

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM
2023/ 24 AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
CONTENTS**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT FOR LEWISHAM COUNCIL	3
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS	16
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM	17
SECTION 1 – CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
a) COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	26
b) MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT	27
c) BALANCE SHEET	29
d) CASH FLOW STATEMENT	31
SECTION 2 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES	32
SECTION 3 – NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (See Index on following page)	46
SECTION 4 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	109
SECTION 5 – COLLECTION FUND	118
SECTION 6 – GROUP ACCOUNTS	123
SECTION 7 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS	136
SECTION 8 – PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS	139
SECTION 9 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS)	168

Contents

INDEX OF SECTION 3 – NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1	Expenditure and Funding Analysis	46
Note 2	Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted in the 2023/24 Accounts	52
Note 3	Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies	52
Note 4	Assumptions made about the Future and other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	53
Note 5	Material Items of Income and Expenditure	55
Note 6	Events after the Balance Sheet Date	55
Note 7	Other Operating Expenditure – Levies	56
Note 8	Technical Note: An Analysis of the Movement in Reserves Statement Adjustments Between the Accounting Basis and Funding Basis	56
Note 9	Earmarked Reserves	59
Note 10	Non-Current Assets	60
Note 11	Investment Properties	63
Note 12	Financial Instruments	64
Note 13	Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments	68
Note 14	Debtors	71
Note 15	Cash and Cash Equivalents	73
Note 16	Creditors	74
Note 17	Revenue Receipts in Advance	75
Note 18	Provisions	75
Note 19	Usable Capital Receipts	76
Note 20	Pension Reserve	77
Note 21	Revaluation Reserve	78
Note 22	Capital Adjustment Account	79
Note 23	Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature	80
Note 24	Agency Services and Pooled Budgets	81
Note 25	Investment in Companies	81
Note 26	Members' Allowances	82
Note 27	Officers' Remuneration	83
Note 28	External Audit Costs	85
Note 29	Dedicated Schools' Grant	86
Note 30	Grant Income	87
Note 31	Related Party Transactions	88
Note 32	Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing	89
Note 33	Leases	89
Note 34	Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) Contracts	91
Note 35	Capital Contractual Commitments	96
Note 36	Defined Contribution Pension Schemes	97
Note 37	Defined Benefit Pension Schemes	98
Note 38	Contingent Liabilities	103
Note 39	Contingent Assets	103
Note 40	Trust Funds	104
Note 41	Heritage Assets	104
Note 42	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	105
Note 43	Adjustment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	105
Note 44	Adjustment for Items included in the Net Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	105
Note 45	Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities	105
Note 46	Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities	106
Note 47	Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities	106
Note 48	Prior Year Adjustments/ Restatements	106

NARRATIVE STATEMENT FOR LEWISHAM COUNCIL

This Narrative Statement provides information about Lewisham the place, together with the key issues affecting the Council and its accounts.

1. COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE

a) Corporate structure and governance

Lewisham Council is made up of one directly elected Mayor and 54 ward councillors, all of which represent the Labour or Labour and Co-operative parties. Lewisham comprises 19 wards, 16 of which have three ward Councillors and the remainder have two ward Councillors.

To ensure we meet the ambitions set out in our corporate strategy in accordance with the law and proper standards; we need a governance framework that supports the culture, values, systems and processes that this requires. Our governance arrangements make sure that the public money we spend is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively to meet our strategic objectives.

Corporate governance is about making sure the Council is run properly. It is about ensuring we do the right things, at the right time and in the right way.

The Council's governance arrangements aim to foster effective leadership and standards of behaviour that embody our values; a culture based on openness and honesty; and an external focus on the needs of service users and the public.

Details of the way that the Council governs itself are given in the Annual Governance Statement in section 9 of these accounts.

b) Management structure

Supporting the work of Councillors is the organisational structure of the Council headed by the Executive Management Team (EMT), led by the Chief Executive. The EMT members are:

- Chief Executive
- Executive Director Children and Young People
- Executive Director Community Services
- Executive Director Housing
- Executive Director Place
- Executive Director Corporate Resources
- Director of Law and Corporate Governance

EMT provides managerial leadership of the Council and supports elected members in:

- Developing strategies
- Identifying and planning the use of resources
- Delivering plans
- Reviewing the Authority's effectiveness

c) Service delivery

The total workforce for Lewisham at the end of FY 2023/24 was of 3,705 (3,064 at end of 2022/23), which consisted of 3,023 staff members (excluding casual workers) (2,429 at end of 2022/23) and 682 agency workers (635 in 2022/23).

Narrative Statement

The schools staff headcount is 4,073 (3,144 at end of 2022/23).

The demographic composition of the workforce as at 31 March 2024 was:

- 58.7% Female
- 51.4% Black, Asian and Mixed Ethnicity
- 8.1% Disabled
- 47.6% of the workforce are over the age of 50.

The overall workforce generally reflects the diversity of Lewisham's population.

The Council also provides services through two wholly owned subsidiary companies:

- Lewisham Homes Limited: This was an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) set up in 2007. The company previously managed approximately 18,000 homes for the Council. In 2023/24 the staff of and services delivered by Lewisham Homes were in-sourced back into the Council. Lewisham Homes Limited retained ownership of assets it had purchased and continues to manage 203 homes.
- Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited: The Company owns significant interests in the Catford shopping centre area and aims to support the Council to deliver a regeneration programme for the town centre and the surrounding area.

More detail concerning these companies is shown in the Group Accounts in section 6 of this document.

d) Corporate priorities

The Council has seven corporate priorities within its corporate strategy (2022-2026) as follows:

- Cleaner and Greener
- A Strong Local Economy
- Quality Housing
- Children and Young People
- Safer Communities
- Open Lewisham
- Health and Wellbeing

e) Our values

Our values underpin everything we do and set a benchmark for our behaviour across the organisation. Our values are:

- Ambitious
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Accountable
- Trustworthy

These can be summed up in the statement: "In Lewisham Council, we are **ambitious** for the future of our borough. We are **inclusive** in working with our residents, partners and colleagues, and **collaborative** in how we work with them. We are **accountable** for our actions, and **trustworthy** in all we do."

Narrative Statement

f) Performance management

In 2023/24 reports from the directorates have been periodically presented at Directorate Management Team (DMT) and Executive Management Team (EMT) meetings, each of which is also shared with the relevant lead Cabinet member.

The Council continues to publish performance information on our website. This includes various reports and progress updates which are also presented on a cyclical basis to Members. The Council seeks to continuously improve and identify ways to increase the transparency and accountability of performance information to the public.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

a) Financial impacts, risks and uncertainties, going concern considerations

The financial outlook for the Council and the public sector as a whole remains extremely challenging.

Inflation reached the Bank of England's long-term target of 2% in May 2024 after a prolonged period of extremely high levels. Bearing in mind the delay this will have in feeding into local authority funding plus the continuing absence of a multi-year local government finance settlement it is expected that the Council's finances will remain under continued financial strain in the coming years. Faced with higher costs, more demands, and lower anticipated income the Council will need to make further budget reductions over the next four-year period in order to be able to set a balanced budget for each of the respective years in line with its statutory obligation to do so.

The 2023/24 budget was set without the use of reserves and after the funding of growth and pressures of £23.8m to increase service baseline budgets and reduce the risk of the in-year overspending seen in recent years. The budget was also set with the commitment from services to deliver £12.6m of agreed new savings as well as those not yet delivered. Some of the associated revenue plans are at risk of delay or not being delivered and the risk extends to potential material slippage in the expanded capital programme. The regular financial monitoring reported quarterly to Mayor & Cabinet keep these matters under constant review to enable plans to be flexed or changed as needed. Throughout the financial monitoring of 2023/24 it became apparent that despite growth of £23.8m those areas of persistent overspend continued to face pressures above budgeted levels. This led to the 2024/25 budget setting approach being one of stabilisation, in that the S31 grant was brought into base budget, utilised in full to provide over £36m of permanent budget growth (£40m including once off funding). This effectively addressed the areas of persistent overspend in 2023/24, being children's social care, temporary accommodation and (to a lesser extent) adult social care. The stabilising of the budget was done to ensure that the Council services are in a robust position, delivering balanced budget spend in anticipation of the funding reforms and expected resultant reduction in funding when more clarity was known on this.

The Council has sufficient reserves to meet its financial commitments at present, including the estimated costs and lost income considerations, and despite these risks and pressures the current situation does not alter the Council's position as a going concern.

Narrative Statement

b) Impact on 2024/25 final accounts

There are three important implications worth noting for the 2023/24 final accounts:

- The statutory deadlines for the production of the draft accounts and audited accounts have been changed from 31 July to 31 May for the draft with the audited date remaining as the 30 November.
- The changes for the implementation of IFRS 16 and treatment of leases has been deferred by the CIPFA LAASC code for one further year, taking into account the other pressures still on local government finance teams.
- The Council continues to rely on the statutory override in relation to accounting for deficits in respect special education needs overspending by schools.

3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**a) 2023/24 Revenue Budget Setting and Funding**

The Council set a net budget requirement of £263.7m for 2023/24 at its meeting on 08 February 2023. This was an increase of £15.1m or 6.07% on the previous year's net budget requirement of £248.6m. The main sources of income were Revenue Support Grant (RSG), Business Rates and Council Tax. With central RSG and Business Rates similar to the previous year, Council Tax funds a higher proportion of the budget than it did last year, with bills increasing by 4.99% (including the 2.99% increase in the core Council Tax as announced in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and 2% increase for the Social Care precept. A year-on-year comparison of revenue budget funding is shown in the following table.

	2023/24	2022/23
	£m	£m
Revenue Support Grant	32.4	29.0
Business Rates	98.7	95.2
Council Tax	132.6	126.3
Surplus/ (deficit) on Collection Fund & Other Pressures and Growth	0.0	(1.9)
Budget Requirement	263.7	248.6

b) Council Tax

In the 2023/24 provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government announced a 3% limit to the amount by which Councils can increase their Council Tax (inclusive of levies) without a referendum. In addition, there is also the opportunity to increase Council Tax by up to a further 2%, for the Social Care Precept in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The government's assumptions in the local government finance settlement 2023/24 include the raising of both Council Tax and the Social Care precept in each and every year to meet the recognised funding pressures faced by the sector.

In 2023/24, the Council approved a 2% Social Care precept, ring fenced for Adult Social Care spend and at the same time approved an increase in core Council Tax of 2.99% (i.e. within the limit of the 3% referendum threshold).

Narrative Statement

The comparison of Council Tax Band D levels from 2022/23 to 2023/24 for Lewisham is shown in the following table, together with the Greater London Authority precept.

	2023/24	2022/23	Variation	Variation
	£	£	£	%
Lewisham Council	1,492.13	1,421.22	70.91	4.99
Greater London Authority	434.14	395.59	38.55	9.74
Council Tax for Band D	1,926.27	1,816.81	109.46	6.02

c) 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn

The Council's 2023/24 revenue outturn position is shown in the following table. Further detail can be found in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis in Section 3, Note 1 of this document.

Directorate	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Outturn Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People	76.8	95.8	19.0
Communities	87.2	92.7	5.5
Place	20.6	21.5	0.9
Housing	8.7	19.1	10.4
Corporate Resources	39.2	33.5	(5.7)
Chief Executive	12.3	13.1	0.8
Salary Pay Award	0.0	0.0	0.0
Directorate Total	244.8	275.8	30.9
Corporate Items	18.9	18.8	(0.1)
Corporate Provisions and Reserves	0.0	(11.3)	(11.3)
General Fund Total	263.7	283.3	19.5
Unplanned Corporate Provisions and Reserves	0.0	(19.5)	(19.5)
Outturn	263.7	263.7	0.0

During 2023/24, the overspend against the Directorates' net controllable budgets was £30.9m. This is after funding £3.5m of energy costs over and above the budgeted level due to higher tariffs and £2m of Adult Social care costs from funding held corporately to meet these pressures. There was also a further £11.3m committed from corporate provisions and reserves, consistent with the change in MTFS approach approved in July 2023, this has been added to the budget in 2024/25 as part of budget setting.

After these planned corporate measures, the final overspend of £19.5m has been managed within existing budgets without an unplanned drawing down of reserves. This was due to an increase in interest earned on cash balances (£10m additional), which have arisen due to the slippage in the capital programme and interest rates remaining higher than forecast as well as c£5m of additional Section 31 grant.

A detailed explanation of the service overspends, and mitigations found was reported to Mayor & Cabinet on 12 June 2024. Savings of £12.6m were due to be delivered in 2023/24, the total level of savings delivered was £10.5m.

Throughout the year, Mayor & Cabinet and Executive Directors have received regular financial monitoring reports. The financial position demonstrates the impact of the severe financial constraints

Narrative Statement

which have been imposed on Council services with the cuts made year on year, alongside the increasing demand on services such as home to school transportation, adults discharged from hospital and temporary accommodation as well as the cost of increased social care costs in Children's social care.

As the new financial year begins, with a new set of challenges in terms of the delivery of revenue budget cuts, the Council will continue in its resolve to apply sound financial controls. The short and medium-term outlook will remain difficult and challenging. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources, as the Council's Section 151 officer, will continue to work with directorate management teams to affect the necessary continued actions to manage their services and intervene early where necessary to avoid a budgetary situation becoming unmanageable.

Dedicated Schools Grant

Following the closure of accounts process, the total deficit value for schools is now £17.6m compared with £14.8m in 2022/23. The deficit has grown by £2.8m in 2023/24.

The number of schools in deficit has increased from 21 to 25 (2 nursery, 1 special, 21 Primary and 1 secondary), the shift is within the Primary sector. It should be noted that this is net movement, as some schools have an improved financial position, and some have worsened.

Lewisham finance continues to work effectively with schools to ensure long term sustainability, however under local management of schools the council cannot instruct a school. The councils' powers for intervention are limited to advising the school that they are school causing concern and instructing the schools to produce a deficit recovery plan.

Schools continue to face financial challenges arising mainly from but not limited to the annual pay award for both teaching staff and non-teaching staff being greater than the additional funding provided for this, fall in pupil numbers in primary schools, increased number of children requiring educational, health and care plans, increased costs from energy cost increases and other inflationary pressures.

It should be noted that deficits could potentially revert as a pressure on the General Fund if the statutory override ceases.

d) Balances and Reserves

After transfers to and from reserves the General Fund balance has remained at £20m. This is an adequate level of cover and represents approximately 8% of Lewisham's Net Budget Requirement for 2023/24. The Council also has a number of earmarked reserves for specific on-going initiatives, and these are shown in Note 9 to the Core Financial Statements.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) spent to budget after transfers to reserves as at 31 March 2024. Reserves continue to be utilised, along with grants and borrowing approvals to contribute to investment requirements and to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to fund the current 30-year business plan. This aims to continue to invest in decent homes and to significantly increase the supply of housing in the borough over the medium to long term. The business plan is reviewed each year to ensure that the resources available from HRA reserves and other funding such as grants, and borrowing can be profiled appropriately to meet the business needs. After transfers to and from reserves the HRA balance at the end of the year, including earmarked reserves, now stands at £9.2m (£14.1m in 2022/23). These reserves include the Major Repairs Reserve and are for specific ongoing projects as outlined in the notes to the HRA in Section 4 of the Accounts. The level of reserves held by the HRA is significantly below the recognised target level of 10% of rental and service charge income (£9.5m). To address the overspend in repairs, a Repairs Transformation Project is underway which is improving delivery, efficiency, and value for money. This is expected to reduce the overspend in repairs in year. Further mitigating actions are being explored with a view to containing some of the in-year pressure on

Narrative Statement

repairs, either on a once off or ideally an ongoing basis to ensure that the reserves levels are able to be built back to the minimum level required.

e) Cashflow

Cash and Cash equivalents held by the Council decreased from £93.5m to £49.7m in 2023/24. The detailed analysis of the movements in Cash throughout the year can be found in the Cashflow Statement and related notes. The summary is as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£000s	£000s
Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	38,207	1,019
Purchases of Property Plant and Equipment	(99,344)	(135,585)
Sales of Property Plant and Equipment	13,257	15,338
Net Sales/ (Purchases) of Short & Long-term investments	0	60,000
Net Receipts from Investing activities	45,903	32,368
Cash receipts of short and Long-Term Borrowing	0	0
Repayment of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	(37,197)	(11,284)
Net Receipts/ (Payments) for Other Financing activities	(4,561)	19,903
Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(43,735)	(18,241)

f) 2023/24 Capital Budget Outturn

The capital programme expenditure incurred during the year and how it was resourced is shown below.

	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
	Final	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final
	Outturn	M&C - Feb-23	Proposed - Mar-24	Outturn
	£m	£m	£m	£m
CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE				
General Fund	34.6	51.4	58.0	33.8
Housing Revenue Account	81.6	142.0	91.8	112.8
Total Spent	116.2	193.4	149.8	146.6

During the year, the budget was revised to reflect the forecast development of the programme. The percentage spent compared to the revised programme budget was 78% (2022/23 74%).

Narrative Statement

The Financing of the Capital Programme spend is shown in the table below:

	2023/24 Final Outturn £m	2023/24 Original Budget M&C - Feb-23 £m	2022/23 Final Outturn £m
CAPITAL PROGRAMME FINANCING			
Borrowing	48.5	114.7	47.6
Capital Grants	23.9	45.0	40.2
Capital Receipts	5.9	3.5	9.8
Use of reserves and revenue financing	38.0	30.2	48.9
Total Financed	116.2	193.4	146.6

Spend on the major projects, where in year spend in 2023/24 or 2022/23 exceeded £1m, is shown in the tables below.

Major Projects of over £1m

General Fund

Beckenham Place Park (Inc. Eastern Part)	1.4
Strategic Regeneration - Catford Programme	3.3
Education Services - School Minor Works Programme	3.4
Highways & Bridges – TfL	1.1
Highways & Bridges – LBL	3.8
Education Services - School Places Programme	1.9
Strategic Regeneration - Lewisham Gateway	3.4
Asset Management Programme	2.2
Corporate Estates Maintenance Programme	2.0
General Fund Housing	7.7
Housing Services	1.8

Housing Revenue Account

Building for Lewisham Programme - HRA	16.3
HRA Capital Programme (Inc. Decent Homes)	64.0

2023/24 Expenditure £m
1.4
3.3
3.4
1.1
3.8
1.9
3.4
2.2
2.0
7.7
1.8
16.3
64.0

Narrative Statement

Major Projects of over £1m	2022/23 Expenditure £m
General Fund	
Broadway Theatre	5.6
Temporary Accommodation Conversion	3.9
Schools minor works	3.9
Highways & Bridges (incl. TFL programme)	2.3
Greenvale School	2.2
Public Sector Decarbonisation	1.7
School Places Programme	0.8
Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2)	0.8
Private Sector Grants and Loans (inc. DFG)	0.5
Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration	0.5
Edward Street Development	0.2
Lewisham Homes Property Acquisition	0.0
Leisure Schemes	0.0
Other Miscellaneous Schemes	1.0
Other General Fund Housing Schemes	1.6
Housing Revenue Account	
Building for Lewisham Programme	57.2
HRA Capital Programme	54.1
Housing Management System	0.8

4. LOOKING AHEAD**a) Revenue Budget Outlook**

Local government continues to face an extremely challenging financial outlook following a prolonged period of austerity and growth in demand for services. The economic backdrop, including historically high levels of inflation, has increased the pressure on costs. This has also driven changes to regulations and service delivery that in turn bring additional risks and uncertainties.

The Council set a net budget requirement of £293.8m for 2024/25 at its meeting on 28 February 2024, which is £21.1m higher than the equivalent figure for 2023/24. The Council has made reductions of £7.9m to its budget and added £36.7m to provide for risks and pressures. This is sufficient to set a balanced budget for the year, without the need to use reserves, but action is also being taken to ensure that expenditure is affordable in future years. Reserves may be used at the start of the financial year to underpin selected service budgets, pending actions being taken to bring these budgets back in line on an ongoing basis.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been reported to Mayor & Cabinet in July 2024. This sets out that an estimated £16m of cuts would be required from 2025/26 to 2028/29 to meet the remaining budget gap with a profile of £3m, £7m, £4m and £2m, respectively.

Looking further ahead, the Government is due to conclude the delayed work to review arrangements for Local Government financing, although the change in government in July 2024 may push this further out. This follows consultations on two potential changes that will contribute to shaping the future of Local Government funding:

Narrative Statement

- A Fair Funding Review of local authorities' relative needs and resources, to now include the recently published Census 2021 data; and
- Business Rates Retention Reform – and the viability of this national tax which disproportionately impacts asset-based businesses, in particular retail compared to the growing level of online services.

The anticipated but delayed Health and Social Care and Waste and Recycling reforms will also likely significantly impact the funding and operational arrangements for these Council services.

b) Capital Budget Outlook

The Council set its capital programme budget at its meeting on 08 February 2023. This outlined the Council's programme of £480.6m for the years 2023/24 to 2026/27. split £86.7m (18%) for the General Fund and £393.9m (82%) for the Housing Revenue Account. The most significant proportion of the capital programme is focused on the Housing Revenue Account, broadly split 50:50 across the twin priorities of Decent Homes and new Affordable Homes (Building for Lewisham programme). Due to slippage in the capital programme from 2022/23 into 2023/24 and from 2023/24 into 2024/25, the budget for 2024/25 General Fund Capital expenditure has increased from £16.6m to £95.0m. Re-profiling of the Capital programme is currently taking place and will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet during quarter 2 of 2024/25.

The budgeted amount to be invested in 2024/25 is shown in the table below:

2024/25 Capital Programme	2024/25 Budget £m
General Fund	
Schools	8.1
Highways	0.7
Corporate Assets	20.3
Non-HRA Housing	51.2
Other	14.7
	95.0
Housing Revenue Account	
Existing Stock	82.5
New Supply	22.3
Other Schemes	8.0
	112.8
Total Capital Programme	207.8

c) Corporate Risks

The Council refreshed its Risk Management process during 2022/23 culminating in a new Risk Management Strategy presented to Members in March 2023, this included the adoption of specific risk management software. The strategy has an embedded process to manage risks and assist the achievement of its objectives compliant with the statutory requirements as defined in the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 and summarised as part of the Annual Governance Statement.

The Risk Management Objectives of the London Borough of Lewisham are in line with the key principles set out in HM Treasury's Orange Book:

Narrative Statement

For risk management to be an essential part of governance and leadership at the Council, part of how it is directed, managed, and controlled at all levels.

To be an integral part of supporting decision making in achieving objectives.

To be collaborative and informed by best available information and expertise.

To be a structured process, involving risk identification and evaluation, selection, and implementation of appropriate risk treatment options, deliver integrated, insightful, and informative monitoring and timely, accurate and useful reporting to enhance the quality of decision-making in governance.

To be continually improved through learning and experience.

In the Risk Management Strategy, we score risks on likelihood and impact, with a range from 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest) and the result plotted on a matrix to produce a rating. The full risk register contains actions to manage risks to target. Risks are subject to regular review, reported quarterly to the Executive Management Team, and to every Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

5. PENSION FUND VALUATION

The actuarial valuation of the Council's pension scheme liabilities and pension reserve shown on the Balance Sheet has reduced by £80.1m during the year, mainly as a result of the in-sourcing of the Lewisham Homes staff (£49.1m). (It reduced by £426.4m during 2022/23 mainly as a result of changes to the financial assumptions used by the pension fund Actuary). The Council relies and places assurance on the professional judgement of the Actuary and the assumptions used to calculate this actuarial valuation.

It is important to understand that pension benefits do not become payable until employees retire; however, the Council is required to account for the future obligations at the same time as the employees earn their future entitlement, in accordance with proper accounting practices. Further details are given in Note 37.

6. THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts reports the income and expenditure on service provision for the year and the value of the Council's assets and liabilities at the end of the financial year. This is prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices as defined in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

Local authorities are required to produce a comprehensive income and expenditure statement, a balance sheet and a cash flow statement, as a private sector company would. From 2016/17 an expenditure and funding analysis was introduced. However, as local authorities are also tax raising bodies (through Council Tax), they are required to produce an additional financial statement, accounting for movements to and from the general fund, through a movement in reserves statement. A review of materiality has also concluded that Group Accounts are again required this year. A brief explanation of the purpose of each of financial statements is provided below:

Section 1 – The Core Financial Statements

Section 1a – Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement shows the cost of providing services in the year in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, rather than the amount funded from Council Tax, and other Government grants. The amount funded from Council Tax and Government grants differ from this by a series of

Narrative Statement

adjustments made in accordance with regulations. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Section 1b - Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

This statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. 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 authority'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 or rents for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

Section 1c - Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the authority. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the authority 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 authority 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.

Section 1d - Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the authority 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 authority are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the authority. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the authority.

Section 2 – Statement of Accounting Policies

These outline the accounting and measurement bases used for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of figures and events in preparing the financial statements in the accounts. Other accounting policies used that are relevant to an understanding of the financial statements are also included.

Section 3 – Notes to the Core Financial Statements

This section contains notes that help to explain or give more detail to the Core Financial Statements.

Section 4 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

This is a statutory account which shows the major elements of income and expenditure on Council Housing provision and associated services to Council tenants and leaseholders.

Section 5 – Collection Fund Accounts

This is a statutory account which shows the transactions relating to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates. It shows how the amounts collected have been distributed to the Council's General Fund, the Greater London Authority and Central Government.

Narrative Statement

Section 6 – Group Accounts

The Group Accounts combine the financial results of Lewisham Council with those of its subsidiaries, Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited. Transactions between the two subsidiaries and the Council are removed on merging the accounts of all parties. The Group Accounts therefore add the surpluses and balances and show the combined financial position for all three entities.

Section 7 - Glossary

This explains some technical and commonly used terms.

Section 8 – Pension Fund Accounts

The Lewisham Pension Fund is a separate entity from the Council and thus has its own accounts. These show the income and expenditure for the year, the value of the investments held and an assessment of the liabilities at the year end.

Section 9 – Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

This sets out the control and governance framework for all significant corporate systems and processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled. It describes the activities with which the community is engaged and enables the monitoring of the achievement of the strategic objectives and the delivery of appropriate and cost effective services. It also reports any significant issues and the actions already taken and planned to be taken to address these.

Statement of Responsibilities

THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

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

Responsibility of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

The Executive Director for Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

In preparing the Statement of Accounts as set out in this document, I certify that I have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the CIPFA Local Authority Code of Practice.

I certify that I have also:

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

The Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024.



David Austin CPFA

Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources (S151)
31 January 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM ON THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of London Borough of Lewisham ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2024 on pages 26 to 138 which comprise the Group and Authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, Group and Authority Balance Sheets, Group and Authority Movement in Reserves Statements, Group and Authority Statements of Cash Flows, Collection Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the related notes, including the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the accounting policies in Section 2.

In our opinion the financial statements :

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group and the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of the Group's and the Authority's income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Group in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Group and the Authority's services or dissolve the Group and the Authority without the transfer of their services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over their ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Group and the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Group and the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

Auditor's Reports

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management, the Audit and Risk Committee and internal audit and inspection of policy documentation as to the Group's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the Group's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.
- Assessing the incentives for management to manipulate reported financial performance as a result of financial pressures in order to be able to set a balanced budget for future periods.
- Reading Authority and Audit and Risk Committee minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account the reducing balance of Housing Revenue Account ("HRA") reserves at the Authority over the past three years, and financial pressures on the Authority due to increasing demand, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Group and Authority management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition due to our assessment that there was limited opportunity for manipulation of revenue reported given the highly predictable nature of the funding provided to the Group during the year and the simple revenue recognition criteria.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included unexpected account code combinations which reduce HRA expenditure balances and increase general fund balances.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' and other management (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the Group's and the Authority's regulatory and legal correspondence and discussed with the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Group is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation, pensions legislation and other tax legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Group is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: data protection laws, and social housing regulations, recognising the

Auditor's Reports

nature of the Group's and the Authority's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the other information; and
- in our opinion the other information included in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements.

Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources' and Audit and Risk Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 16, the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for 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; assessing the Group's and the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Group and the Authority or dissolve the Group and the Authority without the transfer of their services to another public sector entity.

The Audit and Risk Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities

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

Auditor's Reports

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

Report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office in November 2024 on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the "NAO Code of Audit Practice"), we are required to report to you if we identify any significant weaknesses in the arrangements that have been made by the Authority to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We have identified the following significant weaknesses:

Significant weakness – financial sustainability

During 2023/24, the Housing Revenue Account ("HRA") budget was overspent by £6.1m, driven primarily through reoccurring pressures on the cost of repairs, and the level of reserves stood at £7.4m at the year end, which is below the target level of 10% of rental and service charge income. This therefore reduces the ability of the Authority to respond to unexpected events.

Whilst work has been undertaken during 2023-24 to address the HRA reserve position, the arrangements in place have been insufficient in identifying and delivering recurrent savings at the value required to help ensure financial sustainability.

Recommendation:

The Authority should put in place arrangements to monitor the HRA position closely to ensure reserves are sufficient, especially in light of the repairs transformation programme and history of HRA reserves depletion. The Authority must also ensure that the 30 year long term strategy is supported by appropriate medium term actions and plans to deliver recurrent savings and opportunities to increase the HRA reserve position. This should include reporting to the relevant committees so those charged with governance can provide a view on whether the plan continues to be realistic so that appropriate remedial action can be taken, if required.

Significant weakness – governance

In October 2023 the Authority brought back in-house the management of its social housing stock from its wholly owned subsidiary Lewisham Homes Limited. The Authority subsequently self-referred to the Regulator of Social Housing in December 2023 due to concerns over the standard of some of its homes, including overdue fire remedial actions and repairs. The Regulator concluded that the Authority was not meeting the required outcomes of the Decent Homes Standard.

The Authority did not have the appropriate monitoring arrangements in place prior to bringing the management of the social housing stock back in house to fully understand the extent of the issues associated with its council dwellings.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the Authority ensures there is an appropriate governance mechanism in place to ensure that the remediation plans are closely monitored and that future issues with stock condition are identified and escalated on a timely basis.

Respective responsibilities in respect of our review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 16, the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources is responsible for ensuring that the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are required under section 20(1) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditor's Reports

We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively. We are also not required to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has achieved value for money during the year.

We planned our work and undertook our review in accordance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice and related statutory guidance, having regard to whether the Authority had proper arrangements in place to ensure financial sustainability, proper governance and to use information about costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary.

Statutory reporting matters

We are required by Schedule 2 to the NAO Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make written recommendations to the Authority under Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DELAY IN CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT

As at the date of this audit report, we have not yet completed our work in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Until we have completed this work, we are unable to certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the NAO Code of Audit Practice.



Fleur Nieboer
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP
Chartered Accountants
15 Canada Square
London
E14 5GL

5 February 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM ON THE PENSION FUND'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of London Borough of Lewisham Pension Fund ("the Pension Fund") for the year ended 31 March 2024 on pages 139 to 167 which comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes to the Pension Fund financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the Pension Fund financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2024 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under and are independent of the London Borough of Lewisham (as administering authority for the Pension Fund, the "Authority") in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Executive Director for Corporate Resources has prepared the Pension Fund financial statements on the going concern basis as they have not been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the Authority's services or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the Pension Fund financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the continuity of services provided by the Authority over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Executive Director for Corporate Resources's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Pension Fund financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Executive Director for Corporate Resources's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Authority will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management and the Audit and Risk Committee as to the Pension Fund's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the

Auditor's Reports

Pension Fund's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud.

