	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	11,992	141,771	153,763
Adjustment	0	0	0
Depreciation	(673)	(14,730)	(15,403)
Additions	822	0	822
Revaluations	703	59,529	60,232
Disposals	0	0	0
Closing Balance	<u>12,844</u>	<u>186,570</u>	<u>199,414</u>

Forming part of the above balance are the two voluntary controlled schools which have a net book value of £6,332k. This represents the fair value of the 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

	Schools	2023/24 Waste	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	2,105	140,506	142,611
Payments/Repayment	(485)	(3,580)	(4,065)
Additions	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Closing Balance	<u>1,620</u>	<u>136,926</u>	<u>138,546</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	529		146		0		469		1,144	
Waste	<u>3,266</u>	3,795	<u>14,564</u>	14,710	<u>1,377</u>	1,377	<u>11,685</u>	12,154	<u>30,892</u>	32,036
More than 1 year										
within 2-5 years										
Schools	676		155		111		931		1,873	
Waste	<u>14,653</u>	15,329	<u>54,436</u>	54,591	<u>9,393</u>	9,504	<u>49,941</u>	50,872	<u>128,423</u>	130,296
within 6-10 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>24,704</u>	24,704	<u>58,948</u>	58,948	<u>18,196</u>	18,196	<u>70,214</u>	70,214	<u>172,062</u>	172,062
within 11-15 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>50,456</u>	50,456	<u>39,005</u>	39,005	<u>12,632</u>	12,632	<u>79,839</u>	79,839	<u>181,932</u>	181,932
within 16-20 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>44,262</u>	44,262	<u>8,799</u>	8,799	<u>6,910</u>	6,910	<u>67,784</u>	67,784	<u>127,755</u>	127,755
within 21-25 years										
Schools	0		0		0		0		0	
Waste	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0
Total - More than 1 year										
Schools		676		155		111		931		1,873
Waste		<u>134,075</u>		<u>161,188</u>		<u>47,131</u>		<u>267,778</u>		<u>610,172</u>
		<u>134,751</u>		<u>161,343</u>		<u>47,242</u>		<u>268,709</u>		<u>612,045</u>

13. Leases

Finance Leases

The 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.

The 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.

	Finance Lease Liability 31st March 2024 £000
Long Term Liability Lease Obligation	
Within 1 year	168
Between 2 - 5 years	369
Later than 5 years	763
	<hr/>
	1,300

The minimum lease payments set out in the agreements entered in to by the Council include a further £1,625k 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 2024 £000
Within 1 year	105
Between 2 - 5 years	420
Later than 5 years	2,400
	<hr/>
	2,925

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

	Finance Lease Liability 31st March 2024 £000
Property	<hr/>
	941

Operating Leases

The Council utilised assets held under operating leases for Land and Buildings and Vehicles, Plant and Equipment. Payments made during the year amount to £1,586k in respect of Land and Building leases and £3,914k for Vehicles, Plant and Equipment.

The Council had commitments at the 31st March 2024 to make payments under operating leases in future financial years, comprising the following elements:-

	31st March 2024 £000
Within 1 year	5,078
Between 2 - 5 years	9,239
Later than 5 years	8,683
	<u>23,000</u>

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

The 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 NY Highways Limited.

Rental receipts for Land and Buildings received during the year amount to £2,061k.

14. Related Party Transactions

The Accounting Code of Practice requires the disclosure of all material transactions undertaken by the 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 Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council.

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. During 2023/24, the occupation of a building rent-free was provided to one organisation in which one member had interests. Funding was provided to a community benefit society for community support and health and wellbeing in which one member had interests. £33k was provided to one organisation in which a member's spouse had an interest; this organisation also occupies a building on a peppercorn rent from the Council; the same members's spouse also has an interest in a community library which is leased from the Council. One member had an interest in an organisation that received £500 from renting it's car park to the Council. £41k was also paid to one business for services provided to the Council in which one member is a partner; the same member had interests in a community group that received £441k of funding from the Council and is a governor of a schools federation that received £16k of funding. The spouse of one councillor is an employee of the Council. Expenditure was also incurred on the security and protection of members. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's constitution. In these instances, the payments were made with proper consideration of declarations of interest. The relevant members did not take any 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 Council's affairs. During 2023/24 the Council provided services to an academy trust in which one Senior Officer had interests and grant funding to another organisation in which another Senior Officer had interests. It should also be noted that the Corporate Director – Resources is Treasurer to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund; the Head of Finance – External Clients and Commercial is Treasurer to the North York Moors National Park Authority.

Companies and Joint Ventures

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| - Align Property Partners Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - Align Property Services Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - Bracewell Homes Limited | - wholly owned company limited by guarantee (LBG) |
| - Brierley Homes Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - Brimhams Active Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - First North Law Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - Maple Park (Hambleton) LLP | - owning 99% of the share capital |
| - NY Highways | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - NYnet Limited | - owning 100% of the share capital |
| - Veritau Limited | - owning 50% of the share capital |
| - Yorwaste Limited | - owning 78% of the issued share capital. |

The transactions between the 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.

Please note that no comparative figures for the previous year are provided as North Yorkshire Council was only created on 1 April 2023.

Align Property Partners Limited:

The total value of services provided by Align Property Partners Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £5,875k and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £443k.

The Council provided services to Align Property Partners Limited totalling £513k of which £3k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to Align Property Partners Limited of up to £500k of which £Nil was taken up at 31st March 2024.

Align Property Partners Limited paid the Council a dividend of £750k in 2023/24.

Align Property Services Limited:

The total value of services provided by Align Property Services Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £165k and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £44k.

The Council provided services to Align Property Services Limited totalling £216k of which £75k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to Align Property Services Limited of up to £495k of which £495k was taken up at 31st March 2024.

Align Property Services Limited paid the Council a dividend of £Nil in 2023/24.

Bracewell Homes Limited:

The Council provided services to Bracewell Homes Limited totalling £40k of which £Nil was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to Bracewell Homes Limited of up to £10m of which £700k was taken up as at 31st March 2024 and therefore £111k interest was paid to the Council in 2023/24.

Brierley Homes Limited:

The total value of services provided by Brierley Homes Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £Nil. The Council provided services to Brierley Homes Limited totalling £278k of which £218k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to Brierley Homes Limited of up to £25m of which £16m was taken up as at 31st March 2024 and therefore £1,404k interest was paid to the Council in 2023/24.

Brimhams Active Limited:

The Council paid £2,500k to Brimhams Active Limited as a management fee for the provision of leisure services and charged £1,500k to the company for the provision of support services.

First North Law Limited:

The total value of services provided by First North Law Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £Nil and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £Nil. The Council provided services to First North Law Limited totalling £100k of which £31k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to First North Law Limited of up to £250k of which £65k was taken up as at 31st March 2024 and therefore £6k interest was paid to the Council in 2023/24.

Maple Park Limited:

In 2023/24, the Council recharged £228k to Maple Park LLP to cover the time spent by the Council's operational staff working at the crematorium. The Council provided additional services to Maple Park LLP totalling £18k. The company reported a net profit of £356k of which 99% was passed to the Council.

NYnet Limited:

The total value of services provided by NYnet Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £1,593k, and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £33k.

The Council provided services to NYnet Limited totalling £62k in 2023/24, of which £1k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to NYnet Limited of up to £10m in 2023/24 of which the closing balance as at 31st March 2024 was £7.9m. Interest accrued in year of £Nil on this loan.

£22.2m due to the Council from NYnet which relates to unspent funding is included in outstanding Creditors as at 31st March 2024.

NY Highways Limited:

The total value of services provided by NY Highways Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £59.2m, and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £5.5m. The Council provided services to NY Highways Limited totalling £8.2m, of which £3.7m was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan facility to NY Highways Limited of up to £11m during 2023/24 of which £9.46m was taken up at 31st March 2024. Interest was received from NY Highways Limited by the Council of £1.2m in 2023/24.

Veritau Limited:

The total value of services provided by Veritau Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £1,801k and at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £11,941k.

The Council provided services to Veritau Limited totalling £25k and at 31st March 2024, £Nil was outstanding.

Yorwaste Limited:

The total value of services, including landfill tax provided by Yorwaste Limited in 2023/24 to the Council was £35,952k and as at 31st March 2024 the trading creditor balance was £2,848k.

The Council provided services to Yorwaste Limited totalling £10,867k of which £437k was outstanding as at 31st March 2024.

The Council provided a loan to Yorwaste Limited of £3,700k of which interest was received by the Council of £334k.

Yorwaste Limited paid the Council a dividend of £Nil in 2023/24.

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO):

The Council made payments to YPO in 2023/24 totalling £3.5m.

A dividend of £267k in relation to YPO's 2023 trading activities is reflected in the Council's 2023/24 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 £39.1m and made payments totalling £2.0m.

The Council provided the North Yorkshire Pension Fund administrative and support services totalling £2.1m in 2023/24.

15. Pooled Funds

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

The formation of a Pooled Fund does not create a separate legal entity. The 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 Council acts as the 'host', the Council has responsibility for the financial administration of the pool. All contributions by the 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 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 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.

	ICBs £000	NYC £000	DLUHC £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Contributions	52,277	2,429	22,443	77,149
Expenditure				
Schemes/Additional Costs	30,576	0	0	30,576
Protection of Social Care	18,184	0	0	18,184
Disabled Facilities Grant	0	5,115	0	5,115
Improve BCF Schemes	0	17,328	0	17,328
Discharge Fund	3,517	2,429	0	5,946
Winter Pressures Grant	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	<u>52,277</u>	<u>24,872</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>77,149</u>

16. Disclosure of Remuneration

Regulations require the 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 (£)	2023/24		Total
	Teachers	Other	
50,000 - 54,999	133	204	337
55,000 - 59,999	69	78	147
60,000 - 64,999	62	61	123
65,000 - 69,999	42	33	75
70,000 - 74,999	34	30	64
75,000 - 79,999	12	18	30
80,000 - 84,999	11	3	14
85,000 - 89,999	3	5	8
90,000 - 94,999	3	4	7
95,000 - 99,999	3	12	15
100,000 - 104,999	4	3	7
105,000 - 109,999	1	6	7
110,000 - 114,999	1	5	6
115,000 - 119,999	0	2	2
120,000 - 124,999	1	0	1
125,000 - 129,999	0	0	0
130,000 - 134,999	0	0	0
135,000 - 139,999	0	1	1
140,000 - 144,999	0	0	0
145,000 - 149,999	0	1	1
150,000 - 154,999	0	0	0
155,000 - 159,999	0	2	2
160,000 - 164,999	0	0	0
165,000 - 169,999	0	2	2
170,000 - 174,999	0	0	0
175,000 - 179,999	0	0	0
180,000 - 184,999	0	0	0
185,000 - 189,999	0	0	0
190,000 - 194,999	0	0	0
195,000 - 199,999	0	0	0
200,000 - 204,999	0	0	0
205,000 - 209,999	0	1	1
	<u>379</u>	<u>471</u>	<u>850</u>

The Regulations also require the 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 2023/24. Details of Members Allowances and Expenses are published annually on the 'Councillor Allowances' page of the NYC website.

Role	Salary, Fees and Allowances	2023/24		Total Remuneration
		Expense Allowances	Pension Contributions	
Chief Executive (Richard Flinton)	205,897	0	25,873	231,770
Corporate Director of Resources	169,379	0	20,935	190,314
Corporate Director Environmental Services	169,379	0	20,935	190,314
Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services	155,296	0	19,515	174,811
Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services	155,296	0	19,515	174,811
Corporate Director of Community Development	147,151	0	18,491	165,642
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)	138,656	0	17,424	156,080
Assistant Chief Executive (Local Engagement)	115,826	0	14,763	130,589
Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support & HR)	115,826	0	13,097	128,923
Director of Public Health	110,632	0	13,902	124,534
Director of Transformation	110,632	0	13,902	124,534

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 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 2023/24	Number of other Departures Agreed 2023/24	Total Number of Exit Packages by Cost Band 2023/24	Total Cost of Exit Packages in each Band 2023/24 £000
1-19,999	25	7	32	193
20,000-39,999	10	0	10	257
40,000-59,999	4	0	4	194
60,000-79,999	5	0	5	357
80,000-99,999	1	0	1	81
100,000<	4	0	4	674
	49	7	56	1,756

18. Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements on Property, Plant and Equipment during the year 2023/24.

	Council Dwellings £000	Land and Buildings £000	Community Assets £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000
Cost or Valuation							
As at 1st April 2023	541,918	1,352,910	4,849	205,536	6,213	44,458	2,155,884
Additions	19,632	26,457	0	10,303	0	9,168	65,560
Disposals	(1,332)	(20,066)	0	0	0	0	(21,398)
Transfers	4,377	33,966	0	0	0	(34,772)	3,571
Revaluations / (Impairments)							
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	11,052	239,052	0	0	22	0	250,126
Recognised in Provision of Services	(18,070)	(152,773)	2	0	(8)	0	(170,849)
As at 31st March 2024	557,577	1,479,546	4,851	215,839	6,227	18,854	2,282,894
Depreciation and Impairments							
As at 1st April 2023	(1,948)	(115,346)	(220)	(166,840)	(131)	(14)	(284,499)
Charge for the Year	(7,849)	(58,197)	(13)	(12,058)	(41)	0	(78,158)
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations / (Impairments)							
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	539	3,592	0	0	0	0	4,131
Recognised in Provision of Services	9,256	107,620	(2)	0	8	0	116,882
As at 31st March 2024	(2)	(62,331)	(235)	(178,898)	(164)	(14)	(241,644)
Balance Sheet Net Amount as at 31st March 2024	557,575	1,417,215	4,616	36,941	6,063	18,840	2,041,250

Recognised Impairment

During 2023/24 the Council recognised impairment loss of £77.2m 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.

	2023/24 £000
Impairment losses/(gains) recognised within the (Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	55,583
Impairment losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure and taken to the Revaluation Reserve	21,643
	<u>77,226</u>

Movements on Infrastructure

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets (*Local Government Circular 09/2022 Statutory Override Accounting for Infrastructure Assets for Scottish Local Authorities*) this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

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

	2023/24 £000
Net book value (modified historical cost)	
As at 1st April	930,242
Additions	72,542
Derecognition	0
Depreciation	(35,399)
Impairment	0
Other movements in cost	0
Net book value as at 31st March	<u>967,385</u>

Infrastructure assets are not disclosed on the face of the Balance Sheet. Total Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) is shown in the reconciliation table below:-

	2023/24 £000
Property Plant and Equipment Assets	2,041,250
Infrastructure Assets	<u>967,385</u>
Total PPE Assets	<u>3,008,635</u>

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation [30M England or 24L Wales] of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

19. Valuation of Non-Current Assets

The 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 by registered Valuers in the Council's Property Services Team and Align Property Partners, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Valuations are undertaken with the approach that the valuations provided represent a true and fair value of the Assets as at 31st March 2024. The valuers have continued to exercise professional judgement and this continues to be the best information available to the Council.

In accordance with the five year rolling programme, the following asset classes were revalued in 2023/24; Special Schools, Nursery Schools, Outdoor Education Centres, General Children and Young People Services Properties, Community Centres, Waste Sites, Corporate Offices, Travellers Sites, Car Parks & Leisure Centres. This Comprises a total of £680.3m of the Council's Land and Building Portfolio as at 31st March 2024. Those properties not considered as part of the rolling programme in 2023/24 were subject to a desktop review by the Registered Valuer.

Council Dwellings are subject to a five year full inspection of the Council's Portfolio of Dwellings, with desktop reviews being performed in the intervening years. For 2023/24 a desktop review was performed, resulting in a valuation of £557.6m as at 31st March 2024.

20. Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment

12 Schools gained Academy status during 2023/24. As a consequence the Land and Building assets of £19.6m relating to the schools were transferred to the relevant Academy Trusts and have now been removed from the 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 £19.6m loss is purely notional and does not impact on the Council's General Working Balance or Council Tax levy.

Other disposals in the year resulted in a net gain of £3.3m, of which £3.0m relates to General Fund Disposals and £0.3m relates to Housing Revenue Account Disposals.

21. Major Areas of Capital Spending

Major areas of capital spending, over £2m during 2023/24 were:-

	Actual £000
Structural Maintenance of Roads & Bridges	46,277
Housing (HRA)	21,767
Leisure	18,486
Kex Gill Realignment	13,128
Loans to Limited Companies etc	6,495
Basic Needs Schemes	6,293
Disabled Facilities Grant	6,029
Capital Maintenance Programme	5,184
Housing (Non-HRA)	4,809
Fleet	4,720
Self Help Schemes	3,542
School Condition Schemes - Modernisation	3,503
Harrogate Convention Centre	2,846
Transforming Cities Programme	2,681
T&C Roadmap 2020-25	2,322
Develved Formula Capital Grant	2,296
Coastal Protection	2,251
Industrial Unit Programme	2,214
Treadmills Development	2,112
	<hr/>
	156,955
All spending in areas below £2m	23,086
Total Capital Spending in 2023/24	<hr/> <hr/>
	180,041

Committed Capital Expenditure

The Council had an approved Capital Plan for 2024/25 of £274.8m. Of this £274.8m is committed expenditure as at 1st April 2024. It should be noted, however, that this figure includes a significant element (£33.6m) relating to a number of general provisions and other schemes where legal contracts had not been exchanged by 31st March 2024.

The remaining £241.2m consisted of the following:-

	Actual £000
Housing (HRA)	40,834
Structural Maintenance - Roads	32,006
Kex Gill Realignment	28,108
Harbours	17,700
Other Grant Funded Highways	17,370
Transforming Cities	16,419
Central Overheads	14,759
School Condition Programme - Modernisation	13,208
Basic Need Programme	9,702
Regeneration LUF Catterick Garrison	8,969
Regeneration Towns Fund (Scarborough)	7,487
Disabled Facilities Grant Funded Programme	4,815
Economic Development - Rural England Prosperity Fund	4,740
Structural Maintenance - Bridges	3,720
Other Funded Highways Programme	2,963
Coastal Protection	2,953
Economic Development General	2,821
Economic Development - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	2,166
Outdoor Learning Service	2,100
Regeneration General	2,006
Integrated Transport Block Provision	1,885
Flood Risk Management Programme	1,758
CYPS Strategic Priorities	1,082
Regeneration Programme for Growth (P4G Selby)	1,031
T&C Roadmap 2020-2025	561
Other Schemes (less than £100k each)	12
	<u>241,176</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 Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed from Revenue. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

(a) **Capital Expenditure and its financing**

	2023/24 £000
Capital Investment	
Property, Plant and Equipment and Loans	158,521
Investment Properties	0
Intangible Assets	2,024
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	19,496
	<u>180,041</u>
Sources of Finance	
Capital receipts	
- Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	3,361
- Repayment of Loans to Limited Companies	5,137
Government grants and other contributions	104,961
Direct Revenue Contributions	45,695
Increase in underlying need to borrow	
- supported by Government financial assistance	0
- unsupported by Government financial assistance	20,887
	<u>180,041</u>

The difference between the £180m capital investment above and the £128.4m additions in note 18 relates to expenditure of £19.5m on Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute and £23.6m of capital expenditure which resulted in no value being added to the Council's asset base, intangible assets of £2m and £6.5m on loans to Limited Companies.

(b) **Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

	2023/24 £000	2023/24 £000
Opening Capital Financing requirement		718,492
Movement in year		
Increase in underlying need to borrow		20,887
MRP		
- capital spending funded by borrowing	(15,670)	
- PFI contracts	(4,064)	
- Finance leases	(15)	(19,749)
Assets acquired under PFI contracts		0
Assets acquired under Finance leases		0
Closing Capital Financing Requirement		<u>719,630</u>
Decrease/(Increase) in Capital Financing Requirement		<u>(1,138)</u>
Closing CFR consists of		
Capital spending funded by borrowing		579,784
PFI contracts		138,546
Finance leases		1,300
CFR at 31st March		<u>719,630</u>

23. Long Term Creditors

	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Government Entities		
Central Government Bodies	0	
Other Local Authorities	5	
NHS Bodies	<u>0</u>	5
General Creditors		4,044
(including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		
Income in Advance		<u>11,050</u>
Total Long Term Creditors		<u>15,099</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 Councils Capital Plan include:-

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

Details of Intangible Assets in 2023/24 are as follows:-

	31st March 2024 £000	Charge to Net Cost of Service 2023/24 £000	Capitalised 2023/24 £000	1st April 2023 £000
Extra Care and Older Peoples Resources	5,489	(450)	0	5,939
Housing Revenue Account Assets	440	(10)	0	450
Other	<u>4,944</u>	<u>(1,429)</u>	<u>2,024</u>	<u>4,349</u>
	<u>10,873</u>	<u>(1,889)</u>	<u>2,024</u>	<u>10,738</u>

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

	2023/24 £000
Balance at start of year	
Gross carrying amount	39,508
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(28,770)</u>
	10,738
Additions	2,024
Amortisation	<u>(1,889)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>10,873</u>
Comprising	
Gross carrying amount	41,532
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(30,659)</u>
	<u>10,873</u>

25. Investment Property

The 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 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 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.

	2023/24 £000
Balance at start of year	72,776
Additions (subsequent expenditure)	15
Assets Transferred	(3,572)
Disposals	(1,130)
Net gain / (loss) from revaluations	1,415
Balance at end of year	<u>69,504</u>

The 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:-

	2023/24 £000
Rental Income from Investment Property	(309)
Direct operating expenses	148
Net (gain) / loss from revaluation	<u>(1,415)</u>
Total transactions relating to Investment Property	<u>(1,576)</u>

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

26. 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.

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 Council to identify any Heritage Assets.

The Council's Records Office hold a large number of archive collections, which are owned by the 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.

	Cost/Valuation 1 Apr 2023	Additions	Revaluations	Cost/Valuation 31 Mar 2024
Museum pieces & Collections	15,242	0	0	15,242
Monuments, statues & sculptures	2,626	0	0	2,626
Civic Regalia	652	0	0	652
Royal Hall Harrogate	33,269	0	0	33,269
Other Buildings	233	0	(3)	230
	<u>52,022</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>52,019</u>

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.

	2023/24 £000
Balance at start of year	4,697
Disposals	<u>(1,765)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,932</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 2024 £000
Bank current accounts and cash held by the Council	16,658
Short term / call deposits	<u>77,930</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>94,588</u>

29. Long Term Investments

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

	Shareholding %	£	Dividends £000
Bracewell Homes Limited	LBG	n/a	0
Brierley Homes Limited	100	100	0
Brimhams Active Limited	100	1	0
Central Northallerton Development Co Limited	50	2	0
First North Law Limited	100	100	0
Maple Park (Hambleton) Limited	99	1	0
NYnet Limited	100	1	0
Veritau Limited	50	1	0
Yorwaste Limited	78	3,517,524	0

These companies' Profit and Loss Accounts are not included as part of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, any dividend income received is included as part of the Council's income for 2023/24. Similarly, these companies' Assets and Liabilities are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet on page 47 and 48.

The Council has determined, however, that it has a group relationship with the following three companies and they have therefore been incorporated into its Group Accounts on pages 119 to 134.

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

Name :- NY Highways Limited
Business :- The construction, maintenance and repair of highways

	NYnet Limited 31st March 2024 £000	Yorwaste Limited 31st March 2024 £000	NY Highways 31st March 2024 £000
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	(8,840)	8,211	(909)
Loans from NYC	0	3,700	9,460
Dividend Payable	0	0	0
Profit / (Loss) for the year :-			
Before Tax and Dividends	49	1,352	113
After Tax and Dividend	47	780	113

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

The investments the Council have are as follows:-

	31st March 2024 £000	
Funds and Other Local Authorities		
Property Funds	<u>13,731</u>	13,731
Investments with Subsidiary Companies		
Yorwaste Limited	3,518	
Align Property Partners Limited	500	
NY Highways Limited	500	
Veritau North Yorkshire Ltd	<u>31</u>	
	<u>4,549</u>	
Total Long Term Investments	<u>18,280</u>	

30. Long Term Debtors

	31st March 2024 £000	
Car Loans	26	
Loans to Subsidiary Companies	22,667	
Other Loans	3,033	
Loans to Housing Association	33,600	
Long Term Payments in Advance	184	
Long Term Debtors	<u>730</u>	
	<u>60,240</u>	
Less: Bad Debts Provision	<u>0</u>	
	<u>60,240</u>	

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

31. Short Term Debtors

	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Government Entities		
Central Government Bodies	27,541	
Other Local Authorities	8,481	
NHS Bodies	<u>22,989</u>	59,011
General Debtors		133,632
(including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		
Payments in Advance		<u>36,569</u>
		<u>229,212</u>
Less: Bad Debts Provision		<u>(17,815)</u>
Total Short Term Debtors		<u>211,397</u>

32. Short Term Creditors

	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Government Entities		
Central Government Bodies	24,810	
Other Local Authorities	3,547	
NHS Bodies	<u>1,148</u>	29,505
General Creditors		97,755
(including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		
Income in Advance		<u>47,317</u>
Total Short Term Creditors		<u>174,577</u>

33. Provisions

	Changes during the year				Balance as at 31st March 2024	To be used		Total
	Balance as at 1st April 2023	Provision Made	Provision Used	Provision Written Down		Within 1 year	In excess of 1 year	
	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	
Insurance	7,269	3,735	(1,035)	0	9,969	3,323	6,646	9,969
Highways Advance Payments	6,825	2,992	(3,785)	0	6,032	0	6,032	6,032
Alterations & Appeals	8,577	36,059	(34,518)	0	10,118	10,118	0	10,118
Other	225	0	0	0	225	143	82	225
	<u>22,896</u>	<u>42,786</u>	<u>(39,338)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,344</u>	<u>13,584</u>	<u>12,760</u>	<u>26,344</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 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 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 Council was liable for an initial 15% levy of claims paid since 1993, which was settled in 2013/14. In addition the 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.

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	2023/24 £000
General Working Balance at Start of Period	(67,034)
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure charged to the General Balance	(10,133)
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	(1,889)
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(105,701)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(61,814)
Impairment from Non Enhancing Capital Expenditure	(21,643)
Movements in the value of Investment Properties	1,415
Capital Grants and Contributions	144,767
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	(19,496)
Carrying Value of non current assets written off on disposal	(24,300)
Pension Reserve	
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(62,203)
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	4,132
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	1,973
Major Repairs Reserve	4,189
Financial Instruments	
Amount by which Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss are subject to DLUHC statutory over-ride	(1,604)
DSG Adjustment Account	(388)
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	19,749
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Working Balance	45,695
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	8,499
Pension Reserve	
Employer pension contributions payable in the year	61,266
Capital Receipts Reserve	5,485
Total of adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(1,868)
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	3,878
General Working Balance at Period End	(75,157)

(b) Earmarked Reserves

	Balance 31st March 2023 £000's	Movement in year 2023/24 £000's	Balance 31st March 2024 £000's
Earmarked for Schools			
Local Management of Schools	13,913	2,199	16,112
	<u>13,913</u>	<u>2,199</u>	<u>16,112</u>
Retained for Specific Initiatives			
Strategic Resources	93,511	39,556	133,067
Superfast Broadband	26,954	4,900	31,854
LGR Reserve	32,185	(6,139)	26,046
Brexit Renamed Capital Supply Chain	10,588	11,150	21,738
Programme for Growth	13,683	6,942	20,625
Hight Needs Reserve	16,297	2,500	18,797
Capital Development Reserve	16,763	(2,021)	14,742
HAS Market Shaping	16,965	(2,577)	14,388
Insurance	12,600	1,252	13,852
Equalisation (CTax & BR)	42,172	(31,172)	11,000
Other Resource & Central Service Reserves <£2m	20,879	(10,300)	10,579
Council Investment	13,955	(4,938)	9,017
Other Corporate Reserves <£2m	16,917	(7,950)	8,967
Other Community Development Reserves <£2m	8,190	(458)	7,732
Other Environment Reserves <£2m	9,640	(427)	9,213
Section 106 Commuted Sums	5,964	1,270	7,234
NY2020 Programme Support	7,265	(789)	6,476
Council Taxpayers Reserve	13,299	(7,442)	5,857
Risk Management Reserve	5,000	0	5,000
Outdoor Learning Service Project	66	4,000	4,066
Commercial Investments Depreciation Fund	3,900	0	3,900
Other CYPS Reserves <£2m	1,791	2,024	3,815
Capital Fund	2,896	535	3,431
LA Provision for Schools Deficits	1,984	885	2,869
Extra Care	2,763	0	2,763
PFI Scheme	2,944	(196)	2,748
Stronger Communities	2,413	0	2,413
Highways Advance Payments	2,380	0	2,380
Service Improvements	2,392	(120)	2,272
	<u>406,356</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>406,840</u>
Reserves of Trading and Service Units NYES			
Trading Reserves	4,639	233	4,872
Insurances	3,611	425	4,036
	<u>8,250</u>	<u>658</u>	<u>8,908</u>
Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserve			
CYPS Miscellaneous Grants	5,418	804	6,222
Public Health	6,474	(1,348)	5,126
Civil Parking Enforcement	1,072	1,506	2,578
Other Individual Reserves <£2m	2,689	(425)	2,264
	<u>15,653</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>16,190</u>
Total Earmarked Reserves	<u>444,171</u>	<u>3,879</u>	<u>448,050</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 2024 £000
Opening Balance	21,700
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gains/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	13,984
Use of the Capital Receipts Unapplied Reserve to finance new expenditure	<u>(8,499)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>27,185</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.

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance	80,117
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation	
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	144,767
Application of Capital Grants and Contributions within the period and adjusted through the Capital Adjustment Account	<u>(104,960)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>119,924</u>

35. Unusable Reserves

(a) Revaluation Reserve

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

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance	716,876
Asset Revaluation within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	254,256
Adjustment between current value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	<u>(15,055)</u>
Write out of revaluation on disposal; Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>(58,789)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>897,288</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 Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund Adjustment Account holds the movement between the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund. This is included as a reconciling item in the statement of Movement in Reserves. This is an unusable reserve for the Authority.

	Council Tax £000	NNDR £000	Total £000
Balance brought forward	8,063	(58)	8,005
Movement in year	<u>(2,446)</u>	<u>6,578</u>	<u>4,132</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>5,617</u>	<u>6,520</u>	<u>12,137</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.

	2023/24 £000
Balance Brought Forward	(8,677)
Movement in Year	<u>1,973</u>
Closing Balance	<u>(6,704)</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 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 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 Council has set aside to meet them.

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance (adjusted by Actuary to reflect LGR)*	(7,687)
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Actuarial gains / (losses) on pension assets/liabilities)	1,267
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(62,203)
Employers pension contributions payable in year	<u>61,266</u>
Closing Balance	<u>(7,357)</u>

*The Council (Employer) became a unitary authority with effect from 1st April 2023. As agreed with the Employer the start position as at 31 March 2023 is the sum of the assets and liabilities of the eight councils that make up the unitary authority.

(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.

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance	1,600,425
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(1,889)
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non current assets	(105,701)
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(61,814)
Impairment from Non Enhancing Capital Expenditure	(21,643)
Movements in the value of Investment Properties	1,415
Capital Grants and Contributions	104,960
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	(19,496)
Carrying Value of non current assets written off on disposal	(24,300)
Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment	19,749
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Working Balance	45,695
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain / loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	8,499
Re-payment of long term loans	(12,708)
Other Reserve Movements	
Adjustment between current value depreciation and historic cost depreciation	58,789
Write out of revaluation on disposal; Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>15,055</u>
Closing Balance	<u>1,607,036</u>

(f) Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve

The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the 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; or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance	(537)
Financial Instruments held under Fair Value through Profit & Loss subject to DLUHC Statutory Over-Ride*	(1,604)
Closing Balance	<u>(2,141)</u>

*The DLUHC introduced a statutory over-ride to protect the General Fund balance from any fluctuations in fair value movements in quoted investment funds. In the 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.

(g) Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance	3,403
Previous Year's Schools Fund deficit transferred from Earmarked Reserves	
In year DSG (over)/underspend	<u>(388)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>3,015</u>

The Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account is a reserve introduced in November 2020 by the laying of a new statutory instrument by DLUHC to amend the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting Regulations) 2003. The statutory instrument establishes new accounting practices relating to treatment of local authorities' schools budget deficits, requiring any such deficit to be recorded in a specific account established solely for the purpose of recording deficits relating to its schools' budget.

36. Material Contingent Liabilities

There have been no material contingent liabilities identified by the Council in 2023/24.

37. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Under IAS 10 Events after the Reporting Period, the 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 2023/24 was authorised for issue on 23rd August 2024 by the Corporate Director – Resources. The Statement of Accounts is then subject to the External Audit process, before being considered and approved by the Audit Committee Members on 23rd September 2024.

Since the Balance Sheet date, 6 schools have converted to Academy status. Land and Building asset values totalling £21.8m will be transferred off the Council's balance sheet in 2024/25 and the Council will no longer receive Dedicated School Grant of around £6.4m.

38. Dedicated Schools Grant

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). 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 2021. 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 2023/24 are detailed below:-

	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budgets £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2023/24 before Academy recoupment			533,521
Academy figure recouped for 2023/24			(239,184)
Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2023/24			<u>294,337</u>
Plus Brought forward from 2022/23			4,761
Less Carry-forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			<u>(4,761)</u>
Agreed initial budgeted distribution in 2023/24			294,337
In year adjustments		262	262
Final budgeted distribution for 2023/24	<u>73,248</u>	<u>221,351</u>	<u>294,599</u>
Less Actual central expenditure	73,739		73,739
Less Actual ISB deployed to schools	0	221,259	221,259
Net Carry-forward in year	<u>(491)</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>(399)</u>
Plus/Minus: Carry-forward to 2024/25 agreed in advance			<u>0</u>
Net Carry-forward to 2024/25			<u>0</u>
DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2022/23			(1,980)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			(399)
Total of DSG unusable reserve at the end of 2023/24			<u>(2,379)</u>
Net DSG position at the end of 2023/24			<u><u>(2,379)</u></u>

In 2023/24, £290,748k has been credited against the Education and Children's Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The net underspend in 2023/24 of £399k on central expenditure and ISB has been added to the agreed carry forward of £1,980k, and the net surplus of £2,379k is held as a positive unusable reserve.

This is in accordance with the statutory requirements (as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020) for 2021/22, which affect the manner in which the Council can use the general reserves held as at 31 March 2024, 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 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 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 Council, this definition covers the instruments used in Treasury Management activities, including the borrowing and lending of money and the making of investments.

The 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 Council.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires:-

- a Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS) stating the 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 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 Council provides treasury management services to the external bodies listed on page 109 (the external bodies listed as having temporary loans with the Council) and the loans from them represent working balances which are invested with the Council.

The 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 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 Council has elected to designate its shareholdings in its non-consolidated subsidiaries and a joint venture as fair value through other comprehensive income

The 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 Council's general fund balance and revenue budget. The DLUHC 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 Council will utilise the statutory override to account for any changes in the value of this investment.

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(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	31st March	31st March	31st March
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	0	0	0	0
Amortised Cost				
Investments	3,518	0	464,690	0
Loans to Subsidiary Companies	0	22,667	0	0
Loans to Housing Associations	0	33,600	0	0
Other	0	3,973	0	0
	<u>3,518</u>	<u>60,240</u>	<u>464,690</u>	<u>0</u>
Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income - designated equity instruments	14,762	0	0	0
Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income - other	0	0	0	0
Total Financial Assets	<u>18,280</u>	<u>60,240</u>	<u>464,690</u>	<u>0</u>
Non Financial Assets	0	0	0	211,397
Total	<u>18,280</u>	<u>60,240</u>	<u>464,690</u>	<u>211,397</u>

Financial Liabilities

	Long Term		Short Term	
	Borrowings	Creditors	Borrowings	Creditors
	31st March	31st March	31st March	31st March
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	0	0	0	0
Amortised Cost				
PWLB Loans	(253,759)	0	(2,414)	0
PWLB Loans - HRA	(98,354)	0	(1,258)	0
Market LOBO Loans	(19,000)	0	(5,056)	0
Temporary Loans from External Bodies	0	0	(42,778)	0
PFI and Finance Leases	(135,267)	0	(3,279)	0
	<u>(506,380)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(54,785)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>(506,380)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(54,785)</u>	<u>0</u>
Non Financial Liabilities	0	(15,099)	0	(174,577)
Total	<u>(506,380)</u>	<u>(15,099)</u>	<u>(54,785)</u>	<u>(174,577)</u>

(b) Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2023/24	
	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	1,604	0
Interest Revenue		
financial assets measured at amortised cost	(40,059)	0
Interest Expense	10,846	0

(c) Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

The 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 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 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 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 DLUHC, 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.

	2023/24	
	Nominal £000	Fair Value £000
Property Funds		
Blackrock	5,505	4,760
Threadneedle	5,366	4,559
Hermes	2,000	1,778
Fidelity	3,000	2,633
Shareholding		
Align Property Partners Limited	500	500
NY Highways Limited	500	500
	<u>16,871</u>	<u>14,730</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 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 2023/24 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 2024	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
PWLB Maturity Loans	317,039	308,498
PWLB Annuity Loans	36,304	30
Market LOBO Loans	20,000	16,133
Total	<u>373,343</u>	<u>324,661</u>

The fair value of the liabilities is lower than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This commitment to pay interest below market rates decreases the amount that the Council would have to pay if the lender requested to agree to early repayment of the loans.

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans 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 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 £373.3m would be valued at £230.7m. 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.

Investment Activities

	31st March 2024	
	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Money Market Loans more than 1 year	0	0
Financial Liabilities	0	0

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), Veritau (£1), Brimhams Active Limited (£1), Central Northallerton Development Company Limited (£2) and Maple Park (Hambleton) Limited (£1) continued to be valued at Historic Cost and have been omitted from the above. These shareholdings 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 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 Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Re-financing risk – the possibility that the 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 Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements.

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The 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 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 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 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 Council's financial instrument exposure. It is approved at the 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 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 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 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 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 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 Council also monitors other sources of market

intelligence, including the financial press, for rumours and speculation which may impact on organisations which the Council may invest with.

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

In addition, the 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 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 Council's deposits, however, there was no evidence at the 31st March 2023 that this was likely to occur.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk as at 31st March 2023, 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 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 Council's investments at 31st March 2024 is shown below along with the potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on experience of default and collectability.

	Amount at 31st March 2024 £000	Historical experience of default %	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions %	Estimated Maximum Exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2024 £000
Deposits for less than 1 year:-				
Deposits with Local Authorities	233,561	0.0	0.0	0.0
Institutions with Fitch Rating				
Long Term AA-, Short Term F1+	20,917	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term AA, Short Term F1+	20,418	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term A+, Short Term F1+	5,188	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long Term A+, Short Term F1	148,852			
Long Term A-, Short Term F1	30,566			
Part Nationalised Banks (Fitch rating Long Term A+, Short Term F1)	5,188	0.0	0.0	0.0
	<u>464,690</u>			

The 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 2024	Amount at 31st March 2024 £000
UK	AA-	418,532
Singapore	AAA	20,917
Canada	AA+	25,241
		<u>464,690</u>

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. Analysis of invoices raised as at 31st March 2024, which are included within the £211.4m Short Term Debtors, can be analysed by past-due and age status as follows:-

	31st March 2024 £m
Less than 1 month	29.4
1 to 2 months	13.0
3 months or more	36.4
	<u>78.8</u>

It is considered that £36.4m of the £78.8m debtors invoice balance is past its due date for payment. The 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 Councils exposure to default.

Liquidity Risk

The 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 2024 £000
Less than one year	
Public Works Loan Board	(3,672)
Market LOBO Loans	(5,056)
Temporary Loans from External Bodies	
- NYnet Limited	(14,037)
- Peak District National Park	(9,285)
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	(1,229)
- North York Moors National Park	(8,216)
- Yorkshire Dales National Park	(4,870)
- North Yorkshire Pension Fund	(2,175)
- Align Property Partners Limited	(2,710)
- National Parks England	(256)
	<u>(42,778)</u>
Total Less than one year	<u>(51,506)</u>
Greater than one year	
Public Works Loan Board	(352,113)
Market LOBO Loans	(19,000)
	<u>(371,113)</u>
Analysis of loans by Maturity	
Between one and two years	(5,001)
Between two and five years	(35,000)
Between five and ten years	(60,709)
Between ten and fifteen years	(14,567)
Between fifteen and twenty five years	(68,393)
Between twenty five and forty years	(161,779)
More than forty years	(25,664)
	<u>(371,113)</u>

Market Risk - Interest rate risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the 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	5,860
Increase in government grant receivable for financing costs	0
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	<u>5,860</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets	<u>0</u>
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities	<u>42,449</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 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, Brimhams Active Limited, Maple Park 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 Council. These long term investments are as a result of acquisition of specific interest and are not quoted in an active market. The 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 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. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA Income and Expenditure Statement shows the economic cost in year of providing housing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from rents and government grants. Authorities charge rents to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, this may be different from the accounting cost. The increase or decrease in the year, on the basis of which rents are raised, is shown in the Movement on the HRA Statement.

	2023/24 £000
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Repairs & Maintenance	9,083
Supervision & Management	9,605
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	804
Depreciation and Impairment of non-current assets (note 40a)	25,101
Debt Management costs	34
Movement in the debt impairment allowance (note 40c)	11
Total Expenditure	<u>44,638</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Dwelling Rents	(38,470)
Non-dwelling rents	(416)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(1,141)
Contributions towards expenditure	(173)
Total Income	<u>(40,200)</u>
Net cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	4,438
HRA services share of Corporate & Democratic Core	109
HRA Share of other amounts included in the whole authority Cost of Services but not allowed to specific services	0
Net Expenditure / Income for HRA Services	4,547
HRA share of operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(Gain) or loss on the sale of HRA non-current assets	(354)
Interest payable and similar charges (note 40k)	3,611
Interest and investment income	(1,912)
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	1,067
Capital grants and contributions receivable	0
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year on HRA services	<u>6,959</u>

Movement on the HRA Statement

	2023/24 £000
Balance on the HRA at 1st April 2023	(21,505)
(Surplus) / Deficit for year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(11,671)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under statute	17,181
Net (Increase / Decrease before transfers to or from reserves	5,510
Transfer to / (from) earmarked reserves	(3,290)
(Increase) / Decrease in year on the HRA	2,220
Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year	<u>(19,285)</u>

Note to the movement on the HRA statement

2023/24
£000

Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under statute

Items included in the HRA Income & Expenditure Account, but excluded from the movement on the HRA Balance for the year

Accumulated Absences accrual adjustment	0
Transfers to or (from) Capital Adjustment Account: Depreciation, impairments and revaluation losses	(25,101)
Gain or (loss) on sale of HRA fixed assets	354
HRA share of contributions the or (from) the Pensions Reserve	(1,100)
	<u>(25,847)</u>

Items not included in the HRA Income & Expenditure Account, but included in the movement on HRA Balance for the year

Transfer to / (from) Major Repairs Reserve (note 40d)	4,189
Transfers to or (from) Housing Repairs Account	0
Transfer to / (from) the Capital Adjustment Account Voluntary set aside for the repayment of debt	2,355
Capital Expenditure funded by the HRA	17,854
	<u>24,398</u>

Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA Balance for the year

	<u>(1,449)</u>
<u>Transfers to / (from) earmarked reserves</u>	
Transfer to / (from) Housing Carry Forward Budget Revenue	(10)
Transfer to / (from) Other Reserves	(3,280)
Transfer to / (from) ICT Reserve	0
	<u>(3,290)</u>

(a) **HRA Self Financing**

During 2011, the Government announced significant changes to the funding of the HRA. The aim of the government reforms was to enable Councils to manage their housing stock for the benefit of local residents in a transparent, accountable and cost effective way. In practical terms, the self financing initiative put an end to the housing subsidy system and put authorities in a position where stock can be supported from income raised within the HRA. New arrangements were introduced from 1 April 2012, and in future the HRA will be a self sufficient ring fenced account which will retain and use rental income.

(b) **Depreciation & Impairments**

The following amounts were charged to the Account in respect of revaluation and depreciation of assets:

	2023/24 £000
Council Dwellings	16,656
Other Land, Buildings & Assets	8,445
Total	<u>25,101</u>

The operational / non-operational split of the charges is as follows:

	2023/24 £000
Operational	25,101
Non-operational	0
Total	<u>25,101</u>

The following amounts were charged to the service revenue accounts for impairment and reversal of impairment costs where there has been an increase in value:

	2023/24 £000
Council Dwellings	16,656
Other Land and Buildings	394
Vehicles	41
Intangibles	10
Total	<u>17,101</u>

(c) Provision For Debt Impairment

The account is charged with the 'top up' required for provision toward debt impairment in respect of rent arrears. An adjustment of £3k was made during the year in respect of rent arrears in 2023/24. The total rent arrears provision at 31 March 2024 amounted to £944k.