- Reading Pension and Audit and Risk Committee minutes.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards and taking into account possible financial pressures at the Authority and our overall knowledge of the control environment we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls in particular the risk that Pension Fund management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries and the risk of bias in accounting estimates and judgements. On this audit we did not identify a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because of the simple nature of revenue in a pension scheme whereby the revenue relates to contributions receivable based on agreed schedules.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks. In determining the audit procedures, we took into account the results of our evaluation and testing of the operating effectiveness of some of the Pension Fund fraud risk management controls.

We also performed procedures including:

- Screening of journal entries and other adjustments to identify risk criterion. These included unusual or unexpected pairings of double entries with cash account codes and those posted by senior finance management.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the Pension Fund financial statements from our general sector experience and through discussion with the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and other management (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the Pension Fund's regulatory and legal correspondence and discussed with the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the Pension Fund financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Pension Fund is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the Pension Fund financial statements, including the financial reporting aspects of local government legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Pension Fund is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the Pension Fund financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: pensions legislation, data protection laws and employment law, recognising the nature of the Pension Fund's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Auditor's Reports

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the Pension Fund financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the Pension Fund financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Executive Director for Corporate Resources is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the Pension Fund financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our Pension Fund financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the Pension Fund financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Executive Director for Corporate Resources's and Audit and Risk Committee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in the statement set out on page 16, the Executive Director for Corporate Resources is responsible for the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements, that give a true and fair view. They are also responsible for: such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Pension Fund financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they have been informed by the government of the intention to either cease the services provided by the Authority or dissolve the Authority without the transfer of its services to another public sector entity.

The Audit and Risk Committee of the Authority is responsible for overseeing the Pension Fund's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities

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

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

Auditor's Reports

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the members of the London Borough of Lewisham ('the Authority'), as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the members of the Authority as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Fleur Nieboer

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants
15 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
E14 5GL

5 February 2025

Core Financial Statements

SECTION 1 - CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Restated							
2022/23			2023/24				
Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s		Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Note
			SERVICE				
476,204	(395,458)	80,746	Children & Young People Directorate	507,881	(404,077)	103,804	
211,703	(114,216)	97,487	Community Services Directorate	216,103	(117,427)	98,676	
81,170	(51,084)	30,086	Place Directorate	85,127	(53,195)	31,932	
231,693	(190,957)	40,736	Corporate Resources Directorate	215,083	(178,921)	36,162	
13,024	(536)	12,488	Chief Executive Directorate	13,688	(280)	13,408	
56,685	(51,345)	5,340	Housing Directorate	82,728	(57,206)	25,522	
200,296 (*)	(109,129)	91,167 (*)	Housing Revenue Account	221,934	(133,842)	88,092	
17,869	(9,000)	8,869	Corporate Provisions	13,980	3,161	17,141	
1,288,644	(921,725)	366,919	Cost of Services	1,356,524	(941,787)	414,737	1
			Other Operating Expenditure				
0	(7,826) (*)	(7,826) (*)	(Gain) / Loss on the disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	0	(6,208)	(6,208)	
1,683	0	1,683	Levies	1,699	0	1,699	7
0	0	0	Contribution of housing capital receipts to Government Pool	0	0	0	19
1,683	(7,826)	(6,143)		1,699	(6,208)	(4,509)	
			Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
30,949	0	30,949	Interest payable and similar charges	29,406	0	29,406	
0	(8,602)	(8,602)	Interest and Investment Income	0	(15,187)	(15,187)	
56,868	(41,175)	15,693	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	77,003	(73,176)	3,827	37
87,817	(49,777)	38,040		106,409	(88,363)	18,046	
			Taxation and non-specific Grant Income				
0	(123,946)	(123,946)	Income from Council Tax	0	(132,574)	(132,574)	
0	(65,950)	(65,950)	General Government Grants	0	(80,554)	(80,554)	30
0	(27,208)	(27,208)	Recognised Capital Grants and Contributions	0	(36,356)	(36,356)	
0	(85,066)	(85,066)	Non-Domestic Rates income and expenditure	0	(97,132)	(97,132)	
0	(302,170)	(302,170)		0	(346,616)	(346,616)	
		96,646	Deficit/ (Surplus) on provision of services			81,658	1
		(122,818)	(Surplus)/ Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets			28,262	21
		(470,210)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability			(76,529)	20, 37
		(593,028)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(48,267)	
		(496,382)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			33,391	

* See note 48 for details

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Core Financial Statements

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT - YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024											
YEAR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Gen Fund Reserves £000	Sub-Total General Fund £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Council Reserves £000	Note
Balance at 01 April 2023 Brought Forward	20,000	227,169	247,169	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,136	2,254,783	2,610,919	
Opening Balance Adjustment	0	757	757	0	0	0	0	757	(757)	0	
Adjusted Balance at 31 March 2023 Brought Forward	20,000	227,926	247,926	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,893	2,254,026	2,610,919	
Movement in Reserves during 2023/24											
Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	6,691	0	6,691	(88,349)	0	0	0	(81,658)	0	(81,658)	
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,267	48,267	21, 22
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	6,691	0	6,691	(88,349)	0	0	0	(81,658)	48,267	(33,391)	
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(19,045)	0	(19,045)	83,467	0	7,400	18,997	90,819	(90,819)	0	8
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(12,354)	0	(12,354)	(4,882)	0	7,400	18,997	9,161	(42,552)	(33,391)	
Transfers to / (from) Reserves	12,354	(12,354)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Increase / (Decrease) in 2023/24	0	(12,354)	(12,354)	(4,882)	0	7,400	18,997	9,161	(42,552)	(33,391)	
Balance at 31 March 2024 Carried Forward	20,000	215,572	235,572	9,186	0	74,538	46,758	366,054	2,211,474	2,577,528	
Note		9		HRA 15	HRA 14	19					

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Core Financial Statements

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT - YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023											
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Gen Fund Reserves £000	Sub-Total General Fund £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Council Reserves £000	Note
Balance at 01 April 2022 Brought Forward	20,000	231,340	251,340	30,315	0	64,387	30,372	376,414	1,738,123	2,114,537	
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23											
Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	(8,580)	0	(8,580)	(88,066)	0	0	0	(96,646)	0	(96,646)	
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	593,028	593,028	21, 22
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(8,580)	0	(8,580)	(88,066)	0	0	0	(96,646)	593,028	496,382	
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	4,409	0	4,409	71,819	0	2,751	(2,611)	76,368	(76,368)	0	8
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(4,171)	0	(4,171)	(16,247)	0	2,751	(2,611)	(20,278)	516,660	496,382	
Transfers to / (from) Reserves	4,171	(4,171)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Increase / (Decrease) in 2022/23	0	(4,171)	(4,171)	(16,247)	0	2,751	(2,611)	(20,278)	516,660	496,382	
Balance at 31 March 2023 Carried Forward	20,000	227,169	247,169	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,136	2,254,783	2,610,919	
Note		9		HRA 15	HRA 14	19					

Core Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024


Restated 31/03/2023 £000		31/03/2024 £000	Note
	<u>Property, Plant & Equipment</u>		
1,440,091	Council Dw ellings	1,385,917	10b, HRA 1a, 9
1,212,694	Other Land and Buildings	1,211,712	10b
25,836	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	24,543	10b
96,100	Infrastructure	90,536	10c
5,137	Community Assets	5,075	10b
63,659	Surplus Assets not Held for Sale	60,347	10b
114,035	Assets under Construction	87,713	10b
2,957,552		2,865,843	
955	Heritage Assets	955	41
1,829	Long Term Investments	1,781	
60,827	Long Term Debtors	61,548	14a
2,667	Asset related to defined benefit pension scheme	0	20, 37
3,023,830	Total Long Term Assets	2,930,127	
218,539	Short Term Investments	222,683	12
197	Inventories	237	
69,648	Debtors	75,139	14b
93,466	Cash and Cash Equivalents	49,731	15
4,347	Prepayments	5,080	
386,197	Total Current Assets	352,870	
0	Bank Overdraft	0	15
(28,579)	Short Term Borrow ing	(1,960)	12
(8,395)	Provisions (Less than 1 year)	(6,208)	18
(134,337) (*)	Creditors	(152,732)	16
(85,492) (*)	Receipts in Advance	(92,950)	17
(10,852)	PFI Liabilities due w ithin one year	(11,739)	34d
(267,655)	Total Current Liabilities	(265,589)	
3,142,372	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	3,017,408	
(194,947)	Long Term Borrow ing	(195,221)	12
(6,015)	Provisions (More than 1 year)	(7,104)	18
(182,394)	Deferred PFI Liabilities	(170,655)	34d
(4,237)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(5,083)	
(1,614)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(2,323)	
(142,246)	Liability related to defined benefit pension scheme	(59,494)	20, 37
(531,453)	Total Long-Term Liabilities	(439,880)	
2,610,919	NET ASSETS	2,577,528	

Core Financial Statements

31/03/2023 £000		31/03/2024 £000	Note
	Usable Reserves		
20,000	General Fund Balance	20,000	
227,169	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	215,572	9
14,068	Housing Revenue Account	9,186	HRA 15
0	Major Repairs Reserve	0	HRA 14
67,138	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	74,538	19
27,761	Capital Grants Unapplied	46,758	42
356,136	Total Usable Reserves	366,054	
	Unusable Reserves		
1,382,592	Revaluation Reserve	1,328,807	21
1,077,605	Capital Adjustment Account	1,012,609	22
93	Deferred Capital Receipts	93	
(32,163)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(31,352)	12e
(139,579)	Pensions Reserve	(59,494)	20, 37
3	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(934)	Coll Fd 3
(13,091)	DSG Unusable Reserve	(15,522)	29
(20,677)	Short Term Compensated Absences Account	(22,733)	
2,254,783	Total Unusable Reserves	2,211,474	
2,610,919	TOTAL RESERVES	2,577,528	

* See note 48 for details

Certification by the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources

	David Austin CPFA – Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources (S151) 31 January 2025
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Core Financial Statements

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

2022/23 £000s		2023/24 £000s	Note
(96,646)	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(81,658)	
140,172	Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	175,116	43
(42,507)	Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(55,251)	44
1,019	Net Cash flows from Operating Activities	38,207	
(27,879)	Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	(40,184)	46
8,619	Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	(41,758)	47
(18,241)	Net Increase or (decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(43,735)	
111,707	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	93,466	15
93,466	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	49,731	15

SECTION 2 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended for the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021), which require them to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 and the SERCOP 2023/24, both published by CIPFA, and based on IFRS and statutory guidance under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 (see Glossary for definitions). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historic cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared on a 'going concern' basis (in other words, on the expectation that the Council will continue to operate in its current form for the foreseeable future).

2. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES, MATERIAL ERRORS AND PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

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. Prior period adjustments may arise from a change in an accounting policy or to correct a material error. 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.

3. ACCRUALS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Council's revenue and capital accounts are prepared on an accruals basis. This means that activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Expenditure on supplies is accounted for when they are used. When there is a significant gap between the date on which supplies are received and the date of their use, and the value is material, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenditure in relation to services received (including those provided by employees) is accounted for as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised in the accounts, but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is likely that debts may not be settled, a charge is made to revenue for the income that might not be collected and the debtor is impaired.
- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will be received by the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably

Statement of Accounting Policies

the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will be received by the Council.

- Revenue from Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and rents is accounted for in the year it is due.
- The Council has a de-minimis level in accounting for manual accruals of £5,000. However, this does not mean that all transactions below this value will not be accrued as they may form part of feeder file accruals (where the file is over £5k) or where similar transactions below £5k add up to a total above £5k.

4. MATERIAL ITEMS

Where items of expenditure and income are material, their nature and amount are disclosed separately, either in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (the "CIES") or in a note to the accounts, depending on their significance.

5. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Where the Council has entered into a foreign currency transaction, it is converted into sterling at the exchange rate prevailing on the transaction date. Where amounts are outstanding at year end, they are converted at the exchange rate on 31 March. Any material gains or losses are charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES.

6. VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

Income and Expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, unless it is irrecoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT is paid on invoices received and charged to an input tax account and VAT is collected with income and posted to an output tax account. These accounts are reconciled and claims made to HM Revenue and Customs for the net VAT incurred on a monthly basis.

7. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, 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 give evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events where they are considered to be material;
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events. However, where they would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the event and its estimated financial effect.

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

8. OVERHEADS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to the services where those budgets are controlled, in line with the organisational structure of the Council. However, overheads and support services still continue to be allocated across the benefiting services to cover statutory requirements (for example, between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) and for statutory returns to Central Government.

9. GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third-party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and the grants or contributions will be received. Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the CIES until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential of the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or else the future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor. Amounts received as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried on the Balance Sheet as receipts in advance. When conditions are satisfied, they are credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the CIES.

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

10. LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease substantially transfer all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification. Arrangements which do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where the fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

a) The Council as Lessee

i) Finance Leases

The Council as lessee does not have any finance leases.

ii) Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the CIES as expenditure of the services which benefit from the use of the leased asset. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the incidence of payments (e.g. where there is a rent-free period).

b) The Council as Lessor

i) Finance Leases

When the Council grants a finance lease over a property or item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Any gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease asset (long-term debtor) in the Balance Sheet. The gain credited to the CIES on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the MiRS.

Statement of Accounting Policies

Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the MiRS. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the MiRS. When the future rentals are received, the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor, and the associated deferred capital receipt is transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Lease rentals received are apportioned between a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, which is applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES).

ii) Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained on the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the incidence of payments received.

The implementation of IFRS 16 Leases has been deferred to 1 April 2024 - for further information see Note 2 of Section 3 in these Accounts.

11. INVENTORIES (STOCK)

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Revenue accounts are charged with the cost of obsolescent stock written off.

12. LONG TERM CONTRACTS

Long term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year.

13. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

a) Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those which are settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include salaries, paid annual leave and sick leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render their services to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of entitlements (or any form of leave) earned by employees, but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the salary rates applicable in the year in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the MiRS using the Short Term Compensated Absences Account so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs. This account shows the differences arising on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March each year. Statutory requirements are that the impact on Council Tax is reversed through the Account.

b) Termination and Discretionary Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before their normal retirement date. They are charged on an accruals basis to the relevant Service Cost line in the CIES in the year in which the Council is committed to the termination of the employment of the officer. The Council has an approved scheme to make awards of benefits in the event of early retirements which requires a panel to consider and agree proposals on the grounds of redundancy and/or efficiency and applications for voluntary early retirement from employees.

Statement of Accounting Policies

Where termination benefits have involved the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the MIRS, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

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

c) Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Council are members of four separate pension schemes:-

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers Pensions for the DfE;
- The NHS Pension Scheme, administered by EA Finance NHS Pensions;
- The London Pension Fund administered by the Local Pensions Partnership Limited (LPP) on behalf of the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered by Lewisham Council.

These schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), which are earned as they work for the Council.

(i) Teachers' Pension Scheme and the NHS Pension Scheme

These schemes are defined benefit schemes, but are accounted for as if they were defined contributions schemes, since their liabilities cannot be separately identified to individual Local Authorities. No liabilities for future payment of benefits are therefore recognised in the Balance Sheet for these schemes. The CIES is charged with the employer's contributions paid to the schemes during the year.

(ii) London Pension Fund Scheme

This scheme is a defined benefit scheme and is accounted for as such, since its liabilities and assets can be identified to individual Councils. The CIES is charged with a levy from the LPFA to meet the employer's contributions such as premature retirement costs in respect of former employees of the GLC, ILEA and LRB.

(iii) Local Government Pension Scheme

This scheme is a defined benefit scheme and is accounted for as such, since its liabilities and assets are attributable to individual Local Authorities. The Council's attributed liabilities are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments to be made by the Scheme in relation to benefits earned to date, based on a number of assumptions about mortality rates, turnover, projected earnings etc. These liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate recommended by the Scheme's Actuaries.

The assets of the Scheme are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value as follows:

- Quoted securities – current bid price
- Unquoted securities – professional estimate
- Unitised securities – current bid price
- Property – market value.

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

- Service Costs comprising
 - The current service cost which is the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year. These are allocated in the CIES to the services for which the employees worked.
 - The past service cost which is the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years. These are debited to the relevant Service Directorate in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES.

Statement of Accounting Policies

- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability
This is the change in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the CIES. This is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period, accounting for any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Re-measurement comprising
The return on plan assets excluding amounts included in net interest.
The actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in demographic and financial assumptions since the last actuarial valuation.
Other changes not accounted for elsewhere.

Statutory regulations require Council Tax to fund the amounts payable to the Pension Scheme in the year, rather than the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. The notional entries for assets and liabilities are therefore matched with appropriations to and from the Pension Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The negative balance on the Pensions Reserve thus measures the beneficial impact on the General Fund of being required to account on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

The detailed accounting policies followed in preparing the pension fund accounts are disclosed separately in the Council's Pension Fund Accounts in Section 8 of the Statement of Accounts.

(iv) Pension Fund Surplus Restriction

When the scheme (London Pension Fund Scheme or Local Government Pension Scheme) is in a surplus position at year-end an asset restriction (or asset ceiling) will be applied because London Borough of Lewisham is not eligible to recognise the surplus. The asset restriction will be applied in respect of the current surplus plus the future surplus which would arise based on the present value future agreed secondary contributions.

14. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES

The Council has two wholly owned subsidiary companies, Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited. These are accounted for at cost in the single entity accounts. It also is an equal partner (50:50) in Lewisham Grainger Holdings LLP with Grainger Developments Ltd (There is joint control between the Council and Grainger Developments Ltd., and this meets the definition of a joint venture under IFRS11). The transactions between the Council and all of these companies are included in the Council's accounts. An annual review of the necessity of preparing Group Accounts is undertaken, and for 2023/24 it has again been concluded that the activities of Group's entities are sufficiently material to warrant the production of Group Accounts. See also Section 6 – Group Accounts, and Note 25 - Investment in Companies.

15. REVENUE PROVISIONS AND IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES

a) Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement at a later date and where a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are charged to the appropriate service line in the CIES in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties. Provisions are determined to be short or long term dependent on when settlement is expected. When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision in the Balance Sheet. All provisions are reviewed at the end of the financial year, and where it is assessed that it is less than probable that a settlement will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service. Where some or all of the

Statement of Accounting Policies

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

b) Impairment Allowances

The Authority recognises an allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets measured at amortised cost, debt instruments measured at amortised cost, Business Rates, lease receivables, trade receivables and contract assets. The amount of expected credit losses is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition of the respective financial instruments

(i) Trade Receivables

For trade receivables, the Authority applies a simplified approach permitted under IFRS 9 and recognises a loss allowance equal to lifetime expected credit losses. The expected credit losses on these financial assets are estimated using a unique method for each service area based on their respective historical credit loss experience and adjusted for factors that are specific to each area, general economic conditions, and an assessment of both the current and forecast direction of conditions at the reporting date.

In measuring the expected credit losses, if specific information regarding recoverability of any major debt is available then balances are assessed individually for impairment. Debts not assessed individually have been assessed on a collective basis based on unique method for each service area. Debtors are written off (i.e. derecognised) when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.

16. RESERVES

The Council has set aside specific amounts as reserves to cover future expenditure for contingencies or policy purposes, which fall outside the definition of provisions, and are shown in Note 9 of Section 3. The reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the MiRS. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES. The reserve is then credited back to the General Fund Balance in the MiRS so that there is no net charge against Council Tax. Statutory reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, and retirement and employee benefits and are not available for the Council to use to finance services.

17. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND ASSETS

A contingent liability or asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation or asset. However, this will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of another event not wholly within the control of the Council. These are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are disclosed in a note to the accounts. A contingent liability could also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that a payment will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

18. REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Expenditure incurred which can be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset for the Council (e.g. home improvement grants or voluntary aided schools expenditure), is charged to the relevant service cost line in the CIES. Where this expenditure is met from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the MiRS from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on Council Tax.

Statement of Accounting Policies

19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) 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 carried at their amortised cost. Charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by its effective rate of interest. This rate exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised. For the Council's borrowings, the amount on the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest), and the interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year for the loan. Following a change in the Code in 2019/20 call options within LOBO contracts are no longer accounted for separately.

Premiums and discounts from previous year's settlements are charged to the CIES in accordance with regulations requiring the impact on the General Fund and the HRA to be spread over future years. The Council's policy is to spread the gain or loss over the remaining term of the loan repaid on which the premium was payable or discount receivable. As required by statute, the amounts charged to the CIES are adjusted to the required charge against Council Tax or Housing Rents by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the MiRS. This account holds the accumulated difference between the financing costs charged to the CIES and the accumulated financing costs required to be charged to the General Fund Balance in accordance with regulations.

b) Financial Assets

In accordance with IFRS 9, financial assets are classified into three categories:

- Amortised cost
 - These are loans and loan arrangements where repayments of interest and principal occur on set dates and at specified amounts. The amount presented in the Balance Sheet represents the outstanding principal received plus accrued interest and the interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) is the amount receivable as per the loan agreement.
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
 - These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are recognised in the CIES as they occur.
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)
 - These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are accounted for through a reserve account, with the balance debited or credited to the CIES on asset disposal.

The Council holds investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets within the accounts are classified as amortised cost or Fair value through profit or loss.

Statement of Accounting Policies

c) Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

20. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than twenty four hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in no more than three months or less from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. The Cash Flow Statement shows cash and cash equivalents net of repayable on demand bank overdrafts which form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

21. INTANGIBLE NON CURRENT ASSETS

Intangible Non-Current Assets (e.g. software licences) do not have any physical substance and are identifiable and controllable by the Council through custody or legal rights. The expenditure is only capitalised when it and the future economic benefits or service potential flowing from it are both material. The level of spend on these assets is immaterial and therefore is charged direct to the CIES.

22. NON CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

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

- Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement date
- Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 - unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

a) Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided it adds value, increases its ability to deliver future economic benefits or service potential, or can be capitalised as a component and exceeds the Council's de-minimis limit of £40,000. Expenditure financed from the government's Devolved Formula Capital Grant is also capitalised on the basis that it increases the school's service potential. Expenditure that only maintains an asset's value (i.e. repairs and maintenance) and does not increase its ability to deliver benefits or services is charged as revenue expenditure when it is incurred.

Statement of Accounting Policies

b) Measurement and Valuation

Non-current assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price and any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. The Council capitalises costs incurred whilst assets are under construction if these costs are directly attributable to an asset and it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the authority (in accordance with IAS 16). These balances are held on the balance sheet under the category Assets Under Construction (AUC) and are transferred to the specific non-current assets category when the project reaches practical completion. Non-current assets are carried on the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost;
- dwellings – current value, using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH);
- all other assets – current value, being the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV);
- where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value;
- where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Non-current assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued regularly in accordance with the Statements of Appraisal and Valuation Manual and Guidance Notes issued by the RICS and recommended by CIPFA.

The cost of an asset acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value. Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income line of the CIES. Where the donation has been made conditionally, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account until conditions are satisfied. Where gains are credited to the CIES, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the MiRS.

Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Gains are credited to the CIES where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service. Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

Surplus Assets not Held for Sale are assets that are not being used to supply goods and services and do not meet the criteria of assets held for sale. The adoption of IFRS 13 requires that these assets are measured at fair value and not existing use value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

For surplus assets the gross value has been apportioned between land and building elements (residual and depreciable). Remaining useful life elements have also been provided for each asset. The aim is to arrive at the notional 'Highest and Best use value' for the asset. This has been achieved, for these purposes, by comparing the 'current use' of the asset to the notional 'alternative use' based on potential redevelopment on a land value basis for the site.

The valuer (Wilks Head and Eve) has stated in their valuation report that these assets have been categorised at Level 2 of the hierarchy as there are significant observable inputs:

- Land, Office, and Retail assets have been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the locality.
- Market conditions for these asset types are such that the levels of observable inputs are significant leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the Fair Value hierarchy.

Statement of Accounting Policies

Typical valuation inputs which have been analysed in arriving at the Fair Valuations include: Market Rental and Sale Values; Yields; Void and Letting Periods; Size; Configuration, proportions and layout; Location, visibility and access; Condition; Lease covenants; Obsolescence; Construction.

The Fair Value of the asset, for the current use, has been determined by applying an income or comparative approach based on the rental value of the property.

In most cases the assets have been leased on the open market and there are comparables to draw upon in relation to rental values, yields and rental growth.

Although there is an element of Valuer subjectivity, the valuers are of the view that the valuations comprise a higher proportion of observable inputs rather than unobservable inputs.

c) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

All services are charged with the following amounts to reflect the cost of using Property, Plant and Equipment assets during the year:

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

These amounts are not required to be charged against Council Tax; however the Council is required to make an annual contribution from revenue (the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP) to reduce its overall outstanding borrowing, calculated on a prudent basis in accordance with statutory guidance. The difference between the two is accounted for within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

d) Impairment

Non-current assets held on the Balance Sheet are reviewed at year-end to assess whether they may be impaired. Where an impairment exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and if material, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall and is accounted for as follows:-

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

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

Statement of Accounting Policies

e) Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by applying the straight-line method based on the asset's useful life. Depreciation is not charged for assets with an indeterminable finite useful life, a long life such that depreciation would be immaterial, assets where the recoverable amount exceeds the carrying amount (i.e. freehold land, community assets) and assets under construction. Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- council dwellings – 40 years
- other land & buildings (including hostels) – 40 years
- vehicles, plant & equipment – range of 5 to 40 years

The Council's policy is to charge depreciation on the assets value at 01 April each year. It is charged from the year following the date of purchase or completion of construction, and is not adjusted for disposals or additions of assets during the year. Where an asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

f) Disposals of Non-Current Assets

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

Amounts received for asset disposals are classified as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts from housing disposals (as per the relevant regulations) are payable to the Government. The retained receipts are required to be credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve, and can only be used to finance new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the MiRS. The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the MiRS.

g) Deferred Capital Receipts

This reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which a cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the cash settlement eventually takes place, the amounts are transferred to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve.

Statement of Accounting Policies

23. HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

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

a) 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.

b) 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, 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.

c) 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.

Useful lives of the various parts of the highways network are assessed by the Chief Highways Engineer using industry standards where applicable as follows:

Part of the highways network	Useful life
Carriageways	25 years
Footways and cycle tracks	25 years
Structures (bridges, tunnels and underpasses)	25 years
Street lighting	25/ 40 years
Street furniture	25 years
Traffic management systems	25 years

Statement of Accounting Policies

d) Disposals and derecognition

When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet is written off to the 'Other operating expenditure' line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal).

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

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

24. HERITAGE ASSETS

These are assets which are primarily held for their contribution to knowledge or culture; however, where they are used as operational assets, they are classified as such. They are recognised and measured in accordance with the accounting policies on Property, Plant and Equipment in respect of revaluation, impairment and disposal. The Council has, however, opted not to depreciate these assets since they are enduring by nature. The threshold for disclosure is £40,000.

25. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) CONTRACTS

These are agreements to receive services where the responsibility for making available the assets needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as ownership of the assets will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment. The original recognition of these assets at fair value is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. Where schemes include a capital contribution, the liability is written down accordingly. Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as other non-current assets owned by the Council. The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into the following five elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the CIES;
- finance cost – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to Interest Payable and Similar Charges in the CIES;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the asset arising during the contract, debited to Interest Payable and Similar Charges in the CIES;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the liability towards the PFI operator;
- lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as prepayments in the Balance Sheet and then recognised as non-current assets on the Balance Sheet when the work is carried out.

26. ACCOUNTING FOR SCHOOLS

Schools' accounting policies are the same as the Council's, with their income and expenditure being attributed to the appropriate service line in the CIES and their assets, liabilities and balances being included on the Balance Sheet. Schools' earmarked reserves are shown separately within Note 9 to the Core Financial Statements. An analysis of Dedicated Schools' Grant (the main source of funding for schools) is shown in Note 29. Any critical judgements made relating to accounting for schools' non-current assets (i.e. land and buildings) are shown in Note 3.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

SECTION 3 – NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

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

SERVICE	As reported for resource management (Narrative report) £'000	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £'000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £'000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (see Notes to EFA (i)) £'000	Net Expenditure in the CIES £'000
Children & Young People Directorate	95,800	(8,897)	86,903	16,901	103,804
Community Services Directorate	92,700	47	92,747	5,929	98,676
Place Directorate	21,500	647	22,147	9,785	31,932
Corporate Services Directorate	33,500	1,642	35,142	1,020	36,162
Chief Executive Directorate	13,100	301	13,401	7	13,408
Housing Directorate	19,100	(1,366)	17,734	7,788	25,522
HRA	0	(2,091)	(2,091)	90,183	88,092
Corporate Provisions	7,500	33,633	41,133	(23,992)	17,141
Cost of Services	283,200	23,916	307,116	107,621	414,737
Other Income and Expenditure	(263,700)	(26,937)	(290,637)	(42,442)	(333,079)
(Surplus) or Deficit	19,500	(3,021)	16,479	65,179	81,658

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Analysis of Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances (£2.2m)General Fund -£7.1m

The "Other Income and Expenditure" that is reported to management is equal to the net general fund budget set for the year (£263.7m). This is then compared to the net cost of services to get to the reported overspend for the year of £19.5m, as per the Outturn Report table in the Narrative Statement. The net reduction in General Fund reserves for the year was £12.5m, the difference to the reported outturn position being made up of Unplanned Corporate Provisions and Reserves.

HRA £4.9m

Within reports to management the net over/ underspend position of the HRA is always reported as nil, after taking account of/ noting the various movements and forecasts for the main income and expenditure items and the required action to return the account to a net nil budget. The net movement in HRA reserves in the year was a reduction of £4.9m, so this needs to be added back into the "Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances" to get to the required "Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances".

Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 01 April 2023	(261,237)
Add (Surplus)/ Deficit on General fund and HRA Balance in Year	16,479
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2024	(244,758)

Analysed between General Fund and HRA Balances			
	General Fund	HRA	Total
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 01 April 2023	(247,169)	(14,068)	(261,237)
Add (Surplus)/ Deficit on General fund and HRA Balance in Year	11,597	4,882	16,479
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2024	(235,572)	(9,186)	(244,758)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

Restated					
SERVICE	As reported for resource management (Narrative report) £'000	Adjustment to arrive at the net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £'000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £'000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (see Notes to EFA (i)) £'000	Net Expenditure in the CIES £'000
Children & Young People Directorate	68,900	(19,218)	49,682	31,064	80,746
Community Services Directorate	84,000	7,113	91,113	6,374	97,487
Place Directorate	26,400	3,320	29,720	366	30,086
Corporate Services Directorate	32,900	2,864	35,764	4,972	40,736
Chief Executive Directorate	10,800	959	11,759	729	12,488
Housing Directorate	0	8,828	8,828	(3,488)	5,340
HRA	0	10,634	10,634	80,533 (*)	91,167
Corporate Provisions	32,600	1,245	33,845	(24,976)	8,869
Cost of Services	255,600	15,745	271,345	95,574	366,919
Other Income and Expenditure	(248,600)	(2,327)	(250,927)	(19,346)	(270,273)
(Surplus) or Deficit	7,000	13,418	20,418	76,228	96,646

* See Note 48 for details

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 01 April 2022	(281,655)
Add (Surplus)/ Deficit on General fund and HRA Balance in Year	20,418
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2023	(261,237)

Analysed between General Fund and HRA Balances			
	General Fund	HRA	Total
Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 01 April 2022	(251,340)	(30,315)	(281,655)
Add (Surplus)/ Deficit on General fund and HRA Balance in Year	4,171	16,247	20,418
Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March 2023	(247,169)	(14,068)	(261,237)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Notes to the EFA

(i) Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the CIES amounts	2023/24			
	Adjustment for Capital Purposes £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
SERVICE				
Children & Young People Directorate	14,682	(1,174)	3,393	16,901
Community Services Directorate	5,788	(221)	362	5,929
Place Directorate	9,060	(139)	864	9,785
Corporate Services Directorate	1,135	(173)	58	1,020
Chief Executive Directorate	0	(52)	59	7
Housing Directorate	7,131	(31)	688	7,788
HRA	90,287	(104)	0	90,183
Corporate Provisions	(16,898)	(7,039)	(55)	(23,992)
Cost of Services	111,185	(8,933)	5,369	107,621
Other Income and Expenditure	(47,819)	5,377	0	(42,442)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and CIES surplus or deficit	63,366	(3,556)	5,369	65,179

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Restated				
2022/23				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the CIES amounts	Adjustment for Capital Purposes £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000	Other Differences £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
SERVICE				
Children & Young People Directorate	4,927	20,119	6,018	31,064
Community Services Directorate	2,804	3,719	(149)	6,374
Place Directorate	8,404	2,945	(10,983)	366
Corporate Services Directorate	1,678	3,001	293	4,972
Chief Executive Directorate	0	864	(135)	729
Housing Directorate	(3,488)	0	0	(3,488)
HRA	80,392	141	0	80,533
Corporate Provisions	(21,457)	(2,701)	(818)	(24,976)
Cost of Services	73,260	28,088	(5,774)	95,574
Other Income and Expenditure	(35,039)	15,693	0	(19,346)
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and CIES surplus or deficit	38,221	43,781	(5,774)	76,228

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED, NOT ADOPTED IN THE 2023/24 ACCOUNTS

At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice of Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and will be adopted in 24/25:

IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements will be revised to further clarify the classification of liabilities as current or non-current and improve the information provided where the Council has a non-current liability with a covenant. These changes are not expected to significantly affect the amounts held in the Council's financial statements.