(d) Major Repairs Reserve

The following is a statement of the movements in this reserve during the financial year 2023/24:

	2023/24 £000
Opening Balance 1 April 2023	4,674
Amount transferred to the reserve from the Capital Adjustment Account	16,284
Amount transferred to / (from) the reserves to the HRA:	
- Non current assets	2,479
Debits to the reserves in respect of HRA Capital expenditure on:	
- houses	(14,574)
Closing Balance 31 March 2024	<u>8,863</u>

(e) Housing Revenue Account Non-Current Assets

The total balance sheet value of non-current assets owned by the HRA is summarised as follows:

	31 March 2024 £000
Council Dwellings	557,574
Other Land & Buildings	650
Surplus	630
Assets Under Construction	1,107
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	535
Intangible	440
Total	<u>560,936</u>

Assets can be defied as either operational (such as council dwellings and other buildings) or non-operational (such as community land). The split is summarised below:

	31 March 2024 £000
Operational	0
- Dwellings	557,574
- Other Land & Buildings	3,362
Non-operational	0
Total	<u>560,936</u>

Vacant Possession Value

The vacant possession value of the houses within the HRA as at 31 March 2024 was £1470.0m. The substantial difference between the vacant possession value and the balance sheet value of the dwellings demonstrates the economic cost to Government of providing council housing at less than open market value.

(f) Capital Receipts

Capital receipts totalling £1,788k were received by the HRA in 2023/24. The total can be broken down as follows:

	2023/24 £000
Other HRA Property & Assets	
Houses	(1,740)
Land	0
	<u>(1,740)</u>
Principal Repaid on Housing Advances	0
Repayment of discount received on Right to Buy sales	(48)
Total	<u>(1,788)</u>

(g) Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure and sources of financing during the year were as follows:

	2023/24 £000
Capital Expenditure	
Planned Maintenance	13,716
Purchase of properties to add into HRA stock	7,097
Construction of properties to add into HRA stock	954
Intangible Assets	0
Other Property	0
Total	<u>21,767</u>
Sources of Finance	
Other Reserves	3,281
Prudential Borrowing	0
Capital Receipts	2,270
Revenue Contributions	0
Capital Grants	1,641
Major Repairs Reserve	14,575
Total	<u>21,767</u>

(h) Rent Arrears

At the end of the financial year 2023/24, rent arrears as a proportion of gross income are 3.25% (£1,278k).

	2023/24 £000
Rent arrears at 31 March 2024	1,148
Hostel Arrears	130
Total	<u>1,278</u>

(i) Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

Legislation in England and Wales allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in an asset being carried on the Balance Sheet. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than being charged to the HRA.

(j) Housing Stock

The analysis of the HRA housing stock is summarised as follows:

		31 March 2024 £000
Houses and Bungalows	- 1 Bedroom	941
	- 2 Bedroom	2,068
	- 3 Bedroom	2,360
	- 4 Bedroom	156
	- 5 Bedroom	9
Flats, Bedsits and maisonettes	- 1 Bedroom	1,780
	- 2 Bedroom	1,015
	- 3 Bedroom	17
	- 4 Bedroom	1
Multi Occupied Dwellings (Hostels)		73
Total		<u>8,420</u>

(k) Capital Asset Charges Accounting Adjustment

The Code of Practice requires an explanation of the capital assets accounting adjustment, calculated in accordance with the Item 8 Credit and Item 8 Debit (General) Determination for the year.

	2023/24 £000
Interest payable on the HRA average Capital Financing Requirement (CRF) for the year at the Consolidated Rate of Interest (CRI) calculated in accordance with the determination	219
Total	<u>219</u>

In accordance with the calculation for the Capital Asset Charges Accounting Adjustment, interest is payable on the mid-year HRA capital financing requirement, except that where the CFR is negative, where interest is receivable.

The costs of impairment are included as charges to the HRA Income and Expenditure Account. The effect of the capital asset charges accounting adjustment is that the impairment cost is reversed out of the HRA in the Movement on the HRA Statement as this is not a cost to be borne by HRA Tenants. For 2023/24 the impairment charge is £8,806m.

COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT

The Collection Fund is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection from taxpayers and distribution to local authorities and the Government of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).

	Council Tax	2023/24 Business Rates	Total
INCOME			
Council Tax Receivable	(536,441)	0	(536,441)
Council Tax Discounts Funded from Billing Authority General Fund	(1,003)	0	(1,003)
Business Rates Receivable	0	(192,756)	(192,756)
Transitional Protection Payments due from Government	0	(13,162)	(13,162)
	<u>(537,444)</u>	<u>(205,918)</u>	<u>(743,362)</u>
Contribution Towards Previous Year's Estimated Collection			
Fund Deficit			
Central Government	0	(3,381)	(3,381)
North Yorkshire Council	0	(3,313)	(3,313)
North Yorkshire PCC - Police	0	0	0
North Yorkshire PCC - Fire & Rescue Authority	0	(68)	(68)
	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,762)</u>	<u>(6,762)</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Precepts, Demands and Shares			
Central Government	0	96,421	96,421
North Yorkshire Council	437,961	94,492	532,453
North Yorkshire PCC	71,717	0	71,717
North Yorkshire PCC - Fire & Rescue Authority	19,591	1,928	21,519
	<u>529,268</u>	<u>192,841</u>	<u>722,110</u>
Allocation of Previous year's Estimated Collection Fund Surplus			
Central Government	0	0	0
North Yorkshire Council	5,764	0	5,764
North Yorkshire PCC	943	0	943
North Yorkshire PCC - Fire & Rescue Authority	253	0	253
	<u>6,960</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,960</u>
Charges to the Collection Fund			
Less: Increase / (Decrease) in Bad Debt Provision	4,276	1,872	6,148
Less: Increase / (Decrease) in Provision for Appeals	0	7,246	7,246
Settlement against the Provision	0	(8,241)	(8,241)
Less: Cost of Collection	0	1,190	1,190
Renewable Energy	0	16,419	16,419
	<u>4,276</u>	<u>18,485</u>	<u>22,761</u>
(Surplus) / Deficit arising during the Year	3,060	(1,353)	1,707
(Surplus) / Deficit brought forward 1 April 2023	(9,736)	1,062	(8,674)
(Surplus) / Deficit carried forward 31 March 2024	(6,676)	(291)	(6,967)

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. Income from Council Tax

The Council Tax is a domestic property based tax with properties allocated to valuation bands from A to H. The tax base for North Yorkshire Council was calculated at 242,975 for 2023/24 being the total number of properties converted to an equivalent number of band D dwellings. The number in each band shown as Band D equivalents was:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
24,392	40,643	49,886	38,516	39,913	27,742	19,799	2,084	242,975

2. Income from Business Ratepayers

The Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area based on local rateable values provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) multiplied by a uniform business rate set nationally by Central Government, these are as follows:

	£000
Rateable Value at year-end	608,273
National Multiplier	51.2
Small Business Multiplier	49.9

3. Allocation of collection Fund Surplus

	Council Tax	2023/24 NNDR	Total
Central Government	0	(145)	(145)
North Yorkshire Council	(5,617)	(143)	(5,760)
Police & Crime Commissioner - North Yorkshire - Police	(832)	0	(832)
Police & Crime Commissioner - North Yorkshire - Fire and Rescue Authority	(227)	(3)	(230)
	<u>(6,676)</u>	<u>(291)</u>	<u>(6,967)</u>

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 Council produces a consolidated set of Group Accounts to show the totality of its operations in a transparent manner.

The 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 Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Similarly any assets and liabilities generated are accounted for within the Council's Balance Sheet.

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

After consideration of all relevant criteria, the Council has determined that for 2023/24, it has a group relationship with eight bodies (including their subsidiaries where appropriate):-

- Align Property Partners Limited;
- Align Property Services Limited;
- Bracewell Homes Limited;
- Brierley Homes Limited;
- Brimhams Active Limited;
- First North Law Limited;
- Maple Park (Hambleton) LLP;
- NY Highways Limited;
- NYnet Limited;
- Veritau Limited;
- Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation; and
- Yorwaste Limited.

(a) Align Property Partners Limited

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

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

(b) Align Property Services Limited

The Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of Align Property Services Limited; a company established in 2023 whose principal activities are architectural, engineering and property consultancy services to the Council and external clients.

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

(c) Bracewell Homes Limited

Bracewell Homes Limited is a wholly owned company limited by guarantee; a company established in 2019, whose principal activities are to provide high quality homes to more residents across the Harrogate area. The Council has provided a loan facility to Bracewell Homes Limited for £10m.

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

(d) Brierley Homes Limited

The 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 Council has provided a loan facility to Brierley Homes Limited of £25m.

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

(e) Brimhams Active Limited

The Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of Brimhams Active Limited; a company established in 2021 whose principal activities as a community health and wellbeing company, is to operate gyms, leisure centres and community hubs within the Harrogate area.

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

(f) First North Law Limited

The 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 Council has provided a loan facility to First North Law Limited for £250k.

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

(g) Maple Park (Hambleton) LLP

The Council owns 100% of the issued share capital of Maple Park (Hambleton) LLP; a company established in 2022 whose principal activities are the provision of crematorium and wake facilities.

Maple Park (Hambleton) LLP has not been consolidated into North Yorkshire Council's Group Accounts as its values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(h) NY Highways Limited

NY Highways Limited is a company set up by the Council in June 2021 to undertake and deliver all highway maintenance activities. The Council has provided a loan facility to NY Highways for £11m.

NY Highways Limited has been consolidated into North Yorkshire Council's Group Accounts.

(i) NYnet Limited

NYnet Limited is a company set up by the 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 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 Council and is managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the 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 Council with the sum taken up at 31st March 2023 being nil. This loan is included in the Council's Balance Sheet as a Long Term Debtor.

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

(j) Veritau Limited

In April 2009 North Yorkshire 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 Council's Group Accounts as their values do not materially impact on the group financial position.

(k) 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 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 Council made no original investment in 1974 and has no share capital, no consolidation adjustments are necessary.

(l) Yorwaste Limited

The 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 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 Council has provided a loan facility to Yorwaste Limited for £3.7m. This loan is included in the Council's Balance Sheet as a Long Term Debtor.

Yorwaste Limited has paid the Council a dividend in 2022/23 of £Nil (2021/22 £Nil). Yorwaste Limited has been consolidated into North Yorkshire Council's Group Accounts as a subsidiary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RESULTS

3. The Group Accounts for the Council are based upon the consolidation of the Council, NYnet Limited, Yorwaste Limited and NY Highways 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 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 2023/24 accounts.

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Year to 31st March 2024

	Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net £000
Children and Young People's Service	528,757	(397,394)	131,363
Environmental Services	267,429	(104,742)	162,687
Health and Adult Services	426,833	(188,911)	237,922
Resources and Central Services	267,596	(123,693)	143,903
Community Development	136,343	(63,548)	72,795
Housing Revenue Account	44,747	(40,200)	4,547
Corporate Miscellaneous	644,642	(708,127)	(63,485)
Yorwaste Limited	(548)	(465)	(1,013)
NYnet Limited	1,102	(1,142)	(40)
NY Highways	(13,634)	8,058	(5,576)
Cost of Services	2,303,267	(1,620,164)	683,103
Other Operating Expenditure			
Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment			10,316
Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities			765
			11,081
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure			
Interest payable and similar charges			30,087
Interest receivable and similar income			(37,418)
Financial Instruments			1,604
Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment			(1,576)
Deficit / (Surplus) on trading activities			(624)
Net interest on the net defined pension benefit liability (asset)			(2,390)
			(10,317)
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (Analysis)			
Council Tax Income			(425,284)
Non-Domestic Rates Income			(126,031)
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants			(22,069)
Capital Grants			(125,271)
			(698,655)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(14,788)

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (continued)

Year to 31st March 2024

Expenditure £000 Income £000 Net £000

(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			(14,788)
Tax expense/(income)			573
Interim Dividend			0
Group (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services			<u>(14,215)</u>
(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment			(263,191)
Impairment (gains) / losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			21,643
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability			6,420
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			<u>(235,128)</u>
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			<u><u>(249,343)</u></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 Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Group Movement in Reserves Statement.

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 2023/24</u>						
Balance at 1st April 2023	<u>(617,697)</u>	<u>(2,311,808)</u>	<u>(2,937,192)</u>	<u>12,796</u>	<u>(2,103)</u>	<u>(2,926,499)</u>
Total Comprehensive Expenditure and Income	(10,133)	(242,815)	(252,948)	(4,148)	66	(257,030)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(51,349)	51,349	0	0	0	0
Net (Increase) / Decrease before Transfers	<u>(61,482)</u>	<u>(191,466)</u>	<u>(252,948)</u>	<u>(4,148)</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>(257,030)</u>
Balance at 31st March 2024	<u>(679,179)</u>	<u>(2,503,274)</u>	<u>(3,190,140)</u>	<u>8,648</u>	<u>(2,037)</u>	<u>(3,183,529)</u>

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the 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 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.

GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

1st April 2023 £000		31st March 2024 £000
2,559,772	Property, Plant and Equipment (note 3)	2,483,077
72,771	Investment Property	69,504
10,721	Intangible Assets	10,873
52,022	Heritage Assets	52,019
279,219	Council Dwellings	557,574
629	Community Assets	4,616
15,942	Long Term Investments	14,262
60,331	Long Term Debtors	45,580
3,051,407	Long Term Assets	3,237,505
411,981	Short Term Investments	464,869
4,697	Assets held for sale	2,932
3,583	Inventories	3,323
176,534	Short Term Debtors (note 5)	167,896
134,222	Cash and Cash Equivalents (note 4)	108,495
0	Current Tax Assets	0
731,017	Current Assets	747,515
(50,451)	Short Term Borrowing	(39,894)
(196,716)	Short Term Creditors (note 6)	(161,356)
(3,650)	PF/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months	(3,795)
(9,813)	Provisions to be used within 12 months	(13,584)
(162)	Finance Lease repayable within 12 months	(168)
(13,019)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(14,969)
(273,811)	Current Liabilities	(233,766)
(31,853)	Long Term Creditors	(23,411)
(138,961)	PF/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months	(134,751)
(1,296)	Finance Lease payable in excess of 12 months	(1,132)
(13,905)	Pensions Liability	(9,347)
(24,029)	Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months	(23,999)
(368,974)	Long Term Borrowing	(370,613)
(10,783)	Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(12,159)
(589,801)	Long Term Liabilities	(575,412)
2,918,812	Net Assets	3,175,842
617,697	Usable Reserves	679,179
2,311,808	Unusable Reserves	2,503,274
(10,693)	Reserves - Group Entities	(6,611)
2,918,812	Total Reserves	3,175,842

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

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

31st March
2024
£000

Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services **14,215**

Adjust Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services for non cash movements

Depreciation / Amortisation	112,673
Impairment and revaluations charged to the provision of services	82,042
Movement in Creditors	(59,874)
Movement in Debtors	5,981
Movement in Inventories	98
Movement in Provisions	3,741
Pensions Liability	937
Carrying Amount of Non-current Assets sold	24,300
Other non-cash items charged to the provision of services	(17,597)
	<u>152,301</u>

Adjust for items included in the Net Surplus / (Deficit) on the Provision of Services that are investing and financing activities

Grants received for investment purposes	(125,271)
Proceeds from the sale of property and other assets	(3,011)
	<u>(128,282)</u>
Equity Dividends Paid	0
Taxation	571
Net cash flows from Operating Activities	<u>38,805</u>

Investing Activities

Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	(158,676)
Purchase of Short Term and Long Term investments	(1,502,370)
Proceeds from the Sale of Property (and other Assets)	2,889
Proceeds from Short Term and Long Term Investments	1,451,514
Other receipts for investing activities	137,182
Net cash flows from Investing Activities	<u>(69,461)</u>

Financing Activities

Cash receipts of Short and Long Term Borrowing	11,679
Other receipts from Financing Activities	(126)
Repayment of the outstanding liability of Finance Lease and similar arrangements	(4,223)
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(1,167)
Other payments for Financing Activities	(1,234)
Net cash flows for Financing Activities	<u>4,929</u>

Net Increase / (decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents **(25,727)**

Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	134,222
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>108,495</u>
	<u>(25,727)</u>

NOTES TO THE GROUP STATEMENTS

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24

	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 £000
Children and Young People's Service	108,408	(6,212)	102,196	29,167	131,363
Environmental Services	108,878	(235)	108,643	54,044	162,687
Health and Adult Services	228,842	4,259	233,101	4,821	237,922
Resources and Central Services	127,678	19,870	147,548	-3,645	143,903
Community Development	27,855	12,592	40,447	32,348	72,795
Housing Revenue Account	0	1,321	1,321	3,226	4,547
Corporate Miscellaneous	(53,350)	(47,895)	(101,245)	37,760	(63,485)
NYES	0	(1,018)	(1,018)	1,018	0
York Waste Limited	(1,013)	0	(1,013)	0	(1,013)
NY Jet Limited	(40)	0	(40)	0	(40)
NY Highways	(5,576)	0	(5,576)	0	(5,576)
Net Cost of Service	541,682	(17,318)	524,364	158,739	683,103
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	11,081	11,081
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	1,974	0	1,974	-12,291	-10,317
Taxation and non specific Income and Expenditure	(559,629)	12,446	(547,183)	(151,472)	(698,655)
Tax Expenses	573	0	573	0	573
(Surplus) or Deficit	(15,400)	(4,872)	(20,272)	6,057	(14,215)
Opening Group Balance			(505,187)		
Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on Group in Year			(20,272)		
Closing Group Balance at 31 March 2024			(525,459)		
General Working Balance			(75,157)		
Earmarked Reserves			(456,913)		
Group Reserves			6,611		
			(525,459)		

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	34,039	(580)	(4,292)	29,167
Environmental Services	78,568	285	(24,809)	54,044
Health and Adult Services	4,436	329	56	4,821
Resources and Central Services	6,150	443	(10,238)	(3,645)
Community Development	41,338	130	(9,120)	32,348
Housing Revenue Account	25,101	33	(21,908)	3,226
Corporate Miscellaneous	0	2,561	35,199	37,760
NYES	0	126	892	1,018
Yorwaste Limited	0	0	0	0
NYnet Limited	0	0	0	0
NY Highways	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	189,632	3,327	(34,220)	158,739
Other Operating Income and Expenditure	10,316	0	765	11,081
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	(2,390)	(9,901)	(12,291)
Taxation and non specific income and Expenditure	0	0	(151,472)	(151,472)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	199,948	937	(194,828)	6,057

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 2024

	NYC £000	NYnet Limited £000	Yorwaste Limited £000	NY Highways £000	Consolidation Adjustments £000	Group £000
Cost of Service	689,732	(49)	(2,090)	(1,348)	(73,738)	683,103
Other Operating Expenditure						
Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	10,316	0	0	0	0	10,316
Impairment of Assets Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities	765	0	0	0	0	765
	<u>11,081</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,081</u>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
Interest payable and similar charges	29,642	0	806	1,235	0	31,683
Interest receivable and similar income	(38,947)	0	(67)	0	0	(39,014)
Financial Instruments	1,604	0	0	0	0	1,604
Investment Properties; revaluation and impairment	(1,576)	0	0	0	0	(1,576)
Surplus of trading activities	(624)	0	0	0	0	(624)
Net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset)	(2,390)	0	0	0	0	(2,390)
	<u>(12,291)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>739</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(10,317)</u>
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(698,655)	0	0	0	0	(698,655)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	<u>(10,133)</u>	<u>(49)</u>	<u>(1,351)</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>(73,738)</u>	<u>(14,788)</u>
Tax Expenses	0	2	571	0	0	573
Interim Dividend	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group (Surplus) / Deficit	<u>(10,133)</u>	<u>(47)</u>	<u>(780)</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>(73,738)</u>	<u>(14,215)</u>
(Surplus) / Deficit on Revaluation of Fixed Assets	(263,191)	0	0	0	0	(263,191)
Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve	21,643	0	0	0	0	21,643
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability	6,420	0	0	0	0	6,420
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	<u>(235,128)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(235,128)</u>
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	<u>(245,261)</u>	<u>(47)</u>	<u>(780)</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>(73,738)</u>	<u>(249,343)</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

	NYC £000	Yorwaste Limited £000	NYnet Limited £000	NY Highways £000	Consolidation Adjustments £000	Group £000
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,446,446	16,874	14,695	5,062	0	2,483,077
Investment Property	69,504	0	0	0	0	69,504
Intangible Assets	10,873	0	0	0	0	10,873
Heritage Assets	52,019	0	0	0	0	52,019
Council Dwellings	557,574	0	0	0	0	557,574
Community Assets	4,616	0	0	0	0	4,616
Long Term Investments	18,280	0	0	0	(4,018)	14,262
Long Term Debtors	60,240	0	0	0	(14,660)	45,580
Long Term Assets	3,219,552	16,874	14,695	5,062	(18,678)	3,237,505
Short Term Investments	464,690	179	0	0	0	464,869
Inventories	2,264	0	375	684	0	3,323
Short Term Debtors	211,397	7,104	(5,072)	5,185	(50,717)	167,896
Cash and Cash Equivalents	94,588	6,676	2	7,229	0	108,495
Assets held for sale	2,932	0	0	0	0	2,932
Current Tax Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Assets	775,871	13,959	(4,695)	13,098	(50,717)	747,515
Short Term Borrowing	(51,506)	0	0	0	11,612	(39,894)
Short Term Creditors	(174,577)	(5,748)	(10,528)	(9,608)	39,105	(161,356)
PF/PPP Liability repayable within 12 months	(3,795)	0	0	0	0	(3,795)
Finance Lease repayable within 12 months	(168)	0	0	0	0	(168)
Provisions to be used within 12 months	(13,584)	0	0	0	0	(13,584)
Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(14,969)	0	0	0	0	(14,969)
Current Liabilities	(258,599)	(5,748)	(10,528)	(9,608)	50,717	(233,766)
Long Term Creditors	(15,099)	0	(8,312)	0	0	(23,411)
PF/PPP Liability repayable in excess of 12 months	(134,751)	0	0	0	0	(134,751)
Finance Lease repayable in excess of 12 months	(1,132)	0	0	0	0	(1,132)
Pension Liability	(7,357)	0	0	(1,990)	0	(9,347)
Provisions to be used in excess of 12 months	(12,760)	(11,239)	0	0	0	(23,999)
Long Term Borrowing	(371,113)	(4,700)	0	(9,460)	14,660	(370,613)
Capital Grant Receipts in Advance	(12,159)	0	0	0	0	(12,159)
Long Term Liabilities	(554,371)	(15,939)	(8,312)	(11,450)	14,660	(575,412)
Net Assets	3,182,453	9,146	(8,840)	(2,898)	(4,018)	3,175,842
Usable Reserves	679,179	0	0	0	0	679,179
Unusable Reserves	2,503,274	0	0	0	0	2,503,274
Reserves - Group Entities	0	9,146	(8,840)	(2,899)	(4,018)	(6,611)
Total Reserves	3,182,453	9,146	(8,840)	(2,899)	(4,018)	3,175,842

3. Movement in Property, Plant and Equipment

	Council Dwellings £000	Aggregated Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Landfill Site Development & Restoration Costs £000	Total £000
Cost of Valuation					
As at 1st April 2023	541,918	1,437,108	235,008	41,764	2,255,798
Additions	19,632	35,715	15,225	0	70,572
Disposals	(1,332)	(20,066)	(1,985)	0	(23,383)
Transferred to Assets Held for Sale	4,377	(806)	0	0	3,571
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	11,052	239,074	0	0	250,126
Recognised in Provision of Services	(18,070)	(152,779)	0	0	(170,849)
As at 31st March 2024	557,577	1,538,246	248,248	41,764	2,385,835
Depreciation and Impairments					
As at 1st April 2023	(1,948)	(124,333)	(184,272)	(37,119)	(347,672)
Year on Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	(7,849)	(59,355)	(14,613)	(1,424)	(83,241)
Disposals	0	0	1,944	0	1,944
Revaluations / (Impairments)					
Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	539	3,592	0	0	4,131
Recognised in Provision of Services	9,256	107,626	0	0	116,882
Yorwaste Asset Impairment	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31st March 2024	(2)	(72,470)	(196,941)	(38,543)	(307,956)
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 31st March 2024	557,575	1,465,776	51,307	3,221	2,077,879
Balance Sheet Net Amount at 1st April 2023	539,970	1,312,775	50,736	4,645	1,908,126

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

31st March
2024
£000

Bank current accounts and cash held by the Council	16,658
Short term / call deposits, inc. Cash Balances held by Group Entities	<u>91,837</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>108,495</u>

5. Short Term Debtors

	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Government Entities		
Central Government Bodies	27,541	
Other Local Authorities	(4,927)	
NHS Bodies	<u>22,989</u>	45,603
General Debtors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		103,539
Payments in Advance		<u>36,569</u>
		185,711
Less: Bad Debts Provision		<u>(17,815)</u>
Total Short Term Debtors		<u>167,896</u>

6. Short Term Creditors

	31st March 2024	
	£000	£000
Government Entities		
Central Government Bodies	24,810	
Other Local Authorities	5,002	
NHS Bodies	<u>1,148</u>	30,960
General Creditors (including Public Corporations and Trading Funds)		83,080
Income in Advance		<u>47,317</u>
Total Short Term Creditors		<u>161,356</u>

7. Provisions

	Changes during the year				Balance as at 31st March 2024 £000	To be used		
	Balance as at 1st April 2023 £000	Provision Made £000	Provision Used £000	Provision Written Down £000		Within 1 year £000	In excess of 1 year £000	Total £000
Insurance	7,269	3,735	(1,035)	0	9,969	3,323	6,646	9,969
Highways Advance Payments	6,825	2,992	(3,785)	0	6,032	0	6,032	6,032
Alterations & Appeals	8,577	36,059	(34,518)	0	10,118	10,118	0	10,118
Other	225	0	0	0	225	143	82	225
	<u>22,896</u>	<u>42,786</u>	<u>(39,338)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,344</u>	<u>13,584</u>	<u>12,760</u>	<u>26,344</u>
Yorwaste Limited	10,946	293	0	0	11,239	0	11,239	11,239
	<u>33,842</u>	<u>43,079</u>	<u>(39,338)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>37,583</u>	<u>13,584</u>	<u>23,999</u>	<u>37,583</u>

NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND
FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2022/23		2023/24	
£000		£000	£000
CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS			
Contributions			
106,551	Employers - Normal	106,048	
1,343	- Deficit	1,738	
2,339	- Early Retirement Costs Recharged	2,313	
35,401	Employees - Normal	38,351	
194	- Additional Voluntary	42	
145,828	Total Contributions Receivable (note 7)		148,492
18,654	Transfers in (note 8)		22,878
Less			
Benefits			
(106,333)	Pensions	(120,158)	
(25,917)	Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	(32,718)	
(3,321)	Lump Sums Death Benefits	(5,136)	
(135,571)	Total Benefits Payable (note 9)		(158,012)
Leavers			
(780)	Refunds to Members Leaving Service	(769)	
(14,515)	Transfers Out	(22,696)	
(15,295)	Total Payments on Account of Leavers (note 10)		(23,465)
(4,274)	Management Expenses (note 11)		(4,676)
9,342	Net additions/(withdrawals) from dealings with Members		(14,783)
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS			
12,744	Investment income (note 12)		20,383
0	Taxation (note 12a)		0
(34,069)	Investment management costs (note 11)		(31,035)
(401,746)	Change in market value of investments (note 14a)		449,426
(423,071)	Net returns on investments		438,774
(413,729)	Net increase/ (decrease) in the Fund during the year		423,991
4,634,453	Opening Net Assets of the Fund		4,220,724
4,220,724	Closing Net Assets of the Fund		4,644,715

NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND – NET ASSETS STATEMENT

31st March 2023 £000		31st March 2024 £000
	INVESTMENT ASSETS	
0	Fixed Interest Securities	0
1,182	Equities	1,182
3,545,213	Pooled Investments	3,815,246
266,225	Pooled Property Investments	260,850
<u>392,532</u>	Private Equity	<u>533,341</u>
4,205,152		4,610,619
1,902	Cash Deposits	4,637
<u>787</u>	Investment Debtors	<u>16,327</u>
<u>4,207,841</u>	TOTAL INVESTMENT ASSETS	<u>4,631,584</u>
	INVESTMENT LIABILITIES	
<u>0</u>	TOTAL INVESTMENT LIABILITIES	<u>0</u>
<u>4,207,841</u>	NET INVESTMENT ASSETS (note 14a)	<u>4,631,584</u>
0	LONG-TERM DEBTORS	0
	CURRENT ASSETS	
11,708	Contributions due from employers	12,071
1,588	Other Non-Investment Debtors	1,381
1,776	Cash	2,083
<u>15,072</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>15,535</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
<u>(2,189)</u>	Non-Investment Creditors	<u>(2,404)</u>
<u>(2,189)</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>(2,404)</u>
<u>4,220,724</u>	TOTAL NET ASSETS (note 14c)	<u>4,644,715</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 financial year.

NOTES TO THE NORTH YORKSHIRE PENSION FUND ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 Council (NYC). The 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 2023/24 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 (as amended)

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by NYC to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of NYC 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 NYC.

(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, academy trusts 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 2024 there were 118 contributing employer organisations within NYPF including the Council itself, and over 101,000 individual members, as detailed below.

79 Scheduled Bodies including 43 Academy Trusts

Ainsty 2008 Internal Drainage Board
Askham Bryan College

Brimhams Active Limited
City of York Council
Craven College

North Yorkshire Police Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime
Commissioner
Northallerton & Romanby Joint Burial Board
Northallerton Town Council
Norton on Derwent Town Council

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

Pickering Town Council
Richmond Town Council
Ripon City Council
Scarborough Sixth Form College
Selby Town Council
Skipton Town Council
Sutton in Craven Parish Council
Tadcaster Town Council
Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board
Whitby Town Council
York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority
York College
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Academy Trusts

Areté Learning Trust - Northallerton School & Sixth Form College
Areté Learning Trust - Richmond School & Sixth Form College
Areté Learning Trust - Stokesley Academy
Areté Learning Trust - Mill Hill Primary School
Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust
Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust
Coast and Vale Learning Trust
Dales Academies Trust
David Ross Education Trust - Thomas Hinderwell Primary Academy
Ebor Academy Trust

The Education Alliance – Naburn Primary
Elevate Multi Academy Trust
Enquire Learning Trust - East Whitby Primary Academy
Enquire Learning Trust - Roseberry Primary Academy
Enquire Learning Trust - Stakesby Primary Academy
Enquire Learning Trust - Stokesley Primary Academy
Hope Sentamu Learning Trust
Horizons SAT – The Woodlands Academy
Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust
Lingfield Education Trust – Cambrai Primary
Moorlands Learning Trust – Nidderdale High School
Moorlands Learning Trust – Skipton Academy

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust
Northern Star Academies Trust
Outwood Academy Easingwold
Outwood Academy Ripon
Outwood Primary Academy Alne
Outwood Primary Academy Greystone
Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust
Red Kite Learning Trust

Rodillian Multi Academy Trust – Brayton Academy
Ryedale Learning Trust
St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust
Selby Educational Trust

South Bank Multi Academy Trust

South Craven Academy Trust – South Craven Academy
South York Multi Academy Trust

STAR Multi Academy Trust
Venn Academy Trust – Brompton Hall School
Wellspring Academy Trust
Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust
Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust

39 Admitted Bodies

ABM Catering Ltd	ISS Mediclean Ltd
Align Property Services Ltd	Lark T/A Betterclean Services
Aramark Ltd	Make It York
Aspens Services Ltd	Mellors Catering Services Ltd
Barnsley Norse Ltd	NY Highways Ltd
Beyond Housing Ltd	RCCN Ltd
Bulloughs Cleaning Services Ltd	Richmondshire Leisure Trust
Cater Link Ltd	SBFM Ltd
CH & Co Catering Group Ltd	Sports & Leisure Management Ltd (Everyone Active)
Churchill Contract Services Ltd	Springfield Home Care Services Ltd
City of York Trading Ltd	Taylor Shaw Ltd
Compass Contract Services (U.K) Ltd	University of Hull (Scarborough Campus)
Dolce Ltd	Urbaser Ltd
Explore York Libraries and Archives	Veritau Ltd
Gough and Kelly Security Ltd	Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles)
Greenwich Leisure Ltd	York Mind
Grosvenor Facilities Management	York Museums and Galleries Trust
Human Support Group Ltd	York St John University
Independent Cleaning Services Ltd	Yorkare (Haxby) Ltd

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

	31st March 2024 No.	31st March 2023 No.
Number of Employers with Active Members	118	131
Employees in the Fund		
NYC	15,371	12,771
Other employers	15,128	18,177
Total	<u>30,499</u>	<u>30,948</u>
Pensioners		
NYC	20,952	15,573
Other employers	9,824	13,129
Total	<u>30,776</u>	<u>28,702</u>
Deferred Pensioners		
NYC	26,917	24,333
Other employers	12,948	15,827
Total	<u>39,865</u>	<u>40,160</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 2024. Employee contributions are supplemented by employers' contributions which are primarily determined as part of the each triennial valuations. The last such valuation was at 31 March 2022 and that set the contribution rates for 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26; 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 2023/24 financial year and its year end position as at 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The accounts report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. They 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 (pension strain due to early retirement and compensatory added years) 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 Assets Statement as a current asset.

Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income/expenditure 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
- Arcmont (formerly Bluebay) – Private Debt
- Permira – Private Debt
- BCPP – Infrastructure, Private Debt and Climate Opportunities

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 Account.

Net Assets Statement

(g) Lifetime Allowances

Members are entitled to request the Fund pays their tax liabilities due in respect of lifetime allowance in exchange for a reduction in pension. Where the Fund pays member tax liabilities direct to HMRC it is treated as an expense in the year in which the payment occurs.

(h) Financial Assets

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

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

The values of investments as shown on the Net Assets Statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13 (see Note 16). For the purposes of disclosing levels of fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted the classification guidelines recommended in *Practical Guidance on Investment Disclosures* (PRAG / Investment Association, 2016).

(i) 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 the 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.

(j) Derivatives

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

(k) Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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.

(l) Liabilities

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

(m) 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.

(n) Additional Voluntary Contributions

The Fund 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 for information only (see note 23).

(o) **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 Assets 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.

Equity Shares in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership (BCPP)

The Fund's shareholding in the asset pool BCPP Ltd. has been valued at transaction price i.e. cost, as an appropriate estimate of fair value. The Class A share is valued at £1 and reflects the ownership stake in the company carrying full voting rights, dividend and capital distribution rights, whilst the Class B shares are valued at £1,181,818 and represented the Fund's contribution to the company's FCA regulatory capital requirement. Management have made this judgement using the criteria set out in IFRS 9 Financial Instruments:

- fair value cannot be otherwise established for these assets as there is currently no market for the shares and no identical or similar market to compare to;
- After two of the pool's partner funds (Northumberland and Tyne & Wear) merged on 1 April 2020, the obligation to meet the company's capital requirement were re-allocated between the remaining eleven partner funds. This serves as a precedent that in the event of a future exit from the partnership, the Fund's shares could be disposed of at cost back to the pool and re-issued to the remaining partners;
- BCPP is intending to trade at a breakeven position (nominal profit or loss) with any values offset against partner funds future costs. The company's own audited accounts show its shareholder funds to be equal to the regulatory capital invested.

The cost of these shares has therefore been determined as a reasonable and appropriate estimate of their fair value.

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 at 31 March 2024 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 2.1% (£114.5m), a 0.1% increase in inflation would increase liabilities by 2% (£112.7m), and an increase in life expectancy of one year would increase liabilities by 4.2% (£235.1m).

6. Events After the End of the Reporting Period

Financial market volatility remained elevated after the year end, reflecting uncertainty around global events, interest rates and inflation. However, the estimated funding level as at 31 March 2024 of 114% means the Fund is well positioned to meet its future pensions obligations.

7. Contributions Receivable

By category

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Employees' Contributions	38,393	35,595
Employers' Contributions		
Normal contributions	106,048	106,551
Deficit recovery contributions	1,738	1,343
Early Retirement Recharges	977	1,066
Compensatory Added Years Recharges	1,336	1,273
Total Contributions	<u>148,492</u>	<u>145,828</u>

By authority

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Contributions Receivable		
North Yorkshire Council	81,869	65,242
Other Scheduled Bodies	58,855	72,969
Admitted Bodies	7,768	7,617
	<u>148,492</u>	<u>145,828</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

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Benefits Payable		
North Yorkshire Council	99,749	55,620
Other Scheduled Bodies	46,385	69,636
Admitted Bodies	11,878	10,315
	<u>158,012</u>	<u>135,571</u>

10. Payments To and On Account of Leavers

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Leavers		
Refunds to Members Leaving Service	769	780
Individual Transfers	22,696	14,515
	<u>23,465</u>	<u>15,295</u>

11. Management Expenses

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Administrative Costs	2,545	2,405
Investment Management Costs	31,035	34,069
Oversight and Governance Costs	2,131	1,869
	<u>35,711</u>	<u>38,343</u>

Investment Management Costs includes £4,136k (2022/23: £6,569k) in respect of performance related fees payable to the Fund's investment managers and £7,072k in respect of transaction costs (2022/23; £10,659k).

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

	2023/24			
	Total £000	Management Fees £000	Performance Fees £000	Transaction Fees £000
Pooled Investments	27,048	17,813	4,136	5,100
Pooled Property Investments	3,782	1,810		1,972
	<u>30,830</u>	<u>19,623</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>7,072</u>
Custody Fees	205			
Total	<u>31,035</u>			

	2022/23			
	Total £000	Management Fees £000	Performance Fees £000	Transaction Fees £000
Pooled Investments	28,714	14,426	6,569	7,719
Pooled Property Investments	5,120	2,180	0	2,940
	<u>33,834</u>	<u>16,606</u>	<u>6,569</u>	<u>10,659</u>
Custody Fees	235			
Total	<u>34,069</u>			

12. Investment Income

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Income from Bonds	0	0
Income from Equities	(232)	49
Pooled Property Investments	4,178	1,613
Pooled Investments - Other Managed Funds	16,157	9,630
Interest on Cash Deposits	280	1,130
Other	0	322
	<u>20,383</u>	<u>12,744</u>

(a) Taxes on Income

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Withholding Tax on Dividends	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

13. Other Fund Account Disclosures

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Payable in respect of external audit	<u>92</u>	<u>19</u>

14. Investments

(a) Reconciliation of Movements in Investments

	Value as at 31st March 2024 £000	Change in market value £000	Sale proceeds receipts £000	Purchases as at cost payments £000	Value as at 1st April 2023 £000
Equities	1,182	0	0	0	1,182
Pooled Investments	3,815,246	427,829	(793,340)	635,544	3,545,213
Pooled Property	260,850	3,206	(18,581)	10,000	266,225
Private Equity / Infrastructure	<u>533,341</u>	<u>18,595</u>	<u>(54,556)</u>	<u>176,770</u>	<u>392,532</u>
Total Invested	4,610,619	449,630	(866,477)	822,315	4,205,151
Spot FX		(204)			
Amount receivable for sales	15,000				
Cash Deposits	4,637				1,902
Net Investment Debtors	<u>1,327</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>787</u>
Net Investment Assets	<u>4,631,584</u>	<u>449,426</u>			<u>4,207,840</u>

	Value as at 31st March 2023 £000	Change in market value £000	Sale proceeds & derivative receipts £000	Purchases as at cost and derivative payments £000	Value as at 1st April 2022 £000
Equities	1,182	0	0	0	1,182
Pooled Funds	3,545,213	(387,752)	(625,238)	545,518	4,012,685
Pooled Property	266,225	(37,117)	(40,399)	0	343,741
Private Equity / Infrastructure	<u>392,532</u>	<u>24,111</u>	<u>(59,646)</u>	<u>182,277</u>	<u>245,790</u>
Total Invested	4,205,152	(400,758)	(725,283)	727,795	4,603,398
Spot FX		(574)			
Cash Deposits	1,902	(414)			1,501
Net Investment Debtors	<u>787</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>736</u>
Net Investment Assets	<u>4,207,841</u>	<u>(401,746)</u>			<u>4,605,635</u>

(b) Analysis of Investments

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Fixed Interest Securities		
UK Public Sector Quoted	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Equities		
UK Unquoted	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,182</u>
	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,182</u>
Pooled Investments		
UK Cash Funds	161,157	25,221
Overseas Cash Funds	11,679	10,022
UK Equity	424,473	415,870
UK Property	260,850	266,225
UK Government Bonds	576,649	496,490
UK Corporate Bonds	338,075	301,144
Multi Asset Credit	241,000	220,369
Overseas Equity	2,055,794	2,067,679
Private Debt	204,968	163,560
Insurance Linked Securities	6,419	8,418
Infrastructure	<u>328,374</u>	<u>228,972</u>
	<u>4,609,438</u>	<u>4,203,970</u>
Total Investments	<u>4,610,620</u>	<u>4,205,152</u>
Cash Deposits	4,637	1,902
Net Investment Debtors	1,327	787
Amount receivable for sales of investments	15,000	0
Net Investment Assets	<u>4,631,584</u>	<u>4,207,841</u>

(c) Investments analysed by Fund Manager

	31st March 2024		31st March 2023	
	£000	%	£000	%
Investments managed by Border to Coast				
Pension Partnership:				
BCPP - Global Equity Alpha	1,372,719	29.7	1,219,592	29.0
BCPP - Index Linked Gilt Fund	576,649	12.5	496,490	11.8
BCPP - Investment Grade Credit	338,075	7.3	301,144	7.2
BCPP - Listed Alternatives	266,380	5.8	288,091	6.9
BCPP - Infrastructure 1A	250,445	5.4	213,575	5.1
BCPP - Multi Asset Credit	241,000	5.2	220,369	5.2
BCPP - UK Equities	180,383	3.9	178,386	4.2
BCPP - Private Debt	130,637	2.8	99,344	2.4
BCPP - Infrastructure Series 2A	57,535	1.2	6,910	0.2
BCCP - Climate Opportunities Fund	40,787	0.9	16,973	0.4
BCCP - Private Credit Series 2	18,412	0.4	5,087	0.1
	<u>3,473,022</u>	<u>75.1</u>	<u>3,045,961</u>	<u>72.5</u>
Investments managed outside of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership:				
Baillie Gifford & Co. - LTGG	660,785	14.3	797,479	19.0
Dodge & Cox	199,636	4.3	0	0.0
Threadneedle	161,157	3.5	188,373	4.5
Legal & General	44,487	1.0	44,004	1.0
Northern Trust Held Cash	26,097	0.6	35,243	0.8
Hermes	16,726	0.4	33,848	0.8
Permira	11,679	0.3	22,948	0.5
Arcmont (formerly Bluebay)	9,428	0.2	27,696	0.7
Leadenhall Diversified Fund	2,877	0.1	3,347	0.1
Leadenhall NAT CAT Fund	2,543	0.1	2,012	0.0
Leadenhall Remote Fund	1,182	0.0	3,059	0.1
BCPP - UK Unquoted Equities	999	0.0	1,182	0.0
PIMCO	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<u>1,137,596</u>	<u>24.8</u>	<u>1,159,191</u>	<u>27.5</u>
Cash Deposits	4,637	0.1	1,902	0.0
Net Investment Debtors	1,327	0.0	787	0.0
Total	<u>4,616,582</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>4,207,841</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The investments with BCPP Global Equity Alpha, BCPP Listed Alternatives, BCPP Multi Asset Credit, BCPP Index Linked Gilts, BCPP Investment Grade Credit, BCPP Infrastructure and Baillie Gifford & Co each represent more than 5% of net assets. These investments are in pooled funds.

(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
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
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 provided and the

				<p>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>
Other unquoted and private equities	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>	Valuations could be affected by changes to expected cashflows, and by any differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Shares in Border to Coast Pensions Partnership asset pool	Level 3	Estimated value of the Fund's share of net assets of the partnership company, based on relative % of shares held and voting rights	Current estimates of future dividend income	Valuations could be affected by future trading income, post-Balance Sheet events, or changes to expected cashflows.

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 2024.

	Value at 31 March 2024 £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Assessed valuation range (+/-)			
Pooled investments- Private Debt	204,968	221,570	188,365
Pooled investments- Infrastructure	328,374	353,987	302,761
UK Unquoted Equities	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,182</u>
Total	<u>534,523</u>	<u>576,739</u>	<u>492,308</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 2024				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	187,836	3,903,260	534,523	4,625,619
Net investment assets	<u>187,836</u>	<u>3,903,260</u>	<u>534,523</u>	<u>4,625,619</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 2023				
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	37,932	3,776,195	393,714	4,207,841
Net investment assets	<u>37,932</u>	<u>3,776,195</u>	<u>393,714</u>	<u>4,207,841</u>

b. Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements Within Level 3

	Market Value at 1 April 2023 £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 2024 £000
Private Debt	163,560	0	0	69,577	(28,794)	(929)	1,553	204,967
Infrastructure	228,972	0	0	107,193	(16,528)	8,287	450	328,374
UK Unquoted Equities	1,182	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,182
	<u>393,714</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>176,770</u>	<u>(45,322)</u>	<u>7,358</u>	<u>2,003</u>	<u>534,523</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 2023			31st March 2024		
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					
0	0	0	0	0	0
1,182	0	0	1,182	0	0
3,545,213	0	0	3,815,246	0	0
266,225	0	0	260,850	0	0
392,532	0	0	533,341	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3,678	0	0	6,721	0
787	0	0	16,327	0	0
0	1,588	0	0	1,381	0
<u>4,205,939</u>	<u>5,266</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,626,946</u>	<u>8,102</u>	<u>0</u>
Liabilities					
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	(2,189)	0	0	(2,404)
0	0	(2,189)	0	0	(2,404)
<u>4,205,939</u>	<u>5,266</u>	<u>(2,189)</u>	<u>4,626,946</u>	<u>8,102</u>	<u>(2,189)</u>

(b) Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Fair Value Through Profit & Loss	449,426	(401,746)
Loans and Receivables	0	0
	<u>449,426</u>	<u>(401,746)</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. NYC 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 NYC'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 risk-adjusted return.