IFRS 16 Leases will be implemented to recognise a right-of-use asset on the Balance Sheet for all leases where the Council is the lessee (except where short-term or low value). When rents are paid, they will be applied partly to write down the liability and partly charged as interest on the outstanding liability. The cost of the right-of-use asset will be reflected in depreciation charges in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the Accounting Policies the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions (shown in this note) and a number of assumptions which involve uncertainty about future events (shown in the following note). The major judgements made are as follows:

- a. The Authority has made judgements on whether assets are classified as Investment Property or Property, Plant and Equipment. These judgements are based on the main reason that the Authority is holding the asset. If the asset is used in the delivery of services or is occupied by third parties that are subsidised by the Authority it is deemed to be a Property, Plant and Equipment asset. If there were no subsidy and/or a full market rent being charged this would indicate that the asset is an Investment Property. The classification determines the valuation method used.
- b. An accounting judgement has been made for each school as to whether their land and buildings should be included within the Council's Balance Sheet. All Community Schools are deemed to be held on the Council's Balance Sheet due to the risks and rewards that the Council is deemed to have. Similarly, the Council's two Nursery Schools and the Pupil Referral Unit are owned and operated by the Local Authority and therefore on the Council's Balance Sheet. Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies together with a further two Foundation Schools are not included on the Council's balance sheet as ownership of Land and Buildings rests either with the relevant Diocesan body or, in the case of Academies the Government or the Foundation. In summary therefore:
 - Included are 40 Community Primary Schools, 4 Community Secondary Schools, 3 Community Special Schools, 2 Community Foundation Schools, 1 Pupil Referral Unit and 2 Nursery Schools (52 schools).
 - Excluded are 20 Voluntary-aided Schools, 0 Foundation Schools, 13 Academies and 3 others (36 schools).
 - Also excluded are assets acquired via PFI contracts where they relate to the excluded schools given above, although the PFI liability remains with the Council.
- c. A judgement has been made by the Council that it is proper practice to prepare Group Accounts for 2023/24, on grounds of materiality. For further information, see Section 2 – Accounting Policies (para. 14 – Interests in Companies); also Section 6 – Group Accounts; and Note 25 – Investment in Companies. All relevant entities have been consolidated into the Group Accounts.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

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

These Accounts contain a number of estimated figures that are based on assumptions made about the future or that are otherwise uncertain, and take into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. Because of this, the actual outcomes could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates made. The areas in the Council's Accounts at 31 March 2024 for which there is a significant possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Property, Plant and Equipment - PP&E (Valuations, Asset Lives and Derecognition)	<p>Asset valuations are based on Current Value and are periodically reviewed to ensure that the Council does not materially misstate its non-current assets. The Council's external valuers provided valuations as at 31 March 2024 for nearly all of its operational portfolio. The remaining balance of operational properties were also reviewed to ensure values reflect current values. The Council's valuers use a combination of methodologies to value operational assets. This includes Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC), Existing Use Value (EUV) and comparable methods. These methods can cause estimation uncertainty due to the indices and inputs that must be used to applying valuations, which are updated monthly.</p> <p>The estimated remaining useful life of all operational assets is reviewed annually based on the advice from the Council external valuers.</p>	<p>Changes to asset value and lives will have an effect on the annual depreciation charge for use of assets charged to services in the CI&ES. The annual depreciation charge for PP&E in 2023/24 is £45.630m (£43.545m in 2022/23) and the gross book value of these assets is £2,802m (£2,886m in 2022/23).</p> <p>A reduction in the estimated valuations would result in reductions to the Revaluation Reserve and / or a loss recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the value of the Council's operational properties were to reduce by 5%, this would result in a charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement of approximately £130m. An increase in estimated valuations would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve and / or reversals of previous negative revaluations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and / or gains being recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Depreciation charges for operational buildings will change in direct relation to changes in estimated current value.</p> <p>The asset life has an inverse effect with depreciation charge. The lower the asset life, the higher the depreciation charge; the higher the asset life, the lower the depreciation charge.</p>

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Valuation of HRA Dwellings	The HRA residential portfolio is valued based on a beacon methodology, with a 25% EUV-SH (social housing) factor applied, which is the standardised Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities rate for London. The current value of the stock (at 25%) is £1.36bn. In order to value the whole portfolio, it was necessary to research a number of information sources. These include sales of directly comparable property, changes of income flow for non-residential property, information available at a local level showing house price movement plus regional and National Indices.	A reduction in the estimate value of HRA dwellings would be a reduction on the revaluation reserve or a loss in the CIES. If the value of dwellings were to reduce by 10% this would lead to a reduction in value of about £139m. An increase in estimated valuations would result in increases to the Revaluation Reserve or gains being recorded as appropriate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits	The figure of net liability to pay pensions is based on a significant number of complex assumptions including the discount rate, salary increases, mortality rates and expected returns on Fund assets. The Pension Fund's qualified actuary calculates this figure to ensure the risk of misstatement is minimised. Further sensitivity analysis is included in note 19 to the Pension Fund in Section 8, below.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption is estimated to reduce the present value of the pension liability by £28.2m. A 0.1% increase in the assumed level of pension increases will increase the net pension liability by £27.7m.
Impairment allowance for expected credit loss	The Authority recognises an allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets measured at amortised cost, debt instruments measured at amortised cost, Business Rates, lease receivables, trade receivables and contract assets. As at 31 March 2024, the Council had an outstanding balance of short-term debtors totalling £162.3m. Of this, £136.8m falls within the scope of the expected credit loss model and has various impairment allowances recognised. Against the £136.8m debtors' balance, there is an impairment allowance of £88.9m. It is not certain that this impairment allowance would be sufficient as the Council cannot assess with certainty which debts will be collected or not. Calculation of expected credit loss is forward looking and doesn't just rely upon historic information without considering if that needs to be adapted to reflect current and future conditions. The calculation of the impairment allowance takes into account current and forecast future conditions.	An understatement of doubtful debts would lead to a future adjustment and impairment to be reflected. The impairment allowances held are based on policies adapted to historic experience and success rates experienced in collection. The nature of the debt and service area have been considered. If collection rates were to deteriorate significantly then the Council would need to review its policies on the calculation of its impairment allowance for expected credit losses. If collection rates of all debts were to deteriorate by 5% then the impairment allowance would need to increase by £6.9m (10% would be £13.8m).
Venture Capital - private equity / infrastructure	As at 31 March 2024, the Council's Pension Fund had venture capital private equity investments of £279.0m. Private equity investments are valued at fair value in accordance with British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association guidelines. These investments are not publicly listed and as such, there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation. The Council makes up approximately 88% of the active members of the Pension Fund so would be impacted by this uncertainty.	The venture capital investment in the financial statements is £283.0m. There is a risk that this investment may be understated or overstated in the accounts and the risk is estimated to be 4.3%. This would be an increase or decrease in the value of venture capital investments by £12.2m, on a fair value of £283.0m. The Council makes up approximately 88% of the active members of the Pension Fund so would be impacted by this uncertainty - 88% of this risk is £10.7m.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

a) Movement in Land and Buildings valuations analysis

A sensitivity analysis detailing movement in valuations is as follows:

Asset Category	Assets Valued at 31 March 24	Value on Increase			Value on Decrease		
		1% £000	5% £000	10% £000	1% £000	5% £000	10% £000
Council Dwellings	1,385,917	1,399,776	1,455,213	1,524,509	1,372,058	1,316,621	1,247,325
Other Land & Buildings	1,211,712	1,223,829	1,272,298	1,332,883	1,199,595	1,151,126	1,090,541
Surplus Assets	60,347	60,950	63,364	66,382	59,744	57,330	54,312
Total	2,657,976	2,684,555	2,790,875	2,923,774	2,631,397	2,525,077	2,392,178

Asset Category	Assets Valued at 31 March 23	Value on Increase			Value on Decrease		
		1% £000	5% £000	10% £000	1% £000	5% £000	10% £000
Council Dwellings	1,440,091	1,454,492	1,512,096	1,584,100	1,425,690	1,368,086	1,296,082
Other Land & Buildings	1,212,694	1,224,821	1,273,329	1,333,963	1,200,567	1,152,059	1,091,425
Surplus Assets	63,659	64,296	66,842	70,025	63,022	60,476	57,293
Total	2,716,444	2,743,609	2,852,267	2,988,088	2,689,279	2,580,621	2,444,800

b) Pension Fund Liability

The Pension Fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in note 19 to the Pension Fund, see section 8, below. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to underlying assumptions.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

There are no material items of Income and Expenditure that are not disclosed elsewhere in these Accounts.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The audited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Executive Director for Corporate Resources on 31 January 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the accounts. Where events took place before this date which materially altered the conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect these altered conditions.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

7. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE - LEVIES

These are included under the "Other Operating Expenditure" line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and comprises the statutory levies for services carried out by other bodies.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
London Pension Fund Authority (a)	1,263	1,263
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	226	210
Environment Agency	210	210
Total Levies Paid	1,699	1,683

(a) London Pension Fund Authority

The CIES is charged with a levy from the LPFA to meet the employer's contributions such as premature retirement costs in respect of former employees of the Greater London Council and Inner London Education Authority.

8. TECHNICAL NOTE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the CIES recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The total of these adjustments appears as a line on the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

2023/24	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to/ from the Pensions Reserve)	(3,540)	(16)				3,556
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	(811)	0				811
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to/ from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	937					(937)
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account)	2,056					(2,056)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA))	38,840	100,346	26,311			(165,497)
Schools Budget deficit accounting (to account for the in-year deficit and year-end deficit)	2,431					(2,431)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	39,913	100,330	26,311	0	0	(166,554)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(172)	(13,085)		13,257		0
Payments to the Government housing receipts pool (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0			0		0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the CAA)	(15,195)	0				15,195
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	3,201					(3,201)
Capital expenditure funded from revenue balances (transfer to the CAA)	(4,750)	(3,778)				8,528
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(16,916)	(16,863)	0	13,257	0	20,522
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure				(5,857)		5,857
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure			(26,311)			26,311
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(42,042)				18,997	23,045
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(42,042)	0	(26,311)	(5,857)	18,997	55,213
Total Adjustments	(19,045)	83,467	0	7,400	18,997	(90,819)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

2022/23	Usable Reserves					Movement in Unusable Reserves £'000
	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	
Adjustments to Revenue Resources						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pensions costs (transferred to/ from the Pensions Reserve)	43,557	224				(43,781)
Financial instruments (transferred to the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account)	(818)	0				818
Council Tax and NDR (transfers to/ from Collection Fund Adjustment Account)	(11,303)					11,303
Holiday Pay (transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account)	2,122					(2,122)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure (these items are charged to the Capital Adjustment Account (CAA))	13,231	100,951	25,703			(139,885)
Schools Budget deficit accounting (to account for the in-year deficit and year-end deficit)	4,225					(4,225)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	51,014	101,175	25,703	0	0	(177,892)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources						
Transfer of non-current asset sale proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(628)	(14,710)		15,338		0
Payments to the Government housing receipts pool (funded by a contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve)	0			0		0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt (transfer from the CAA)	(11,371)	(3,455)				14,826
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2,945					(2,945)
Capital expenditure funded from revenue balances (transfer to the CAA)	(10,338)	(11,191)				21,529
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(19,392)	(29,356)	0	15,338	0	33,410
Adjustments to Capital Resources						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure				(12,587)		12,587
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure			(25,703)			25,703
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	(27,213)				(2,611)	29,824
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	(27,213)	0	(25,703)	(12,587)	(2,611)	68,114
Total Adjustments	4,409	71,819	0	2,751	(2,611)	(76,368)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

9. EARMARKED RESERVES

The Council has a number of earmarked reserves on its Balance Sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice, and others have been set up to provide resources for future spending plans. This note shows the amounts used to meet General Fund expenditure in 2023/24 and amounts set aside in the year to finance future expenditure plans. The use of HRA earmarked reserves is shown in the notes to the HRA in Section 4.

Name of Reserve	Restated	2023/24 Transfers		Balance	
	Balance 31/03/23 £000	Out £000	In £000	31/03/24 £000	
Specific Revenue Earmarked - Corporate	101,466	(40,450)	35,733	96,749	(a (i))
Specific Revenue Earmarked - Collection Funds	7,372	(8,211)	13,080	12,241	(a (ii))
Covid Grants	519	(519)	0	0	(a (iii))
Sinking Fund Reserves	33,829	(4,359)	2,797	32,267	(b)
Capital Contingency & Programme Expenditure	27,366	(18,270)	17,898	26,994	(c)
Insurance	14,384	(1,705)	400	13,079	(d)
Section 106 Reserve	20,198	(2,445)	0	17,753	(e)
	205,134	(75,959)	69,908	199,083	
Schools Reserves and External Funds	22,035	(17,449)	11,903	16,489	(f)
	22,035	(17,449)	11,903	16,489	
Total	227,169	(93,408)	81,811	215,572	

a) Specific Earmarked Reserves

- (i) These comprise a number of specific reserves which are earmarked for particular purposes.
(ii) Earmarked reserves have also been set up for future smoothing of potential collection fund deficits.
(iii) Revenue reserves balances also included £0.5m of Other Covid-19 grants at the beginning of 2023/24. These were either used against revenue spend in 2023/24, used to support the Collection Fund, or returned to Central Government.

b) Sinking Fund Reserves

These reserves enable services to make revenue contributions towards their committed contractual spend in future years. This includes schools, street lighting and leisure.

c) Capital Contingency & Programme Expenditure Reserve

The reserve is made up of unused grant ('New Homes Bonus grant') from central government. The grant is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. Use of the reserve is not ring-fenced and will be used to support the capital programme in future years.

d) Insurance Reserve

This has been established in order to supplement the insurance provision and covers potential costs arising from self-insured risks.

e) Section 106 Reserve

This is S106 income received where no conditions related to repayment of unspent amount of grant received exists. This reserve will be used to finance capital programme expenditure in future years.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

f) Schools Reserves and Schools External Funds

The Schools Reserves consist of the unspent year-end balances from schools' self-managed budgets. School External Funds are unspent balances from schools' locally generated funds. All these balances are earmarked to be used by schools in future years.

10. NON CURRENT ASSETS**a) Non-Current Assets Revaluations**

Assets are valued at least every five years as a minimum or more regularly where a five-yearly valuation is insufficient to keep pace with material changes in fair value, to ensure that the Council's assets are valued in accordance with RICS and CIPFA guidance. The valuations this year were undertaken and signed off by the valuers Wilkes, Head and Eve LLP. Where revaluations have occurred in 2023/24, their exact effective date was 31 March 2024 for council dwellings and 31 March 2024 for other assets.

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Valued at Historic Cost	244	0	0	244
Valued at Current Value				
2023-24	1,385,673	1,200,914	57,434	2,644,021
2022-23	0	10,759	2,913	13,672
2021-22	0	0	0	0
2020-21	0	0	0	0
2019-20	0	0	0	0
2018-19	0	0	0	0
2017-18	0	39	0	39
Total Net Book Value	1,385,917	1,211,712	60,347	2,657,976

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

b) Movements in Non-Current Assets

The movements in non-current assets during 2023/24 were as follows:

2023/24	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip't £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	TOTAL £000
Gross Book Value b/fwd at 01 April 2023	1,440,605	1,212,764	49,045	5,462	63,661	114,035	2,885,572
Additions	66,146	7,482	1,419	0	0	25,684	100,731
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	(34,418)	(2,219)	0	0	(2,542)	0	(39,179)
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(51,932)	(12,330)	(17)	0	(833)	0	(65,112)
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	(374)	(3,884)	0	0	0	0	(4,258)
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(66,140)	(2,287)	0	0	0	0	(68,427)
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition of Assets (recognised in Other Operating Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	(6,817)	0	(26)	0	(663)	0	(7,506)
Transfers	38,846	12,382	0	0	778	(52,006)	0
Gross Book Value c/fwd at 31 March 2024	1,385,916	1,211,908	50,421	5,462	60,401	87,713	2,801,821
Depreciation b/fwd at 01 April 2023	(514)	(70)	(23,209)	(325)	(2)	0	(24,120)
Depreciation for year	(25,215)	(17,203)	(2,778)	(62)	(372)	0	(45,630)
<u>Depreciation written back on:</u>							
Transfers	14	0	0	0	(14)	0	0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	1,377	13,580	66	0	151	0	15,174
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	24,339	3,497	17	0	183	0	28,036
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets Sold	0	0	26	0	0	0	26
Depreciation c/fwd at 31 March 2024	1	(196)	(25,878)	(387)	(54)	0	(26,514)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	1,385,917	1,211,712	24,543	5,075	60,347	87,713	2,775,307

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

The movements in non-current assets during 2022/23 were as follows:

2022/23	Restated						
	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip't £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	TOTAL £000
Gross Book Value b/fwd at 01 April 2022	1,413,441	1,106,925	46,972	5,462	60,857	123,671	2,757,328
Additions	79,252	8,366	1,370	0	0	44,671	133,659
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	21,501	63,461	10	0	2,568	0	87,540
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(32,218)	22,544	(11)	0	623	0	(9,062)
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	(217)				0	(217)
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(54,844)	(133)				(21,187)	(76,164)
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition of Assets (recognised in Other Operating Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	(7,379)	0	0	0	(133)	0	(7,512)
Transfers	20,852	11,818	704		(254)	(33,120)	0
Gross Book Value c/fwd at 31 March 2023	1,440,605	1,212,764	49,045	5,462	63,661	114,035	2,885,572
Depreciation b/fwd at 01 April 2022	(1)	(48)	(19,971)	(263)	(1)	0	(20,284)
Depreciation for year	(24,743)	(15,057)	(3,355)	(62)	(328)	0	(43,545)
<u>Depreciation written back on:</u>							
Transfers	20	0	0	0	(20)	0	0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	22,666	12,414	106	0	309	0	35,495
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	1,544	2,621	11	0	38	0	4,214
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets Sold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation c/fwd at 31 March 2023	(514)	(70)	(23,209)	(325)	(2)	0	(24,120)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	1,440,091	1,212,694	25,836	5,137	63,659	114,035	2,861,452

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

c) Highways Infrastructure Assets

Movements on balances

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets note 10 (b) 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	2022/23 £000
Net book value (modified historical cost) at 1 April	96,100	103,286
Additions	2,248	630
Derecognition	0	0
Depreciation	(7,812)	(7,816)
Impairment	0	0
Net Book Value at 31 March	90,536	96,100

Derecognition

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation [30M England] 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.

11. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Investment Properties were all reclassified to Property, Plant & Equipment in a previous year (2015/16), hence the nil balance.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following categories of financial instruments are carried in the Balance Sheet. Where values are zero, the relevant lines have been excluded from the table.

a) Categories of Financial Instruments

The value of debtors and creditors reported in the table below are solely those amounts meeting the definition of a financial instrument.

The balances of debtors and creditors reported in the balance sheet and Notes 14 and 16 also include balances which do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, such as tax-based debtors and creditors.

Financial Assets

31-Mar-23			31-Mar-24	
Long Term	Short Term		Long Term	Short Term
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Fair Value Through Profit & Loss		
0	90,963	MMF Investments (Cash & Cash Equivalent)	0	43,499
		Financial assets at amortised cost		
0	218,539	Investments	0	222,683
60,827	37,846	Debtors	61,548	49,197
0	2,503	Other Cash & Cash Equivalents	0	6,226
60,827	349,851	Total financial assets	61,548	321,605

Financial Liabilities

Restated 31-Mar-23			31-Mar-24	
Long Term	Short Term		Long Term	Short Term
£000	£000		£000	£000
		Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
194,947	28,579	Borrowing	195,221	1,960
182,394	10,852	Private finance initiative (PFI) liabilities	170,655	11,739
0	73,766	Creditors	0	96,545
377,341	113,197	Total financial liabilities	365,876	110,244

Under accounting requirements, the carrying value of financial instruments is shown in the balance sheet (including the principal amount borrowed or lent and adjustments for accrued interest where relevant). Accrued interest is included in current assets / liabilities where it is due within one year.

The value of short-term investments on the Balance Sheet of £222m includes short term fixed deposits and Certificates of Deposits of £215m, including accrued interest.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

b) Financial and Non-Financial Instruments split

Debtors and creditors carried in the Balance Sheet include transactions which, by their nature, are not financial instruments due to their non-contractual status, including taxation debtors such as Council Tax and non-domestic rates. Those balances are as follows:

Debtors

	Long Term		Current		Total	
	Debtors		Debtors			
	31/03/24	31/03/23	31/03/24	31/03/23	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial instruments	61,548	60,827	49,197	37,846	110,745	98,673
Non-financial instruments	0	0	25,942	31,802	25,942	31,802
Total Debtors	61,548	60,827	75,139	69,648	136,687	130,475

Creditors

	Long Term		Current		Total	
	Creditors		Creditors			
	31/03/24	31/03/23	31/03/24	31/03/23	31/03/24	31/03/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial instruments	0	0	96,545	73,766	96,545	73,766
Non-financial instruments	0	0	56,187	60,571	56,187	60,571
Total Creditors	0	0	152,732	134,337	152,732	134,337

c) Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the CIES in relation to financial instruments are as follows (there were no revaluations of financial instruments in 2023/24 or 2023/23):

	2023/24		2022/23	
	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £000	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services £000	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £000
Interest Income	(18,294)	0	(8,691)	0
Total income in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(18,294)	0	(8,691)	0
Interest expense	7,705	0	8,353	0
Total Expense in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	7,705	0	8,353	0
Net (Gain)/ Loss for the Year	(10,589)	0	(338)	0

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

d) Fair value of assets and liabilities

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities classed as financial liabilities at amortised cost are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values can be estimated by calculating the present value of cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to PWLB loans and disclosed at the New Loan/ Certainty discount rate, which is the rate that would be offered by the PWLB to undertake new borrowing at the Balance Sheet date.
- For non-PWLB loans, fair value has also been estimated using the PWLB New Loan/ Certainty discount rate. In the absence of any tangible market evidence, rates are based on discussions with possible market participants for new lending. The lenders are targeting lower than PWLB rates to encourage public sector bodies to consider alternatives to the PWLB and, based on discussions with those potential lenders, the differing structures and rates being offered would suggest an immaterial difference between those spot rates and the PWLB New Loan/Certainty rates.
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months the fair value is taken to be the carrying amount.

The fair values for financial liabilities have been assessed by reference to Level 2 Inputs, i.e. inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial liability. These give a reasonable estimate for the fair value of a financial instrument and includes accrued interest.

Restated			31/03/24	
31/03/23			31/03/24	
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
		Financial liabilities at amortised cost:		
		Borrowing		
92,883	87,145	Public Works Loan Board loans	91,368	90,040
130,643	112,362	Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans	107,459	91,564
0	0	Other Loans	600	600
193,246	193,246	PFI and finance lease liabilities	182,394	182,394
416,772	392,753	Sub-Total	381,821	364,598
73,766	73,766	Creditors	96,545	96,545
490,538	466,519	Total Financial Liabilities	478,366	461,143

The fair value of borrowings is less than the carrying amount because the authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate payable is lower than the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2024) arising from a commitment to pay interest to lenders below current market rates.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Financial Assets

Financial assets classed as financial assets held at amortised cost are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values can be estimated by calculating the present value of cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the assumption that the fair value of the financial assets is equal to the carrying value, where the carrying value of assets with a maturity of less than 12 months is taken to be the fair value.

Financial assets classed as fair value through profit and loss are carried in the balance sheet at fair value. The fair values of these assets have been assessed by reference to Level 1 Inputs. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

31/03/23			31/03/24	
Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
		Fair Value Through Profit and Loss		
90,963	90,963	MMF Investments (Cash & Cash Equivalent)	43,499	43,499
		Financial Assets Held at Amortised Cost		
218,539	218,539	Investments	222,683	222,683
98,673	98,673	Debtors	110,746	110,746
2,503	2,503	Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,226	6,226
410,678	410,678	Total Financial Assets	383,154	383,154

e) Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

Details of the balances and the in-year movements in the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account can be found in the table below:

	Balance 31/03/23 £000	23/24 Transfers Net £000	Balance 31/03/24 £000
Loan Premium (created in Nov-17 following Loan restructure)	(20,186)	569	(19,617)
FV recognition adjustment following LOBO restructure	(9,977)	(5)	(9,982)
Other Premiums and Discounts	(2,000)	247	(1,753)
Total	(32,163)	811	(31,352)

f) Other Required Declarations

There have been no reclassifications of financial instruments in the year or in regard to the previous year.

There were no unusual movements during the year.

The Council provided no financial guarantees in the year and has none outstanding from previous years.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

The Council has made no loans to voluntary organisations at less than market rates (soft loans), nor has it received any such loans.

No de-recognition is expected to impact where the Council has transferred financial assets to a third party.

The Council did not hold and did not obtain any collateral for third party debts or other credit enhancements in the year or the previous year.

The adoption of IFRS 9 includes the requirement for disclosure of the expected credit loss impairment or gain associated with financial instruments held at amortised cost. For 2023/24 this loss is set out in the following section as £0.028m (£0.025m loss in 2022/23). These gains relate to the expected debit gains on trade receivables.

No defaults or breaches relating to the Council's financial instruments were incurred during the year or the previous year.

13. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Key Risks

The Council's activities necessarily 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 need to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;

Market Risk - The possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates movements.

b) Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. They are set out through a legal framework based on the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations, and require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- formally adopt the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice;
- adopt a Treasury Policy Statement and include treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
- approve annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years which includes limiting the Council's overall borrowing, managing interest rate exposure, and managing the maturity structure of debt.
- approve an investment strategy for the forthcoming year setting out its criteria for investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with Government guidance.

These procedures are required to be reported and approved at Council before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual Treasury Management Strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year. The annual treasury management strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was last approved by Council in February 2020 and is available on the Council website. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies (Treasury Management Practices) covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash. These are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

c) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. It also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. The Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services which uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies forming the core element. This is combined with credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system, with an overlay of CDS spreads which gives an early warning of likely changes in credit ratings, for which the end product is an indication of the relative creditworthiness of counterparties.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in respect of its investments cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to an individual institution. It is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments and a risk of irrecoverable losses applies to all of the Council's deposits; however at the 31 March 2024 there was no evidence that this was likely to happen.

d) Amounts Arising from Expected Credit Losses (ECL)

As required by the Code of Practice, the Council is required to calculate an Expected Credit Loss (ECL) for its financial assets, which reflect the expectation that future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations.

The Council's investment assets are held with highly rated counterparties with very low historical rates of default and are mainly simple deposit products held for durations of less than a year to collect contractual cash flows. Using the 12-month ECL model, at 31 March 2024 the Council's investment assets with a value of £314m had a calculated ECL of £0.028m; the Council has deemed this immaterial for adjusting the carrying values of those assets. There has been an additional impairment of £17m in current debtors - see note 14c.

e) Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through the procedures above as well as using a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, which ensures that cash is available when needed. The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need and the PWLB and money markets for access to longer term funds; there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The authority sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing maturing during specified periods, and a maturity analysis of financial liabilities within those periods is as follows:

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

31/03/24				Maturity Period	31/03/23			
PWLB	LOBO	PFI and Finance Leases	Total		PWLB	LOBO	PFI and Finance Leases	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
903	1,594	11,739	14,236	Less than 1 year	2,399	1,462	10,852	14,713
1,871	913	13,377	16,161	Between 1 and 2 years	0	768	11,739	12,507
8,043	2,409	36,300	46,753	Between 2 and 5 years	6,173	2,020	38,911	47,104
10,101	2,467	70,534	83,102	Between 5 and 10 years	13,842	2,426	64,535	80,803
10,510	4,935	50,444	65,888	Between 10 and 20 years	10,510	29,852	67,209	107,571
11,321	19,935	0	31,256	Between 20 and 30 years	11,321	14,852	0	26,173
48,638	31,288	0	79,925	Between 30 and 40 years	48,638	36,763	0	85,401
0	42,500	0	42,500	Above 40 years	0	42,500	0	42,500
91,386	106,040	182,394	379,821	Total	92,883	130,643	193,246	416,772

The LOBO maturity profile assumes that the lenders will not exercise any options embedded in the loans until maturity. As of 31 March 2024, LOBO loans with nominal value £57.5m have fixed interest rates ranging from 3.58% to 4.50%, whilst a loan with nominal value £37m has a stepped rate ranging from 2.69% on 31 March 2024 to 6.30% at maturity. Of the total amount of LOBO loans, £10m has a break clause at every biannual interest payment date, £5m has a break clause every three years, and £79.5m every five years. In the current interest rate environment, it is unlikely that the lenders will exercise their options to request early repayment of these LOBOs.

f) Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered sufficient to manage the refinancing risk, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments over 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 corporate treasury team address the operational risks within these parameters.

g) Market Risk – Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments and these impact the Council according to how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The annual Treasury Management Strategy includes expected interest rate movements. A treasury indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure, and this is monitored regularly. If variable interest rates had been 0.1% higher (with all other variables held constant) the financial effect would be a net increase in income of £0.044m. The impact of a 0.1% fall in interest rates would be a net decrease in income of £0.044m.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

14. DEBTORS

a) Long Term Debtors

These consist of sums repayable to the Council over a period of time of more than one year.