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 2024/25 reporting period.

Asset Type	Potential Market
	Movements (+/-) %
Equities	6.9
Property	6.6
Infrastructure	7.8
Listed alternatives	6.9
Illiquid credit	8.1
Investment grade credit	5.1
Non-investment grade credit	6.1
Absolute Return	8.0
Gilts	3.4
Cash	3.8

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 31st March 2024 £000	Potential Market Movement £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Equities	2,480,268	171,138	2,651,406	2,309,129
Gilts	576,649	19,606	596,255	557,043
Investment grade credit	338,075	17,242	355,316	320,833
Non-investment grade credit	241,000	14,701	255,701	226,299
Other Pooled Investments	6,419	0	6,419	6,419
Property	260,850	17,216	278,066	243,634
Infrastructure	328,374	25,613	353,987	302,761
Illiquid credit	204,968	16,602	221,570	188,365
Total Assets	4,436,602		4,718,721	4,154,483

Asset Type	Value as at 31st March 2023 £000	Potential Market £000	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Equities	2,483,549	173,848	2,657,397	2,309,701
Gilts	496,490	14,398	510,888	482,092
Investment grade credit	301,144	15,659	316,803	285,485
Non-investment grade credit	220,369	14,104	234,473	206,265
Other Pooled Investments	8,418	505	8,923	7,913
Property	266,225	15,707	281,932	250,518
Infrastructure	228,972	17,402	246,374	211,570
Illiquid credit	163,561	12,921	176,482	150,640
Total Assets	4,168,728		4,433,272	3,904,184

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 2024 and 31 March 2023 is set out in the tables below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,637	1,902
Pooled Investments	1,135,093	1,018,003
	<u>1,139,730</u>	<u>1,019,905</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 +/- 1% the values in the table above would change by £173m for 2023/24 and £157m for 2022/23.

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 +/-6.6%. A fluctuation of this size is considered reasonable based on an analysis of the implied volatility of the 1-year options contracts for the exchange rates in the financial market.

Assuming all other variables, in particular, interest rates remain constant, an 6.6% 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 2024 £000	Value on 6.6% Increase £000	Value on 6.6% Decrease £000
Overseas Cash Fund	11,679	12,453	10,904
Overseas Bonds	224,853	239,761	209,946
Overseas Equity	2,057,081	2,193,465	1,920,696
Overseas Pooled Funds	417,171	444,830	389,513
	<u>2,710,784</u>	<u>2,890,509</u>	<u>2,531,059</u>

Asset Type	Value as at 31st March 2023 £000	Value on 8.2% Increase £000	Value on 8.2% Decrease £000
Overseas Cash Fund	10,022	10,844	9,200
Overseas Bonds	212,877	230,333	195,421
Overseas Equity	2,067,679	2,237,229	1,898,129
Overseas Pooled Funds	300,026	324,628	275,424
	<u>2,590,604</u>	<u>2,803,034</u>	<u>2,378,174</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, 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 NYC's credit criteria. NYC 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 NYC's Treasury Management Strategy.

NYC 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 NYC at 31 March 2024 was £2.1m (31 March 2022, £1.7m) and was held with the following institutions:

	Credit Rating	31 March 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000
Call Accounts			
Barclays Bank Plc (NRFB)	A+ / F1	200	255
Handelsbanken	AA / F1+	94	163
Fixed Term Deposit Notice Accounts			
Santander UK	A+ / F1	290	203
Bank of Scotland	A+ / F1	0	0
National Westminster Bank PLC	A+ / F1	26	224
DBS Bank Ltd	AA- / F1+	94	102
Goldman Sachs	A+ / F1	187	183
Standard Chartered	A+ / F1	94	183
Helaba	A+ / F1+	23	102
Sumitomo Mitsui BCE	A- / F1	0	122
Local Authorities	-	1,075	239
		<u>2,083</u>	<u>1,776</u>

The Fund held liquid cash in a UK and an Overseas Short Term Investment Fund during 2023/24, the average investment balances for these funds were £38m and £7m respectively. The Fund received interest of £852k on these funds in 2023/24.

(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 2024 the value of illiquid assets was £377m (31 March 2023, £377m).

All liabilities at 31 March 2024 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 2022.

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 2022 Valuation the aim was to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 18 years from April 2023 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 2022 Triennial Valuation the Fund was assessed as 116% funded (114% at the 2019 Valuation). This reflected a surplus of £640m (surplus of £450m at the 2019 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 2023/24 the common rate (determined at the 2012 Valuation) is 17.3% 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 2022 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	2.30%	per annum
Salary Increases	3.55%	per annum
Pensions Increases	2.30%	per annum

Future life expectancy (from age 65) based on the Actuary's Fund specific mortality review was:

	Male	Female
Future Pensioners (assumed current age 45)	23.4	26.0
Current Pensioners	22.5	24.9

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.

21. Current Assets

	31st March 2024 £000	31st March 2023 £000
Debtors		
Investment Debtors		
Accrued Dividends	0	0
Withholding Taxes Recoverable	1,327	787
Amount receivable for sales of investments	15,000	0
	<u>16,327</u>	<u>787</u>
Other Debtors		
Contributions due from Scheduled (Government) Bodies	12,071	11,708
Contributions due from Admitted Bodies	0	0
Pensions Rechargeable	994	1,031
Other	387	557
	<u>13,452</u>	<u>13,296</u>
Cash	2,083	1,776
	<u>31,862</u>	<u>15,859</u>

(a) **Long Term Debtors**

	31st March 2024 £000	31st March 2023 £000
Long Term Debtors		
Reimbursement of Lifetime Tax Allowances	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

22. Current Liabilities

	31st March 2024 £000	31st March 2023 £000
Creditors		
Sundry Other Creditors	<u>2,404</u>	<u>2,189</u>
	<u>2,404</u>	<u>2,189</u>

23. Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

The AVC provider for the North Yorkshire Pension Fund is Prudential. The market value of the AVCs as at 31 March 2023 was £15.9m, as at 31st March 2024 was £xx.xm. Contributions paid directly to Prudential during the year 2023/24 was £2.6m.

24. Agency Services

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund does not operate Agency Services contracts.

25. Related Party Transactions

North Yorkshire Council

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund is administered by North Yorkshire Council. Consequently, there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Fund.

The Council incurred costs of £2.1m (£1.9m in 2022/23) 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 £60.4m to the Fund in 2023/24 (£65.2m in 2022/23).

The Fund's cash holdings for cashflow purposes are invested with banks and other institutions by the treasury management operations of NYC, through a service level agreement. During the year to 31 March 2024 the Fund had an average investment balance of £3.6m (£11.2m during 2022/23) and received interest of £194k (£181.7k received in 2022/23) on these funds.

Governance

At 31 March 2024 there were no Pension Fund Committee Members who were also active members of the Fund. The Corporate Director – Resources, who was also the Treasurer of the Fund was an active member. Benefits for the Treasurer were accrued on 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 NYC.

26. Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Commitments

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2024 were £508.6m (31 March 2023 £380.1m). 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 2022/23).

North Yorkshire Pension Fund

Statement of the Actuary for the year ended 31 March 2024

Introduction

This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 57(1)(d) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (the 'LGPS Regulations').

The LGPS 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 2022 by Aon, in accordance with Regulation 62 of the LGPS Regulations.

Actuarial Position

- The valuation as at 31 March 2022 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 2022 (of £4,634.5M) covering 116% of the liabilities.
- The valuation also assessed each individual employer's (or group of employers') position separately. Contribution requirements were determined based on the principles in the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement and are set out in Aon's report dated 29 March 2023 (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 2026 are estimated to be:

Year from 1 April	% of pensionable pay	Plus total contribution amount (£M)
2023	17.3	1.495
2024	17.0	1.685
2025	16.7	1.888

- 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.
- The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method for most employers, allowing for future increases in pensionable pay. The main financial actuarial assumptions used for assessing the funding target and the contribution rates were as follows.

Discount rate for periods in service

Scheduled and subsumption body funding target *	4.20% p.a.
Intermediate (strong covenant approach) funding target	3.85% p.a.
Intermediate (standard approach) funding target	3.60% p.a.
Ongoing orphan funding target	3.60% p.a.

Discount rate for periods after leaving service

Scheduled and subsumption body funding target *	4.20% p.a.
Intermediate (strong covenant approach) funding target	3.85% p.a.
Intermediate (standard approach) funding target	3.60% p.a.
Ongoing orphan funding target	0.80% p.a.

Rate of pay increases 3.55% p.a.

Rate of increase to pension accounts ** 2.30% p.a.

Rate of increases in pensions in payment **
(in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension)

2.30% 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, a 10% uplift has been applied to the past service liabilities on the scheduled body and subsumption funding targets to make allowance for short-term inflation above the long-term assumption.*

In addition, the discount rate and rate of increases to pensions for already orphaned liabilities (i.e. where there is no scheme employer responsible for funding those liabilities and the employer has exited the Fund) were assumed to be 1.7% p.a. and 3.4% p.a. respectively.

The assets were valued at market value.

5. 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) S3 mortality tables with appropriate scaling factors applied based on an analysis of the Fund's pensioner mortality experience and a Fund membership postcode analysis using Aon's Demographic Horizons™ longevity model, and included an allowance for future improvements based on the 2021 Continuous Mortality Investigation Projections Model, with 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	22.5	24.9
Current active members aged 45 at the valuation date	23.4	26.0

Further details of the assumptions adopted for the valuation, including the other demographic assumptions, are set out in the actuarial valuation report.

6. The valuation results summarised in paragraph 1 above are based on the financial position and market levels at the valuation date, 31 March 2022. As such the results do not make allowance for changes which have occurred subsequent to the valuation date. The Actuary, in conjunction with the Administering Authority, monitors the funding position on a regular basis.
7. The formal actuarial valuation report and the Rates and Adjustments Certificate setting out the employer contribution rates for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 were signed on 29 March 2023. Other than as agreed or otherwise permitted or required by the Regulations, employer contribution rates will be reviewed at the next actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2025 in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
8. 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 their actuarial valuation which was carried out as at 31 March 2022. 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 Council, the Administering Authority of the Fund, in respect of this Statement.

9. The report on the actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2022 is available on the Fund's website at the following address:
[North Yorkshire Pension Fund 2022 valuation report FINAL \(nypf.org.uk\)](https://www.nypf.org.uk)

Aon Solutions UK Limited

June 2024

Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

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June 2024

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 This is the first Annual Governance Statement for North Yorkshire Council since it became a unitary authority in April 2023. North Yorkshire Council's (the 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 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 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 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 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 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 Council's **Local Code of Corporate Governance (Local Code)** 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 recommended by the Audit Committee in March 2024 for approval by the Chief Executive Officer (under paragraph 5.15 of the Officers' Delegation Scheme), in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the appropriate Executive Member, the Corporate Director, Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services. A copy of the Code can be obtained from the Council website [here](#). The Audit Committee also review the Council's corporate governance arrangements usually in June of each year alongside the Annual Governance Statement.

1.7 This AGS explains how the 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 confirms that the financial management arrangements within the 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 Council's compliance with the CIPFA *Financial Management (FM) Code (2019)* which applies from 1st April 2021.

- 1.9 The latest governance guidance issued by CIPFA is 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

- 1.10 The governance arrangements and Final Accounts of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) are audited separately from the Council. However, because the NYPF is administered by the Council, the governance arrangements of the 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).
- 1.11 NYPF is one of 11 members of the Borders to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited (BCPP). This Company is now in full operation and has approximately £40 billion of assets under management. NYPF has assets of circa £3.5 billion as at 31 March 2024 invested with BCPP and it is expected that BCPP will manage an increasing proportion of NYPF's assets over time. BCPP has established governance rules and procedures including a Joint Committee and an informal Shareholder Committee supporting how it engages with partner funds as investors and owners. Administration of the NYPF and determining its Investment Strategy remain entirely within the remit of NYPF's Pension Fund Committee.
- 1.12 A triennial valuation was carried out for NYPF as at 31 March 2022. This involved a review of the membership data of NYPF's 100,000 active, pensioner and deferred pensioner members, against the value of NYPF's investments and the return they are expected to achieve. It established the funding level and the contribution rates to be paid by employers for the years 2023/24 to 2025/26. Valuations are carried out every three years in accordance with Local Government Pension Scheme regulations, so the next valuation will take place in 2025.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – further updated needed

- 2.1 North Yorkshire 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 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 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 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 2023/24 is considered to have provided "xx" assurance that significant risks impacting on the achievement of the 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 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 2023/24 and beyond. Reports on progress will be submitted to the Audit Committee.
- 2.6 Recruitment and Resourcing continues to be a challenge across all services although there are signs of an improving picture. However, specific 'hotspot' challenges in skill shortage occupations continue to remain. Sickness absence rates have increased in areas such as stress, anxiety, depression, and musculo-skeletal problems.
- 2.7 This AGS period of 2023/24 has seen the first year of a unitary council and the coming together of all services delivered by 8 councils. There has been many restructures of teams taking place together with the development of a Transformation Programme for the future. As we move forward the next step is to bring together services, teams, systems and processes from predecessor organisations to create strong teams with a "One Council" ethos, and to focus on the overall experience of North Yorkshire's customers.

3.0 THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The Governance Framework as detailed in the Local Code comprises the systems, processes, culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost effective services.
- 3.2 The **system of internal control** is a significant part of that Governance Framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than try to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. Because it is not possible to eliminate all risks, the system of internal control can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on a continuous process designed to identify and prioritise the risks that threaten the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and then to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
- 3.3 The overall Governance Framework, and in particular the system of internal control, described in this AGS, has been in place within the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 and up to the date of approval by the Audit Committee of this Statement alongside the Statement of Final Accounts on 23 September 2024.

4.0 THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK	
a) Developing codes of conduct which define standards of behaviour for Members and staff, and policies dealing with whistleblowing and conflicts of interest and that these codes and policies are communicated effectively	Governance in Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected Members have to agree to follow a Code of Conduct and an ethical framework to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. Members must complete a Register of Interests which is publicly available. The Council has established a Standards Committee, which monitors the operation of the Code of Conduct. The Committee has in place procedures for the assessment, investigation and determination of complaints against Members (involving Independent Persons) and a procedure for granting dispensations. Staff operate to a corporate Behaviours Framework which is used to develop staff skills and monitor performance. A Manager's Pocket Book is in place and outlines key behaviours for all managers in NYC. 	Code of Conduct

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the formation of the Brierley Group of commercial companies, appropriate governance arrangements have been put in place. A Shareholder Sub Committee of Executive and a Shareholder Board to support the Shareholder Sub Committee, are in place. • There is a Local Code of Corporate Governance in place that is fully consistent with the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework <i>Delivering Good Governance in Local Government</i>. The Local Code defines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the fundamental values and principles of corporate governance ○ the corporate governance framework and arrangements to deliver it within the Council ○ arrangements for annual review and reporting of the framework. • 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 Council has approved and implemented a formal Whistleblowing Policy which is reviewed annually by the Audit Committee. • The 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>Local Code of Corporate Governance</p> <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 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 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 Council, Executive and all Committees. • The Corporate Director – 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 – Resources is the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the Council. The Corporate Director – 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. • In accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, the Council has adopted relevant policies and processes and appointed a Data Protection Officer (Veritau). Veritau provides internal audit and a range of related services to both the City of York Council and the 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. 	<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"> • The 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"> ○ full re-certification to the ISO/IEC 27001 took place in December 2022 and was successful. The next re-certification will take place in December 2025 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 Council operates an Information Technology Service Management System which was awarded re-certification to ISO/IEC 20000 in February 2022. The next re-certification will be in February 2025. ISO 20000 provides quality assurance to the processes, policies and procedures operated in the delivery of ICT Services to the Council and is the only standard specifically aligned to Information Technology service delivery and service management <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 Council is also certified to the Public Sector Network (PSN) Code of Connection. The certifications have enabled the 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 Council • The Equality and Diversity Policy Statement is reviewed annually and revised when necessary. The 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 Council has also published equality information and objectives as required by the Equalities Act 2010. • The Council has an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy to ensure that any use is ethical and in compliance with all applicable legislation, regulations and organisational policies. A Steering Group has been introduced to help shape the NYC emerging approach to AI and coordinate a holistic and informed approach that balances innovation and safety. • 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 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 Council website. Public bodies are also required to comply with the public sector equality duty – information about what the Council does is at this link 	<p>Public Sector Network (PSN)</p> <p>Health and Safety Policy</p> <p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement</p> <p>Gender Pay Gap</p> <p>Equal opportunities information</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal Audit operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the 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 Council's framework of governance, risk management and control on an annual basis. ○ during 2023/24, the Audit Plan included audits on a number of corporate themes, such audits are key to providing the appropriate assurance to the Council that its overall governance arrangements remain effective. ● The CIPFA Financial Management (FM) Code that was developed in 2019 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. A self-assessment is completed annually with identified actions for improvement. 	<p>FM Report 2023 complete</p>
<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 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 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 Council has a Communications Strategy to support its LGR Transition 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 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 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 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 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 ○ opportunities for the public to engage effectively with the Council including attending meetings and submitting petitions ○ Consultation toolkit and on-line training package that provide advice to all staff about how to consult effectively ○ an engagement promise setting out in simple terms how everyone who lives or works in the county, or uses the Council's services can influence decisions. ○ maintaining a Council website that provides access to information, delivers services and opportunities for public engagement, including delivery of information required by the transparency agenda ○ using social media to inform and engage with residents for example, on development of services, provision of information, responding to concerns and issues ○ publication of an e-newsletter, available by subscription or through the council website, covering news and information about the Council and its services ○ 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 ○ communicating and engaging with staff across the Council, through a number of different internal communications channels 	<p>Council Plan</p> <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 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 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 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 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’. A Shareholder Sub Committee of Executive and a Shareholder Board oversees 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. Training has been made available to directors of the companies of their legal responsibilities under Company Law. 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. 	Council Plan
<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>	Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution sets out how the 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 Council. 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 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 Council. They are reviewed by the Audit Committee on an annual basis. Partnership Arrangements – the Council’s Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules cover the issues to be considered before the Council becomes involved in a partnership (see paragraph i) below for further detail). 	
<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 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 Council spending. This is supplemented by more frequent reporting and monitoring processes within Directorates.

- **Comprehensive budgeting systems** are applied across all Directorates. Post Local Government Reorganisation, work to consolidate budgets in line with restructured services is on-going.
- Priority has been given to frontline services in determining the **savings 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 Council. Ofsted benchmarking data tends to continue to show the 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 Transformation and Change Programme has evolved from the initial work to create our new organisation. Our first priority has been to move delivery from eight organisations into one, ensuring that on 1 April 2023 our services were "safe and legal" whilst continuing to provide what our customers need. As we move forward the next step is to bring together services, teams, systems, and processes from predecessor organisations to create strong teams with a "One Council" ethos.