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000	
Lewisham Homes Limited - Loan	40,000	40,000	(a)
Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL) - Loan	16,934	16,225	(b)
Street Lighting PFI Sinking Fund	2,950	2,950	(c)
Other Long Term Debtors	1,664	1,652	
Total Long Term Debtors	61,548	60,827	

a) Lewisham Homes Limited Loan

A loan of £8m was advanced to Lewisham Homes Limited in 2015/16, a further £6m in 2016/17 a further £12m in 2017/18, a further £11m in 2018/19 and a further £3m in 2021/22. (See Section 6 – Group Accounts).

b) Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited Loan

A loan of £12m was advanced to CRPL in 2010/11, followed by further loans of £0.25m in 2015/16, £1.0m in 2016/17, £0.5m in 2019/20, £1.2m in 2020/21 and £0.6m in 2021/22. (See Section 6 – Group Accounts). In recent years the yearly interest charge on the loan has been capitalised and added to the loan value.

c) Street Lighting PFI Sinking Fund

This fund is held by LB Croydon on behalf of the Council in their role as lead borough for the on-going PFI scheme for the upgrade and maintenance of the borough's street lights.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

b) Current Debtors

These are short term debts for goods and services which are expected to be repayable within a year.

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Government and Other Public Bodies:		
HM Revenue & Customs - VAT	7,049	8,251
Central Government bodies	8,062	11,044
Other Local Authorities	3,364	3,038
NHS bodies	6,108	1,754
Other Public bodies	482	680
Council Tax Payers	38,531	36,203
NDR Payers	2,475	2,365
Council Tax Court Costs	5,450	5,700
Housing Benefit Overpayments	16,395	19,069
Housing Rents (inc PSL, B & B, Hostels, Commercial)	15,201	12,056
Leaseholders Services Charges	11,322	8,156
LBL Pension Fund	1,338	2,192
General Debtors due for Supplies and Services	48,270	44,007
Total Current Debtors	164,047	154,515
Impairment Allowances	(88,908)	(84,867)
Total Net Current Debtors	75,139	69,648

c) Impairment Allowances

	Balance at 31/03/23 £000	Movement in 2023/24 £000	Balance at 31/03/24 £000
Council Tax Payers	(32,497)	(2,196)	(34,693)
Council Tax Court Costs	(5,074)	336	(4,738)
NDR Payers	(2,025)	97	(1,928)
Housing Benefit Overpayments	(17,000)	2,528	(14,472)
Housing Rents (inc PSL, B & B, Hostels, Commercial)	(4,150)	(516)	(4,666)
Leaseholders Services Charges	(2,532)	(587)	(3,119)
General Debtors due for Supplies and Services	(21,589)	(3,703)	(25,292)
Total Impairment Allowances	(84,867)	(4,041)	(88,908)

The above impairment allowances have been determined individually according to the particular factors for each type of debtor.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Balance 31/03/23 £000	Movement in 2023/4 £000	Balance 31/03/24 £000
Cash Equivalents			
Short Term Deposits	0	0	0
Cash			
Money Market Funds	90,963	(47,464)	43,499
Call Accounts with Banks	0	0	0
	90,963	(47,464)	43,499
Other Cash and Bank Balances			
Main Bank Accounts	0	379	379
Schools Bank Accounts	1,523	2,293	3,816
Other Cash and Bank Accounts	980	1,057	2,037
	2,503	3,729	6,232
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	93,466	(43,735)	49,731
Bank Accounts Overdrawn			
Main Bank Accounts	0	0	0
Schools Bank Accounts	0	0	0
	0	0	0
Net Cash and Cash Equivalents	93,466	(43,735)	49,731

a) Short term deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and three months (less than 92 days), depending on the immediate cash requirements, and earn interest at the respective rates.

b) The carrying amounts of cash equivalents, cash and bank overdrafts approximate to their fair values.

c) The schools bank accounts are an integral part of the Council's overall cash management arrangements, and are therefore included under Net Cash and Cash Equivalents. They consist of individual accounts for each school, and an overall treasury account which is used to invest the net balance in conjunction with the Council's other balances. The balances on these accounts were £19.8m (2022/23 £18.7m) and overdrawn £16.0m (2022/23 overdrawn £17.2m) respectively.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

16. CREDITORS

These are amounts owed to the Government and other public bodies and all unpaid sums for goods and services received as at the end of the year.

	31/03/24 £000	Restated 31/03/23 £000
Government and other public bodies:		
HM Revenue & Customs	7,028	5,794
Central Government bodies	13,353	13,885 (a)
Other Local Authorities	10,783	14,180
NHS bodies	3,167	1,424
Other Public bodies	705	110
	35,036	35,393
Short Term Compensated Absences	22,734	20,677
Council Tax	8,507	8,188
NDR	3,789	4,594
General Creditors (amounts owed for supplies and services)	82,666	65,485
Total Creditors	152,732	134,337

a) Central Government bodies

See table below for an analysis of Central Government bodies creditors:

	31/03/24 £000	Restated 31/03/23 £000
DLUHC - Collection Fund NDR Creditor	5,374	8,962
DLUHC - Business Rate Relief Section 31 grant	4,062	0
Teachers Pensions	1,834	2,542
NDR Transitional payments received on account	1,016	0
Covid Grants	0	1,509
Energy Support Grant	0	396
Other	1,067	476
Total Central Government Creditors	13,353	13,885

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

17. REVENUE RECEIPTS IN ADVANCE

	31/03/24	Restated
	£000	31/03/23 £000
Capital Contributions Unapplied	15,206	13,209 (a)
PFI Schemes	24,311	25,723
Revenue Grants and Contributions	29,857	23,041
Rents in Advance	10,858	11,911
Council Tax	1,953	3,140
NDR	20	284
Other Receipts in Advance	10,745	8,184
Total Receipts in Advance	92,950	85,492

(a) Capital Contributions Unapplied

Capital Contributions Unapplied includes a balance of £15.2m Section 106 Contributions, where the conditions have not yet been met, in 2023/24 (2022/23 was £13.2m).

18. PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised where the Council has a legal or constructive obligation arising from a past event that will probably require settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are determined to be short or long term dependent on when settlement is expected.

	Balance 31/03/23 £000	2023/24 Transfers		Balance 31/03/24 £000
		Out £000	In £000	
Current (less than 1 year)				
Insurance Provision (a)	2,347	(3,388)	3,129	2,088
Term Time Only Claims Provision (b)	567	0	0	567
NDR Appeals Provision	3,832	(5,891)	4,620	2,561
Other Provisions (c)	1,649	(716)	59	992
	8,395	(9,995)	7,808	6,208
Non Current (Over 1 year)				
Insurance Provision (a)	4,715	0	1,089	5,804
Other Provisions (c)	1,300	0	0	1,300
	6,015	0	1,089	7,104
Total - Provisions	14,410	(9,995)	8,897	13,312

(a) Insurance Provisions

The Council's insurance programme comprises a mix of external insurance, largely for cover at catastrophe level or where required by contract or lease arrangements, and self-insurance. Dedicated Insurance Provisions and Reserves are maintained to provide 'self-insurance' to meet either uninsured losses or losses that fall below the external insurance excess. The appropriate levels are assessed annually by the Council's insurance actuaries.

(b) Term Time Only Claims Provision

There were errors with the formula used by some Councils to calculate holiday pay for term-time only support staff in schools dating back several years. A provision was set up for this in

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

2020/21 with most payments being made in 2021/22 and 2022/23, it is expected that the remainder of the provision will be used in 2024/25.

(c) Other Provisions

Other Provisions includes a provision for the potential liability in respect of savings accounts for Children Leaving Care, which extends back a number of years (£1.7m). Payments related to these are expected in 2024/25 and future years.

19. USABLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Capital Receipts are mainly sums received from the sale of non-current assets. Housing capital receipts are subject to pooling arrangements whereby under certain conditions a portion is payable to central government. Non housing capital receipts are wholly usable to finance new capital expenditure. The balance on this account is available to fund future capital expenditure.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	67,138	64,387
Amounts Received	13,257	15,338
Poolable to Central Government	0	0
Receipts returned to Central Government	0	0
Amounts applied to finance new capital investment	(5,857)	(12,587)
Total increase/(decrease) in capital receipts in year	7,400	2,751
Balance carried forward at end of year	74,538	67,138

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

20. PENSION RESERVE

The Pensions Reserve reflects the timing differences which arise from the accounting treatment for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall between the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements ensure that funding will have been set aside by the Council by the time the benefits are due to be paid.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	(139,579)	(566,008)
Adj to opening bal (RE: Lewisham Homes)	49,118	0
Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	30,298	607,748
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in Net Interest	122,821	(105,253)
Effect of Asset Ceiling	(125,708)	(32,285)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(36,894)	(81,189)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	40,450	37,408
Balance carried forward at end of year	(59,494)	(139,579)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

21. REVALUATION RESERVE

The Revaluation Reserve records the accumulated gains since 1st April 2007 on non-current assets held by the Council arising from increases in value (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value). The Reserve is also debited with the part of the depreciation that has been incurred because the asset has been revalued. On disposal of an asset, its Revaluation Reserve balance is written out to the Capital Adjustment Account. The overall balance on the Reserve thus represents the amount by which the value of non-current assets carried in the Balance Sheet is greater because they are carried at revalued amounts rather than depreciated historical cost.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	1,382,592	1,288,111
Opening Balance Adjustment	1,302	0
Revaluation of Assets	(24,004)	123,035
Impairment Losses	(4,258)	(217)
Loss of Control of Assets	0	0
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(28,262)	122,818
Difference between fair value and historic cost depreciation	(24,054)	(21,979)
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(2,771)	(6,358)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(26,825)	(28,337)
Balance carried forward at end of year	1,328,807	1,382,592

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

22. CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

This reflects the timing differences arising from the accounting treatment for the use of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the CIES (with reconciling entries from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). It is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	1,077,605	1,087,629
Opening Balance Adjustment	(2,059)	0
<u>Reversal of capital expenditure items debited or credited to the CIES</u>		
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(158,017)	(132,373)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(3,201)	(2,945)
Non-current assets written off on disposal and de-recognition - gain/loss to the CIES	(7,480)	(7,512)
	(168,698)	(142,830)
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	26,825	28,337
Net amount written out of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(141,873)	(114,493)
<u>Capital Financing applied in the year:</u>		
Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure	5,857	12,587
Use of Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	26,311	25,703
Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES	23,045	29,824
Statutory Provision for the financing of capital investment	4,343	4,668
Repayment of Principal on PFI schemes	10,852	10,158
Capital expenditure charged to General Fund and HRA	8,528	21,529
	78,936	104,469
Balance carried forward at end of year	1,012,609	1,077,605

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

23. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed by type in the table below:

	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000
Employee expenses - LBL	344,716	314,242
Employee expenses - Schools Non-LBL	67,191	68,051
Other Expenditure	787,079	773,079
Revaluation, Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	158,885	133,272
Interest payments	29,406	30,949
Loss of Control of Assets	0	0
Precepts and levies	1,699	1,683
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	0	0
Gain or loss on disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	0	0
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	3,827	15,693
Total Expenditure	1,392,803	1,336,969
Government grants and contributions	(707,893)	(693,622)
Fees, Charges and Other service income	(315,795)	(294,053)
Interest and Investment income	(15,187)	(8,602)
Income from council tax, non-domestic rates, district rate income	(229,706)	(209,012)
Recognised Capital Grants and Contributions	(36,356)	(27,208)
Gain or loss on disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	(6,208)	(7,826)
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	(1,311,145)	(1,240,323)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	81,658	96,646

The Council's Fees, Charges and Other Service Income is analysed by type in the table below:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income		
Rent & Service Charges	(149,250)	(134,299)
Contributions from Health	(36,302)	(38,578)
Parking Income	(16,438)	(15,480)
Schools Income	(15,757)	(17,053)
Fees & Charges Income	(15,175)	(11,424)
PFI Credits Income	(10,984)	(11,887)
Other Care Charges Income	(6,826)	(4,011)
Fairer Charging Income	(6,807)	(6,226)
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	(2,873)	(7,455)
Cemeteries & Crematoria Income	(2,669)	(2,529)
Housing Benefits - Other Income	(2,309)	(1,334)
Licenses & Permits	(2,322)	(2,627)
Court Costs Income	(2,250)	(2,809)
Section 106	(2,206)	0
Contributions from Other Local Authorities	(2,008)	(1,817)
Planning Fees	(1,562)	(1,877)
Bailiff Fees	(1,226)	(1,157)
Other Income	(38,831)	(33,490)
Total Income	(315,795)	(294,053)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

24. AGENCY SERVICES AND POOLED BUDGETS

In 2023/24 the Council operated a pooled budget as defined by the terms of a Section 75 Agreement (National Health Service Act 2006).

There is one Pooled fund called Lewisham Better Care Fund (BCF). The Host Partner for the pooled fund is the Council (LBL) and the Pooled Fund Manager, is an officer of the council, the Strategic Finance Business partner, Community Services.

The two partners in the agreement are LBL and NHS Lewisham ICB.

Before the start of the financial year the Partners agree an expenditure plan and the financial contribution of each party. Each element of the plan indicates which party will be the Lead Commissioner (or whether there will be joint commissioning). All BCF expenditure will require the approval of the Partnership Board as such there is joint control of the Fund. Payments to and from the Pooled Fund are made from and recorded on the Council's financial systems.

Except where agreed otherwise payments to providers for services that are part of the BCF are made by the Partner holding the contract. These are identified and agreed by the Partners at least yearly before the start of each financial year. The Council invoices the ICB monthly for 1/12th of the agreed annual contribution less all planned payments made by the ICB in relation to ICB let contracts delivering the Schemes. Each party therefore accounts only for its share of the relevant expenditure within its own accounts with any surplus or deficit on the Fund held on behalf of the Fund by the Lead Authority.

The total Lewisham Better Care Fund for 2023/24 was £44.8m, the split of which can be seen in the table below.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
<u>Funding provided to the pooled budget:</u>		
Lewisham Borough Council	(17,373)	(17,235)
Lewisham ICB (Previously NHS Lewisham CCG)	(27,442)	(25,972)
	(44,815)	(43,207)
<u>Expenditure met from the pooled budget:</u>		
Lewisham Borough Council	28,962	28,099
Lewisham ICB (Previously NHS Lewisham CCG)	15,853	15,108
	44,815	43,207
Net surplus arising in year	0	0

Note: There was additional DFG grant of £137k received during 2023/24 that required a variation to plan and planned spend. Also BCF plan included LA and ICB discharge funding which are separately captured and accounted for by LBL and hence not included in the above figures

25. INVESTMENT IN COMPANIES**a) Companies of which the Council is the sole owner.**

The Council is sole owner of two companies:

- i) Lewisham Homes Limited
- ii) Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited

Further detail on these companies is given in the Group Accounts section of these statements.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

b) Companies of which the Council is a joint owner or shareholder.**i) Lewisham Schools for the Future LEP Limited and Lewisham Schools for the Future SPV Limited**

The Council has a stake of 10% in Lewisham Schools for the Future LEP Limited which is the Local Education Partnership company also comprising Costain Engineering & Construction Limited, Babcock Project Investments Limited and Building Schools for the Future Limited as well. It was established under the Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to rebuild and refurbish the secondary schools within the Borough. No payments were made to this company in 23/24 or 22/23.

The Council also has a 10% stake in four Special Purpose Vehicles which were set up in relation to the schools which were built within this BSF Programme. The companies concerned are Lewisham Schools for The Future SPV Limited (payments made in 23/24 was £10.5m, 22/23 £9.6m), Lewisham Schools for The Future SPV2 Limited (payments made in 23/24 was £3.5m, 22/23 £3.3m), Lewisham Schools for The Future SPV3 Limited (payments made in 23/24 was £5.1m, 22/23 £4.8m) and Lewisham Schools for The Future SPV4 Limited (payments made in 23/24 was £9.5m, 22/23 £8.9m). The Director of Financial Services is the Council's Director on all of these companies' boards. The corporate structure is standard to BSF schemes.

ii) South-East London Combined Heat and Power Limited (SELCHP)

The Council has a minority share of less than 1% in South-East London Combined Heat and Power Limited (SELCHP) which is a joint venture with the London Borough of Greenwich for the provision of waste disposal and waste to energy services. The Council's interest does not provide it with joint control, and it is not a party to the joint venture. Payments of £7.1m were made in 2023/24 to the company (£5.8m in 2022/23) and are included in the Place directorate line of the CIES.

iii) Lewisham Grainger Holdings LLP

During 2018/19 the Council formed a Limited Liability Partnership with Grainger Developments Ltd. The Council and Grainger are each 50:50 shareholders in the holding company and this (and its subsidiaries) are all registered at Companies House. Therefore, this is not a subsidiary of the Council as LBL do not have the majority shareholding. There is joint control between the Council and Grainger Developments Ltd., and this meets the definition of a joint venture under IFRS11. The partnership will build housing for rent in Besson Street, New Cross. No payments were made to the company by the Council in 2023/24 or 2022/23.

26. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council paid the following amounts to elected members of the Council during the year.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Allowances (incl. NI)	1,074	1,113
Other Expenses	5	7
Total Expenditure in Year	1,079	1,120

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

27. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

a) The number of Employees whose Remuneration was £50,000 or more

Remuneration Band	Non-Schools		Schools		Totals	
	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
£50,000 to £54,999	204	191	207	348	411	539
£55,000 to £59,999	188	95	397	39	585	134
£60,000 to £64,999	86	64	34	43	120	107
£65,000 to £69,999	30	12	42	78	72	90
£70,000 to £74,999	15	13	46	49	61	62
£75,000 to £79,999	26	31	47	35	73	66
£80,000 to £84,999	31	3	21	24	52	27
£85,000 to £89,999	5	4	32	16	37	20
£90,000 to £94,999	5	1	18	15	23	16
£95,000 to £99,999	1	1	16	7	17	8
£100,000 to £104,999	1	1	4	6	5	7
£105,000 to £109,999	2	3	5	1	7	4
£110,000 to £114,999	6	7	2	1	8	8
£115,000 to £119,999	1	3	1	4	2	7
£120,000 to £124,999	2	0	2	2	4	2
£125,000 and over	3	2	7	4	10	6
Total	606	431	881	672	1487	1103

* Non-School Employees who appear on the Senior Employees remuneration note no 27b have not been included in this table

b) Disclosure of Senior Employees' Remuneration

Disclosure of Senior Employees Remuneration for financial year 2023/24

Financial Year 2023/24	Salary (inc fees and allowances)	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total (inc. Pension Contributions)
	£	£	£
Senior Employees			
Chief Executive (Jennifer Daothong) (a)	199,198	43,824	243,022
Executive Director for Corporate Resources	172,788	38,014	210,802
01-Apr-23 to 31-Jul-23 (Kathy Freeman)	54,557	12,003	66,560
01-Jul-23 to 31-Mar-24 (David Austin)	118,231	26,011	144,242
Executive Director for Children and Young People (Pinaki Ghoshal)	163,671	36,008	199,679
Executive Director for Community Services (Tom Brown)	171,437	36,008	207,445
Executive Director for Housing (Gillian Douglas) (b)	90,928	20,004	110,932
Executive Director for Place (Nazeya Hussain) (c)	193,983	0	193,983
Director of Public Health	112,821	24,821	137,642
Director of Law & Corporate Governance (Jeremy Chambers)	160,425	8,823	169,248
Totals	1,265,251	207,502	1,472,753

a) Jennifer Daothong: Acting Chief Executive 01-Apr-23 - 03-Mar-24. Chief Executive 04-Mar-24 - 31-Mar-24.

b) For period 11-Sep-23 - 31-Mar-24

c) Executive Director for Place is filled by an interim staff member.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Disclosure of Senior Employees Remuneration for financial year 2022/23

Financial Year 2022/23	Salary (inc fees and allowances)	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total (inc. Pension Contributions)
	£	£	£
Senior Employees			
Chief Executive (Kim Wright)	192,426	43,296	235,722
Acting Chief Executive (Jennifer Daothong) (a)	15,503	3,488	18,991
Assistant Chief Executive (01-Apr-22 -31-Dec-22) (b)	94,317	21,222	115,539
Executive Director for Corporate Resources (Kathy Freeman)	160,404	36,091	196,495
Executive Director for Children and Young People (Pinaki Ghoshal)	160,449	36,101	196,550
Executive Director for Community Services (Tom Brown)	160,449	36,101	196,550
Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm (c)	140,627	31,641	172,268
01-Apr-22 to 03-Mar-23 (Jennifer Daothong) (a)	140,627	31,641	172,268
04-Mar-23 to 31-Mar-23	0	0	0
Executive Director for Place (13-Mar-23 to 31-Mar-23) (c)	12,018	0	12,018
Director of Public Health	110,592	24,883	135,475
Director of Law & Corporate Governance	143,815	0	143,815
Totals	1,190,600	232,823	1,423,423

(a) Jennifer Daothong commenced in post as Acting Chief Executive as of the 04-Mar-23.

(b) Assistant Chief Executive: The post was vacant from when the previous post holder left (31-Dec-22) to financial year end.

(c) The role for Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm has been replaced by Executive Director for Place from February 2023, this was filled in March 2023.

The definition of a "Senior Employee" is set out in Regulation 7 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/817). In summary, they are either a statutory chief officer, or have the power to direct or control the major activities of the Council or report direct to the Head of the Council's paid service. They are not the same group of senior staff whose salaries are published on the Council's website. After a review in 2020/21 it was decided to only include the current members of the Executive Management Team (EMT) and the statutory post holders.

c) Termination Benefits - Exit Packages Agreed in Year

The number and cost of exit packages granted to employees in the year are shown below. These costs include redundancy payments to employees which were charged to the CIES. They also include payments to the Pension Fund in respect of the extra pension costs of employees who were granted early access to their pensions.

Cost Band (inc Pension Fund Contributions)

	Total Number of Exit Packages		Total Cost of Exit Packages	
	2023/24 No.	2022/23 No.	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
£0 to £20,000	38	62	311	575
£20,001 to £40,000	13	37	381	1,001
£40,001 to £60,000	8	22	372	1,084
£60,001 to £80,000	1	5	67	333
£80,001 to £100,000	1	0	99	0
£100,001 and over	1	4	179	568
Total	62	130	1,409	3,561

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

28. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
External Audit Services	481	269
Certification of Grant Claims and Returns	60	70
Other services provided by the appointed auditor	0	8
Services provided by the previous appointed auditor	28	0
	569	347

The Council's appointed auditor in 2023/24 is KPMG (in 2022/23 it was Grant Thornton).

2023/24 audit fee scale – set by PSAA

The 2023/24 audits are the first in the second five-year appointing period specified by PSAA, covering 2023/24 to 2027/28. PSAA awarded new contracts for this period in 2022 to six audit firms. The procurement outcome is an increase of 151% on total fees for local audit work.

PSAA is very much aware of the significant financial pressures on all local government bodies and understands that any further cost pressure is unwelcome. The level at which the 2023/24 fee scale is set is largely determined by two factors which PSAA does not control: the volume of audit work required to deliver audits compliant with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice, and audit supply market rates.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

29. DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) provided by the DfE. The DSG is ring-fenced and can only be used to meet expenditure as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2011. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a Council wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.

The table below shows the position for the DSG at 2023/24. The table notes a cumulative deficit of £15.5m relating to the High Needs Block, reflecting an increase of £2.4m in 2023/24. The increase is lower than in previous years reflecting actions being undertaken by Children and Young People's directorate in partnership with Schools forum to action a mitigation plan. Lewisham is also part of the Delivering Better Value work sponsored by the Department for Education). The council has been successful in their bid to support £1m towards managements actions for 2024/25, which should build on the actions currently being taken.

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget (ISB) £000	Total £000	Central Expenditure £000	Individual Schools Budget (ISB) £000	Total £000
Final DSG before academy & high needs recoupment			336,035			319,388
Academy & high needs figure recouped			(49,367)			(40,821)
Total DSG after academy & high needs recoupment			286,668			278,567
Brought forward from previous year	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carry forward to next year agreed in advance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution	69,586	217,082	286,668	64,282	214,285	278,567
In year adjustments	0	19	19	0	216	216
Final Budget Distribution	69,586	217,101	286,687	64,282	214,501	278,783
Actual Central Expenditure	72,017		72,017	68,507		68,507
Actual ISB deployed to schools		217,101	217,101		214,501	214,501
Local authority contribution	0		0	0		0
Total In-Year (Deficit)/ Surplus	(2,431)	0	(2,431)	(4,225)	0	(4,225)
DSG unusable reserve (cumulative deficit) b/f			(13,091)			(8,866)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve (in-year deficit)			(2,431)			(4,225)
Total of DSG unusable reserve (cumulative deficit) at the end of year			(15,522)			(13,091)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

30. GRANT INCOME

The following grants were credited to services during the year:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Dedicated Schools Grant	(290,222)	(278,784)
Housing Benefit Grant	(159,715)	(158,678)
Public Health Grant	(26,914)	(26,064)
BSF/ Grouped Schools PFI Unitary Charge Grant	(26,472)	(26,468)
Improved Better Care Fund	(14,942)	(14,942)
Pupil Premium Grant	(12,026)	(12,070)
Housing Subsidy/ Decent Homes Backlog Grant	(10,353)	(10,353)
Household Support Grant & Covid-19 Grants	(5,337)	(7,314)
Social Care Grants	(5,298)	(10,773) (a)
Energy Support Grant	(397)	(14,921)
Other Grants	(75,663)	(67,305)
Total	(627,339)	(627,672)

The following grants were credited to Taxation and non-specific Grant Income during the year:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(32,392)	(29,017)
Social Care Grants	(23,402)	(3,849) (a)
S31 Business rate relief grant	(17,184)	(13,991)
Services & Lower Tier Services Grants	(3,848)	(7,377)
New Homes Bonus	(114)	(1,011)
S31 Business rate grants - Other	0	(8,212)
Other	(3,614)	(2,493)
Total	(80,554)	(65,950)

(a) Social Care Grants

Social Care grants are received from DLUHC. In 2023/24 the grant total was £28,699k split between three grants: Social Care grant (£23,402k), Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant (£3,203k) and Discharge grant (£2,095k). The Social Care grant was included in the CIES as part of non-specific grants and the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant and Discharge grant were both credited to Community Services directorate. In 2022/23 the Social Care grant was £14,622k and was split £10,773k to Children and Young People (CYP) directorate and £3,849k to non-specific grants.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties, which are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled by the Council.

(a) Central Government and Other Local Authorities

Central government exerts significant influence over the Council through legislation and grant funding. The general government grants received are shown in Note 30 to the Core Financial Statements. The precept to the Greater London Authority is shown in the notes of the Collection Fund in Section 5 of these Accounts. There were numerous other transactions between the Council and other Local Authorities.

(b) Subsidiaries, Associated Companies and Joint Ventures

Further details on these companies are given in Note 25 – Investment in Companies – and the Group Accounts section of these statements.

Transactions with the companies that are solely owned by the Council are in the table below:

2023/24					
Name	Loan with LBL	Expenditure	Income	Income outstanding to LBL (LBL debtor balance)	Balance outstanding (LBL creditor balance)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Lewisham Homes Ltd	40,000	29,701	1,352	2,699	3,014
Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd	16,934	21	943	0	199

2022/23					
Name	Loan with LBL	Expenditure	Income	Income outstanding to LBL (LBL debtor balance)	Balance outstanding (LBL creditor balance)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Lewisham Homes Ltd	40,000	52,833	6,390	2,482	8,825
Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd	16,225	11	861	0	0

(c) Companies of which the Council is a Joint Owner or Shareholder

Further details on these companies are given in Note 25 – Investment in Companies.

Payments made by the Council to these companies in 2023/24 are shown below:

- i) Lewisham Grainger Holdings LLP – no payments were made.

(d) Elected Members (Councillors) and Chief Officers

Councillors have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies, and their total cost is shown in Note 26. They are required to declare all related party transactions which they have with any organisation in which they have a controlling interest. This information is recorded on the Council's Register of Members and Chief Officers' Declarations of Interests and is open to public inspection at the Civic Suite at Lewisham Civic Suite during office hours. The information is also published on the Council's website. The Council is compliant with the Localism Act 2012.

The Council has concluded that no related party transactions should be disclosed since all declared interests by Members or Offices are within organisations where they cannot exert a controlling interest.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

(e) Lewisham Pension Fund

The Pension Fund Accounts are included in Section 8 of this document.

32. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The capital expenditure incurred in the year (excluding the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI contracts) and the resources used to finance it are shown below. Any expenditure which is not financed in the year will add to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which measures the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The Council is required to set aside an amount each year (the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP) to repay debt, this reduces the CFR.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	551,105	518,340
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	102,979	134,289
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	3,201	2,945
	106,180	137,234
Resources Used for Financing		
Capital Receipts	(5,857)	(12,587)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(23,045)	(29,824)
Major Repairs Reserve	(26,311)	(25,703)
Sums set aside from Revenue:	(8,528)	(21,529)
	(63,741)	(89,643)
Increase in the underlying need to borrowing	42,439	47,591
Debt Redeemed		
Minimum Revenue Provision	(4,343)	(4,668)
Repayment of Principal on PFI schemes	(10,852)	(10,158)
	(15,195)	(14,826)
Increase/ (decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	27,244	32,765
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	578,349	551,105

33. LEASES**a) Council as a Lessee**i) Finance Leases

The council does not have any assets held under Finance Leases.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

ii) Operating Leases

The Council has operating leases in the areas of Council Dwellings, School Plant and Equipment and Refuse Vehicles. The expenditure charged to services in the CIES during the year in relation to these leases was £1.43m (£1.43m in 2022/23). The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in futures are:

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Not later than one year	1,207	1,425
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,276	3,373
Later than five years	15,395	14,115
	19,878	18,913

b) Council as a Lessori) Finance Leases

The Council does not lease out any assets held under Finance Leases.

ii) Operating Leases

The Council leases out a number of commercial properties for Investment purposes. The future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Not later than one year	3,846	3,513
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,220	6,984
Later than five years	5,151	6,090
	15,217	16,587

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

34. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES (PFI) CONTRACTS

a) Summary of PFI Schemes

PFI Scheme	Brockley HRA	Downham Lifestyles	Grouped Schools	BSF 1	BSF 2	BSF 3	BSF 4	Street Lighting
Start of Contract	2007	2007	2007	2009	2011	2012	2012	2011
End of Contract	2027	2039	2036	2035	2037	2037	2038	2036
Total Estimated Cost	£297m	£90m	£239m	£252m	£89m	£124m	£234m	£95m
Total PFI Credits	£207m	£30m			£674m			£54m
Net PFI Cost	£90m	£60m			£264m			£41m

b) Payments made under PFI contracts

	Brockley HRA	Downham Lifestyles	Grouped Schools	BSF 1	BSF 2	BSF 3	BSF 4	Street Lighting	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
2023/24									
Service Charges	11,764	650	5,035	5,347	1,330	1,601	2,819	903	29,449
Interest	2,956	2,127	2,793	3,231	1,550	2,392	4,785	2,125	21,959
Liability Repayment	4,210	225	1,027	1,688	478	888	1,450	886	10,852
Unitary Charge	18,930	3,002	8,855	10,266	3,358	4,881	9,054	3,914	62,260

2022/23									
Service Charges	11,501	592	4,636	4,628	1,252	1,375	2,235	881	27,100
Interest	2,935	1,987	2,884	3,522	1,593	2,480	5,014	2,182	22,597
Liability Repayment	3,455	198	956	1,747	438	920	1,628	816	10,158
Unitary Charge	17,891	2,777	8,476	9,897	3,283	4,775	8,877	3,879	59,855

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

c) Movement in PFI Assets in year

The assets which are used to provide the services under these PFI contracts are recognised within the Council's Balance Sheet. The movements in value over the year are detailed in the following table.