As a new council, we have a unique opportunity to reset and realign our services to focus on the overall experience of North Yorkshire's customers. Local Government Reorganisation gives us the opportunity to determine a model which will provide efficiency and savings, strengthening our own service delivery and clarity of working to achieve improved outcomes.
- New capital governance arrangements were established in 2023/24 with themed Capital Boards (chaired by corporate directors) reporting into an overarching Corporate Capital Programme Board (chaired by the Chief Executive). These boards provide delivery assurance across the whole capital plan, provide oversight (by exception) of major projects and make recommendations to members on remedial action, required amendments, and new projects.
- 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. This dovetails with the Council's property partners. This Strategy sets out the key role of property in supporting the Council's objectives.
- The 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 –
 - 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 90 Councillors meet together as the Council. Virtual meetings have previously been broadcast live online. At its annual meeting in May each year the Council appoints its Chairman. The Leader is elected by the 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 Council. Elections were held in May 2022 to appoint 90 councillors who will run the Council for 11 months. They will then be responsible for the new unitary Council of North Yorkshire in April 2023 for the following 4 years. ● The Executive is legally responsible for developing and making proposals to the 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 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 Council ● The Management Board (which comprises the Chief Executive and all Corporate Directors plus Assistant Chief Executives) is responsible for implementing all 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 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 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 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. ● Pursuant to its powers under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the 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 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’. A Shareholder Sub Committee of Executive and a Shareholder Board oversees 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 	<p>Constitution</p>

<p>commercial companies. Training has been made available to directors of the companies for their legal responsibilities under Company Law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership Arrangements - the Council's Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules contain a number of important steps to be considered before the 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 Council's decision making arrangements commensurate with the role of the partnership, the part played in it by the Council, and the risks attached to that involvement. Detailed guidance is provided to Members and Officers who represent the 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 	
<p>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</p>	
<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 – 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-R is responsible for determining the accounting procedures, the form of financial records and statements and for maintaining the financial accounts of the Council. The CD-R also ensures that proper accounting arrangements are established in all Directorates. Individual Corporate Directors are responsible for the satisfactory operation of financial and accounting 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 	<p>S.151 Local Government Act 1972</p> <p>S.114 Local Government Financial Act 1988</p> <p>Local Government Act 2000</p> <p>Local Government Act 2003</p> <p>Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015</p>

<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CD-R prepares and publishes an annual Statement of Final Accounts that conforms to all statutory and professional requirements, codes of practice and timetables ● The Council's appointed external auditor is Mazars for 2023/24. They will publish an Annual Audit Letter on the completion of their audit that follows the end of each financial year. At the time of drafting this AGS some 20 audits of the former legacy councils remain outstanding. The backlog of external audits is a widespread national issue which the government are seeking to address through the introduction of a 30 September 2024 backstop and other transitional arrangements. The associated implications for the outstanding audits and their impact on the Council's opening accounts, remain unclear but officers continue to work with legacy external audit teams to clear as much of the work as possible before the end of September 2024. ● Under the <i>Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015</i>, the 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 Ltd (a Teckal company that provides internal audit and a range of related services to both the City of York Council and the Council. Both authorities jointly own the company, although a company restructure is planned for 2024/25 as the wider Veritau group's business continues to expand. .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 Ltd. ● 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-R and to the Audit Committee. In addition to carrying out the work specified in the Annual Audit Plan, Veritau also provides – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 are reported to the Audit Committee on a regular basis. ● 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 Council as a whole. 	
<p>k) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the discharge of the monitoring officer function.</p>	
<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 	

<p>Monitoring Officer is a member of the Council's Management Board, and has sight of all Committee and Executive reports before they are presented to Members.</p>	
<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 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 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 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. 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 	<p>Risk Management Policy</p>

<p>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>	
<p>o) Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are developed and maintained in accordance with the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (CIPFA, 2014).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 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 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 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 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 Council. ● There are 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 continue to meet both face to face and virtually (both formally and informally respectively). Work was undertaken to consider how to scrutinise the transitional functions that the Council is responsible for in creating the new unitary Council of North Yorkshire. 	
<p>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</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Head of Internal Audit is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and control framework. The objective 	

<p>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 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit</i> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. <p>The 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.</p>	
<p>r) Undertaking the core functions of an audit committee, as identified in <i>Audit Committees: practical guidance for local authorities and police (CIPFA, 2022)</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A separate Audit Committee, which includes external independent Members, has been in operation since April 2006. (see section 5 below for activities during 2023/24). 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 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 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 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. • The Audit Committee Annual Report for 2023/24 will include a note referencing compliance with the Position Statement which sets out the recommended purpose, model, core functions and membership of audit committees. 	
<p>s) Ensuring that the 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 Council's appointed External Auditor for 2023/24 is Mazars. 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. As previously highlighted, work on a number of legacy audits involving the external auditors for the former councils, continues. • Throughout the year the Council's Members and Officers work with the External Auditor to address any concerns and risks highlighted by the external auditor(s). • Findings and recommendations made by the External Auditor receive an appropriate management response setting out how the 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 Council's overall governance structures</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Constitution and Finance Procedure Rules contain a number of issues to be considered before the 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 Council's decision making arrangements commensurate with the role of the partnership, the part played in it by the 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 Council is a substantial shareholder in a company (for example NYnet, Veritau, Yorwaste, Align Property Services, Brierley Homes, First North Law, N Y Highways and Brimhams Active) it ensures appropriate governance arrangements are in place both within the company and as between the company and the Council. These are based on the Local Code but also take into account the operational circumstances of the company. A commercial governance review was undertaken in 2023/24. 	<p>Local Code of Corporate Governance</p> <p>Agenda for Audit Committee on Monday, 18th March, 2024</p>

5.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

5.1 During 2023/24 and up to the date this AGS was signed, the Audit Committee had met 4 times. During this period its activities had included:-

External Audit

- received regular progress reports and updates from the external auditors, Deloitte on the annual audit of the County Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA).
- considered the external audit plan prepared by Grant Thornton for the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the former Ryedale District Council, and the review of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money.

- noted that Mazars had won the contract to provide external audit services to the Council and the North Yorkshire Pension Fund for the five-year period from 2023/24.

Internal Audit

- considered the draft Internal Audit Charter for the new Council and recommended its approval by the Executive.
- received and considered the results of internal audit work performed in respect of corporate and operational areas. Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses.
- approved the Internal Audit work programme for 2023/24.
- monitored the delivery of the annual Internal Audit work programme through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit.
- received and considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit for 2022/23 which provided an overall opinion on the former County Council's control environment. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control provided substantial assurance.
- received and considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit for 2023/24 which provided an overall opinion on the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the framework provided xx. The Head of Internal Audit also identified a number of significant control weaknesses for possible inclusion in the AGS. These included xx.
- considered the results of the external quality assessment (EQA) of internal audit practices. The EQA was conducted by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors and the overall conclusion was that Internal Audit '*generally conforms*' to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and internal audit standards. The Committee was pleased that internal audit practices continue to meet the required professional standards and therefore continued reliance could be placed on the arrangements operating within the Council

Counter Fraud

- received regular reports outlining the key fraud risks facing the public sector and local government. The Committee also received details of the plans which had been developed to address possible fraud risks arising from the LGR process.
- considered the draft counter fraud policy framework for the new Council and recommended its approval by the Executive. The framework included new whistleblowing, anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, and counter fraud and corruption policies.
- considered the results of the annual fraud risk assessment and recommended the updated Counter Fraud Strategy and workplan to the Executive for approval.

Risk Management

- continued to oversee the Council's risk management arrangements and noted the development of a risk management policy framework for the new authority.
- considered the corporate risk register and mitigating actions of the new Council.

- 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.

Corporate and Information Governance

- considered changes to the Local Code of Corporate Governance prior to approval.
- received details of the latest update to the Corporate Governance self-assessment checklist, the changes made to the Council's governance arrangements during the year following Local Government Reorganisation, and the governance arrangements introduced to support the LGR programme
- considered the ongoing work of the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) which is responsible for updating the corporate information policy framework, identifying new or emerging risks, sharing best practice, and monitoring compliance with corporate information governance standards. The Committee also received details of the work being done to mitigate cyber security risks and to raise awareness of the requirement of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018..

Financial Statements and Management

- established a working group to review the draft 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for the County Council and the associated governance documents.
- considered a report on the draft 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) including the Annual Governance Statement for the former County Council and the former North Yorkshire borough and district councils prior to their audit.
- established a working group to review the draft 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) and the associated governance documents for the former County Council.
- received a report detailing the results of a self-assessment of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code.
- received details of possible changes to the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and the impact of these changes on the Council's accounting policies.

Other

- considered the Council's arrangements for securing value for money. The report outlined the existing framework for planning, decision-making, managing resources and reporting outcomes in respect to service delivery. This includes the Council Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), service planning arrangements, the quarterly performance reports and various qualitative measures.
- received a report outlining the Council's business continuity arrangements. The report provided details of the corporate Business Continuity Policy and Plan. The corporate plan is intended to ensure a consistent and coordinated response to any major incident. Business continuity planning with partner organisations and other agencies is coordinated through the Local Resilience Form (LRF).

- received a report outlining the work of the Procurement and Contract Management Service during the year. The report highlighted the challenges caused by rising inflation. In response to this, the Council's Supply Chain Resilience Board (SCRB) had continued to meet to monitor the impact on suppliers of escalating fuel and raw material costs, and recruitment problems.
- considered the annual report of the former County Council on partnership governance for 2022/23. The report included details of key partnerships, changes which had occurred during the year and the arrangements in place to monitor the management and performance of those partnerships.
- continued to scrutinise the Council's treasury management arrangements. This included reviewing the updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.
- received a report summarising the guidance recently issued by CIPFA on recommended arrangements for the oversight and governance of local authority owned companies and the results of a review of the arrangements in operation.
- reviewed the progress which had been made by officers to address other issues raised at meetings of the Committee;
- reviewed its Terms of Reference but no changes were considered necessary.

5.2 All this work has been used in supporting the preparation of the Council's (ie this) Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

6.0 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

6.1 The 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 Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2024/25 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 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. – **to be completed**

6.4 In addition the 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 Council website (see link above)
 - Annual Report of the Standards and Governance Committee – The Standards and Governance Committee consider and approve the annual report on the work undertaken by the Committee which included a review of ethical framework developments, training of Members to maintain their awareness of ethical standards, review of Members’ interests, dispensation requests, complaints, elections, temporary appointments to Parish Councils and Community Governance reviews. There were 6 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 2023/24 Head of Internal Audit Report and Opinion - provided “xx” assurance” in relation to the Council’s framework of governance, risk management and control.
 - Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the year ended 30 September 2023 – 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 Council’s information governance arrangements and compliance with relevant legislation. Progress continues to be made in developing the Council’s information governance arrangements. However information governance continues to be identified as a high risk area on the corporate risk register and by the internal auditors, Veritau. This is in part due to the consequences of the Council suffering 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 2023/24 none of the partnerships were identified as having a high overall risk rating and not partnership reported a governance failure during 2022/23. One partnership (North Yorkshire Coastal Forum) is currently inactive.
 - Risk Management – the Audit Committee is provided with annual reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of each Directorate’s risk management arrangements, and regular audits on the risk management policy and process are also carried out. Internal Audit activities show that the Council is managing its risks appropriately and effectively.

- Commercial Governance – the Audit Committee received a report in March 2024 which provided an analysis of how Council owned companies were governed using best practice for commercial governance as a guide set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) updated publication “Local Authority Owned Companies – A good practice guide 2022 edition”. A review of the existing arrangements was undertaken and it was found that the Council’s governance and reporting structures surrounding commercial entities are largely compliant with the CIPFA guidance and are deemed to be robust and appropriate for each company.
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (NYSCP) Annual Report (on their [website](#)) - the latest annual report detailed the work undertaken by the NYSCP in delivering their Being Young in North Yorkshire (BYINY) Strategy. Achievements including awareness raising campaigns around National Stalking Awareness Week, Honour Based Violence, Child Exploitation and Internet Safety; Programmes to help young parents; a review of Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) pathways which aims to promote children and young people’s access to the right support at the right time; Supporting young people with problematic substance use; and strengthening of the support and information available around Elective Home Education. The report also covers activities during Safeguarding Week and set out priorities for the year ahead which are: Strengthening the role of education, Children and Young People’s Emotional and Mental Health and Promoting the positives of online engagement whilst minimising the risks faced by children and young people online.
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) Annual Report (on their [website](#)) - the latest annual report noted the continuing work around the key priorities of reconnecting with communities; following best practice in policies and procedures; working effectively with partners; and adapting and responding to change. It also covered events hosted by the board on: Homelessness, substance misuse and mental health; Suicide prevention and Bereavement Support. A report by HealthWatch on accessibility of service information and details of some key partner contributions were also included. The report looked at key themes for the coming year including, building connections, embedding and sharing best practice, strengthening partnerships following changes to local government and health structures and responding to risks caused by cost-of-living and public service pressures.
- Assurance is provided by the Monitoring Officer in relation to legality issues and a section 5 report is issued in circumstances where the 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. This year’s report included an update on the work of the Procurement and Contract Management Service, including key achievements, recent activity and the continuing focus on developing and supporting healthy supply chains. details of the actions taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the ongoing procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the arrangements in place to maintain stability and resilience in the Council’s supply chain. The Committee noted that the Council had joined with the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and Barnsley Council to invest in local business development through the Go4Growth Programme. The Service has also worked

to build contract management capacity in the Council through training and the launch of a dedicated toolkit.

- Annual Workforce Update - with the launch of North Yorkshire Council, a People Strategy has been developed to provide strategic workforce priorities: retain staff, attraction for all, engage and listen to staff, establish one Council. Various data sets provided details on workforce issues including headcount and FTE (full time equivalent), full time/part time, age average and distribution, sickness absence, turnover, recruitment and apprenticeships. With regard to sickness absence (measured in number of FTE days lost), this was 8.69 for the whole workforce (9.31 for non-schools). The most common causes were stress, depression and anxiety related; stomach, liver kidney and digestion; infections and musculo-skeletal problems. Post Local Government Reorganisation, Human Resources is focussed on a pro-active approach. Interventions are in place to support managers in addressing sickness absence cases, including monthly calls, automated email alerts, and manager skills training. In line with national trends, the Council continues to face challenges around long covid and record NHS waiting lists, which subsequently impact on absence rates.
- CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 – the Audit Committee received a report on the self-assessment of compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s Financial Management Code. The evidenced self-assessment demonstrated the Council’s ability to successfully meet the requirements of the FM code.

Independent Oversight

6.6 Independent oversight includes the following:

- *OFSTED rating of schools*

The most recent data published by Ofsted (December 2023) highlighted that 85.8% of primary schools in North Yorkshire have a ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted inspection outcome. This represents 253 of the 295 primary schools inspected in the county. **85.8% is marginally above the 84.6% reported at the same point last year.** However, it is below the current national rate of 90.8%. The proportion of secondary schools in North Yorkshire with a ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted inspection outcome was 79.1%, unchanged compared to this time last year (34 of the 43 secondary schools) and is similar to the national rate of 82.7%.

- *GCSE Examinations*

The proportion of pupils achieving a ‘stronger pass’ of grades 5 to 9 in English and Maths has decreased locally and nationally and will be mostly due to grade boundaries being tighter after grade inflation following Covid. More positively, at 45.7%, the proportion of children in North Yorkshire achieving a strong pass in English and Maths is **now higher than that reported nationally** (45.3%).

- *Increased CQC “Good” Ratings in the Care Market*

Based on published Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection ratings, 84.1% of care home provision across the county was rated as “good” or better at the end of Q3. That was down by 0.6% between quarters, and **up by 3.3% (from 80.8%) year on year.** Local performance remains higher than both the regional average (which declined by 0.4%) and

the England average (down by 0.3%). Ratings for domiciliary care provision continue to be better than those for care homes. Provision in North Yorkshire, including outcomes for in-house services, remain better than the comparator averages. **Local performance remains well above both the England and regional averages**, which were both down by 0.2% between quarters.

- *Top Quartile Public Satisfaction with Highways and Transportation*

Quarter 3 saw the results of the 2023 National Highways and Transportation public satisfaction survey. Overall, across the whole country there were significant drops in most of the scores, North Yorkshire also saw scores drop but by smaller amounts. Based on comparisons with similar highways authorities, we have moved into the top quartile in some key highway measures such as condition of roads, highways maintenance and street lighting.

- *Ombudsman Investigations*

In 2023/24 there were 146 Ombudsman complaints received, 135 decisions were made (some cases go across financial years), 25 of which were upheld.

7.0 SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS CHALLENGES

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 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 2023/24. **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 2024/25 and beyond.

Significant Governance and Business Challenges requiring attention in 2024/25 and beyond - detail to follow	
Challenge	
A1	Information Governance and security To ensure the council continues to comply with its data protection, information governance and information security legislative, regulatory and statutory obligations (responsible officer: Senior Information Risk Owner)
Actions	
a)	
b)	
Challenge	
A2	Transition and Consolidation into a Cohesive Council

Actions	
A)	
b)	
Challenge	
A3	Transformation and Savings
Actions	
a)	
b)	
Challenge	
A4	Functional Operating Services Delivering Good Quality Customer Experiences.
Actions	
a)	
b)	

8.0 **CONCLUSION - to be amended and completed**

8.1 The 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 Council has a duty to seek continuous improvement and will take steps in 2023/24 to further enhance governance arrangements.

This includes continuing to strengthen the governance arrangements as we transition from a safe and legal new North Yorkshire Council on 1 April 2023 to a fully integrated high performing Council.

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 2023/24. Reports on progress will be submitted to the Audit Committee.

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 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 Council

Richard Flinton
Chief Executive

Date:

Date:

- 9.2 I confirm that the Audit Committee (meeting on the 23 September 2024) was satisfied, on the basis of the information available to it, that this Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 has been prepared and approved after due and careful enquiry.

Cllr Clifford Lunn
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Date:

DRAFT

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 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 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 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.

CIPFA FM Code

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Financial Management Code. This Code sets the standards of financial management for Local Authorities.

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 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 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 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.

DLUHC

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly MHCLG - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).

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 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 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 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.

LGR

Local Government Reorganisation.

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.

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 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 Council has to levy on Council Tax payers (via district collection funds) to pay for Council services.

Prepayments

Amounts paid by the 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 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 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.

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North Yorkshire Council

Audit Committee

23 September 2024

Internal Control Matters for the Environment Directorate

Report of the Corporate Director – Environment

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an update to Members of progress against the areas for improvement identified through internal procedures.
- 1.2 To provide details of the latest Risk Register for the Environment Directorate.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Audit Committee is required to assess the quality and effectiveness of the corporate governance arrangements operating within North Yorkshire Council. In relation to the Environment Directorate, the Committee receives assurance through the work of internal audit (detailed in a separate report to the Committee) and the Directorate Risk Register.
- 2.2 To ensure governance and internal control matters are monitored on an on-going basis the Environment Management Team receives and considers a report quarterly.

3.0 Directorate Update

The main areas of note for the Directorate are:

- 3.1 As with other areas of the Council, the Directorate has been, and continues to be, impacted by wider economic factors such as the level of inflation in the UK impacting the cost of materials and salaries which impacts the Directorate directly and also through the supply chain. The main contributors continue to be in the costs of labour, energy and materials although energy prices remain a volatile fluctuating area and currently are significantly lower than expected.
 - 3.1.1 In addition, the focus of the Directorate has also necessarily been on post Local Government Reorganisation work including progressing service area restructures across the Directorate, facilitating the convergence of tasks and services previous delivered in many different ways and also establishing strong governance processes across the directorate for key areas of delivery including the capital programme and transformation agenda. At the same time, the Environment Directorate is looking forward towards how services need to transform into the future and the delivery of transformation savings to support the overall North Yorkshire Council financial position. More details are included in section 3.11 below.
- 3.2 **Highways & Transportation**

Through the winter period the highways service successfully dealt with over 10 named storms and the impacts that they have caused. We have seen some accelerated deterioration on the network as a result which has resulted in increased demands on the service in terms of reactive road repairs and gully emptying. In addition to dealing with these challenges the team is also focussing on developing and delivering a transformation plan that gets the best out of the move to a new unitary council which sees street scene,

parks and grounds and highways activities now being delivered by one organisation. Key achievements to date being the implementation of increased parking tariffs across all of the former district and borough council car parks and the successful delivery of staff restructures in parks and grounds and parking services.

- 3.2.1 The highways service continues to give support to North Yorkshire Highways (NYH), as the front-line delivery agency. We are delivering efficiency savings in our revenue activities that contribute to the Transformation Plan savings through the use of innovative pothole repair techniques and we are making good progress against the delivery of our capital programme. We are progressing a number of major schemes such as A59 Kex Gill and Harrogate, Skipton and Selby Transforming Cities Fund schemes and we are aiming to appoint an EV Charge Point Operator later this financial year to commence implementation of the council's EV charging strategy using funding from the Local Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure fund.

Waste Management

- 3.3 On the establishment of North Yorkshire Council, the new council took on responsibility for both the collection and disposal of household waste. The new Council became the waste collection authority, a role previously carried out by the district and borough councils, along with the waste disposal authority which, prior to LGR, was the responsibility of the county council. North Yorkshire Council continues to harmonise the waste service. To date the Council has addressed different practices and fees and charges across the garden and bulky waste services, so that now a single approach makes it easier and more convenient for residents to access collections. The next service area being examined is the kerbside collection of dry recycling and refuse. Following extensive work to model the existing different practices and an assessment of the options to unify collection methods, the Council is consulting residents through a public consultation exercise. 'Let's talk rubbish' seeks residents views on their current service and their opinions on the Council's preferred idea. The results will be analysed with a view to seeking an Executive decision in November to enable the Council to begin a progressive rollout programme.
- 3.3.1 On behalf of North Yorkshire Council, Yorwaste continue to be contracted to provide Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) services and as well as the waste transfer operations which the company was previously contracted to carry out for the county council. Waste management legislation is undergoing a period of significant change which will affect how both Yorwaste and the Council undertake trade and domestic collections with further information from Government expected shortly.
- 3.3.2 A staff engagement exercise for Waste Operations and Street Scene teams is underway to seek agreement on; a new working week, start and finish time and the removal of task and finish. There will also be a significant change for teams across all localities and with that comes the potential for service disruption, a large amount of effort is going into minimising this as we seek to harmonise service delivery.

Environment & Climate Change

- 3.4 The Climate Change Delivery Pathway was reported to North Yorkshire Council Executive on 20 August 2024 which provides an update on how the council is progressing towards its net zero ambitions. This report includes the early draft of the Directorate climate action plans which seek to address the council's operational emissions and also describes how the council is supporting regional targets working with the newly established York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Integrated Passenger Transport (IPT)

- 3.5 In the public passenger transport sector, passenger numbers are slowly increasing and much of the last 12 months has been about maintaining existing services across both the supported and commercial bus network. The DfT have provided an additional £3.4m in BSIP3 grant funding for 24/25 which was offered subject to NYC refreshing and submitting to them our revised BSIP document. The areas of spend for project delivery, fall into the following categories - Bus Service Support, Fares Support, Marketing, EP Delivery: LTA Costs, Other Infrastructure, Ticketing Reform and Demand Responsive Transport.
- 3.5.1 In the Home to School transport sector, we continue to see challenges in the commercial market as there are still industry concerns over driver availability, increased costs in relation to staff pay, fuel, parts, and maintenance. However, we are seeing several new taxi providers come forward in the market and hope that we will continue to see competition increased in some areas of the county. Much work is being undertaken jointly across CYPS and IPT in relation to transformation projects including, work on policy and reviewing areas for savings opportunities in the existing transport provision.

Fleet and Operations

- 3.6 The asset management and maintenance of fleet items has been improved by the introduction of a fleet management system across all areas. This system is shared between NYC and NY Highways and ensures good visibility and robust management of our fleet costs. The procurement of fleet items is centralised in the fleet management section and is completed in association with the Procurement and Contract Management Team. The section is developing an approach to alternative fuel vehicles and drafting a future fleet strategy to decarbonise our fleet in line with climate change commitments. The Council is also committed to maintaining high quality vehicles, with a focus on compliance with our Operator Licence requirements (Operator Compliance Risk Score), and reports regularly on this issue.
- 3.6.1 The Operations team deliver a large number of services in-house for Health and Adult Services and for other directorates where there is no commercial alternative or no best value alternative. The drivers and passenger assistants are subject to a robust selection, induction and training framework to manage the operational risk of supporting vulnerable passengers as well as the general public. The vehicles are operated on transport permits but the standards of maintenance and management are close to Operator Licence standards so to ensure the safe and compliant operation of the service.

Harbours

- 3.7 A future harbour strategy is under development, co-designed with stakeholders, that will set out how the harbour will develop over the next 20 years prioritising protection of the fishing industry and maximising the opportunity from the offshore wind and leisure sectors.

Licensing

- 3.8 North Yorkshire Council implemented a new consolidated taxi licensing policy on 1 April 2023. This policy is now under full review and a draft Inclusive Service Plan is being developed alongside to increase the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles and to ensure that taxi provision is accessible to all. It is currently anticipated that a three month consultation on both will begin in Autumn 2024.
- 3.8.1 The Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling 2005 policies will also be reviewed, harmonised and implemented for 1 April 2025.
- 3.8.2 The restructure of the Licensing Team, bringing seven former district teams together, was completed in February 2024. To fully implement the new structure it will be necessary to harmonise the Licensing operating software across the County, bringing seven former systems into one. Work is ongoing with Regulatory Services, Trading Standards and Housing Enforcement colleagues to implement one solution for all services.