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gross Book Value b/fwd		409,635		387,240
Additions		391		0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	(1,936)		23,015	
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(2,650)	(4,586)	814	23,829
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	(391)		0	
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0	(391)	0	0
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0		0	
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure)	0	0	0	0
Disposals		(713)		(1,434)
Transfers		0		0
Assets reclassified (to)/ from Held for Sale		0		0
Gross Book Value c/fwd		404,336		409,635
Depreciation b/fwd		(9,672)		(8,506)
Depreciation for year		(7,897)		(7,382)
<u>Depreciation written back on:</u>				
Transfers		0		0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	4,463		6,105	
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	2,268	6,731	111	6,216
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0		0	
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0		0	
Assets sold		0		0
Depreciation c/fwd		(10,838)		(9,672)
Net Book Value at End of Year		393,498		399,963

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

d) PFI Liabilities

The unitary payments made to the contractors have been calculated to pay them the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure they have incurred and interest they will pay whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The Council's total outstanding liability to the contractors is shown in the following table.

	Current Liabilities (Due within 1 Year)		Deferred (Future) Liabilities	
	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance outstanding at start of year	10,852	10,158	182,394	193,246
Balance outstanding at end of year	11,739	10,852	170,655	182,394

e) Payments due under PFI contracts in future years

The Council makes an agreed payment each year which is linked to inflation and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards. The following table shows the estimated payments due to be paid (as part of a unitary charge) for each PFI. The price base is in nominal terms assuming a 1.9% RPI increase per annum compounded until the end of the contract. The amounts are broken down into the different elements of the payments reflecting how they will be accounted for.

Note: Amounts shown for Brockley HRA PFI relate only to the unitary charge for tenanted properties.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

	In 2024/25 £000s	2 to 5 years £000s	6 to 10 years £000s	11 to 15 years £000s	16 to 20 years £000s	Total £000s
Brockley HRA						
Service charges	11,411	24,445				35,856
Interest	2,556	4,042				6,597
Repayment of liability	4,641	11,452				16,094
Planned lifecycle replacement	690	1,418				2,108
Downham Lifestyles						
Service charges	325	1,385	1,935	2,190		5,835
Interest	2,145	8,658	10,350	9,375		30,528
Repayment of liability	256	1,423	2,615	4,973		9,268
Planned lifecycle replacement	344	1,472	2,067	2,338		6,221
Grouped Schools						
Service charges	3,745	16,076	22,813	10,690		53,325
Interest	2,692	9,991	9,093	1,723		23,498
Repayment of liability	1,204	6,552	13,448	7,844		29,047
Planned lifecycle replacement	1,289	4,551	4,517	2,161		12,518
BSF 1						
Service charges	3,568	15,381	21,985	4,801		45,736
Interest	3,048	11,133	8,027	-243		21,965
Repayment of liability	1,811	10,357	19,629	3,385		35,181
Planned lifecycle replacement	1,942	6,083	7,663	1,052		16,741
BSF 2						
Service charges	1,024	4,357	6,088	4,618		16,087
Interest	1,501	5,412	4,912	1,449		13,273
Repayment of liability	525	2,688	5,350	5,509		14,071
Planned lifecycle replacement	349	1,523	2,071	1,703		5,647
BSF 3						
Service charges	1,496	6,446	10,037	7,602		25,581
Interest	2,290	8,339	7,368	3,218		21,215
Repayment of liability	889	4,465	7,163	7,510		20,027
Planned lifecycle replacement	321	1,397	2,857	2,064		6,639
BSF 4						
Service charges	2,622	10,909	16,616	15,904		46,051
Interest	4,606	17,159	16,119	6,731		44,614
Repayment of liability	1,451	7,991	13,698	15,796		38,937
Planned lifecycle replacement	561	2,046	3,996	4,406		11,009
Streetlighting						
Service charges	926	3,939	5,504	2,844		13,213
Interest	2,061	7,467	6,892	1,892		18,312
Repayment of liability	962	4,749	8,630	5,427		19,768
Planned lifecycle replacement	0	0	0	0		0
Totals	63,251	223,305	241,446	136,961	0	664,963

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

	In 2023/24 £000s	2 to 5 years £000s	6 to 10 years £000s	11 to 15 years £000s	16 to 20 years £000s	Total £000s
Brockley HRA						
Service charges	10,527	33,986				44,513
Interest	2,839	6,201				9,040
Repayment of liability	4,210	16,094				20,304
Planned lifecycle replacement	638	1,998				2,636
Downham Lifestyles						
Service charges	296	1,258	1,758	1,988	428	5,728
Interest	2,003	8,095	9,766	8,882	1,551	30,297
Repayment of liability	225	1,253	2,376	4,373	1,265	9,492
Planned lifecycle replacement	312	1,333	1,877	2,124	457	6,103
Grouped Schools						
Service charges	3,482	14,944	21,204	14,832		54,462
Interest	2,793	10,143	9,875	3,078		25,889
Repayment of liability	1,027	5,710	12,162	11,175		30,074
Planned lifecycle replacement	1,337	4,799	4,486	2,681		13,303
BSF 1						
Service charges	3,332	14,345	20,502	9,089		47,268
Interest	3,217	11,745	9,430	480		24,872
Repayment of liability	1,688	9,325	17,935	7,921		36,869
Planned lifecycle replacement	1,769	5,994	7,279	2,806		17,848
BSF 2						
Service charges	1,134	4,135	5,778	5,737		16,784
Interest	1,547	5,635	5,380	2,203		14,765
Repayment of liability	478	2,424	4,834	6,813		14,549
Planned lifecycle replacement	162	1,458	1,972	2,064		5,656
BSF 3						
Service charges	1,348	6,025	9,249	9,402		26,024
Interest	2,362	8,569	8,011	4,327		23,269
Repayment of liability	888	4,113	6,742	9,172		20,915
Planned lifecycle replacement	246	1,292	2,518	2,594		6,650
BSF 4						
Service charges	2,367	10,185	15,572	18,836		46,960
Interest	4,747	17,663	17,147	9,269		48,826
Repayment of liability	1,450	7,357	12,540	19,040		40,387
Planned lifecycle replacement	428	1,846	3,700	5,114		11,088
Streetlighting						
Service charges	903	3,843	5,370	4,000		14,116
Interest	2,125	7,795	7,524	2,994		20,438
Repayment of liability	886	4,373	7,944	7,450		20,653
Planned lifecycle replacement	0	0	0	0		0
Totals	60,766	233,936	232,931	178,444	3,701	709,778

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

35. CAPITAL CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

The table below lists the contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment. These are estimated amounts based either on the value of open purchase orders or officer estimates.

	Contractual commitments as at 31/03/24
	£'000
General Fund	
Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2)	3,441
Thomas Lane Yard & the CCC	1,300
Amersham & Northover Residential Conversion	1,200
Riverside Youth Club Development Project	1,000
Corporate Estate Maintenance Programme 2021-2023	300
Mayow Road	300
Housing Revenue Account	
New Cross Road Acquisition 52-54	6,800
New Homes, Better Places- Bampton & Shifford Est.Dev	1,100
Elderton Road Garages (Pack 5) SE26 4EY	800
Creekside Acquisition	500
Sommerville (PHASE 3)	500
Algernon/Embleton Road (Phase 3)	458
Walsham House Garages	450
Creekside Acquisition	400
Eliot Bank (Forest Estate)	300
Ladywell Leisure Centre Development Site	300
Total Capital Programme contractual commitments	19,149

	Contractual commitments as at 31/03/23
	£'000
General Fund	
Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2)	6,800
Temporary Accommodation - Mayow Rd	900
Housing Revenue Account	
New Cross Road Acquisition 52-54	8,200
Bampton	1,700
Walsham House Garages	1,600
Elderton Road Garages	1,400
Creekside Acquisition	600
Sommerville Phase 1	500
Kenton Court	400
Achilles Street - Development	400
Housing Management System	400
Ladywell Leisure Centre Development site	300
Total Capital Programme contractual commitments	23,200

36. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEMES

The Teachers and the National Health Service Pension Schemes are technically defined benefit schemes. However, their assets and liabilities cannot reliably be identified at individual employer level and therefore for the purposes of the Council's accounts they are accounted for as defined contribution schemes.

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, which is run by the Department for Education (DfE). The scheme provides benefits upon retirement with both the Council and the employee making contributions to the scheme. The scheme is "unfunded" and the DfE use a notional fund to set a national employers contribution rate based on a percentage of members' pensionable pay – in 2023/24 this rate was 23.68% (in 2022/23 23.68%). In 2023/24, the Council paid £28.4m to the DfE in respect of teachers' pension costs (£21.3m in 2022/23).

Public Health staff employed by the Council are members of the NHS Pension Scheme, which is run by the Department of Health (DoH). The scheme provides benefits upon retirement with both the Council and the employee making contributions to the scheme. The scheme is "unfunded" and the DoH use a notional fund to set a national employers contribution rate based on a percentage of members' pensionable pay – this rate was 20.68% for 2023/24 (14.38% paid by employers and 6.3% paid centrally (in 2022/23 this was also 20.68%). In 2023/24 the Council paid £0.023m to the DoH in respect of employees' pension costs (£0.023m in 2022/23).

37. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

a) Participation in Pension Schemes

The Council offers retirement benefits as part of the terms and conditions of staff employment. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council is committed to making these payments, and they are required to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. The Council makes contributions on behalf of its employees to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA). These are defined benefit pension schemes, meaning that both the Council and the employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level which is intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

b) Assessment of the Assets and Liabilities of the Pension Schemes

These are assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. They have been prepared by independent firms of actuaries (the LGPS by Hymans Robertson and the LPFA by Barnett Waddingham), and are based on IAS19 assumptions and calculations for the year and the latest triennial valuations as at 31 March 2022. In 2023/24 the as part of the in-sourcing of the functions carried out by Lewisham Homes on behalf of the Council the staff of Lewisham Homes transferred to the Council. The pension liability that was previously guaranteed by the Council transferred back to the Council and is now included in the Council's single entity accounts. An adjustment has been made to the valuation of the assets and liabilities within the Council's single entity accounts to reflect this.

c) Transactions relating to Retirement Benefits

In accordance with IAS19, the Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits relating to these schemes in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the required charge to the Council Tax is based on the cash paid in the year so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the MiRS. The following transactions were made during the year in the CIES and the General Fund Balance via the MiRS:

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

	2023/24 £000	Restated
		2022/23 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Service		
Current Service Cost	34,135	63,969
Past Service Cost (inc.settlements and curtailments)	(1,068)	1,527
	33,067	65,496
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
<u>Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability</u>		
Interest Income on Scheme Assets	(73,176)	(41,175)
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation (Liabilities)	77,003	56,868
	3,827	15,693
Total Post Employment Benefits Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	36,894	81,189
<u>Cashflows</u>		
Employer contributions	(36,029)	(33,182)
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits paid	(4,421)	(4,226)
Effect of business combinations and disposals	(49,118)	0
Total Cashflows	(89,568)	(37,408)
<u>Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability</u>		
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in Net Interest	(122,821)	105,253
Actuarial Losses from changes in Demographic Assumptions	(11,623)	(16,928)
Actuarial Losses from changes in Financial Assumptions	(72,084)	(718,352)
Other Remeasurements & Gains and Losses	53,409	127,532
Total Remeasurements recognised in CIES	(153,119)	(502,495)
Effect of Asset Ceiling	125,708	32,285
Total Post Employment Benefits Charged to the CIES	(80,085)	(426,429)
Movement in Reserves Statement		
	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000
Pensions Reserve - Adj to opening bal (RE Lewisham Homes)	49,118	0
Reversal of Net Charges made to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(36,894)	(81,189)
Employers' Contributions Payable to the Scheme	40,450	37,408
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in Net Interest	122,821	(105,253)
Actuarial Gains and Losses	30,298	607,748
Net Movement in Pensions Reserve	205,793	458,714

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

d) Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31/03/24 £000	Restated 31/03/23 £000
Fair Value of Plan Assets	1,814,181	1,459,367
Present Value of Defined Benefit Liability (Obligation)	(1,670,371)	(1,519,095)
	143,810	(59,728)
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	(45,311)	(47,566)
Pensions Reserve - Year End Balance (Before effect of Asset Ceiling)	98,499	(107,294)
Effect of Asset Ceiling	(157,993)	(32,285)
Pensions Reserve - Year End Balance	(59,494)	(139,579)

e) Reconciliation of the Movements in the Asset Ceiling

As per Accounting Policy 13 (iv) because LBL is not eligible to recognise the surplus an asset restriction has been applied.

For the funded part of the LGPS scheme this has had the effect of reducing the surplus of £103,817k to a deficit of £14,198k.

For the LPFA scheme this has had the effect of reducing the surplus of £39,993k to £15k.

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Opening impact of asset ceiling	32,285	0
Interest on impact of asset ceiling	1,550	0
Actuarial losses / (gains)	124,158	32,285
Closing impact of asset ceiling	157,993	32,285

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

f) Reconciliation of the Movements in the Fair Value of Scheme Assets

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Opening Fair Value of Scheme Assets	1,459,367	1,537,228
Interest Income on Scheme Assets	73,203	41,203
Administration	(27)	(28)
<u>Remeasurement Gains / Losses</u>		
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in Net Interest	122,821	(105,253)
Employer Contributions	36,029	33,182
Contributions in respect of Unfunded Benefits	4,421	4,226
Contributions from Scheme Participants	11,031	9,891
Assets distributed on settlements	(5,201)	0
Benefits Paid	(70,986)	(56,892)
Unfunded Benefits Paid	(4,421)	(4,226)
Effect of business combinations and disposals	187,944	0
Other Remeasurements	0	36
Closing Fair Value of Scheme Assets	1,814,181	1,459,367

g) Reconciliation of the Movements in the Present Value of Scheme Liabilities

	31/03/24 £000	Restated 31/03/23 £000
Opening Present Value of Scheme Liabilities (Obligations)	(1,566,661)	(2,103,236)
Current Service Cost	(34,135)	(63,969)
Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation (Liabilities)	(77,003)	(56,868)
Contributions from Scheme Participants	(11,031)	(9,891)
<u>Remeasurement Gains / Losses</u>		
Benefits Paid	70,986	56,892
Unfunded Benefits Paid	4,421	4,226
Actuarial Losses from changes in Demographic Assumptions	11,623	16,928
Actuarial Losses from changes in Financial Assumptions	72,084	718,352
Other Gains and Losses	(53,409)	(127,568)
Effect of business combinations and disposals	(138,826)	0
Past Service Costs / Curtailments / Settlements	6,269	(1,527)
Closing Present Value of Scheme Liabilities (Obligations)	(1,715,682)	(1,566,661)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

h) Pension Scheme Assets

	31/03/24			31/03/23		
	Active Market £000	Not in Active Markets £000	Total £000	Active Market £000	Not in Active Markets £000	Total £000
LGPS (LBL)						
Debt Securities	156,106	0	156,106	126,776	0	126,776
Private Equity	0	132,025	132,025	0	113,811	113,811
Real Estate	0	154,798	154,798	0	133,622	133,622
Investment Funds / Unit Trusts	1,062,280	163,011	1,225,291	803,160	142,870	946,030
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	52,787	52,787	0	48,742	48,742
Total LGPS Assets	1,218,386	502,621	1,721,007	929,936	439,045	1,368,981
LPFA						
Equities	49,845	6,568	56,413	44,848	7,176	52,024
Target Return Portfolio	4,985	11,089	16,074	6,774	9,676	16,450
Infrastructure	0	10,704	10,704	0	11,194	11,194
Real Estate	0	8,523	8,523	0	8,688	8,688
Cash	1,432	28	1,460	2,031	0	2,031
Total LPFA Assets	56,262	36,912	93,174	53,653	36,734	90,387

i) Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

	Local Government Pension Scheme		LPFA	
	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
Rate of Inflation – CPI	2.80%	3.00%	2.95%	2.90%
Salary Increase Rate	3.80%	4.00%	3.95%	3.90%
Pensions Increases	2.80%	3.00%	2.95%	2.90%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.80%	4.75%	4.85%	4.80%
Mortality assumptions				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners - Men	20.9	21.0	19.9	20.2
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners - Women	23.9	24.1	23.6	23.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners - Men	21.9	22.1	21.1	21.4
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners - Women	25.2	25.5	24.7	25.0

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

j) Sensitivity Analysis

Change in Assumption at 31st March 2024	Approximate % Increase in Employer Liability	Approximate Monetary Amount (£000)
LGPS - LB Lewisham		
0.1% Decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	28,173
1 Year Increase in Member Life Expectancy	4%	66,500
0.1% Increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	994
0.1% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	27,674
LPFA		
0.1% Decrease in Real Discount Rate	n/a	496
1 Year Increase in Member Life Expectancy	n/a	3,366
0.1% Increase in the Salary Increase Rate	n/a	1
0.1% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	n/a	504

These are based on reasonably possible changes to the assumptions occurring at the end of the year and assumes for each change that the assumption changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

k) Future Contributions

The objectives of the scheme are to keep the employer's contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council anticipates paying £33.7m in contributions to the scheme in 2024/25.

l) Additional Disclosure Required

Virgin Media Ltd vs NTL Trustees On 25 July 2024, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited and others. The appeal was brought by Virgin Media Ltd against aspects of the High Court's ruling handed down in June 2023 relating to the validity of certain historical pension changes due to the lack of actuarial confirmation required by law. The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's ruling. The ruling may have implications for other UK defined benefit plans. It is understood this would apply to the LGPS and HM Treasury is currently assessing the implications for all public service pension schemes. No further information is available at this stage.

38. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A contingent liability is an item of expenditure that is likely but not certain and is subject to a further event or decision. At the date of approval of the Accounts the Council had the following contingent liability:

- There were 25 schools with licensed deficit budgets at the year end (2 nursery schools, 1 special school, 1 secondary school and 21 primary schools), totalling £17.6m. Because of the complexities and future uncertainties over the arrangements for dealing with school deficits/loans, some or all of this total of £17.6m may ultimately fail to be met from the Council's General Fund, either in 2024/25 or a later year.

39. CONTINGENT ASSETS

A contingent asset is an item of income that is likely but not certain and is subject to a further event or decision. At the date of approval of the Accounts the Council has no contingent assets.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

40. TRUST FUNDS

The Council acts as a trustee for other funds which are not included in the Balance Sheet. Interest on these funds is credited annually at the average rate earned on the Council's revenue balances. The total amount held as at 31 March 2024 was £0.1m (£0.1m as at 31 March 2023).

41. HERITAGE ASSETS

These assets comprise Lewisham Clock Tower (£706k) and the Civic Regalia (£249k). Their values in the accounts are insurance values which are assessed internally and based on current market values. The value of the assets at 31 March 2024 is £0.96m (£0.96m as at 31 March 2023).

The Council has two other "categories" of heritage asset which have not been included on the Balance Sheet. 28 assets, mainly works of art with a total insurance value of approximately £45,000, have individual insurance values which are immaterial. Another 28 assets, mainly paintings and sculptures, have not been included on the balance sheet because the cost of obtaining valuations is not felt to be economic to the benefits of the users of the accounts.

42. CAPITAL GRANTS UNAPPLIED

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

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Community Infrastructure Levy - LB Lewisham	(23,791)	(23,529)
Adults PSS Grant (DoH)	(2,566)	(2,566)
Disabled Facilities Grant	(2,199)	(2,059)
Other Housing Grant (GLA)	(15,728)	0
Other Grants	(2,474)	393
Total	(46,758)	(27,761)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

43. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - ADJUSTMENT TO SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS

	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000
Depreciation, Impairment and Downward Valuations	158,017	132,373
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	25,400	(30,702)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(9,537)	(5,623)
(Increase)/ decrease in inventories (stock)	(40)	(17)
Movement in pension liability	(3,556)	43,781
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	7,480	7,512
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(2,648)	(7,152)
Total Adjustment to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	175,116	140,172

44. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - ADJUSTMENT FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)	48	44
Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(13,257)	(15,338)
Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(42,042)	(27,213)
Total Adjustment for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(55,251)	(42,507)

45. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Interest Received	6,575	2,073
Interest Paid	(29,529)	(30,937)
Net Interest Paid	(22,954)	(28,864)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

46. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(99,344)	(135,585)
Purchase of short and long term investments	(335,000)	(380,000)
Other payments for Investing Activities	3,356	4,556
Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	13,257	15,338
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	335,000	440,000
Capital Grants received in year	42,547	27,812
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(40,184)	(27,879)

47. CASH FLOW STATEMENT - FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Cash receipts of short and long term borrowing	0	0
Other receipts from financing activities	0	0
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	(10,852)	(10,158)
Repayment of Short-Term and Long-Term Borrowing	(26,345)	(1,126)
Council Tax and NNDR adjustments	(4,561)	19,903
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(41,758)	8,619

48. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS/ RESTATEMENTS

a) Re-Organisation of Council Management Hierarchy Structure

In 2023/24 the 2022/23 audited accounts figures needed to be restated due to the re-organisation of the Council's management hierarchy structure. Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm (HRPR) directorate was split to become two new directorates called Place directorate and Housing directorate. The 2022/23 CIES and related notes required restating as follows:

From	To
Children & Young People Directorate	Children & Young People Directorate
Community Services Directorate	Community Services Directorate
Housing, Environment & Regeneration Directorate	Place Directorate
	Housing Directorate
Corporate Resources Directorate	Corporate Resources Directorate
Chief Executive Directorate	Chief Executive Directorate
Housing Revenue Account	Housing Revenue Account
Corporate Provisions	Corporate Provisions

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This re-organisation required the 2022/23 CIES to be re-stated by mapping the cost centres used in 2022/23 to the new 2023/24 hierarchy as follows:

From		To	
Service	Net Expenditure £'000s	Service	Net Expenditure £'000s
Children & Young People Directorate	80,746	Children & Young People Directorate	80,746
Community Services Directorate	97,487	Community Services Directorate	97,487
Housing, Environment & Regeneration Directorate	35,426	Place Directorate	30,086
		Housing Directorate	5,340
Corporate Resources Directorate	40,736	Corporate Resources Directorate	40,736
Chief Executive Directorate	12,488	Chief Executive Directorate	12,488
Housing Revenue Account	36,354	Housing Revenue Account	36,354
Corporate Provisions	8,869	Corporate Provisions	8,869
Cost of Services	312,106	Cost of Services	312,106

Expenditure & Funding Analysis (Note 1)

The expenditure and funding analysis was restated so that the column "Net Expenditure in the CIES" matches the restated CIES Net Expenditure column. The subsequent columns were also updated to reconcile back to "Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances" and the figures reported in the management Outturn report.

Group Accounts - Group CIES

The group accounts CIES was restated in line with the LBL single entity accounts with the amendments for each service line exactly equalling those in the single entity accounts.

b) Re-classification of Decent Homes Expenditure from de-recognition of non-current assets to Impairment

Revaluation losses associated with capital expenditure incurred in respect of Council Dwellings in meeting Decent Homes standards in 2023/24 have been included in the Net Cost of Services in the CIES and Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement. These losses were previously recorded in Other Operating Expenditure in the gain or loss on the disposal and derecognition of non current assets. The comparative figures in the CIES, Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Statement and related notes have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of these items in the current year.

The 2022/23 CIES and related notes required restating as follows:

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)

CIES Row	Previously reported Net Expenditure £'000s	Adjustment £'000s	Restated Net Expenditure £'000s
Cost of Services – Housing Revenue Account	36,354	54,813	91,167
Other Operating Expenditure - (Gain) / Loss on the disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets	46,987	(54,813)	(7,826)

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

Expenditure & Funding Analysis (Note 1)

EFA Row	Previously reported Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (see Notes to EFA (i)) £'000s	Adjustment £'000s	Restated Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis (see Notes to EFA (i)) £'000s
HRA	25,720	54,813	80,533
Other Income and Expenditure	35,467	(54,813)	(19,346)

Housing Revenue Accounts CIES

HRA Row	Previously reported Net Expenditure £'000s	Adjustment £'000s	Restated Net Expenditure £'000s
Impairment of Non Current Assets	40,225	54,813	95,038
(Gain) / Loss on Sale and de-recognition of HRA Non Current Assets	46,782	(54,813)	(8,031)

Group Accounts - Group CIES

The group accounts CIES was restated in line with the LBL single entity accounts

c) Re-classification of Creditors to Receipts in Advance

During 2023/24 it was identified that Schools' Capital Grants balances were incorrectly classified as Creditors when they should have been classified as Receipts in Advance. The balances were transferred from Creditors to receipts in Advance on the Balance Sheet in 2023/24. For consistency the 2022/23 Creditors and Receipts in Advance balances have been re-stated as follows:

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet Row	Previously reported Balance £'000s	Adjustment £'000s	Restated Balance £'000s
Creditors	(146,548)	12,211	(134,337)
Receipts in Advance	(73,281)	(12,211)	(85,492)

Group Accounts - Group Balance Sheet

The group accounts Balance Sheet was restated in line with the LBL single entity accounts

Housing Revenue Account

SECTION 4 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

This account is maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to show all income and expenditure relating to the Council's responsibilities as landlord of dwellings and associated property.

HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000	Note
INCOME			
Gross Rent - Dwellings	(79,017)	(73,176)	1
Gross Rent - Other Housing Properties	(3,683)	(3,497)	1
Charges for Services and Facilities	(14,519)	(13,567)	1
Housing Subsidy and Government Grants	(10,353)	(10,353)	2
Contribution towards Expenditure	(9,852)	(4,430)	4
Total Income	(117,424)	(105,023)	
EXPENDITURE			
Supervision and Management - General Expenses	43,216	43,789	5
Supervision and Management - Special Expenses	10,215	7,852	5
Repairs and Maintenance	29,807	22,657	6
Rent, Rates and Other Charges	497	645	8
Rent Rebate Subsidy Shortfall	0	0	3
Contribution to Doubtful Debts & Other Provisions	1,267	292	7
Depreciation - Dwellings	25,214	24,743	10
Depreciation - Other Housing Assets	1,094	960	10
Impairment of Non Current Assets	93,964	95,038 (*)	10
Debt Management Expenses	42	27	
Total Expenditure	205,316	196,003	
Net Cost of Services included in the Council's Income and Expenditure Account	87,892	90,980	
HRA Services share of Corporate and Democratic Core Costs	198	187	
Net Cost of HRA Services	88,090	91,167	
HRA share of the Operating Income and Expenditure incl.in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement			
(Gain) / Loss on Sale and de-recognition of HRA Non Current Assets	(6,269)	(8,031) (*)	
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	8,216	5,869	11
Interest and Investment Income	(1,776)	(1,022)	
Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets	88	83	12
(Surplus) / Deficit for the Year on HRA Services	88,349	88,066	

* See Note 48 for details

Housing Revenue Account

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance on the HRA at the End of the Previous Year	14,068	30,315
<u>Movement in Year</u>		
Surplus or (Deficit) for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(88,349)	(88,066)
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statute	83,467	71,819
Net Increase or (Decrease) before Transfers (To) / From Reserves	(4,882)	(16,247)
Transfers (To) / From Reserves	0	0
Increase or (Decrease) in Year on the HRA	(4,882)	(16,247)
Balance on the HRA at the End of the Year	9,186	14,068

An analysis of the amounts included within the figures for Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statute can be found within Note 8 to the Core Financial Statements.

Details of the movement in the Housing Revenue Account Reserves and Balances can be found in Note 15 to the Housing Revenue Account.

Housing Revenue Account

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1. GROSS RENT OF DWELLINGS

This is the total rent collectable for the year after allowance is made for empty property. At 31 March 2024, 1.15% of lettable property was empty (0.97% at 31 March 2023). These figures for empty property exclude accommodation for the homeless and dwellings designated for sale, major works and improvements. Average rents were £110.42 In 2023/24 and £103.62 per week In 2022/23.

Service charges have been disaggregated from rents and are now shown under charges for services and facilities.

(a) Housing stock

The Council was responsible for managing 13,839 dwellings as at 31 March 2024 (13,772 as at 31 March 2023).

There have been no stock transfers undertaken in 2023/24.

The stock was made up as follows:

	31/03/24	31/03/23
<u>Stock Numbers at year end</u>		
Houses and Bungalows	2,298	2,305
Flats and Maisonettes	11,541	11,467
Stock at End of Year	13,839	13,772

	2023/24	2022/23
<u>Change in Stock Numbers during the year</u>		
Stock at 1 April	13,772	13,699
Less Sales, Demolitions, etc.	(56)	(121)
Add Re-purchases, Conversions etc.	123	194
Stock at End of Year	13,839	13,772

b) Rent Arrears

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Rent Arrears due from Current Tenants	6,997	5,271
Rent Arrears due from Former Tenants	1,511	1,395
Total Arrears	8,508	6,666
Total Arrears as % of Gross Rent of Dwellings Due	8.4%	6.9%

The arrears shown in this note exclude water charges, heating charges and all other charges collected as part of tenants' rent. Housing rent represents 97.9% of the total collectable from tenants.

Housing Revenue Account

c) Rent – Other Housing Property

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Aerial Sites	307	324
Garages	174	161
Reception Hostels	2,832	2,626
Commercial Property	313	328
Ground Rents	57	58
Total Other Rents and Charges	3,683	3,497

d) Charges for Services and Facilities to Tenants and Leaseholders.

Service charges include caretaking, grounds maintenance, communal lighting, bulk household waste removal and disposal, window cleaning, pest control and the Lewisham Tenants Levy. The average tenants' service charge was £9.75 In 2023/24 (£9.75 in 2022/23).

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Heating Charges	768	726
Leasehold Service Charges	6,589	6,042
Tenants Service Charges	7,162	6,799
Total Charges for Services and Facilities	14,519	13,567

2. GOVERNMENT HOUSING EXCHEQUER SUBSIDY

From 1st April 2012 HRA accounts were prepared under the Government's HRA self-financing regime. Under this system no further housing subsidy transactions are made between government and stock owning Councils. This is in recognition that all rent collected will be retained by the Council and not contributed into the national rent pool.

As the Council has a housing PFI scheme, it will continue to receive the PFI credit until completion of the contract in 2027. This represents an annual payment of £10.353m.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Other Reckonable Expenditure	0	0
PFI Credit	10,353	10,353
Decent Homes Grant	0	0
Total Grants and Subsidy	10,353	10,353

Housing Revenue Account

3. REBATES

Assistance with rents is available under the Housing benefits scheme for those on low income. The scheme is administered by the Council and approximately 24% of tenants received help in 2023/24 (30% in 2022/23). Rent rebates are chargeable to, and the corresponding subsidy is credited to the General Fund.

Subsidy on rent rebates is capped and if the Council's rent exceeds the Government's limit for subsidy, the cost is charged to the HRA. The shortfall on subsidy due to overpayments is charged to the General Fund, as are the administration costs.

The costs, income and rebates over limitation charged back to the HRA are shown below:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Rent Rebates Given (GF)	22,822	25,071
Subsidy Received on Rebates (GF)	(22,822)	(25,071)
Net cost to the HRA	0	0

4. CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS EXPENDITURE

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Court Costs	65	66
Recharges of repairs	4,929	3,637
Recharge to Capital Receipts	763	475
Hostels: Heat, Light and Water Charges	119	98
Reimbursement of overpaid Capital Charges	0	0
Professional fees	115	114
Other miscellaneous income	3,861	40
Total Other Income	9,852	4,430

5. SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENTGeneral expenses

This includes the provision of services to all tenants including rent collection and accounting, rent arrears recovery, tenancy application and lettings, finance and administration, policy and management functions.

Special expenses

This includes the provision of services applicable to particular tenants including central heating, metered energy supplies, maintenance of grounds, communal lighting, lifts and ancillary services.