Regulatory Services

- 3.9.1 The Regulatory Services teams have been fully restructured during 23/24 and new teams have been established to cover the range of Environmental Health and Trading Standards services related to Environmental Protection and Farming Food and Health. In addition the Trading Standards team have taken on management of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and the wider service has also brought teams together to deliver the Pest Control and Environmental Enforcement services. A business-as-usual service was delivered throughout that period of time and recruitment to the new teams is currently underway. The restructure will put us in a stronger position to deliver all of the reactive investigatory work relating to noise nuisance, and consumer complaints in addition to the planned inspection regimes undertaken in respect of food hygiene and safety, animal welfare and private water supplies.

Registrars, Bereavement and Coroners Service

- 3.10.1 The Registrars and bereavement service have continued to deliver their statutory functions as well as delivering wedding ceremonies across North Yorkshire. The Bereavement Service have undergone a restructure and cross service discussions are taking place with Parks and Grounds to ensure that we have an efficient maintenance regime in place to manage the Council's cemeteries.
- 3.10.2 The support service to the Coroner has been improved through a secondment with North Yorkshire Police whereby the Senior Coroner's Officer is now based at NYC. This is the first stage in evaluating whether NYC could oversee the entire Coroner's support service including the North Yorkshire Police function. This takes into account the directions from the Chief Coroner about developing closer and more effective working relationships. This is all designed to allow the Coroner to focus on the judicial role to which they are appointed rather than the investigative and administrative tasks that are associated with the inquest process.

Post Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 3.11 Capacity and prioritisation continue to be significant issues in the Directorate, particularly in light of the challenges presented post Local Government Reorganisation following the launch of the new North Yorkshire Council on 1 April 2023. The Directorate continues to play a key role in bringing services from the previous county, district and borough councils together to work in a cohesive way, working through the harmonisation and transformation of services.
- 3.11.1 Throughout the year, the Directorate has continued the work to bring together services and ensure appropriate governance arrangements are established, embedded and operate effectively. In addition to this, a significant focus of the Directorate is on transformation of services and the savings agenda. The Directorate is working within the Corporate governance framework which has been established for the Transformation agenda.

North Yorkshire Highways

- 3.12 The Company is now in year 4 of operation and processes and procedures are now well established. Governance and internal control processes have been updated and refined to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose. The Company Secretary is from fellow Brierley Group Company First North Law, to advise, monitor and maintain governance in respect of investment, operational and financial decisions. Each of the directors have undergone Director training run by First North Law to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities as defined within the Companies Act.
- 3.12.1 The Company has been set up to ensure it has appropriate legal status: a Board of Directors with balanced composition, including an independent Non- Executive Director as Chair of the Board; Articles of Association established and approved to ensure the governance around decision making of the Company and its shareholder, NYC are understood; Contract management in respect of the contract between NYH and NYC;

Policies and Procedures including Finance and Procurement rules and Scheme of Delegation signed off. A range of “Reserved Matters” which are decision making requirements that require NYC shareholder sign off are reviewed annually and are audited by First North Law.

- 3.12.2 Each year, an updated Business Plan has been signed off by both the company Board and the Shareholder setting out the direction for the future and long term business commitments. This business plan is subject to an annual refresh, vital given current market forces and the wider transformation and efficiency plans of NYC, of which NYH plays a part. The plan is based around managing the risks as defined and set out in the risk management plan. The plan is updated monthly by NYH Senior Leadership Team and any issues are addressed through mitigation measures.
- 3.12.3 It is recognised that people are an integral part of how the service operates and so there has been a focus on ensuring staff feel engaged. The management team hold regular engagement sessions across North Yorkshire and the operational team. Employees are provided with an update on their specific area performance and an overview of the business objectives for that year. Any requests made by the operational teams are logged and fed back in “what you said and what we did” communications. In additional annual staff surveys provide additional feedback. Training and development is being proactively managed each year. This ensures NYH has a competent and engaged workforce.
- 3.12.4 Support services provided by NYC for finance, procurement, IT, Human Resources, Health and Safety and many other services ensures a consistency of approach between NYC and NYH but also recognises there are differences between the organisations and not every process and procedure can be mirrored. The relationship between the Council, Highway Maintenance team and NYH is structured with clear responsibilities and reporting to ensure both parties are contributing to the successful delivery of the highways budget. Strict controls and processes for design, procurement and delivery ensure that blockages to progress are identified early and mitigation measures can be implemented. The business obtained third party certification to ISO 9000, 14000, 45000 for their quality, environmental and health and safety systems in the third quarter of 23/24. This provides the business and the Council with the confidence that operational controls are consistent and compliant with internationally recognised standards. It also allows services to be marketed to the commercial sector.
- 3.12.5 Working relationships between other Brierley group companies and the synergies envisioned by Brierley group board and the Council are developing and coming to fruition. APS and NYH have partnered on number of projects to deliver highway improvements to Selby town centre and also the new Special Educational Needs School in Osgoodby. NYH carries out infrastructure installation works for NYNET and uses Yorwaste for waste disposal works. NYES provide services for CCTV and IT and Veritau provides audit and support services.

Capital Programme

- 3.13 Whilst this is identified separately within the Directorate Risk Register there are key items of note:
- 3.13.1 Projects continue to be carefully monitored to assess the potential for inflation and other pressures in the construction market that may impact on the delivery of the Capital Programme although construction cost inflation is not as significant a risk as it was last year.
- 3.13.2 In line with the Corporate Capital Governance process which has been developed following LGR, the Highways and Infrastructure Capital Board has been established to oversee and provide governance and challenge to capital projects within the Highways and Infrastructure areas. This Board has now been running for almost a year with the

governance processes now embedded within the Directorate. Environment Directorate Services which are not covered by the remit of this Capital Board, such as fleet, bereavement and depots are reported through the equivalent Board for Corporate and other Projects to ensure all capital projects are subject to robust governance arrangements. These Capital Boards then report issues up to the Corporate Capital Programme Board to ensure corporate oversight of key risks and challenge.

3.13.3 As previously reported, best practice for capital management is to utilise a method called “overprogramming”. Whilst this could be considered ‘business as usual’ for the service, Audit Committee should be aware of the associated risks and what governance is in place to help mitigate them. In short, the service programme to spend more than the capital budget allocated in the financial year on the basis that typically some schemes are delayed for a variety of reasons, overprogramming therefore improves the likelihood of spending on budget but at the risk of overspending. The Highways and Infrastructure Capital Board monitor this practice on a monthly basis taking intervention decisions as appropriate. The position is then reported to Executive through the Capital Plan and quarterly forecast updates.

4.0 Directorate Risk Register

4.1 The Directorate Risk Register (DRR) is the end product of a systematic process that identifies risks at Service level, and 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 all Risk Registers across the Council has recently been changed. The process and reports that are provided continue to be similar for ease of understanding, but the Council now uses a 5x5 risk assessment ranging from very low to very high in terms of both likelihood and impact: Once the likelihood and impact for a risk have been assessed, the risk scoring is calculated. The following table shows the scoring, assessment and suggested required actions:

Colour	Score	Assessment	Required Action
	1 - 2	Very Low (tolerate)	Risk should not appear in risk register.
	3 - 4	Low (tolerate)	Regular monitoring, action plan not essential, acceptable just to maintain current controls.
	5 - 9	Medium (treat)	Frequent monitoring, action plan required.
	10-12	Medium High (treat)	Frequent monitoring, action plan required to prevent from becoming a red risk.
	15 -	High (treat)	Constant monitoring, action plan required and escalation to next level for consideration / inclusion.
	20 -	Very High (treat / terminate)	Constant monitoring, action plan required and escalation to next level with request for inclusion. Consider terminating activity (if an option) where score cannot be reduced by risk mitigation.

4.3 The DRR represents the principal risks that may materially impact on the performance and financial outcomes of the Directorate. The Environment (previously Business and Environmental Services) DRR has been reviewed since it was presented to this Committee and was last reviewed in August 2024 and represents the risks of the Directorate.

- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 The latest detailed DRR is shown at **Appendix B**. This shows the key risks and the risk reduction actions designed to minimise them together with a ranking of the risks both at the present time and after mitigating actions.
- 4.6 The key amendments that have been made to the DRR since October 2023 including the activities and risks of the new Council Directorate (date of last progress report to the Committee) are as follows:-
- 4.6.1 Deleted risks
- No risks have deleted from the register since the last review.
- 4.6.2 New risks
- Whilst no risks have been added to the Directorate level register since the last review, new service level risks around Bridges, Play Areas, Tree Management and Parking were considered as part of the directorate review. At this stage it is considered appropriate that they continue to be monitored and managed on their respective service level registers.
- 4.6.3 Key changes to risks
- Climate Change – this risk remains very high, new actions have been added around creating a carbon credit / offsetting strategy, working with the MCA on regional matters, and flood risk management.
 - Capital Programme and Major Schemes – both these risks have increased in ranking to reflect the technical and financial challenges in delivering the Kex Gill and Transforming Cities Fund work with Major Schemes now considered the highest risk for the Directorate. Risk mitigating actions relating to harbour infrastructure schemes have also been added.
 - Passenger Transport Market Resilience – This risk remains high. New reduction actions have been added relating to the work required with MCA around the future delivery of Public Transport and in supporting the delivery of the revised Home To School Transport Policy.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That the Committee:

- i) Note the Directorate update salient points; and
- ii) Note the Directorate Risk Register for the Environment Directorate; and
- iii) Provide feedback and comments on the Directorate Risk Register and any other related internal control issues.

KARL BATTERSBY
Corporate Director – Environment
September 2024

Report prepared by Vicki Dixon

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – summary**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Risk Trend	Risk	Description	Risk Owner	Risk Manager	Curr Prob	Curr Imp	Current Risk Score	Current Category	Targ Prob	Targ Imp	Target Risk Score	Target Category	FB Plan?
↑	ENV_8 Major schemes	Failure to deliver the programme of major transport and coastal engineering schemes resulting in impact on the council's growth plan, negative impact on national and regional partner relations, increased coastal erosion and loss of coastal assets.	CD ENV	ENV AD H&T	VH	VH	25	Very High	M	H	12	Medium High	✓
▬	ENV_13 Climate Change	Failure to support the Council's aim to achieve carbon neutrality of its own operations by 2030, carbon neutrality of the region by 2034 and a carbon negative region by 2040, and also ensure that appropriate mitigations and adaptations are progressed, failure would result in continued / increasing damaging events (eg. floods, heat waves), unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction	CD ENV	ENV AD ES&CC	H	VH	20	Very High	M	VH	15	High	✓
▬	ENV_2 Passenger transport market resilience	Failure to support improved transport contractor resilience (incl Home to School transport) in the face of lower subsidies, reduced commerciality of routes and current market pressures resulting in significant loss of services and pressure to find additional funding to maintain/takeover services	CD ENV	ENV AD TLPH	H	H	16	High	H	H	16	High	✓
▬	ENV_10 Statutory duties	Failure to carry out statutory duties or meet statutory deadlines (e.g. Health and Safety, safe guarding, information governance, prevention of waste pollution, planning responsibilities, statutory property related issues, driver/vehicle guidance) resulting in Corporate Manslaughter, increased cost/claims, fines/prosecution and criticism.	CD ENV	ENV MT	H	H	16	High	M	H	12	Medium High	✓
▬	ENV_4 Long Term Waste Service Strategy	Failure to design and implement a new waste service strategy which includes a harmonised waste collection service, responding to any relevant change in govt legislation, or commercial benefits from AWRP in support of NY's climate change strategy resulting in lost efficiencies, inflexibility, reputational damage, poor value for money and ineffectiveness of AWRP	CD ENV	ENV AD ES&CC	H	H	16	High	M	H	12	Medium High	✓
↑	ENV_5 Capital Programme	Ineffective management of capital programme including any major project and LTP capital programme leads to significant overspend/underspend, weak use of resources, loss of reputation and non-achievement of the desired outcomes re delivery of the programme and effective management of asset.	CD ENV	ENV AD H&T; RES AD (VD)	H	H	16	High	M	H	12	Medium High	✓

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Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – summary**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

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Risk Trend	Risk	Description	Risk Owner	Risk Manager	Curr Prob	Curr Imp	Current Risk Score	Current Category	Targ Prob	Targ Imp	Target Risk Score	Target Category	FB Plan?
	ENV_7 Brierley Homes Ltd	Failure to maintain or increase business development and maintain a steady pipeline of building quality homes in sufficient numbers through an appropriate delivery model resulting in inability for BHL compete effectively in an open market.	CD ENV	BHL Ops Mgr	H	M	12	Medium High	M	M	9	Medium	
	ENV_3 Delivering Transformation and Change Programmes within ENV	Failure to embed a strong change culture, processes and supporting capacity to deliver ongoing improvement and savings programmes of change in ENV e.g. Transformation Programme and savings, implications for Transport of the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority, more efficient ways of working with NY Highways and Yorwaste and the ENV Service Plans. This could result in adverse impact on service delivery, customer experience, inability to fully meet current and future financial requirements, internal and external criticism.	CD ENV	ENV MT	M	H	12	Medium High	L	H	8	Medium	
	ENV_11 NY Highways	Failure to ensure the arrangements for highways maintenance services in place are performing as required with the desired flexibility and not resulting in service disruption, increased costs and criticism	CD ENV	ENV AD H&T	L	H	8	Medium	L	H	8	Medium	
	ENV_9 Major Incident and Business Continuity	Failure to plan for and respond effectively to a major incident without major impact upon routine service performance or longer term impact on service delivery. Such incidents may include animal health disease, flooding and other severe weather, Service breakdown including critical resources (eg property, people and ICT) resulting in the need to deliver additional service in order to ensure effective enforcement/containment and minimal disruption to critical services.	CD ENV	ENV MT	L	H	8	Medium	L	H	8	Medium	

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Risk Trend Key	
Symbol	Meaning
	Risk ranking has worsened since the last review.
	Risk ranking is the same as at last review.
	Risk ranking has improved since the last review.
new	Risk is new or has been significantly altered since the last review.

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**


Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_8	Title	Major schemes		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD H&T
Risk Description	Failure to deliver the programme of major transport and coastal engineering schemes resulting in impact on the council's growth plan, negative impact on national and regional partner relations, increased coastal erosion and loss of coastal assets.				Risk Group	Strategic	Linked Risk(s)	EHT_5; ERG_12; ETR_7
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Programme in place for delivery of NYC Council promoted schemes; support being provided to the third party scheme promoters; risk analysis for each scheme undertaken; effective engagement with nominated H&T rep(s) and NYC in delivery of SEP funded schemes; necessary local contributions secured for the schemes in the LEP programme that are being delivered (August 2021); detailed list of coastal plans and schemes; shoreline management plan (with discrete coastal strategies for specific areas); LEVI delivery team in place								
Current Probability	VH	Current Impact	VH	Current Risk Score	25	Current Risk Category	Very High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
RR_EHT_101	Develop technical solutions to enable grid supply for EVI to rural communities and consider the emerging renewable energy source market where necessary;				ENV H&T HoMP&I	31-Jan-2025		
RR_EHT_102	Develop on street EV charging strategy and technical solution				ENV H&T HoMP&I	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_103	Ongoing management of the Kex Gill project in live delivery and maintain progress on site dealing with technical and financial challenges, progress updates to be provided throughout the works via the agreed governance arrangements and use of the central portal				ENV H&T HoMP&I	30-Apr-2026		
RR_EHT_108	Continue to monitor and manage risks around harbours, including implementation of the approved list of harbour infrastructure projects				ENV H&T E&CPMgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_111	Carry out open market tender for provision of LEVI				ENV H&T HoMP&I	30-Nov-2024		
RR_EHT_20	Continue to engage with the wider strategic partnership and support them to manage risks associated with specific scheme programmes (ongoing)				CD ENV	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_21	Continue to ensure sufficient resource in H&T to effectively deliver NYC schemes (ongoing)				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_23	Continue to work closely with WSP (and where appropriate, Align Property Partners) to ensure that resources match programme of transport schemes requirements (ongoing)				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_24	Understand pipeline opportunities medium to long term in order to maximise LG changes in respect of Devolution and combined authority status				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_98	Implement this year's Environment Agency approved coastal programme (permission to apply for grant going for Exec approval)				ENV H&T E&CPMgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_99	Continue the regional coastal monitoring programme				ENV H&T E&CPMgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ENV_40	Discuss, agree and implement process for Scarborough replacement cremator (decision by end of Sep 2024) and extension of cemetery (Scarborough/ Harrogate) (by Jan 2025)				ENV AD Reg Svs	31-Jan-2025		

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RR_ETR_41	Develop long term strategy for harbours (includes infrastructure and economic aspects)			ENV TLPH HOH	31-Jul-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment							
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	12	Target Risk Category	Medium High
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan							
Fallback Plan							
Work with partners on collaborative approach to ensure risk is captured at an early stage and responsibilities are understood							

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_13	Title	Climate Change		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD ES&CC
Risk Description	Failure to support the Council's aim to achieve carbon neutrality of its own operations by 2030, carbon neutrality of the region by 2034 and a carbon negative region by 2040, and also ensure that appropriate mitigations and adaptations are progressed, failure would result in continued / increasing damaging events (eg. floods, heat waves), unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction				Risk Group	Environmental	Linked Risk(s)	CRR_12; ECC_5
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Leadership commitment; Executive member with portfolio responsibilities; Climate Change Champion post; reports to Scrutiny cttee Corporate Building and Asset energy efficiency schemes; LGA guidance for councillors; Climate Change awareness training programme for officers and members; Carbon Reduction Plans for legacy Councils; Beyond Carbon board and programme management established; climate change impact assessment tool enables decision makers to better understand the impact of the decisions that they are being asked to make; £1m pump-priming fund established in MTFS to support implementation of carbon reduction plan; integrated carbon reduction plan into council plan and KPIs into Q performance reports; agreement of carbon neutral by 2030 aim for council operations; NYC Climate Change Strategy adopted Jul 23; Climate Change Delivery Pathway approved by Exec Aug 24								
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	VH	Current Risk Score	20	Current Risk Category	Very High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
RR_ECC_16	Continue utilisation of £1m pump-priming fund established in MTFS to support implementation of NYC Climate Change Strategy				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_17	Ongoing review of the effectiveness of the climate change impact assessment tool to reflect new climate change strategy and ensure that it is efficient in enabling decision makers to better understand the impact of the decisions that they are being asked to make, alternative governance opportunities are also being explored to better strengthen climate change impact on decision making				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_18	Work through the detailed property related considerations; proposals to be developed through the property service once fully restructured including a property decarbonisation plan. Climate change business partner appointed to Resources Directorate will assist with this				ENV AD ES&CC; RES CP&P HoPC&FM	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_19	Monitor progress on the detailed motor related issues (eg. fleet decarbonisation plan and staff travel policy) and raise concerns where appropriate				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_31	Create a North Yorkshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan to support services and residents, communities and businesses to prepare for our climate to change. This will assess our risks and identify options for adaptation.				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Mar-2025		
RR_ECC_32	Work with partners, communities, suppliers and businesses to develop climate change awareness, encourage climate responsible choices and implement actions such as scaling up building retrofit projects and increasing low carbon heating, including for NYC's social housing stock, supported through the climate change business partners				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_33	Work to ensure that the Council's Local Plan and Local Transport Plan include appropriate responses to climate change, officers continue to be involved in the relevant service teams				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_34	Investigate how NYC assets such as land and buildings can best be used to generate low carbon energy (including opportunities at the jointly owned assets Energy from Waste plant and closed landfill sites) and highlight potential for carbon capture and storage opportunities, funding secured from DESNZ to develop a strategic energy partnership (green finance model) in support of this (linked to RR_ECC_18)				ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		

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RR_ECC_35	Measure and report on our emissions and plan how and when we will hit our target using a nationally recognised formula to calculate carbon emissions from delivering the services which are under our direct control. Ongoing work to quantify our carbon footprint and utilise available/limited data sources. Undertaking work to submit to the external carbon reporting framework (CDP) in addition to climate emergency scorecards. Working with Strategy and Policy colleagues to incorporate climate change reporting into future Q reports	ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_36	Embed climate change across the council via production of service and directorate level climate change action plans and ongoing awareness raising with Officers and Members; Directorate action plans developed in collaboration with each directorate, ongoing work to support the delivery of this through climate change business partners	ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_49	Create a NY Council carbon credit / offsetting strategy linked to our defined carbon footprint and trajectory which helps identify options for utilising carbon credits or offsetting future carbon emissions	ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ECC_50	Continue to work and strengthen our relationship with the MCA on the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative, regional decarbonisation projects and future opportunities for net zero funding.	ENV AD ES&CC	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ENV_42	Agree and deliver an annual programme of flood risk management schemes	ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment					
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	VH	Target Risk Score	15
				Target Risk Category	High
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan					
Fallback Plan					
Review strategy and implementation methods					

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Phase 1 - Identification									
Ref.	ENV_2	Title	Passenger transport market resilience			Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD TLPH
Risk Description	Failure to support improved transport contractor resilience (incl Home to School transport) in the face of lower subsidies, reduced commerciality of routes and current market pressures resulting in significant loss of services and pressure to find additional funding to maintain/takeover services					Risk Group	Strategic	Linked Risk(s)	ETR_2
Phase 2 - Current Assessment									
Current Control Measures									
Effective liaison; support if required; financial checks on key suppliers; Transport board to ensure directorate awareness of issues; use of market intelligence and increased commerciality to monitor and resolve contractor issues; Annual review of operator processes and procedures as part of compliance team visits; liaison meetings with key contractors regarding viability and commerciality when necessary									
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	16	Current Risk Category	High		
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan									
Reduction Action						Action Manager	Due Date and status		Date Completed
RR_ENV_43	Public Transport: s101 agreement in place, we will develop an MoU between NYC, MCA and CoY and then work with all parties to agree responsibility for, and approach to, public transport for future years					ENV TLPH HoTS	31-Mar-2025		
RR_ENV_44	Support the delivery of the new HTS transport policy changes and other transformation projects including review of solo travellers, unsafe walking routes, driver and PA training and HTS transport application process; the expected savings from this begin from Sep 2025					ENV TLPH HoTS	30-Sep-2025		
RR_ETR_5	Complete continuity plan re key contractor loss including any lessons learned from Covid; ongoing part of service BCP docs (ensure adequate resilience in the OPS team to respond to market failure); plans updated in line with new corporate process (2024)					ENV TLPH HoTS	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ETR_52	Maximise funding opportunities through Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and working with the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA)					ENV TLPH HoTS	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ETR_53	Implement a Dynamic Procurement System to provide a quick and compliant route to securing contracts					ENV TLPH HoTS	30-Apr-2025		
RR_ETR_7	Continue to administer DFT local transport fund grants					ENV TLPH HoTS	31-Mar-2025		
RR_ETR_8	Transport board to ensure directorate awareness of issues					ENV TLPH HoTS	30-Jun-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment									
Target Probability	H	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	16	Target Risk Category	High		
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan									
Fallback Plan									
Alternative operators known; consider in-house provision; bid for funding as and when available									