Housing Revenue Account

6. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

This includes day-to-day repairs to Council housing stock and cyclical external decoration. Void properties prior to re-letting and certain tenants' properties are eligible for internal decoration. Repairs & Maintenance expenditure was as follows:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Revenue R&M works	29,807	22,657
Total Repairs and Maintenance	29,807	22,657

7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCE**a) Contributions to Impairment Allowance**

A contribution of £1.267m (2022/23 £0.292m) was transferred from the HRA to an impairment allowance to meet doubtful debts. Details of the accumulated provisions are as follows:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Housing Tenants	4,412	3,904
Leaseholders	3,328	2,763
Commercial Properties, Miscellaneous Debts	912	752
Total Impairment Allowance	8,652	7,419

b) Contributions to Provisions

A contribution of £0.00m (2022/23 £0.12m) was transferred from the HRA to provisions as an additional contribution to the Water Charges Provision.

The provision relates to the issue of whether the local authority was acting as an agent for Thames Water or was a water re-seller for the purposes of the Resale Order, which limited the maximum charge that could be applied to individual tenancies.

The value in question is not the Water Charge itself, but the income the authority received from Thames Water and whether this should have been passed onto the relevant tenancies.

Following a Court of Appeal ruling in October 2020 a provision was created to cover the liability for London Borough of Lewisham and to start the refund process to tenant's accounts. This was calculated with the data currently available at the time as £8.673m.

An additional contribution of £0.120m was transferred from the HRA to provisions in 2022/23 after further analysis showed that the total potential liability was £10.456m including additional administration costs. No additional contributions have been made in 2023/24.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Water Charges Provision Brought Forward	0	5,989
Water Charges Provision Contribution	0	257
Water Charges Provision Used	0	(6,246)
Total HRA Water Provisions	0	0

Housing Revenue Account

Rent accounts have been refunded and the provision now stands at a zero balance with no further liability anticipated.

8. HRA OUTSTANDING DEBT (CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT)

Under the current HRA self-financing system, which began on 1st April 2012, there is no requirement to repay principal on housing debt. The total housing debt at 31st March 2024 was £141.8m.

9. NON CURRENT ASSET VALUATION

A full valuation of the housing stock is commissioned every five years with a market adjustment being applied in the year's in-between. The difference between the value of dwellings in their existing use as social housing and the vacant possession value reflects the economic cost to the council of providing housing at less than open market rents.

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Operational Assets:		
Dwellings (Existing Use Value - Social Housing)	1,385,917	1,440,091
Other Land and Buildings	19,217	19,504
Infrastructure	77	81
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	6,353	6,972
	1,411,564	1,466,648
Investment Properties	0	0
Surplus Assets	8,903	8,525
Assets Under Construction	34,332	72,625
	1,454,799	1,547,798
Total Housing Assets	1,454,799	1,547,798
Full Valuation of Council Dwellings	5,543,668	5,760,364

10. DEPRECIATION AND REVALUATION CHARGES

The total charges for the depreciation and revaluation of housing assets is as follows:

	2023/24 £000	Restated 2022/23 £000
Operational Assets		
Dwellings	25,214	24,743
Other Land and Buildings	471	337
Infrastructure	5	5
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	618	618
Total Depreciation	26,308	25,703
Revaluation losses on non-current assets	93,964	95,038
Total Depreciation & Revaluation Charges	120,272	120,741

Revaluation charges arise from capital expenditure carried out on dwellings which has not changed the value of those dwellings, or from reductions in the value of assets in excess of any carrying values held in the revaluation reserve.

Housing Revenue Account

11. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

This line includes the charge of £5.26m for capital assets calculated in accordance with the DCLG's Item 8 Debit Determination for 2023/24 (£2.93m in 2022/23). It no longer includes any costs for the net cost of amortised loan redemption premiums and discounts as the final payment was made in 2017/18.

12. PENSIONS COSTS – IAS 19

In accordance with IAS 19, Lewisham 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 cost to the HRA is based on the amounts payable in the year, so the accrued cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the HRA.

13. HOUSING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

There was a no contribution to Capital from HRA revenue to fund the new development and investment programme for 2023/24.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Expenditure:		
Dwellings	77,694	112,771
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	0	0
	77,694	112,771
Financed by:		
Capital Receipts	9,091	31,969
HRA Contribution to Capital	0	12,091
Major Repairs Reserve	26,311	25,702
Borrowing	42,292	43,008
Total Capital Expenditure Financed	77,694	112,770

Housing Revenue Account

14. MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

The movements on the major repairs reserve are as follows:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	0	0
Transferred in (depreciation dwellings)	26,311	25,703
Financing of capital expenditure on housing assets	(26,311)	(25,703)
Balance carried forward at end of year	0	0

15. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RESERVES AND BALANCES

The movements in housing revenue account reserves and balances are as follows:

	Balance at 31/03/23 £000	Transfers In £000	Transfers Out £000	Balance at 31/03/24 £000
Property and Stock Related Reserves	4,211	0	(211)	4,000
Staff Related Reserves	914	0	(510)	404
Other Earmarked Reserves	8,943	0	(4,161)	4,782
Total Reserves and Balances	14,068	0	(4,882)	9,186

Collection Fund

SECTION 5 - THE COLLECTION FUND

Lewisham Council is a designated 'Billing' Authority and is required by statute to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The transactions are on an accruals basis and include income from Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and distributions to the Council's General Fund and the Greater London Authority (GLA) in respect of both Council Tax & NDR, and to the Government in respect of NDR only.

The costs of collecting these taxes are charged to the General Fund, but an allowance towards the cost of collecting NDR is credited to the General Fund from the NDR receipts.

The Council's share of the year end balances of the Collection Fund is included in the Council's Balance Sheet and its share of the transactions is included in the Council's Cash Flow Statement.

	2023/24			2022/23			Note
	Council Tax	NDR	Total	Council Tax	NDR	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
INCOME							
Income from Council Tax (net)	180,907		180,907	169,142		169,142	4
Income from Non-Domestic Rates (net)		52,408	52,408		57,724	57,724	5
Income from Non-Domestic Rates (net) - BRS		1,066	1,066		1,440	1,440	5
TOTAL INCOME	180,907	53,474	234,381	169,142	59,164	228,306	
EXPENDITURE							
Precepts and Demands upon Fund (C.Tax)							
- London Borough of Lew ish am	132,574		132,574	126,353		126,353	
- Greater London Authority	38,668		38,668	35,170		35,170	
Precepts and Demands upon Fund (NDR)							
- London Borough of Lew ish am		16,821	16,821		17,609	17,609	
- Greater London Authority		20,746	20,746		21,718	21,718	
- Central Government		18,503	18,503		19,370	19,370	
- Cost of Collection Allow ance		294	294		303	303	
Business Rate Supplement (BRS)							
- Paid to Greater London Authority		963	963		1,557	1,557	
- Administrative Costs		6	6		6	6	
Bad and Doubtful Debts							
- Net adj to Impairment Allow ance	3,181		3,181	6,657		6,657	6a
- Net adj to Impairment Allow ance		(344)	(344)		441	441	6b
- Amounts Written Off	6,515		6,515	(797)		(797)	
- Amounts Written Off		843	843		392	392	
Contributions from previous year							
- London Borough of Lew ish am	303	670	973	(2,407)	(7,718)	(10,125)	
- Greater London Authority	0	826	826	(624)	(9,520)	(10,144)	
- Central Government		737	737		(8,491)	(8,491)	
Provision for Appeals							
- Net contribution		(4,237)	(4,237)		(1,630)	(1,630)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	181,241	55,828	237,069	164,352	34,037	198,389	
Deficit / (Surplus) for the year	334	2,354	2,688	(4,790)	(25,127)	(29,917)	3
Deficit / (Surplus) at start of year	(318)	746	428	4,472	25,873	30,345	3
Opening Balance Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Deficit / (Surplus) at end of year	16	3,100	3,116	(318)	746	428	

Collection Fund

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. THE COUNCIL TAX BASE AND THE "BAND D" EQUIVALENT

The annual budget process requires that each Council determines its own 'Band D' tax charge by dividing its own budget requirement by the respective tax base for the financial year. The 'Band D' tax calculated forms the basis of the charge for all properties. Properties fall into one of eight valuation bands based on market values at 01 April 1991. Those that fall in other valuation bands pay a proportion of the 'Band D' tax charge according to its banding and the band proportion.

The tax base used in setting the Council Tax is set by the end of January for the following financial year. It is based on the actual number of dwellings on the Valuation List that fall within each valuation band. The total in each band is adjusted for exemptions, single person occupancy discounts, discounts for second homes and long-term empty properties, disabled band relief and new properties. The total for each band is then expressed as a "Band D" equivalent number by multiplying the resulting total by the relevant band proportion. The tax base for 2023/24 assumed a collection rate of 94.0% (95.0% for 2022/23).

The table below sets out the original tax base calculation for 2023/24 and has been prepared in accordance with The Welfare Reform Act that abolished the system of Council Tax benefits and replaced it with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) with effect from 01 April 2013.

		2023/24		2023/24			2022/23	
Council Tax Band	Property Value £000	No. of Properties		Band D Ratio	Band D Equivalents as per Ratio No.	Council Tax Charge £	Band D Equivalents as per Ratio No.	Council Tax Charge £
		Actual Number	Adjusted Number					
		(1)	(2)					
A	up to 40	8,235	5,499	6/9	3,666.2	1,284.19	3,559.3	1,211.21
B	40 - 52	34,421	25,291	7/9	19,670.5	1,498.20	19,406.2	1,413.07
C	52 - 68	45,907	37,321	8/9	33,174.0	1,712.24	32,862.8	1,614.94
D	68 - 88	26,788	23,291	1	23,291.0	1,926.27	23,123.5	1,816.81
E	88 - 120	7,814	6,984	11/9	8,536.1	2,354.34	8,480.7	2,220.54
F	120 - 160	2,757	2,583	13/9	3,731.7	2,782.39	3,709.4	2,624.28
G	160 - 320	1,331	1,268	15/9	2,113.7	3,210.46	2,110.5	3,028.02
H	over 320	174	168	18/9	336.5	3,852.54	329.5	3,633.62
Totals		127,427	102,405		94,519.7		93,581.9	
Add: Contributions in lieu					0.0		0.0	
Total Band D Equivalents					94,519.7		93,581.9	
Estimated Collection Rate					94.0%		95.0%	
NET COUNCIL TAX BASE					88,848.5		88,902.8	

(1) Total number of dwellings as per Valuation Officer's List

(2) Total number of dwellings after allowing for Discounts, Exemptions and Other Adjustments

Collection Fund

2. COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS OR DEFICIT

Every January, a forecast of the estimated Collection Fund balance at the end of the financial year is made. This estimated surplus or deficit is then distributed to or recovered from the Council and the GLA in the following year in proportion to their respective annual demands made on the Fund. Any difference between the estimated and actual year-end balance on the Fund is taken into account as part of the forecast to be made of the Fund's balance during the following financial year.

3. COLLECTION FUND BALANCE SPLIT INTO ITS ATTRIBUTABLE PARTS

	(Surplus)/ Deficit			(Surplus)/ Deficit		
	Balance at 31/03/23 £000	Movement in 2023/24 £000	Balance at 31/03/24 £000	Balance at 31/03/22 £000	Movement in 2022/23 £000	Balance at 31/03/23 £000
Council Tax						
London Borough of Lewisham	(228)	225	(3)	3,538	(3,766)	(228)
Greater London Authority	(90)	109	19	934	(1,024)	(90)
	(318)	334	16	4,472	(4,790)	(318)
Non-Domestic Rates						
London Borough of Lewisham	224	706	930	7,762	(7,538)	224
Greater London Authority	276	871	1,147	9,573	(9,297)	276
Central Government	246	777	1,023	8,538	(8,292)	246
	746	2,354	3,100	25,873	(25,127)	746
Collection Fund Balances	428	2,688	3,116	30,345	(29,917)	428

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Council's share of the Collection Fund balance is managed by the Collection Fund Adjustment Account which shows the differences arising from the recognition of Council Tax income in the CIES as it falls due from Council Tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

4. COUNCIL TAX INCOME

	2023/24		2022/23
	£000	£000	£000
Gross Council Tax Income Due		229,192	215,673
Less: Exemptions	(9,787)		(6,708)
Disabled Relief	(134)		(123)
Discounts	(21,463)		(20,320)
Adjustment for Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(20,933)		(19,743)
Plus: Adjustments to charge	4,032		363
		(48,285)	(46,531)
Total Due from Council Tax payers		180,907	169,142

Collection Fund

5. NON-DOMESTIC RATES

The Council is responsible for collecting the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) (often referred to as Business Rates) which are payable within its area. The amount payable is based upon the rateable value of commercial properties multiplied by the NDR multiplier, which is set annually by the Government. The amount due is paid as precepts to London Borough of Lewisham's General Fund (30%), Greater London Authority (37%) and Central Government (33%).

	2023/24		2023/23
	£000	£000	£000
Gross NDR Collectable (after voids and exemptions)		79,298	85,649
Reductions and Relief:			
Mandatory Relief	(17,648)		(18,235)
Discretionary Relief	(8,176)		(8,250)
		(25,824)	(26,485)
Total Receivable from Business Rates		53,474	59,164

	2023/24	2022/23
	£m	£m
Non-Domestic Rateable Value	173.0	176.8

	2023/24	2022/23
	pence	pence
Non-Domestic Rate Multiplier	51.2	51.2
Non-Domestic Rate Multiplier (Small Business)	49.9	49.9

6. COLLECTION FUND ARREARS AND IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCES

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£000	£000
Council Tax Arrears	50,911	47,055
Impairment Allowance	(45,133)	(41,952)
As a Percentage of Arrears	88.7%	89.2%

	2023/24		2022/23	
	Amount £000	Percentage %	Amount £000	Percentage %
Age of Arrears				
Year of Accounts	14,062	28	12,167	26
Under 2 Years old	10,153	20	9,445	20
Under 3 Years old	8,704	17	6,832	15
Under 5 Years old	10,920	21	11,016	23
Over 5 Years old	7,072	14	7,595	16
Total	50,911	100	47,055	100

Collection Fund

Arrears of income from court costs and penalties resulting from recovery action are accounted for in the General Fund.

b) Non-Domestic Rates

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£000	£000
NDR Arrears	7,208	7,514
Impairment Allowance	(6,427)	(6,748)
As a Percentage of Arrears	89.2%	89.8%

	2023/24		2022/23	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Age of Arrears	£000	%	£000	%
Year of Accounts	2,130	30	2,516	34
Under 2 Years old	1,547	21	1,717	23
Under 3 Years old	1,152	16	1,144	15
Under 5 Years old	1,477	20	1,746	23
Over 5 Years old	902	13	391	5
Total	7,208	100	7,514	100

Arrears of income from court costs and penalties resulting from recovery action are accounted for in the General Fund.

SECTION 6 – GROUP ACCOUNTS

In order to provide a full picture of the Council's economic activities and financial position, the accounting statements of the Council and its wholly owned local authority trading companies Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited have been consolidated.

The group accounts are presented in addition to the Council's "single entity" financial statements and comprise:

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

These statements (the purposes of which are explained on pages 4 and 5), together with those explanatory notes that are considered necessary in addition to those accompanying the "single entity" accounts and accounting policies are set out in the following pages.

Group Accounts

GROUP COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Restated						2023/24		
2022/23								
Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	SERVICE			Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s
476,204	(395,413)	80,791	Children & Young People Directorate			507,881	(404,077)	103,804
211,703	(113,891)	97,812	Community Services Directorate			216,103	(117,427)	98,676
81,170	(49,208)	31,962	Place Directorate			85,126	(53,194)	31,932
232,468	(189,126)	43,342	Corporate Services Directorate			215,418	(179,823)	35,595
13,024	(492)	12,532	Chief Executive Directorate			13,688	(280)	13,408
56,685	(51,345)	5,340	Housing Directorate			82,728	(57,206)	25,522
204,124	(112,712)	91,412	HRA			224,235	(135,864)	88,371
17,869	(9,000)	8,869	Corporate Provisions			13,980	3,161	17,141
1,293,247	(921,187)	372,060	Cost of Services			1,359,159	(944,710)	414,449
			Other Operating Expenditure					
0	(7,826)	(7,826)	(Gain) / Loss on the disposal and de-recognition of non-current assets			0	(6,208)	(6,208)
1,683	0	1,683	Levies			1,699	0	1,699
0	0	0	Contribution of housing capital receipts to Government Pool			0	0	0
1,683	(7,826)	(6,143)				1,699	(6,208)	(4,509)
			Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure					
30,993	0	30,993	Interest payable and similar charges			29,463	0	29,463
0	(6,621)	(6,621)	Interest and Investment Income			0	(13,156)	(13,156)
63,677	(46,236)	17,441	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability			77,003	(73,176)	3,827
94,670	(52,857)	41,813				106,466	(86,332)	20,134
			Taxation and non-specific Grant Income					
0	(123,946)	(123,946)	Income from Council Tax			0	(132,574)	(132,574)
0	(65,950)	(65,950)	General Government Grants			0	(80,554)	(80,554)
0	(27,208)	(27,208)	Recognised Capital Grants and Contributions			0	(36,356)	(36,356)
0	(85,066)	(85,066)	Non-Domestic Rates income and expenditure			0	(97,132)	(97,132)
118	(358)	(240)	Corporation Tax Payable			378	0	378
118	(302,528)	(302,410)				378	(346,616)	(346,238)
		105,320	Deficit/(Surplus) on provision of services					83,836
		(133,862)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets					26,327
		(505,709)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability					(47,404)
		(639,571)	Other Comprehensive Income and					(21,077)
		(534,251)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure					62,759

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Group Accounts

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT - YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Gen Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority share of subsidiaries £000	Total Group Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2023 Brought Forward	20,000	227,169	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,136	2,254,783	2,610,919	40,085	2,651,004
Opening Balance Adjustment	0	757	0	0	0	0	757	(757)	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance at 31 March 2023 Brought Forward	20,000	227,926	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,893	2,254,026	2,610,919	40,085	2,651,004
Movement in Reserves during 2023/24											
Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	34,118	0	(88,349)	0	0	0	(54,231)	0	(54,231)	(29,605)	(83,836)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,267	48,267	(27,190)	21,077
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	34,118	0	(88,349)	0	0	0	(54,231)	48,267	(5,964)	(56,795)	(62,759)
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(27,427)	0	0	0	0	0	(27,427)	0	(27,427)	27,427	0
Net increase before transfers	6,691	0	(88,349)	0	0	0	(81,658)	48,267	(33,391)	(29,368)	(62,759)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	(19,045)	0	83,467	0	7,400	18,997	90,819	(90,819)	0	0	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(12,354)	0	(4,882)	0	7,400	18,997	9,161	(42,552)	(33,391)	(29,368)	(62,759)
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	12,354	(12,354)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2023/24	0	(12,354)	(4,882)	0	7,400	18,997	9,161	(42,552)	(33,391)	(29,368)	(62,759)
Balance at 31 March 2024 Carried Forward	20,000	215,572	9,186	0	74,538	46,758	366,054	2,211,474	2,577,528	10,717	2,588,245

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Group Accounts

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023											
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked Gen Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority share of subsidiaries £000	Total Group Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2022 Brought Forward	20,000	231,340	30,315	0	64,387	30,372	376,414	1,738,123	2,114,537	2,216	2,116,753
Movement in Reserves during 2022/23											
Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services	37,013	0	(88,066)	0	0	0	(51,053)	0	(51,053)	(54,267)	(105,320)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	593,028	593,028	46,543	639,571
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	37,013	0	(88,066)	0	0	0	(51,053)	593,028	541,975	(7,724)	534,251
Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts	(45,593)	0	0	0	0	0	(45,593)	0	(45,593)	45,593	0
Net increase before transfers	(8,580)	0	(88,066)	0	0	0	(96,646)	593,028	496,382	37,869	534,251
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	4,409	0	71,819	0	2,751	(2,611)	76,368	(76,368)	0	0	0
Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(4,171)	0	(16,247)	0	2,751	(2,611)	(20,278)	516,660	496,382	37,869	534,251
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves	4,171	(4,171)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2022/23	0	(4,171)	(16,247)	0	2,751	(2,611)	(20,278)	516,660	496,382	37,869	534,251
Balance at 31 March 2023 Carried Forward	20,000	227,169	14,068	0	67,138	27,761	356,136	2,254,783	2,610,919	40,085	2,651,004

Group Accounts

GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Restated 31/03/2023 £000		31/03/2024 £000
	<u>Property, Plant & Equipment</u>	
1,485,660	Council dwellings	1,432,407
1,212,694	Other land and buildings	1,211,712
26,185	Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment	24,708
96,100	Infrastructure	90,536
5,137	Community	5,075
63,659	Surplus Assets not held for Sale	60,347
114,035	Assets under Construction	87,713
3,003,470		2,912,498
955	Heritage Assets	955
16,920	Investment Property	17,402
1,829	Long term investments	1,781
4,602	Long term debtors	4,614
31,792	Asset related to defined benefit pension scheme	0
3,059,568	Total Long Term Assets	2,937,250
218,539	Short Term Investments	222,683
290	Inventories	376
68,376	Debtors	74,132
94,217	Cash and Cash Equivalents	52,360
4,347	Prepayments	5,080
385,769	Current Assets	354,631
0	Bank Overdraft	0
(28,579)	Short term borrowing	(1,960)
(8,508)	Provisions	(6,428)
(129,079)	Creditors	(150,015)
(85,492)	Receipts in advance	(92,950)
(10,852)	PFI Liabilities due within one year	(11,739)
(262,510)	Current Liabilities	(263,092)
3,182,827	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	3,028,789
(194,947)	Long term borrowing	(195,221)
(6,385)	Provisions (More than 1 year)	(7,768)
(182,394)	Deferred PFI Liabilities	(170,655)
(4,237)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	(5,083)
(1,614)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(2,323)
(142,246)	Liability related to defined benefit pension scheme	(59,494)
(531,823)	Long Term Liabilities	(440,544)
2,651,004	NET ASSETS	2,588,245

Group Accounts

31/03/2023 £000		31/03/2024 £000
	Usable Reserves	
20,000	General Fund Balance	20,000
227,169	Earmarked Revenue Reserves	215,572
(9,711)	Lewisham Homes Profit & Loss Reserve	(11,453)
29,125	Lewisham Homes Pensions Reserve	0
(1,877)	Catford Regeneration Partnership Profit & Loss Reserve	(2,313)
14,068	Housing Revenue Account	9,186
0	Major Repairs Reserve	0
67,138	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	74,538
27,761	Capital Grants Unapplied	46,758
373,673		352,288
	Unusable Reserves	
1,405,140	Revaluation Reserve	1,353,290
1,077,605	Capital Adjustment Account	1,012,609
93	Deferred Capital Receipts	93
(32,163)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(31,352)
(139,579)	LBL Pensions Reserve	(59,494)
3	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(934)
(13,091)	DSG Unusable Reserve	(15,522)
(20,677)	Short Term Compensated Absences Account	(22,733)
2,277,331		2,235,957
2,651,004	TOTAL RESERVES	2,588,245

Group Accounts

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

2022/23 £000s		2023/24 £000s
(105,320)	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(83,836)
148,317	Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	180,508
(42,507)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(55,251)
490	Net Cash flows from operating activities	41,421
(28,516)	Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	(40,820)
8,004	Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	(42,458)
(20,022)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(41,857)
114,239	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	94,217
94,217	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	52,360

Group Accounts

Notes to the Group Accounts**1. General**

The Group Accounts should be read in conjunction with the Lewisham Council single entity accounts. Only notes to the accounts that are materially different from the single entity accounts are produced for the group accounts.

2. Group Boundary

The Council has an interest in a number of entities, the most significant of which are the wholly owned subsidiaries Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited which are consolidated into these accounts. The table below provides information on the nature of company business and associated risks:

Company	Business	Risks
Lewisham Homes Limited	Lewisham Homes Limited: This was an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) set up in 2007. The company previously managed approximately 18,000 homes for the Council. In 2023/24 the staff of, and services delivered by, Lewisham Homes were in-sourced back into the Council. Lewisham Homes Limited retained ownership of assets it had purchased and continues to manage 203 homes.	The risk is related to the loan from Lewisham Council to Lewisham Homes Limited of £40m and the likelihood of repayment.
Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL)	The company owns the Catford Shopping Centre and this investment property owned by the company is held solely for rentals and capital accumulation in line with the accounting standards.	As a property investment company, CRPL is exposed to risk in market movements in terms of the capital value of properties and in the level of income that can be generated through rental charges

3. Accounting Policies

- (i) In preparing the Group Accounts the Council has aligned the accounting policies of its companies with those of the Council and made consolidation adjustments where necessary.
- (ii) In 2023/24 Lewisham Homes "Council Dwellings" assets were re-valued using the same accounting standards as LBL to consolidate Lewisham Homes assets into the Group balance sheet. This resulted in a credit to the Group CIES of £1.453m due to an upward valuation of the assets compared to the 2022/23 valuation (2022/23 was a credit of £13.149m to the Group CIES due to the upward valuation of the assets).
- (iii) Lewisham Homes account for their assets in their single entity balance sheet as cost based. Within the Lewisham Homes accounts the assets are valued at NBV £40.922m (£41.638m in 2022/23). To be included in the Group Accounts these were valued at Fair Value of NBV £46.655m (£45.919m in 2022/23).
- (iv) The Council has consolidated the companies' financial statements with those of the Council on a line-by-line basis and has eliminated in full balances, transactions, income and expenses between the Council and its subsidiaries.

Group Accounts

4. Movements in Non-Current Assets

The movements in non-current assets during 2023/24 and 2022/23 were as follows:

2023/24	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Bldgs £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip't £000	Comm. Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	TOTAL £000
Gross Book Value b/fwd at 01 April 2023	1,486,174	1,212,764	52,452	5,462	63,661	114,035	2,934,548
Additions	66,202	7,482	1,419	0	0	25,684	100,787
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	(34,418)	(2,219)	0	0	(2,542)	0	(39,179)
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(51,932)	(12,330)	(17)	0	(833)	0	(65,112)
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	491	(3,884)	0	0	0	0	(3,393)
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(66,140)	(2,287)	0	0	0	0	(68,427)
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition of Assets (recognised in Other Operating Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	(6,817)	0	(125)	0	(663)	0	(7,605)
Transfers	38,846	12,382	0	0	778	(52,006)	0
Gross Book Value c/fwd at 31 March 2024	1,432,406	1,211,908	53,729	5,462	60,401	87,713	2,851,619
Depreciation b/fwd at 01 April 2023	(514)	(70)	(26,267)	(325)	(2)	0	(27,178)
Depreciation for year	(26,354)	(17,203)	(2,863)	(62)	(372)	0	(46,854)
<u>Depreciation written back on:</u>							
Transfers	14	0	0	0	(14)	0	0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	2,516	13,580	66	0	151	0	16,313
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	24,339	3,497	17	0	183	0	28,036
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets Sold	0	0	26	0	0	0	26
Depreciation c/fwd at 31 March 2024	1	(196)	(29,021)	(387)	(54)	0	(29,657)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	1,432,407	1,211,712	24,708	5,075	60,347	87,713	2,821,962

Group Accounts

2022/23	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land & Bldgs £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equip't £000	Comm. Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets under Construction £000	TOTAL £000
Gross Book Value b/fwd at 01 April 2022	1,446,394	1,106,925	50,401	5,462	60,857	123,671	2,793,710
Additions	79,278	8,366	1,372	0	0	44,671	133,687
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	21,501	63,461	10	0	2,568	0	87,540
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(19,628)	22,544	(11)	0	623	0	3,528
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	(217)	0	0	0	0	(217)
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	(31)	(133)	0	0	0	(21,187)	(21,351)
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loss of Control of Assets (recognised in Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De-recognition of Assets (recognised in Other Operating Expenditure)	(54,813)	0	0	0	0	0	(54,813)
Disposals	(7,379)	0	(24)	0	(133)	0	(7,536)
Transfers	20,852	11,818	704	0	(254)	(33,120)	0
Gross Book Value c/fwd at 31 March 2023	1,486,174	1,212,764	52,452	5,462	63,661	114,035	2,934,548
Depreciation b/fwd at 01 April 2022	(1)	(48)	(22,856)	(263)	(1)	0	(23,169)
Depreciation for year	(25,567)	(15,057)	(3,528)	(62)	(328)	0	(44,542)
Depreciation written back on:							0
Transfers	20	0	0	0	(20)	0	0
Revaluations (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	22,666	12,414	106	0	309	0	35,495
Revaluations (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	2,368	2,621	11	0	38	0	5,038
Impairments (recognised in Revaluation Reserve)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impairments (recognised in Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets Sold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation c/fwd at 31 March 2023	(514)	(70)	(26,267)	(325)	(2)	0	(27,178)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	1,485,660	1,212,694	26,185	5,137	63,659	114,035	2,907,370

Group Accounts

5. Investment Properties

Whilst the Council has no investment properties, CRPL owns Catford shopping centre and several surrounding properties. As these properties were solely being used to generate income from rentals and from capital accumulation at 31 March 2024, under the code of practice they are classed as investment properties.

Valuation

The yearly movement in the fair value of the properties owned by CRPL is as follows:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	16,920	17,503
Additions	0	0
Net Gains or (Losses) from fair value adjustments	482	(583)
Disposals	0	0
Balance carried forward at end of year	17,402	16,920

Rental Income & Direct Operating Expenses

Rental income from the properties and the directly attributable operating expenditure is shown in the table below:

Rental Income & Direct Operating Expenses

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Rental Income	1,157	1,034
Direct Operating Expenses		
Property Costs	(68)	(615)
Services provided to tenants	(110)	(100)
Lease renewal and rent review fees	(95)	(87)
Insurance less recoveries	(79)	(83)
Repairs and maintenance	(105)	(7)
Net Income from Rental Property	700	142

Group Accounts

6. Note to the Group MIRS - Adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts

The following adjustments are made in the Group's Movement in Reserves Statement in order to reconcile the General Fund back to its Council position prior to funding basis adjustments being made.

An analysis of the adjustments between group accounts and authority accounts row within the Group MIRS in 2023/24 is as follows:

Adjustment for:	£'000
London Borough of Lewisham Payments to Lewisham Homes	(29,701)
Lewisham Homes Payments to London Borough of Lewisham	1,352
London Borough of Lewisham Payments to CRPL	(21)
CRPL Payments to London Borough of Lewisham	943
Total Adjustments to GF Net Expenditure	(27,427)

2022/23 Comparator:

Adjustment for:	£'000
London Borough of Lewisham Payments to Lewisham Homes	(52,833)
Lewisham Homes Payments to London Borough of Lewisham	6,390
London Borough of Lewisham Payments to CRPL	(11)
CRPL Payments to London Borough of Lewisham	861
Total Adjustments to GF Net Expenditure	(45,593)

7. Pensions

In 2023/24 the staff of Lewisham Homes Limited transfer to the Council as part of the in-sourcing of the functions of Lewisham Homes limited related to the Council's housing stock. The pension liability that was previously guaranteed by the Council transferred back to the Council and is now included in the Council's single entity accounts. An adjustment has been made to the valuation of the assets and liabilities within the Council's single entity accounts to reflect this.