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Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_10	Title	Statutory duties		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV MT
Risk Description	Failure to carry out statutory duties or meet statutory deadlines (e.g. Health and Safety, safe guarding, information governance, prevention of waste pollution, planning responsibilities, statutory property related issues, driver/vehicle guidance) resulting in Corporate Manslaughter, increased cost/claims, fines/prosecution and criticism.				Risk Group	Legislative	Linked Risk(s)	
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Service plans; service unit risk registers; allocation of responsibility training for key staff; prof. bodies incl. HSE; CPD; CDM; RMWGs; routine inspecs; contractor selection proc; NYC legal and safety advisers; annual contractor training; Designated Directorate H&S Manager and support; regular item on ENVMT; SMTs; Partnership and contract managers group; Directorate H&S working group; risk assessment; incident feedback; previous risk assessment on most sites; landfill gas perimeter controls; annual review of all sites (monitoring results); regular monitoring; use of consultants; agency staff; documented proc; record of dec. actions; audit and review of proc/compliance, inspecs, actions and training; corporate policies, procedures and champions; services to employ sufficient numbers of professionally trained/qualified officers; prioritisation matrix for resources in place in Trad Stds; training relating to new CDM Regulations for construction work; Incident plan for former landfill sites;								
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	16	Current Risk Category	High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
RR_ENV_12	Work with H&S to harmonise the risk assessments and safe systems of work across the services; Corporate Health and Safety policy reviewed in March 2024; H&S software system including accident/incident investigation (bsafe) in place and SharePoint site being developed for risk assessments				CD ENV	31-Aug-2025		
RR_ENV_13	Review/monitor the H&S arrangements of Contractors and Partner organisations (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025		
RR_ENV_14	Monitor all service plans and risk registers and ensure they are checked on a regular basis (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025		
RR_ENV_15	Review incidents and claims statistics including large losses and develop action plans (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025		
RR_ENV_16	Work closely with the Data Governance team in Strategic Support to review and update local information governance arrangements (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025		
RR_ENV_17	Continue to implement awareness raising campaign for information governance (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	12	Target Risk Category	Medium High	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan								
Fallback Plan								
Implement appropriate management and contingency plans; review priorities and reprioritise service delivery; media management								

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Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_4	Title	Long Term Waste Service Strategy		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD ES&CC
Risk Description	Failure to design and implement a new waste service strategy which includes a harmonised waste collection service, responding to any relevant change in govt legislation, or commercial benefits from AWRP in support of NY's climate change strategy resulting in lost efficiencies, inflexibility, reputational damage, poor value for money and ineffectiveness of AWRP				Risk Group	Strategic	Linked Risk(s)	ECC_2; ECC_3
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Existing NYCC Waste Strategy in place; NYC/CoY/Yorwaste working group in place; AWRP and associated governance; networking intelligence and dialogue with Govt;								
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	16	Current Risk Category	High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
Page 290	RR_ECC_1	Continue to review Government Resources and Waste Strategy including food waste collections and continue to engage with Government through network groups to help shape the next level of legislation. Continue to assess impacts and opportunities including climate change. ongoing			ENV ES&CC HoW(Cont)	31-Jul-2025		
	RR_ECC_2	Develop proposals for consistent recycling including impact of resource and waste strategy on existing collections services as required by the new legislation; current focus is on harmonisation of dry recycling across the county			ENV ES&CC HoW(Cont)	31-Dec-2024		
	RR_ECC_23	Consider implications of the new Emission trading scheme as it applies to AWRP; consultations ongoing linked to ECC_3			ENV ES&CC HoW(Cont)	31-Jul-2025		
	RR_ECC_3	Continue to monitor developments around Extended Producer Responsibilities (unlikely to result in budget saving until at 2025/26) - ongoing			ENV ES&CC HoW(Cont)	31-Jul-2025		
	RR_ECC_30	Agree and implement a single waste collection service across the entire NY area that pulls together various actions including waste collection polices, operating procedures and collaborative positive culture; public engagement to take place			ENV ES&CC HoW(Cont); ENV ES&CC HoWO&SS	31-Dec-2024		
	RR_ECC_6	Continue to explore opportunities for heat offtake, hydrogen fuel production and bids to the Net Zero Fund for feasibility study for carbon reduction options linked to AWRP, and ensure these activities continue to be documented and reported on; consultants currently assessing options for AWRP Net Zero			ENV ES&CC CMW	31-Jul-2025		
	RR_ECC_8	Continue to monitor Thalia's progress against their improvement plan and contract targets and understand the expectation management required in this area - ongoing			ENV ES&CC WCM	31-Jul-2025		
	RR_ENV_37	Ensure existing outsourced waste services in Selby are effectively brought in house			ENV AD ES&CC	31-Mar-2024		31-Mar-2024
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	12	Target Risk Category	Medium High	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan								
Fallback Plan								
Rely short term on procured arrangements, review strategy, media management								

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_5	Title	Capital Programme		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD H&T; RES AD (VD)
Risk Description	Ineffective management of capital programme including any major project and LTP capital programme leads to significant overspend/underspend, weak use of resources, loss of reputation and non-achievement of the desired outcomes re delivery of the programme and effective management of asset.				Risk Group	Financial	Linked Risk(s)	EHT_4; ETR_7
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
<p>Project management - regular financial and project planning, monitoring and reporting of the projects; risk assessment for major schemes; project management training for key ENV staff; PIR of major projects; lessons learnt/implemented;</p> <p>Programme management - operational and strategic programme management/monitoring and reporting through NYH, H&T and ENV management structures and Executive Members, reporting through NYH; risk assessment carried out in Capital Plan reports feed into MTFs; highways capital programme resource / manager to drive delivery of the programme implemented; Schemes portal; 3 year rolling works programme with realistic targets and alignment of internal and external delivery resources; specific monitoring of separately funded capital works; LEAN review of Capital Programme completed; introduction of efficiency measures for capital projects and programmes where relevant; lessons learnt/implemented; Highways Maintenance Investment tool being used;</p> <p>Governance – Gateway training carried out; Capital Projects Board in operation; sub group of Capital Projects Board in place when required; regular Capital Update Group meetings in place supporting Capital Board; Full Capital Plan meetings at appropriate times; NYH Board; Finance Officer support to Capital; risk register for major schemes and schemes in the capital works programme; project board for major schemes; Infrastructure Delivery Working Group; Development Management Working Group; assurance framework for LEP in place, contract management health measurement and reporting in place; effective engagement with Veritau; implementation of forward programme of planned maintenance, three year rolling delivery programme in place; 360 degree visibility and regular constructive challenge of processes across NYC/NYH/APS</p>								
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	16	Current Risk Category	High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
RR_EHT_10	Ensure effective delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) project in Skipton, Harrogate and Selby working with the MCAs on governance arrangements and ATP				ENV AD H&T	30-Nov-2024		
RR_EHT_103	Ongoing management of the Kex Gill project in live delivery and maintain progress on site dealing with technical and financial challenges, progress updates to be provided throughout the works via the agreed governance arrangements and use of the central portal				ENV H&T HoMP&I	30-Apr-2026		
RR_EHT_108	Continue to monitor and manage risks around harbours, including implementation of the approved list of harbour infrastructure projects				ENV H&T E&CPMgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_12	Active involvement in monitoring of NYH performance to ensure processes and procedures are working properly and are fit for purpose				ENV AD H&T; RES AD (VD)	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_129	Creation of capital works efficiency indicators monitored by SMG on scheme estimate and final outturn cost, design on time, procurement on time, comparison against NSoR, on site on time, scheme duration, delivery on time				ENV H&T HoNS	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_13	Active forward planning by the service to ensure it is agile and has the ability to respond to funding announcements quickly and appropriately that arise at short notice and / or late in the financial year; with three year delivery programme				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_15	Monitoring of the national environment re price and delivery times to ensure the service can react in a timely manner to changes; the collaborative arrangement with NYH allows us to look at internally and externally at NYH and wider costs; incl NYH lunch and learn				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

RR_EHT_16	Need for LTP capital programme process mapping session, followed later by a LEAN review; has commenced, led by NYH comm servs team	ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_98	Implement this year's Environment Agency approved coastal programme (permission to apply for grant going for Exec approval)	ENV H&T E&CPMgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_ENV_39	Continue to progress matters relating to the legal challenge to the use of harbour undertaking revenue such as following directions provided by the court; hearing has taken place (4th March 2024) and we now await the judgment and any orders we need to comply with, this may include reallocation of funds	ENV AD TLPH	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_40	Discuss, agree and implement process for Scarborough replacement cremator (decision by end of Sep 2024) and extension of cemetery (Scarborough/ Harrogate) (by Jan 2025)	ENV AD Reg Svs	31-Jan-2025		
RR_ETR_41	Develop long term strategy for harbours (includes infrastructure and economic aspects)	ENV TLPH HoH	31-Jul-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment					
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	12
				Target Risk Category	Medium High
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan					
Fallback Plan					
Review of all resources and procedures; media management; member engagement; intervention by Capital Projects Board					

Risk Register: Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed

Next Review due: February 2025

Report Date: 9th September 2024 (cpc)

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_7	Title	Brierley Homes Ltd		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	BHL Ops Mgr
Risk Description	Failure to maintain or increase business development and maintain a steady pipeline of building quality homes in sufficient numbers through an appropriate delivery model resulting in inability for BHL compete effectively in an open market.				Risk Group	Commercial	Linked Risk(s)	BHL_9
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Operation manager, Office Manager and Project teams in place (under development); Business strategy for various routes of delivery in place; Council services available; compliance with H&S policy and procedures; evaluation of contractors performance; evaluation of market values and influences for the direct supply chain; evaluation of market values and influences for land acquisition; Evaluation of economical changes and; information governance service from Veritau; regular reports provided to NYC; direct supply chain of sub contractors to deliver chosen delivery route in place; business plan developed; contracting model options are assessed for each site								
Current Probability	H	Current Impact	M	Current Risk Score	12	Current Risk Category	Medium High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status		Date Completed
RR_ENV_25	Continue to monitor contractor performance through regular reporting and discussion to resolve issues and provide immediate response to issues (ongoing)				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_26	Ongoing review of internal labour resource, to ensure resilience and increase skills to better inform future delivery models and business cases				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_30	Continue to work with partners and a wider, developing supply chain to develop solutions to mitigate cost pressure issues				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_31	Continue to evaluate market values and influences for land acquisition				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_32	Ensure compliance with statutory requirements including H&S, Finance, insurance, HR				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_33	Continue to evaluate housing market conditions of demand and supply and residual sales values (ongoing)				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
RR_ENV_34	Continue to monitor the economic climate when considering business cases				BHL Ops Mgr	31-Dec-2024		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	M	Target Impact	M	Target Risk Score	9	Target Risk Category	Medium	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan								
Fallback Plan								
Further review and revise business model and escalate								

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Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**


Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 1 - Identification									
Ref.	ENV_3	Title	Delivering Transformation and Change Programmes within ENV			Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV MT
Risk Description	Failure to embed a strong change culture, processes and supporting capacity to deliver ongoing improvement and savings programmes of change in ENV e.g. Transformation Programme and savings, implications for Transport of the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority, more efficient ways of working with NY Highways and Yorwaste and the ENV Service Plans. This could result in adverse impact on service delivery, customer experience, inability to fully meet current and future financial requirements, internal and external criticism.				Risk Group	Change Mgt	Linked Risk(s)		
Phase 2 - Current Assessment									
Current Control Measures									
Chief Executive webinars on the new NYC Council; new Environment Directorate staff events; Corporate Transformation challenge sessions; staff involvement in transformation project groups; corporate communications on Devolution; staff events with NY Highways; CD ENV Staff Updates; reps on Transformation theme; key messages; cascade of Transformation vision and approach; regular AD updates provided on Transformation themes; quarterly performance monitoring at ENV MT; quarterly MTFs savings monitoring at ENV MT; political agreement and acknowledgement of risks; ENV MT engagement on budget; quarterly financial monitoring to ENV MT; regular reporting on Transformation Infrastructure theme at ENV MT; staff survey outcomes implemented as and when necessary; ideas generation and review process established; regular reporting on customer based theme on change at ENV MT; AD surgeries and staff engagement sessions; quarterly ENV Heads of Service Forum;									
Current Probability	M	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score		12	Current Risk Category	Medium High	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan									
Reduction Action						Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed	
RR_ENV_1	Continue communication/engagement arrangements with staff on Transformation and Savings Programme (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_2	Continue to monitor impacts and savings arising from the Transformation Programme (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_3	Promote and embed cultural change through key messages, KITs, manager and non-manager objectives, regular reporting on progress of change projects and impacts of daily operations on delivery of aims (ongoing)				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_35	Ensure appropriate structures are embedded across the Directorate in a timely way with a key focus on recruitment and retention				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_36	Continue to ensure appropriate support is in place to enable staff to contribute to transformation and savings such as training, encouragement of innovation and use of peer networking				ENV MT; RES AD (VD)	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_45	Ensure delivery of the existing agreed savings and establish and deliver the additional savings required by Transformation 2				ENV MT; RES AD (VD)	28-Feb-2025			
RR_ENV_5	Ensure appropriate allocation of resources to deliver change projects (ongoing)				RES AD (VD)	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_6	Ensure effective engagement in the NYC arrangements including Chief Executive webinars, Directorate Communication events and wider briefings to staff				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			
RR_ENV_7	Ensure effective communications and joint approach to delivery in relation to the embedding of the Mayoral Combined Authority				ENV MT	31-Aug-2025			

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Next Review due: **February 2025**
Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

RR_ENV_8	Continue NY Highways and Waste staff engagement events			ENV AD H&T	31-Aug- 2025			
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	L	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score		8	Target Risk Category	Medium
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan								
Fallback Plan								
Review approach to the delivery of the Transformation change programmes and cultural change management within ENV								

Risk Register: Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed

Next Review due: February 2025

Report Date: 9th September 2024 (cpc)

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_11	Title	NY Highways		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV AD H&T
Risk Description	Failure to ensure the arrangements for highways maintenance services in place are performing as required with the desired flexibility and not resulting in service disruption, increased costs and criticism				Risk Group	Contractual	Linked Risk(s)	EHT_6
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Governance arrangements in place; ; initial operating model completed; NY Highways Managing Director appointed; governance framework in place, mobilisation plans in place, Company Board in operation; ISO accreditation; budget and performance monitored monthly by SMT and through to board; annual review of SLAs against need carried out								
Current Probability	L	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	8	Current Risk Category	Medium	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action					Action Manager	Due Date and status		Date Completed
RR_EHT_106	Ensure constant drive for efficient working (efficiency, outputs and accountability) to develop the company and reduce costs for NYC and enable NYH to pick up more external work; includes reporting via capital dashboard				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_124	Introducing a schemes status checklist, to assist with all aspects of scheme delivery; this has enabled early progress on future year's programs				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_25	Continued close monitoring of the remaining procurement arrangements and timelines to ensure impact of any issues are understood and managed; need to develop and if necessary replace some of the procurement arrangements currently in place to increase efficiency; more robust contract management being introduced to improve analysis of contracts and replace where appropriate; gap analysis undertaken and working to strengthen procurement processes; introducing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) which will give greater flexibility to market whilst maintaining compliance; use of Forward Procurement Plan				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_26	Ensure H&S continues to be managed training needs assessed and training has taken place throughout the year; electronic near miss and accident reporting app has been rolled out; training matrix in place; SLA with NYC training and learning; H&S reported through governance structure; area H&S meetings				ENV AD H&T	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_27	Complete the mobilisation of the contract including staff implementation and understanding of acceptable working practice norms; need to continue recruitment to vacant posts, recognising current demand pressures around drivers; recruitment issues continue across all areas; new Ts and Cs agreed by mgt board; complete, will continue to review structure against workload				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_30	Develop the NYH operations manual including performance indicators; CPIs agreed and will be included along with operating procedures; now a rolling document to sit alongside the contract; completion of dashboards is the next target				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Oct-2024		
RR_EHT_31	Ensure that finance system (WAP) allows true NYH costs to be known and reported on via quarterly report going to board				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
RR_EHT_32	Trialling new ways of working and analysing outcomes swiftly to ensure that impact is known and acted upon; ongoing and is providing efficiencies; continues and looking to take on additional types of work to increase capability and capacity				NYH Comm Mgr	31-Jul-2025		
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	L	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	8	Target Risk Category	Medium	

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Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 5 - Fallback Plan

Fallback Plan

Focus on under-performing areas with agreed remedial actions, if continued issues then options appraisal for service delivery





Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**

Next Review due: **February 2025**

Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Phase 1 - Identification								
Ref.	ENV_9	Title	Major Incident and Business Continuity		Risk Owner	CD ENV	Risk Manager	ENV MT
Risk Description	Failure to plan for and respond effectively to a major incident without major impact upon routine service performance or longer term impact on service delivery. Such incidents may include animal health disease, flooding and other severe weather, Service breakdown including critical resources (eg property, people and ICT) resulting in the need to deliver additional service in order to ensure effective enforcement/containment and minimal disruption to critical services.				Risk Group	Business Continuity	Linked Risk(s)	
Phase 2 - Current Assessment								
Current Control Measures								
Leadership of ENV Management Team and appropriate lead manager; work with other appropriate partners; appropriate major incident and emergency plans; inspection monitoring programmes; systems resilience & back up arrangements in place; business impact analyses and incident management plans are in place; disaster recovery plan; NYC silver command exercises carried out; implementation of solutions based upon lessons learned from previous major incidents; ENV RMG; biannual multi-agency training events; command structure / information flow for business continuity incidents finalised; emergency protocol agreed with Kier and Yorwaste in the event that sites to be open on days when they may otherwise be shut; critical infrastructure network in line with HMEP recommendations in place;								
Current Probability	L	Current Impact	H	Current Risk Score	8	Current Risk Category	Medium	
Phase 3 - Risk Mitigation Plan								
Reduction Action	Action Manager	Due Date and status	Date Completed					
RR_ENV_20	Ensure that resources are flexible enough to manage unexpected major and business continuity incidents (ongoing)	ENV MT	31-Aug-2025					
RR_ENV_21	Continually review procedures, plans and training in relation to major incidents (ongoing)	ENV MT	31-Aug-2025					
RR_ENV_22	Annual live or desk top exercises to test plans, and including the incident and response and continuity plan with NY Highways (ongoing)	ENV MT	31-Aug-2025					
RR_ENV_23	Ensure sufficient capacity is present to be able to manage a major incident; working with RET including establishment of forward liaison officers	ENV MT	31-Aug-2025					
RR_ENV_24	Consider recent significant natural events relative to the impact of climate change and plan accordingly	ENV MT	31-Aug-2025					
Phase 4 - Target Risk Assessment								
Target Probability	L	Target Impact	H	Target Risk Score	8	Target Risk Category	Medium	
Phase 5 - Fallback Plan								
Fallback Plan								
Review the plans, media management, advise Members								

Risk Register: **Annual review (Aug 2024) – detailed**
Next Review due: **February 2025**
Report Date: **9th September 2024 (cpc)**

Risk Reduction Action Status Key	
Symbol	Meaning
	The risk reduction action is overdue for completion or review.
	The risk reduction action is approaching its expected completion or review date.
	The risk reduction action is on target.
	The risk reduction action has been completed.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE - PROGRAMME OF WORK 2023/24

	ANNUAL WORKPLAN	JUNE 24	SEPT 24	OCT 24	NOV 24	DEC 24	MARCH 25
	Audit Committee Agenda Items						
A	Training for Members (as necessary)		x			x	x
	Annual Internal Audit Plan	x					x
	Annual report of Head of Internal Audit	x					
	Internal audit and counter fraud progress report	x	x				x
B	<i>Annual Audit Plan (NYC & NYPF)</i>					x	
	<i>Annual Reports / Letters of the External Auditors (ISA 260)</i>		x			x	
	<i>External Audit Progress Update</i>		x			x	
	External Audit Plans for former Districts and Boroughs						
C	Statement of Final Accounts including AGS (including letter of representation)		x			x	x
	Report of member working group on NYCC + NYPF					x	
	Chairman's Annual Report		x				
	Audit Committee - terms of reference / effectiveness					x	
	Changes in Accounting Policies						x
	<i>Corporate Governance – review of Local Code + AGS</i>						x
	<i>– annual report inc re AGS</i>	x					
	<i>Risk Management (inc Corporate risk register) – annual report</i>					x	
	<i>Directorate risk register – Children and Young People's Services</i>	x					
	<i>Directorate risk register – Health and Adults Services</i>					x	
	<i>Directorate risk register – Environment</i>		x				
	<i>Directorate risk register – Community Development</i>					x	
	<i>Directorate risk register – Central Services</i>						x
	<i>Partnership Governance – annual report</i>						x
	<i>Information Governance – annual report</i>	x					
	<i>Review of Finance/Contract/Property Procedure Rules</i>						x
	<i>Business Continuity – annual report</i>					x	
	<i>Counter Fraud Policy Framework / Fraud Strategy / Risk Assessment / Work plan</i>						x
	<i>Counter Fraud – annual report</i>	x					
	<i>Procurement and Contract Management – update report</i>	x				x	
	<i>CIPFA FM Code</i>	x					
	<i>Treasury Management – Executive February</i>						x
	<i>Commercial Governance Review</i>						x
Consultation on proposals for a new long term contract for internal audit services					x		
Motions from Council					x		
<i>VFM – annual assurance review</i>	x						
D	<i>Work Programme</i>	x	x			x	x
	<i>Progress on issues raised by the Committee (inc Treasury Management)</i>	x	x			x	x
E	Agenda planning / briefing meeting						
	Audit Committee Agenda/Reports deadline						
	Audit Committee Meeting Dates	24/06	23/09			09/12	17/03

- A = Internal Audit
- B = External Audit
- C = Statement of Final Accounts / Governance
- D = Other
- E = Dates

- ⊙ Meetings to be sorted
 - 1 Governance of External Companies (inc NY Highways) & Commercial Investments
 - 2 LGR Update – MTFs & Governance Issues
 - 3 Pensions Governance
 - 4 Counter fraud

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