Lewisham Homes Pension Reserve

The Pensions Reserve reflects the timing differences which arise from the accounting treatment for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	29,125	17
Net effect of business combinations and disposals	(29,125)	
Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	0	47,620
Return on Assets excluding amounts included in Net Interest	0	(13,706)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	0	(8,601)
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	0	3,795
Balance carried forward at end of year	0	29,125

Group Accounts

8. Long Term Debtors

The value of Long-Term debtors has reduced from the Single entity accounts balance to the Group Accounts balance because of the removal of loans to the subsidiaries (Lewisham Homes £40,000k and CRPL £16,934k).

9. Group Revaluation Reserve

The Group Revaluation Reserve records the accumulated gains on non-current assets held by the Group arising from increases in value (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value). The Reserve is also debited with the part of the depreciation that has been incurred because the asset has been revalued. On disposal of an asset, its Revaluation Reserve balance is written out to the Capital Adjustment Account. The overall balance on the Reserve thus represents the amount by which the value of non-current assets carried in the Balance Sheet is greater because they are carried at revalued amounts rather than depreciated historical cost.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance brought forward at start of year	1,405,140	1,298,093
Opening Balance Adjustment	1,302	
Revaluation of Assets	(22,069)	135,601
Impairment Losses	(4,258)	(217)
Loss of Control of Assets	0	0
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(26,327)	135,384
Difference between fair value and historic cost depreciation	(24,054)	(21,979)
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(2,771)	(6,358)
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	(26,825)	(28,337)
Balance carried forward at end of year	1,353,290	1,405,140

10. Group Accounts Prior Period Adjustments/ Restatements

In 2023/24 there were no restatements directly to the 2022/23 Group Accounts. All restatements were due to the London Borough of Lewisham single entity.

Glossary

SECTION 7 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE ACCOUNTS

ACCRUALS	These are amounts included in the accounts to cover income and expenditure attributable to the financial year, but for which payment had not been received or made as at 31 March.
ACTUARY	An independent professional who advises on the financial position of the Pension Fund and carries out a full valuation every three years.
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	This is expenditure on the acquisition or enhancement of assets which significantly prolongs their useful lives or increases their market value. This is considered to be of benefit to the Council over a period of more than one year, e.g. land and buildings.
CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT	This represents the capital resources which have been set aside to meet past capital expenditure.
CAPITAL RECEIPTS	Income received from the sale of land, buildings and plant.
COLLECTION FUND	A separate statutory account into which Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) are paid in order to account for payments due to the Council's General Fund and Preceptors (currently the Greater London Authority for Council Tax and NDR, and Central Government for NDR).
CONTINGENT LIABILITY	A possible liability to incur future expenditure at the balance sheet date dependent upon the outcome of uncertain events.
CREDITORS	This is an amount of money owed by the Council for goods, works or services received.
DEBTORS	This is an amount of money owed to the Council by individuals and organisations.
DEPRECIATION	This is the loss in value of an asset due to age, wear and tear, deterioration or obsolescence. An annual charge in respect of this is made to service revenue accounts over the life of most assets to reflect the usage in the year.
EARMARKED RESERVES	These are amounts set aside for specific purposes to meet future commitments or potential liabilities, for which it is not appropriate to establish provisions.
FAIR VALUE	This is defined as the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or liability settled, assuming that the transaction was negotiated between parties knowledgeable about the market in which they are dealing and willing to buy/sell at an appropriate price, with no other motive in their negotiations other than to secure a fair price.
GENERAL FUND	This is the account which comprises the revenue costs of providing services, which are met by General Government Grants and the Council's demand on the Collection Fund.
IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCE	This is an amount set aside from revenue to cover irrecoverable debts.
INFRASTRUCTURE	These are non-current assets which do not have a market value and primarily exist to facilitate transportation and communication (e.g. roads, street lighting). They are usually valued at historic cost.

Glossary

LEASES	<p>A Lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time. The definition of a lease includes hire purchase contracts. Lease classification is made at the inception of the lease.</p> <p>A Finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risk and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred. An Operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease.</p>
MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT	<p>These Accounts are not part of the Council's formal statutory Accounts and are included in the Statement for added information.</p>
MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)	<p>The prudent amount which must be charged to the Council's revenue account each year for the principal repayment of debt.</p>
NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)	<p>Also known as Business Rates, these are set by the Government and collected by the Council. The income due is paid as precepts to the Council's General Fund, the Greater London Authority and Central Government.</p>
PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)	<p>This is a scheme whereby contracts for specified services are let to private sector suppliers by the Council which may include capital investment as well as the provision of the service. Payments are made to the supplier in return, which are reduced if performance targets are not met.</p>
PRECEPTS	<p>These are demands made upon the Collection Fund by the Council's General Fund and the Greater London Authority in accordance with their budget requirements. A share of the NDR precept is also paid to Central Government.</p>
PROVISIONS	<p>This is an amount which is set-aside for a specific liability or loss, which is likely to be incurred, but where the exact amount and date on which they will arise is uncertain.</p>
REVALUATION RESERVE	<p>This represents the gains on the revaluation of non-current assets which have not yet been realised through sales.</p>
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG)	<p>This is the main general grant which is paid to the Council by Central Government to fund local services.</p>
REVENUE EXPENDITURE	<p>Day-to-day expenditure incurred in the running of Council services, e.g. salaries, wages, supplies and services.</p>
SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE	<p>This is a legal entity (usually a limited company) created to fulfil narrow, specific or temporary objectives.</p>
SUPPORT SERVICES	<p>These are activities of a professional, technical and administrative nature which are not Council services in their own right, but support main front-line services.</p>

Glossary

COMMON ACRONYMS USED IN THE ACCOUNTS

AUC	Assets Under Construction
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
COP	Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounts in the United Kingdom
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
DfE	Department for Education
HRA	Housing Revenue Account
IAS	International Accounting Standards
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
LEP	Local Education Partnership
LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
LPFA	London Pensions Fund Authority
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MiRS	Movement in Reserves Statement
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
NDR	Non-Domestic Rates
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PPE	Property, Plant & Equipment
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
SeRCOP	Service Reporting Code of Practice
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
SSAP	Statement of Standard Accounting Practice
TfL	Transport for London
TPS	Teachers' Pensions Scheme
VAT	Value Added Tax

SECTION 8 – PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS

FOREWORD

This Pension Fund Statement of Accounts details the financial position and performance of the Lewisham Pension Fund for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The Pension Fund's value increased over the year by £190m (11%), from £1.652bn to £1.842bn. The value of the pension fund increased due to the changes in global markets mainly caused by the lowering of inflation and better global trading forecasts. The Bank of England policy on interest rates is expected to cut rates in 2024 and forecasts an increase in consumer spending.

INTRODUCTION

The London Borough of Lewisham Pension Fund ('the Fund') is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Fund is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by the London Borough of Lewisham to provide benefits to London Borough of Lewisham employees and former employees and admitted and scheduled bodies. These benefits include retirement allowances and pensions payable to former employees and their dependants, lump sum death gratuities and special short-term pensions. The Fund is financed by income from investments and contributions from employees, the Council and other admitted and scheduled bodies.

ORGANISATION

The Fund is governed by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Fund is administered in accordance with the following secondary legislation (referred to henceforth as "the Regulations"):

- The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended);
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (as amended); and
- The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

Formal responsibility for investment management of the Pension Fund is delegated to the Council's Pensions Investment Committee (PIC), which appoints and monitors external investment managers. Each investment manager has an individual performance target and benchmark tailored to balance the risk and return appropriate to the element of the Fund they manage. The investment managers also consider the PIC's views on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. Details of the ESG factors are contained in the Investment Strategy Statement and the Transition to Net Zero Policy published online (see web address below).

The Pension Board operates independently of PIC and assists the administering authority in securing compliance with the Regulations and any other legislation or codes of practice relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme. Further information about the Board, together with its Terms of Reference, can be found online at the web address below.

The Pension Fund administration is managed by a small in-house team, which is also responsible for other areas of work such as redundancy payments, gratuities and teacher's compensation.

The pension fund's governance compliance statement (part of the Annual Report), funding strategy and investment strategy can be found on the authority's Pension Fund website at the following address:

www.lewishampensions.org/resources/

Pension Fund Accounts

FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The fund account shows the surplus or deficit on the fund for the year.

	2023/24	2022/23	
	£000	£000	See note
<u>DEALINGS WITH MEMBERS, EMPLOYERS AND OTHERS</u>			
<u>DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE SCHEME</u>			
Contributions Receivable:			
- from Employers	42,136	39,739	5
- from Employees	12,724	12,300	5
Transfer Values In	7,547	10,103	
Other Income	96	84	
Sub-Total: Income	62,503	62,226	
Benefits Payable:			
- Pensions	54,801	49,145	6
- Lump Sums: Retirement allowances	8,998	9,108	6
- Lump Sums: Death grants	1,011	1,498	6
Payments to and on account of leavers:			
- Refunds of Contributions	176	30	
- Transfer Values Out	11,593	6,375	
Sub-Total: Expenses	76,579	66,156	
Sub-Total: Net Additions/ (Withdrawals) from dealings with members	(14,076)	(3,930)	
Management Expenses	(3,514)	(4,117)	7
Sub-Total: Net (Additions)/ Withdrawals including fund management expenses	(17,590)	(8,047)	
<u>RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS</u>			
Investment Income	23,879	18,156	9
Change in market value of investments (Realised & Unrealised)	183,661	(108,222)	14b
Net Returns on Investments before tax	207,540	(90,066)	
Taxes on Income	(381)	(193)	
Total Net Returns on Investments	207,159	(90,259)	
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN THE FUND DURING YEAR	189,569	(98,306)	
OPENING NET ASSETS OF THE FUND	1,651,977	1,750,283	
CLOSING NET ASSETS OF THE FUND	1,841,546	1,651,977	

Pension Fund Accounts

NET ASSETS STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

The Net Assets Statement shows the market value of the investments and other assets held by the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2024.

	31/03/24	31/03/23	See note
	£000	£000	
INVESTMENT ASSETS			
Managed Funds			
Pooled Property Investments	122,344	117,436	10 - 14
Equity Unit Trust	1,056,775	870,530	10 - 14
Fixed Income Unit Trust	246,072	249,576	10 - 14
Venture capital	282,975	276,999	10 - 14
Hedge Funds	76,923	76,617	10 - 14
Total Investment Funds	1,785,089	1,591,158	
Cash Held with Custodian	56,029	58,448	18
Other Investment Balances (debtors)	247	241	17a
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	1,841,365	1,649,847	
Current Assets	2,685	4,855	17b
Current Liabilities	(2,504)	(2,725)	17b
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,841,546	1,651,977	

The financial statements of the Fund do not take account of the liability to pay pensions or benefits after 31 March 2024. This liability is included within the Authority's balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS

Note 1: Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts summarise the Fund's transactions for 2023/24 and its position at year end and as at 31st March 2024. The 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) which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits.

The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year, nor do they take into account the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits. The Code gives administering authorities the option to disclose this information in the Net Asset Statement, in the notes to the accounts or by appending an actuarial report prepared for this purpose. The Authority has opted to disclose this information in an accompanying report to the accounts, which is disclosed in Note 19.

The Pension Fund Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, with the assumption that the functions of the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Practices

The Pension Fund accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 ('the Code') which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of the obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. In respect of future obligations, the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits are valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS) 26 basis.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2013 require administering authorities in England and Wales to prepare a Pension Fund Annual Report which must include the Fund Account and a Net Assets Statement with supporting notes prepared in accordance with proper practices. The Regulations summarise the Pension Code and the minimum disclosure requirements.

The date for publishing the Pension Fund Annual Report is on or before 1 December following the end of the financial year. The Council will be taking its Annual Report to its Pensions Investment Committee later in the year to comply with this deadline.

Accounting Policies

A summary of the significant accounting policies, valuation techniques, and the basis of preparation of the accounts are shown below:

- (a) **Investments** - Investments in the Net Assets Statement are shown at Fair Value. The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13. 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). The market value of equity investments is based on the official closing data, in the main, with last trade data being used in a small number of countries. Unitised equities are quoted based on last trade or official closing price. Northern Trust, the Fund's custodian, sets out its pricing

Pension Fund Accounts

- policies in a document entitled “Asset pricing guidelines” which details its pricing process and sets out preferred pricing sources and price types.
- (b) The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on the sale of investments during the year.
 - (c) **Equities:** Equities are valued at published market prices.
 - (d) **Bonds:** Bonds are valued at the published bid market price on the final day of the accounting period.
 - (e) **Pooled Investments - Equity Unit Trusts and market quoted investments;** are valued at published bid market prices on the final day of the accounting period.
 - (f) **Pooled Investments - UK Fixed Income Managed Funds;** are valued at the average of broker prices.
 - (g) **Pooled Investments – Hedge Funds;** are valued by the investing managers on a fair value basis each year using PRAG guidance.
 - (h) **Pooled Property Investments:** The Property Funds do not have any direct investments in property but use property Fund managers to invest in pooled property/unit trust funds. They are valued in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) Valuation Standards at Fair Value based on their Open Market Value (OMV).
 - (i) **Venture Capital: Private Equity and Private Debt;** are valued in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, including FAS 157, which is consistent with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines. These guidelines set out that all investments are carried at fair value and they recommend methodologies for measurement.
 - (j) **Hedge Funds:** Hedge Funds are valued by investing managers on a fair value basis using PRAG guidance.
 - (k) **Fixed Income Unit Trust:** Fixed income earned from fixed income unit trusts. Interest income is recognised in the Fund as it accrues.
 - (l) **Contributions** – Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the actuary in the payroll period to which they relate. Employer’s augmentation and pension strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid is classed as a current financial asset..

Pension Fund Accounts

Contribution rates will differ between bodies in the scheme; from 01 April 2023 the employee contribution bands (revised annually in line with inflation) for the administering authority are as follows:

Pensionable Pay for the Post	Contribution Rates 2023/24	
	Main Section	50/50 Section
Up to £16,500	5.50%	2.75%
£16,501 to £25,900	5.80%	2.90%
£25,901 to £42,100	6.50%	3.25%
£42,101 to £53,300	6.80%	3.40%
£53,301 to £74,700	8.50%	4.25%
£74,701 to £105,900	9.90%	4.95%
£105,901 to £124,800	10.50%	5.25%
£124,801 to £187,200	11.40%	5.70%
More than £187,201	12.50%	6.25%

The employer's contribution is reviewed every three years and is determined by the Fund's Actuary as the rate necessary to ensure that the Fund is able to meet its long-term liabilities. This is assessed at each triennial actuarial revaluation. The employer's contribution rate for the administering authority in 2023/24 is 22.0%.

- (m) **Benefits** – Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Lump sums are accounted for in the period in which the member becomes a pensioner. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.
- (n) **Transfer Values** – Transfer values are those sums paid to, or received from, other pension schemes relating to periods of previous pensionable employment. Transfer values are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations and have been brought into the accounts on a cash basis.
- (o) **Taxation** – The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section (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 an expense as it arises.
- (p) **VAT** – By virtue of Lewisham Council being the administering authority, VAT input tax is recoverable on Fund activities. Any irrecoverable VAT is accounted for as an expense.
- (q) **Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits** – The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits should be disclosed and based on the requirements of IAS 19 Post-Employment Benefits and relevant actuarial standards. As permitted under the Code, the Pension Fund financial statements include a note disclosing the actuarial present value of retirement benefits (see Note 19).

The longevity assumptions have changed since the previous IAS26 disclosure for the Fund. Life expectancy is based on the Fund's Vita Curves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 10% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. The assumptions used are based on the average future life expectancies at age 65.

- (r) **Management Expenses** - Pension fund management expenses are accounted for in accordance with the CIPFA guidance Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Costs 2016. All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the pension 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 expenses are accounted for on

Pension Fund Accounts

an accruals basis. All staff costs associated with governance and oversight are charged to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund. The cost of obtaining investment advice from the external advisor is included in oversight and governance costs. All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. The Investment Committee has appointed external investment managers to manage the investments of the Fund. Managers are paid a fee based on the market value of the investments they manage and/or a fee based on performance. Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the balance sheet date, an estimate based upon the market value of the mandate as at the end of the year is used for inclusion in the fund account.

- (s) **Cash and Cash Equivalents:** Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions which are repayable on demand without penalty.
- (t) **Foreign currency:** Foreign currency transactions are made using the WM/Reuters exchange rate in the following circumstances:
- Purchase and sales: the foreign exchange rate applicable on the day prior to the trade date is used.
 - Stock holdings: all holdings valuations are made using the WM/Reuters close of previous business day.
 - Dividend receipts: the rate applicable on the day prior to the date the dividend received is used.
- (u) **Commitments** - Where capital committed to investments is not fully drawn down at the end of the financial year the outstanding commitment is not included in the Net Asset Statement but is referred to in the notes to the accounts; please see note 21.
- (v) **Financial Instruments**
- (i) Financial Liabilities are recognised at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial 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 by the Fund.
 - (ii) Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net asset statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the value of the asset are recognised in the Fund account.
- The values of investments as shown in the net asset statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS 13

Pension Fund Accounts

(w) Additional Voluntary Contributions (“AVCs”)

Members of the Fund are able to make AVCs in addition to their normal contributions. The related assets are invested separately from the main Fund, and in accordance with the Regulations, are not accounted for within the financial statements. If on retirement members opt to enhance their Scheme benefits using their AVC funds, the amounts returned to the Scheme by the AVC providers are disclosed as transfers-in. Further details about the AVC arrangements are disclosed in note 23.

Practices

- (x) Actuarial** – The adequacy of the Fund's investments and contributions in relation to its overall and future obligations is reviewed every three years by an Actuary appointed by the Council. The Council's Actuary, Hymans Robertson, assesses the Fund's assets and liabilities in accordance with Regulation 62 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. The contribution rate required for benefits accruing in future is assessed by considering the benefits which accrue over the course of the three years to the next valuation.

The most recent triennial valuation carried out by the actuaries was as at 31 March 2022. Some of the financial assumptions made, with comparison to the previous valuation, are presented in the table below:

Financial Assumption	March 2022 (%)	March 2019 (%)
Discount Rate	3.6	3.5
Price Inflation (CPI*)	2.7	2.3
Pay Increases	3.7	3.0
Benefit Increase	2.7	2.3
CARE Revaluation	2.7	2.3
Expenses	0.9	0.7

* Consumer Price Index

With effect from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026, the actuarial review carried out for 31 March 2022 resulted in the Council's employer contribution rate being set at 17.6% however, effective rate for the Lewisham Council pool is considered as 22.0%.

The most recent triennial valuation as at the 31 March 2022 revealed that the Fund's assets, which at 31 March 2022 were valued at £1.748bn, were sufficient to meet 97% (90% in 2019) of the past service liabilities valued at £1.804bn (£1.541bn in 2019) accrued up to that date. The resulting deficit as at the 2022 valuation was £56m (£154m in 2019).

Note 3: Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out above, the Council has had to make certain critical judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. There were no such critical judgements made during 2023/24.

Pension Fund Accounts

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

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts. Estimates and assumptions take account of historical experience, current trends and future expectations. However, actual outcomes could be different from the assumptions and estimates made. The items in the net asset statement for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment the following year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 19)	The figure of net liability to pay pensions is based on a significant number of complex assumptions including the discount rate, salary increases, mortality rates and expected returns on Fund assets. The Pension Fund's qualified actuary calculates this figure to ensure the risk of misstatement is minimised. Further sensitivity analysis is included in note 19, below.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.1% increase or decrease in the discount rate assumption is estimated to increase or reduce the present value of the pension liability by £28m.
Property valuations	Valuation techniques are used to determine the carrying values of freehold and leasehold property directly held by some fund managers. Where possible these valuation techniques are based on observable data, otherwise the best available data is used.	Following an analysis of historical volatility of asset class returns and expected investment returns, in consultation with the Fund's advisors, the Council has determined that the percentage of volatility that can be applied to the Fund's Pooled property assets in 2023/24, assuming all other variables such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates remain the same, is estimated to be 7.7% (see table in note 15a(ii)). This would be an increase or decrease in the value of property investments by £9.4m, on a fair value of £122m.
Venture Capital - private equity / infrastructure	Private equity investments are valued at fair value in accordance with British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association guidelines. These investments are not publicly listed and as such, there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The venture capital investment in the financial statements is £283.0m. There is a risk that this investment may be under or overstated in the accounts and the Council has determined that the percentage of volatility that can be applied to the Fund's Venture Capital is estimated to be 4.3% (see table in note 15a(ii)). This would be an increase or decrease in the value of venture capital investments by £12.2m, on a fair value of £283.0m.

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 5: Contributions Receivable

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Employer Contributions		
Administering Authority	(36,512)	(32,680)
Scheduled Bodies	(5,018)	(6,433)
Admitted Bodies	(606)	(626)
	(42,136)	(39,739)
Employee Contributions		
Administering Authority	(11,030)	(9,941)
Scheduled Bodies	(1,506)	(2,149)
Admitted Bodies	(188)	(210)
	(12,724)	(12,300)

Contributions receivable from employers are shown below:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Employer Contributions		
Normal	(40,456)	(37,962)
Early Retirement Strain	(1,680)	(1,607)
Deficit Funding	(0)	(170)
	(42,136)	(39,739)

Note 6: Benefits PayableBy Category

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Pensions	54,801	49,145
Commutation and Lump Sum Retirement Benefits	8,998	9,108
Lump Sum Death Grants	1,011	1,498
	64,810	59,751

By Authority

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Administering Authority	56,513	51,480
Scheduled Bodies	4,845	5,062
Admitted Bodies	3,451	3,209
	64,810	59,751

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 7: Management Expenses

The table below shows a breakdown of the management expenses incurred during the year.

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Administration Expenses	1,134	862
Oversight and Governance Expenses	446	525
<u>Investment Management Expenses:</u>		
- Transaction Costs	505	535
- Management Fees	1,392	2,055
- Custody Fees	37	140
	3,514	4,117

Note 8: External Audit Costs

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
External Audit Services	85	49
Total	85	49

The Pension Fund's external auditors are KPMG.

Note 9: Investment Income

The table below shows a breakdown of the investment income for the year:

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Cash	2,114	831
Equities	1	985
Pooled property investments,	4,705	4,860
Pooled investments (fixed income and equity unit trusts and hedge funds)	12,664	8,474
Venture Capital	4,395	3,006
	23,879	18,156

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 10: Fund Assets

The table below outlines the fund managers, asset classes, and values of those assets held by the Fund as at 31 March 2024.

Fund Manager	Investment Asset	Asset Value 31 March 2024 £000	Proportion of the Fund 31 March 2024 %	Asset Value 31 March 2023 £000
LCIV - PEPPA	Equity Unit Trust	637,223	34.7	504,922
Storebrand Global ESG	Equity Unit Trust	321,224	17.5	271,627
Blackrock	Fixed Income Unit Trust	246,072	13.4	249,576
Schroders Property	Property & cash	132,665	7.2	128,997
HarbourVest	Venture Capital & cash	99,730	5.4	99,389
J.P. Morgan	Hedge Funds	76,929	4.2	76,621
Storebrand Emerging Markets	Equity Unit Trust	76,312	4.1	74,186
LCIV – Private Debt	Venture Capital	67,732	3.6	59,212
LCIV – Renewable Infrastructure	Venture Capital	50,222	2.7	40,267
LGIM	Venture Capital	42,321	2.3	44,457
Pemberton	Venture Capital	37,567	2.0	39,544
Partners Group	Venture Capital	9,222	0.5	17,832
Various Managers	Cash	44,146	2.4	43,216
Lewisham	Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	181	0.0	2,131
Total Fund Assets		1,841,546	100.0%	1,651,977

Note 11: Investment Analysis

Individual Investment assets with a market value exceeding 5% of the total fund value as at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

		£000	%
Passive Equity Progressive Paris Aligned Fund	LCIV	637,220	34.7
Storebrand Global ESG Plus	Storebrand	321,224	17.5

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Pension Fund Accounts

Individual Investment assets with a market value exceeding 5% of the total fund value as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Asset	Manager	31 March 2023	
		£000	%
Passive Equity Progressive Paris Aligned Fund	LCIV	504,919	30.5
Storebrand Global ESG Plus	Storebrand	271,627	16.4
Blackrock Fixed Income A	Blackrock	96,586	5.8
Aquila Over 5 years Index Linked Blackrock Pensions	Blackrock	78,505	4.7
BlackRock Pensions Aquila over 15 years	Blackrock	74,143	4.5

Note 12: Reconciliation in Movement in Investments

An analysis of investment movements in 2023/24 (includes cash, debtors and creditors) is set out below:

	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Purchases and derivative payments	Sales and capital receipts	Change in Market Value during the year	Market Value as at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed Income Unit Trust	249,576	21,126	(21,126)	(3,504)	246,072
Equity unit trust	870,530	225	(1)	186,021	1,056,775
Hedge fund	76,617	0	0	306	76,923
Pooled property Investments	117,436	9,470	(3,615)	(947)	122,344
Venture capital	276,999	58,773	(55,073)	2,276	282,975
Sub-total	1,591,158	89,594	(79,815)	184,152	1,785,089
Cash deposits	58,448			(490)	56,029
Amount receivable for sales of investments	0			0	0
Investment income due	240			0	247
Spot FX contracts	0			0	0
Amounts payable for purchases of Invs	0			0	0
Other investment balances	2,131				181
Total	1,651,977			183,662	1,841,546

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Pension Fund Accounts

	Market Value as at 31/03/2022	Purchases and derivative payments	Sales and capital receipts	Re-Classification	Change in Market Value during the year	Market Value as at 31/03/2023
	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000
Bonds	112,822	0	0	(97,940)	(14,882)	0
Equities	107,822	145,362	(181,831)		(71,353)	0
Fixed Income Unit Trust	212,999	0	(174)	97,940	(61,189)	249,576
Equity unit trust	832,033	82,467	(86,434)		42,464	870,530
Hedge fund	71,610	77	(2,396)		7,326	76,617
Pooled property Investments	147,265	6,141	(9,450)		(26,520)	117,436
Venture capital	172,834	124,617	(33,499)		13,047	276,999
Sub-total	1,657,385	358,664	(313,784)	0	(111,109)	1,591,158
Cash deposits	92,992				3,154	58,448
Amount receivable for sales of investments	0				0	0
Investment income due	42				0	240
Spot FX contracts	0				(268)	0
Other investment balances	(136)					2,131
Total	1,750,283				(108,222)	1,651,977

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 13a: 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 based on the characteristics of each instrument, with the overall objective of maximising the use of market-based information.

Description of asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and Unobservable Inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Equities	Level 1	Published market prices	Evaluated price of feeds	Not required
Bonds	Level 2	The published bid market price on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Pooled investment – equity unit trust and market quoted investments	Level 2	Published bid market price on the final day of the accounting period	Not required	Not required
Pooled investments - UK Fixed Income Managed Funds	Level 3	Average of broker prices	Not required	Not required
Pooled investments - Hedge Funds	Level 3	Valued by investing managers on a fair value basis each year using PRAG guidance	NAV - based pricing set on a forward basis	Valuations are affected by a change to the value of the financial instrument it is being hedged against
Cash, Debtors and Creditors	Level 1	Carrying value is deemed to be fair value because of the short-term nature of these financial instruments	Not required	Not required
Venture Capital - private equity and private debt	Level 3	Comparable valuation of similar companies in accordance with International Private Equity guidelines	- EBITDA multiple - Revenue Multiplier'- Discount for lack of marketability - Control Premium	Valuations could be affected by changes to expected cashflow or by differences between audited and unaudited accounts
Hedge Funds	Level 3	Valued by investing managers on a fair value basis each year using PRAG guidance	NAV - based pricing set on a forward basis	Valuations are affected by a change to the value of the financial instrument it is being hedged against
Pooled Property Investments	Level 2/3	The published bid market price for level 2 or latest available fair value provided by the manager for level 3	Published prices or manager valuation statements prepared in under ECVA guidelines	Upward valuations are only considered when there is validation of the investment objectives and such progress can be demonstrated

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 13b: Sensitivity of Assets Valued at Level 3

The fund has determined that the valuation methods described above for level 3 investments 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.

	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value at 31 March 2024	Value on Increase	Value on Decrease
	%	£000	£000	£000
Overseas Hedge Fund	6.1	76,923	81,615	72,231
Overseas Venture Capital	4.3	75,919	79,184	72,655
UK Venture Capital	4.3	207,056	215,960	198,153
Pooled Property Investments	7.7	95,030	102,347	87,713
Total		454,928	479,106	430,752

Note 13c: Valuation of Financial Instruments carried at Fair Value

The valuation of financial instruments has been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values.

Level 1 – where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Listed investments are shown at bid prices. The bid value is based on the market quotation of the relevant stock exchange.

Level 2 – where 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 and where these techniques use inputs that are based significantly on observable market data.

Level 3 – where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include infrastructure, which the Fund holds assets in, unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, neither of which the Fund currently invests in.

The following table provides an analysis of the assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable:

Market Value as at 31/03/2024	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant observable inputs	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Pooled investments	0	1,302,847	76,923	1,379,770
Pooled Property Investments	0	27,314	95,030	122,344
Venture Capital	0	0	282,975	282,975
Cash deposits	56,029	0	0	56,029
Other investment assets	2,685	0	0	2,685
Investment income due	222	25		247
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss				
Other investment liabilities	(2,504)	0	0	(2,504)
Net financial assets	56,432	1,330,186	454,928	1,841,546

Pension Fund Accounts

Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Quoted market price	Using observable inputs	With significant observable inputs	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Pooled investments	0	1,120,106	76,617	1,196,723
Pooled Property Investments	0	33,654	83,782	117,436
Venture Capital	0	0	276,999	276,999
Cash deposits	58,448	0	0	58,448
Other investment assets	4,855	0	0	4,855
Investment income due	210	30		240
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss				
Other investment liabilities	(2,724)	0	0	(2,724)
Net financial assets	60,789	1,153,790	437,398	1,651,977

Note 13d: Transfers between Levels 1 and 2

There have not been any transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 assets in 2023/24.

Note 13e: Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Transfers in/out of level 3	Purchases	Sales	Unrealised gains (losses)	Realised gains (losses)	Market Value as at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Overseas Hedge Fund	76,617	0	0	0	306	0	76,923
Overseas Venture Capital	115,591	(36,976)	4,434	(6,235)	(5,058)	4,163	75,919
UK Venture Capital	161,408	36,976	17,363	(11,861)	3,170	0	207,056
Pooled Property Investments	83,782	0	9,470	0	449	1,330	95,031
Total	437,398	0	31,267	(18,096)	(1,133)	5,493	454,929

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 14a: Classification of Financial Instruments

The accounting policies describe how the different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category.

Market Value as at 31/03/2023 Designated as fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Financial liabilities		Designated as fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Market Value as at 31/03/2024 Financial liabilities
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
			Financial assets			
249,576			Fixed Income Unit Trust	246,072		
870,530			Equity Unit Trust	1,056,775		
76,617			Hedge Funds	76,923		
117,436			Pooled property Investments	122,344		
276,999			Venture Capital	282,975		
0	58,448		Cash deposits	0	56,029	
0	241		Other investment balances	0	247	
0	4,855		Debtors	0	2,685	
1,591,158	63,544	0		1,785,089	58,961	0
			Financial liabilities			
		(2,725)	Creditors			(2,504)
			Other Current Liabilities			
0	0	(2,725)		0	0	(2,504)
1,591,158	63,544	(2,725)	Total	1,785,089	58,961	(2,504)
	1,651,977		Grand Total		1,841,546	

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 14b: Net Gains and Losses on Financial Instruments

The following table shows net gains on financial instruments:

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Financial Assets		Re-stated
Fair Value through Profit and Loss	184,152	(111,109)
Loans and receivables	(490)	3,154
Assets at Amortised Cost		
Financial Liabilities		
Fair value through profit and loss	0	0
Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	(268)
	183,661	(108,222)

Note 15: Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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). As an investment fund, the Lewisham Pension Fund's objective is to generate positive investment returns for an accepted level of risk. Therefore, the Fund holds a mix of financial instruments such as securities (equities, bonds), interests in collective investment schemes (pooled funds), and cash equivalents. In addition, debtors and creditors arise because of its operations. The value of these financial instruments is reflected in the financial statements at their fair value.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Council's Pension Investment Committee (PIC). Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Council's pension operations. The main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments are market risk, credit risk, and liquidity risk. These policies are reviewed regularly to reflect change in activity and in market conditions.

The Committee regularly monitors each investment manager, and its investment consultant (Hymans Robertson) advises on the nature of the investments made and associated risks.

The Fund's investments are managed on behalf of the Fund by the appointed investment managers. Each investment manager is required to invest the assets managed by them in accordance with the terms of their investment guidelines or pooled fund prospectus.

The Fund's custodian is Northern Trust, who manage investments and report on them on behalf of the Fund. As the Fund adopts a long-term investment strategy, the high level strategic risks described below will not alter significantly during any one year unless there are significant strategic or tactical changes made to the portfolio.

a) Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk that fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices, interest rates or currencies. The Fund is exposed, through its investments in equities, bonds and pooled investment funds, to all these market risks. The aim of the investment strategy is to manage and control exposure to market risk within acceptable parameters while optimising the return from the investment portfolio. In general, market risk is managed through the diversification of investments by asset class and establishing mandate guidelines with investment managers. The risk

Pension Fund Accounts

arising from exposure to specific markets is limited by the strategic asset allocation, which is regularly monitored by the PIC.

i) Other Price Risk – Market

The risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movements, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument, its issuer or factors affecting the market in general. Market price risk arises from uncertainty about the future value of the financial instruments that the Fund holds. All investments present a risk of loss of capital, the maximum risk being determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. The investment managers mitigate this risk through diversification in line with their own investment strategies and mandate guidelines.

ii) Other Price Risk – Sensitivity analysis

The Council and its investment advisors also undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis. The Fund has a long term view on expected investment returns which smooths out short term price volatility.

Following an analysis of historical volatility of asset class returns and expected investment returns, in consultation with the Fund's advisors, the Council has determined that the following asset level percentages of volatility can be applied to the Fund's assets in 2023/24, assuming all other variables such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates remain the same:

Asset Type	Potential Market Movement +/- (% p.a.)
Equity Unit Trust	11.5
Fixed Income Unit Trust	14.1
Hedge funds	6.1
Pooled property Investments	7.7
Venture Capital	4.3
Other Investments	0.8
Cash	0
Total	7.7

Pension Fund Accounts

Applied to the period end asset mix, the potential impact on the Fund's market value in the next financial year is as follows:

Asset type	Market Value as at 31/03/2024	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£000	%	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	56,029	0.0	56,029	56,029
Investment portfolio assets:				
Fixed Income unit trusts	246,072	14.1	280,768	211,376
Equity unit trusts	1,056,775	11.5	1,178,304	935,246
Hedge funds	76,923	6.1	81,615	72,231
Pooled property Investments	122,344	7.7	131,764	112,923
Venture Capital	282,976	4.3	295,144	270,808
Other funds	427	0.0	427	427
Total assets * **	1,841,546		2,024,051	1,659,040

* This figure includes derivatives and other investment balances.

** The % change and value change for Total Assets includes the impact of correlation across asset classes

The 2022/23 comparator table is as follows:

Asset type	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Percentage change	Value on increase	Value on decrease
	£000	%	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	58,448	0.0	58,448	58,448
Investment portfolio assets:				
Fixed Income unit trusts	249,576	13.0	282,021	217,131
Equity unit trusts	870,530	12.8	981,957	759,102
Hedge funds	76,617	5.8	81,061	72,174
Pooled property Investments	117,436	7.7	126,478	108,393
Venture Capital	276,999	11.8	309,685	244,313
Other funds	2,371	1.2	2,400	2,343
Total assets	1,651,977		1,842,050	1,461,904

iii) Interest Rate Risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on its investments. Fixed interest securities and cash 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.

Fixed interest securities, cash and cash equivalents are exposed to interest rate risk.

iv) Interest Rate Risk – Sensitivity Analysis

The analysis that follows assumes that all other variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant, and shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 1% change in interest rates.

The analysis demonstrates that a 1% increase in interest rates will reduce the fair value on fixed interest assets (obviously the interest received will not change), and vice versa.

Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash and cash equivalent balances but they will affect the interest income received on those balances.

Pension Fund Accounts

Asset type	Market Value as at 31/03/2024	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash	56,029	0	0
Fixed Interest Investments			
UK Fixed Income Funds	166,516	1,665	(1,665)
Overseas Fixed Income Funds	79,556	796	(796)
Total change in assets available	302,101	2,461	(2,461)

Asset type	Market Value as at 31/03/2023	Change in year in the net assets available to pay benefits	
		+100 BPS	-100 BPS
	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash	58,448	0	0
Fixed Interest Investments			
UK Fixed Income Funds	152,648	1,526	(1,526)
Overseas Fixed Income Funds	96,958	970	(970)
Total change in assets available	308,054	2,496	(2,496)

v) Currency Risk is the risk to which the Pension Fund is exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency 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 was exposed to the following significant foreign currency levels at the 31 March 2024:

Euro	€9.0m	(€8.9m 22/23)
US Dollars	\$25.9m	(\$16.6m 22/23)

The remaining exposures arise from much smaller holdings of other currencies including Swiss Franc, Hong Kong dollar, Singapore dollar, Japanese Yen and Australian dollar.

Pension Fund Accounts

vi) Currency risk – sensitivity analysis.

The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Council and its investment advisors. Overseas equities, fixed interest securities and cash in foreign currencies are exposed to currency risk. Following analysis of historical data in consultation with the Fund's advisors, the Council considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements in 2023/24 to be 5.6% (8.8% in 2022/23). This volatility is applied to the Fund's overseas assets at period end as follows:

Asset Type	Asset Value at 31 March 2024 £000	Change %	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Fixed Income	79,556	5.6	84,011	75,101
Overseas Equity Funds	419,555	5.6	443,050	396,059
Overseas Hedge Funds	76,923	5.6	81,231	72,615
Overseas Venture Capital	75,919	5.6	80,170	71,667
Total	651,953	5.6	688,462	615,442

Asset Type	Asset Value at 31 March 2023 £000	Change %	Value on Increase £000	Value on Decrease £000
Overseas Fixed Income	96,928	8.8	105,457	88,398
Overseas Equity Funds	365,610	8.8	397,784	333,437
Overseas Hedge Funds	76,617	8.8	83,360	69,875
Overseas Venture Capital	115,591	8.8	125,763	105,419
Total	654,746	8.8	712,364	597,129

b) Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to meet an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. This is often referred to as counterparty risk. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit risk in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities. The Fund is exposed to credit risk through its underlying investments (including cash balances) and the transactions it undertakes to manage its investments. The careful selection and monitoring of counterparties, including; brokers, custodian and investment managers, seeks to minimise the credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle transactions in a timely manner.

	Rating	Balances at 31 March 2024 £000	Balances at 31 March 2023 £000
Barclays	A +	1,872	3,912
Northern Trust	AA -	56,029	58,448
Total		57,901	62,360

Pension Fund Accounts

c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Pension Fund will have difficulties in paying its financial obligations as they fall due. For example; the benefits payable costs and capital commitments. The Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. The Fund holds proportion of assets as cash to allow for short notice payments and capital calls. As at the 31 March 2024 these assets totalled £56.0m held in cash by the custodian on behalf of the Fund and fund managers.

Note 16: Derivative Contracts

As at 31 March 2024 there were no pending foreign exchange purchases or sales. The net gain related to foreign exchange forward contracts was nil in 2023/24 (net gain nil in 2022/23).

Note 17a: Other Investment Balances

These comprise the following amounts:

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Debtors		
Equity Dividends / Income from Managed Funds	205	177
Recovered Taxes	42	64
Interest and Other Income	0	0
Creditors		
Interest and Other Expenditure	0	0
Net	247	241

Note 17b: Net Current Assets

These comprise the following amounts:

Current Assets

	31/03/24 £000	Re-stated 31/03/23 £000
Contributions Due from Admitted/ Scheduled Employers/ Employees	655	737
Other Current Assets	0	56
Prepayments	158	150
Cash in Hand	1,872	3,912
	2,685	4,855

Pension Fund Accounts

Current Liabilities

	31/03/24 £000	31/03/23 £000
Fund Manager and Custody Fees	(301)	(511)
Consultancy/ Advisory Fees	(866)	(21)
Other Current Liabilities	(1,337)	(2,193)
	(2,504)	(2,725)

Note 18: Cash and Bank

Cash Held With Custodian

The Northern Trust Company is the Fund's global custodian and cash is held to meet the cash flow requirements of the Fund and its managers. The total cash held as at 31 March 2024 was £56.0m (£58.4m as at 31 March 2023). The table below shows how this was split between the Fund Managers.

Fund Manager	31/03/2024 £'000	31/03/2023 £'000
Cash Account	44,006	43,089
Schroders	10,237	11,479
HarbourVest	1,786	3,521
Partners Group	0	359
	56,029	58,448

Pension Fund Bank Account

The Lewisham cash in hand balance of £1.9m represents uninvested cash held in the Pension Fund bank accounts as at 31 March 2024. The Fund's accounts are held with Barclays Bank.

Note 19: Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits

The table below shows the total net liability of the Fund as at 31 March 2024. The figures have been prepared by Hymans Robertson LLP, the Fund's actuary, only for the purposes of providing the information required by IAS26. In particular, they are not relevant for calculations undertaken for funding purposes or for other statutory purposes under UK pension's legislation. In calculating the required numbers, the actuary adopted methods and assumptions that are consistent with IAS19.

	31/03/2024 £'000	31/03/2023 £'000
Present value of promised retirement benefits	(1,695,000)	(1,673,000)
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	1,840,155	1,657,000
Net Assets / (Liability)	145,155	(16,000)

Pension Fund Accounts

Longevity assumptions

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's Vita Curves with improvements in line with the CMI 2022 model, with a 10% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

Longevity Assumptions for year ended 31 March 2024	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	20.9	23.9
Future Pensioners	21.9	25.2

Financial assumptions

	31/03/2024 (%)	31/03/2023 (%)
Discount Rate	4.8	4.8
Salary Increases	3.8	4.0
Pension Increases	2.8	3.0

Sensitivity Analysis

CIPFA guidance requires the disclosure of the sensitivity of the results to the methods and assumptions used. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the liabilities are set out below:

Sensitivity to the assumptions at 31 March 2024	Approximate increase to liabilities (%)	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.1% p.a. decrease in the Real Discount Rate	2	28
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	67
0.1% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0	2
0.1% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2	26

Pension Fund Accounts

Note 20: Events after the Reporting Period

The audited Pension Fund Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Executive Director of Corporate Resources on 17 June 2024. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the accounts. Where events took place before this date which materially altered the conditions existing at 31 March 2024, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect these altered conditions.

Note 21: Contractual Commitments

The Pension Fund was committed to the following capital contributions as at the 31 March 2024:

Fund Manager	Fund	Contractual Commitment £000	Undrawn Capital £000
Harbourvest	Harbourvest Closed Ended Funds	128,059	24,285
London CIV	LCIV Renewable Infrastructure	90,000	47,074
London CIV	LCIV Private Debt	85,000	27,868
Pemberton	Pemberton European Mid-Market Debt Fund II	40,000	4,519
Schroders	Schroders Property Funds	14,554	4,464
Total		357,613	108,210

Note 22: Related Party Transactions

There have been no material transactions with related parties in the financial year. There were no provisions for doubtful debt and amounts written off in the period.

Eight Councillors sit on the Pensions Investment Committee which oversees the Fund. At each meeting of the Pensions Investment Committee, Councillors are required to make declarations of interest which are recorded. The members were Cllr Sian Eiles (Chair), Cllr Mark Ingleby (Vice-Chair), Cllr Chris Best, Cllr Louise Krupski, Cllr John Muldoon, Cllr James Royston, Cllr Liam Shrivastava, Cllr Mark Jackson.

During the year no declarations were made.

Four members and an independent chair make up the membership of the Pensions Board, which assists the administering authority in adhering to the Regulations with regards to its administration and governance of the scheme. At each meeting of the Board, members are required to make declarations of interest which are recorded. The members were Stephen Warren (Independent Chair), Employer Representatives, Sherene Russell-Alexander (Director of People and Organisational Development) and Mark Booker (Pension administrator Change Live Grow) and Employee representatives, Gary Cummins (Union representative) and Mark Adu-Brobbey (Programme Manager - Together Lewisham).

During the year no declarations of interest were made apart from some of the members being participants in the scheme, although this is a requirement of their Board membership.

No other trustees or Council chief officers with direct responsibility for Pension Fund issues made any declarable transactions with the Pension Fund in the period to 31 March 2024.

Pension Fund Accounts

The Council, the administering authority, had dealings with the Fund as follows:

- Recharges from the Council for the in-house administration costs borne by the scheme were transacted (included in Administration Expenses in Note 7). Some cash transactions relating to pension activities are currently effected through the Council's bank account and consequently Pension Fund cash balances are held by the Council from time to time and vice versa.
- Pension payments to retired members are paid from the Council's bank account and charged to the pension fund. The pension contributions from the Council employees are collected by the Council and paid to the pension fund. The net of the pension payments made and the contributions collected are reconciled each month and a payment is made on a regular basis to or from the pension fund's bank account.

London LGPS CIV Ltd (London CIV), established in 2015 by London Local Authorities manages London Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS') assets. London CIV is one of eight U.K. LGPS asset pooling companies. The London Boroughs and City of London who are the 32 Shareholders, are also our clients ('Client Funds'). London CIV is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA').

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The key management personnel of the Fund are the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Finance.

There were no costs apportioned to the Pension Fund in respect of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources post for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Total remuneration payable to key management personnel from the Pension Fund is set out below:

	2023/24	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Short Term Benefits	18	21
Post-Employment Benefits	4	4
Total	22	25

Note 23: Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's)

Contributing members have the right to make AVCs to enhance their pension. There are currently 45 'open' AVC contracts for LGPS members (i.e. excluding members with AVC contracts who have left Lewisham and now have preserved benefits). Some of these 'open contracts' will be for members who have paid AVCs in the past but who have suspended payments to the scheme for the time being.

The Fund has two AVC providers: Clerical Medical and Utmost (formerly Equitable Life). The value of AVC investments is shown below. The contributions are held by the providers and do not form part of the Lewisham Fund's assets in accordance with Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

LEWISHAM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24

Pension Fund Accounts

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Utmost £000	Clerical Medical £000	Total £000	Equitable Life £000	Clerical Medical £000	Total £000
Value at the Beginning of Year	289	874	1,163	352	1,024	1,376
Contributions and Transfers Received	24	152	176	0	121	121
Investment Return / change in market value	0	22	22	(21)	(43)	(64)
Paid Out	(22)	(316)	(338)	(42)	(228)	(270)
Value at the End of the Year	291	732	1,023	289	874	1,163

Annual Governance Statement

Year ended 31 March 2024

Executive Summary

Governance Assessment for 2023/24

After years of reduced central government funding, local authorities and their governance have come under increasing strain. Many have pursued additional commercialisation and partnership ventures using novel or untested governance arrangements and so increasing risk. The number of councils requiring government intervention has increased and a wave of public interest reports has acted as a reminder that things can go wrong anywhere, and the risks are significant.

At Lewisham, while we have not ignored commercial incentives, we have remained cautious. We cannot be complacent, but our governance arrangements remain robust. We enjoy very strong relationships between senior officers and politicians, with officers able to properly perform their duties and speak truth to power knowing their advice will be appreciated with respect. We know we have areas to review and improve, but they are known, and work is ongoing to develop our governance.

This Annual Governance Statement provides an opportunity to reflect on our governance arrangements, consider their effectiveness and look forward to how we can continue to meet the challenge of providing effective services to our residents. In completing that assessment, we have had regard to the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework that sets out key principles of good governance. Our summary assessment is below and detailed further throughout the document.

Principle	Assurance
A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting rule of law	Satisfactory
B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	Satisfactory
C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.	Satisfactory
D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	Satisfactory
E. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	Satisfactory
F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	Satisfactory

Annual Governance Statement

Principle	Assurance
G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability	Satisfactory

Governance Priorities for 2024/25

While we are satisfied our current governance arrangements are robust, that position needs constant review in a local government environment presenting varied and growing challenges. We perform ongoing review and reflection on our processes to ensure they are simple, clear and understood. We have a drive for improved corporate compliance that is showing signs of an encouraging positive shift in mindset. Beyond that ongoing improvement activity, we have identified various specific areas of Governance priority to address through the year ahead:

- Compile Annual Performance Report setting out how well we met our ambitions in 2023/24, key areas of focus for 2024/25, risks to meeting objectives plus information on budget and financial performance.
- Embedding the revised Corporate Values Statement launched in September 2023.
- Improve consistency and quality of record keeping as the Council increasingly uses more shared document spaces such as MS Teams and SharePoint.
- Improve compliance with centralised governance processes, especially staff performance appraisal completion rates.
- Continue to embed risk management information in Council governance and decision-making processes.
- Respond to the Regulator of Social Housing's Regulatory Notice.
- Implement our Housing Improvement Programme, including a stock condition survey, addressing non-decency, monitoring fire risk assessment remedial actions and transforming repairs and complaints.

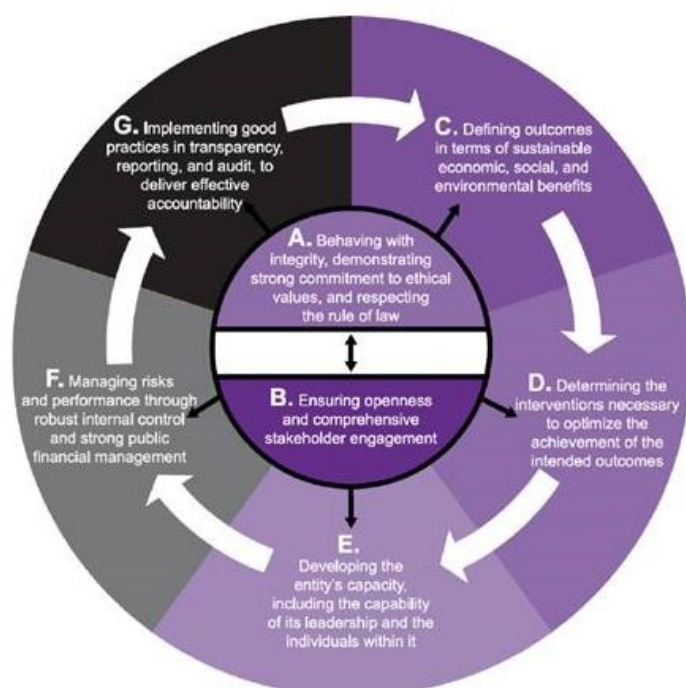
Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

What Is Corporate Governance?

The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards; and for having a governance framework that comprises of the culture, values, systems and processes by which this is achieved. It must make sure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively to meet its strategic objectives.

It also has a duty, through the establishment of internal control measures, to manage risk to a reasonable level by identifying, prioritising, evaluating and managing the risks to the achievement of its policies, aims and objectives. Finally, it has a duty to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the authority has complied with the code and how it meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.



“Corporate governance is about making sure that the Council is run properly. It is about ensuring the Council does the right things, at the right time and in the right way.”

How Has This Statement Been Prepared?

Every year a review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework is conducted by senior officers from policy, legal and audit with expertise in governance and internal control.

Officers monitor and evaluate governance evidence and identify areas requiring action; and are responsible for analysing CIPFA/SOLACE guidance in relation to the development of this statement for the financial statements.

The governance review process includes:

Oversight of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan rests with the Council's Executive Management Team.

Consideration of the Accounts by the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources (as the Council's s151 Officer).

Reviewing results of work conducted by the Council's assurance services, including the Annual Opinion of the Head of Internal Audit.

Review of the Annual Governance Statement by the Council's Audit Panel as part of the financial statements.

A review of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance by the Standards Committee, with reference to CIPFA/Solace Guidance.

Referral of the Annual Governance Statement to Full Council with the Statement of Accounts and sign off by the Speaker of the Council and Chief Executive, once approved.

Lewisham Council's Governance Processes

Governance Arrangements

The Council's governance arrangements are strong overall and aim to foster effective leadership and high standards of behaviour; a culture based on openness and honesty; and an external focus on the needs of service users and the public. The diagram below shows the external facing governance structure, as set out in the Council's constitution.

Lewisham's directly elected Mayor provides the Council with clear strategic direction and effective leadership, but the Council also benefits from the perspectives and contributions of its 54 Councillors. The Council's constitution clearly defines the roles of councillors and officers, and this clarity contributes to effective working relationships across the Council. The Governance Committee, the Standards Committee and the Audit Panel monitor and challenge the governance arrangements and ensure their robustness.

Annual Governance Statement

The Council has worked closely with its partners, both strategic and operational. The Council has five statutory partnership boards:

The Safer Lewisham Partnership is the statutory crime and disorder partnership for Lewisham.

The Youth Justice Board which is a statutory partnership board that oversees the work of the youth offending service in Lewisham.

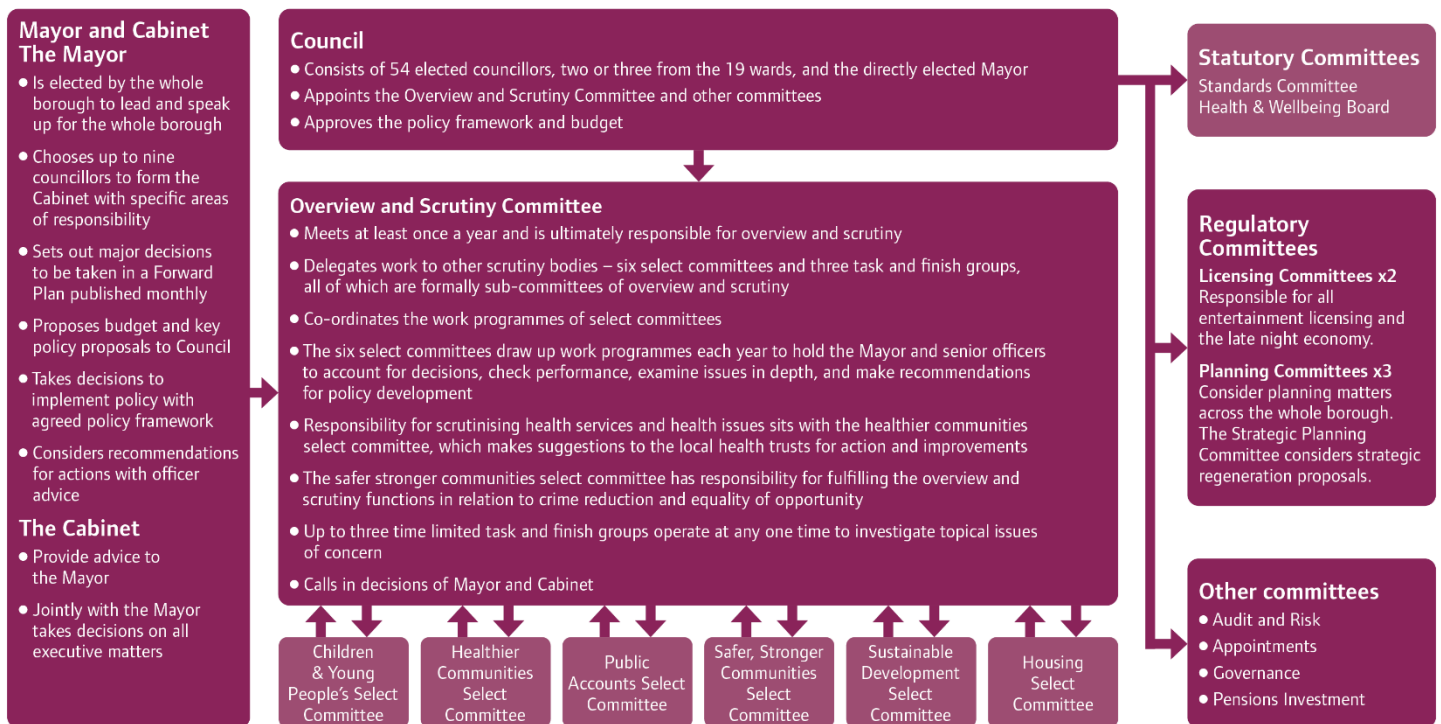
The Health and Wellbeing Board, Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care, works to promote greater partnership engagement that contribute to health and social care outcomes locally.

Local Adult Safeguarding Board responsible for helping oversee and safeguard adults with care and support needs through effective preventative measures.

Lewisham Children’s Safeguarding Partnership aims to ensure that member agencies work together to keep children and young people safe, hold one another to account and ensure that safeguarding remains a priority.

Council Composition

The Council is comprised of 54 Councillors, including the Mayor. Following the departure of the previous Mayor, a Mayoral By-Election was held on 7 March 2024 and Brenda Dacres, Labour Party, was elected as Mayor. We have 1 independent councillor and the remainder are filled by candidates from the Labour Party and the Labour and Co-operative Party.



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

Local government organisations are accountable not only for how much they spend, but also for how they use the resources under their stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes they have achieved. In addition, they have an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that they can demonstrate the appropriateness of all their actions across all activities and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

The Council has strong ethical values, set out in a clear Member Code of Conduct. All Members receive training on that Code and can access support and advice through the Monitoring Officer and his team on compliance, including for example on declarable interests.

The Member code is mirrored in a clear and comprehensive Employee Code of Conduct which draws on the Nolan Principles of good governance in setting out ethical expectations of officers across the authority.

Our staff survey during 2022/23 reported 94% of staff put the Council's corporate values into practice in their work. We built on that foundation in publishing after wide consultation a new set of Corporate Values in September 2023. During the year ahead we will continue embedding those Values in everything we do, for example in forming a key means for reviewing staff performance in our refreshed appraisal process in Spring 2024.

adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Council's constitution sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, the Speaker of the Council, the Council as a whole, the Executive, Statutory Officers, Overview and Scrutiny committees, Standards committees and other committees to help ensure that all decision-making activity is lawful and transparent. Decisions are taken and scrutinised in accordance with the Council and Mayoral scheme of delegation, the procedure rules set out in the constitution and based on professional officer advice, as part of an annual programme of regular meetings.

The tone from the top in terms of establishing effective governance arrangements and culture rests with the Council and the Mayor. The Council approve the Constitution and confirm the appointments and delegations annually at their Annual General Meeting.

The constitution requires councillors to follow formal procedures when taking decisions to make sure that decisions are made transparently and openly. The Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Codes of Conduct for Members and Officers, set out in the constitution, demand the highest standards of ethical behaviour. These are reviewed regularly and are communicated widely.

Ethics and Governance Training

Training on ethics, governance and the Member Code of Conduct is delivered to all Councillors in the first year of an administration (most recently in 2022) as part of a comprehensive induction programme to enable Members to understand and access all appropriate support and development to undertake their role. This training is repeated after by-elections. Training on specific governance issues is provided as required throughout the course of the administration.

In Spring 2024 the Council introduced a revitalised approach to Scrutiny at its “Scrutiny Summit”. The event featured training for Members on risk management, the role of scrutiny, ethical values and issues pertinent to individual committees. The event also provided a platform for committee chairs to initiate ongoing dialogue to continue through the year, aiming to co-ordinate and support effective governance through collaborative scrutiny.

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Local government is run for the public good. Organisations therefore should ensure openness in their activities. Clear, trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders.

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

The Council takes a proactive approach on transparency and stakeholder engagement. We have also continued to make wide use of our online consultation hub to support hearing stakeholder views on local projects such as Deptford High Street to broader initiatives such as suicide prevention interventions and training.

Engaging the Community and Partners

The Council promotes participation through its online engagement system, which provides a platform for citizens to respond to online consultations and set up and respond to e-Petitions. Last year more than thirty consultations took place online. At ward-level, Local Assemblies are an opportunity for residents to work with their ward councillors to shape the future of their neighbourhood; and the Young Citizens Panel gives young people aged 11–18 the chance to feed into Council policy and spending decisions, including the use of the Young Mayor's budget.

The Council's website includes a page on open data and transparency, which gives information on spending; wages of senior managers; Freedom of Information requests; the annual audit of accounts; the pay policy; and Council decisions.

As well as statutory strategic partnership working, extensive partnership working arrangements are in place which support the delivery of the Council's objectives. In 2023/24 we continued to develop our Local Strategic Partnership, carrying out an extensive engagement exercise with residents, reaching more than 1,200 people, which informed our partnership priorities for collaborative working via a new Community Action Plan (launched in July 2024).

The Council also has borough-based arrangements in place with the local Clinical Commissioning Group to align with the work of the National Health Service and is working with the South East London Clinical Care Group (SEL CCG) to develop the incoming Integrated Care System (ICS). Responding to global events in Syria and Afghanistan and consistent with our Sanctuary Borough commitments, the Council

has continued to work alongside the Lewisham Migration Forum to meet the needs of our refugee and migrant community.

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

The long-term nature and impact of many of local government's responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable and reflect the Council's 2019 declaration of a climate emergency. Decisions should further the organisation's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes,

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

The Council's revised Corporate Strategy 2022-26 sets out our key priorities including their sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits. Moreover, the Strategy emphasises the role of strong and effective governance as a core requirement to achieving those priorities.

and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens, service users, and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.

Communicating and reviewing the Council's vision

We launched our revised Corporate Strategy 2022-26 in November 2022 following extensive consultation. This replaced our previous Corporate Strategy 2018-2022. The Strategy groups the Council's commitments around seven corporate priorities:

Cleaner and greener: Tackling the climate crisis, supporting tree planting, maintaining London's best parks, enabling active travel and keeping streets clean.

A strong local economy: Supporting apprentices, investing in high streets, promoting Shop Local, attracting businesses to Lewisham and working with business to become London Living Wage employers.

Quality housing: Delivering more social homes for Lewisham, improving housing stock condition, supporting renters and safeguarding our heritage landmarks.

Children and young people: Continue supporting school improvement, relentless focus on inclusive pupil achievement, protecting the most vulnerable children and lobbying government to expand free school meal provision.

Safer communities: Implementing our Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, supporting the 'Have A Word' campaign, reducing young people's entry into the criminal justice system.

Open Lewisham: Celebrating Lewisham's diversity, preserving our Borough of Sanctuary status, building on our Borough of Culture legacy, strengthening the Lewisham Way of working with partners and actively listening to residents.

Health and Wellbeing: Working with partners to deliver the Lewisham Food Action Plan, mitigating health inequalities, progressing towards a fairer social care system, working with NHS on the Lewisham Health Care and Wellbeing Charter and empowering residents to live a physically active lifestyle.

Our Corporate Strategy also emphasises key components of our approach and governance that will be vital to successful delivering of these priorities:

Effective Management of finance: Sound financial management in maintaining a balanced budget, developing our financial monitoring, enhancing consideration of social value and managing spending within budget.

A flexible workforce we invest in: Recruiting, retaining and developing talented and committed staff to provide the best services for residents, including an emphasis of hybrid working while staying connected and engaged.

Collaborative working, including in partnerships: Convening a Local Strategic Partnership focused on tackling the issues that matter most to our residents plus creating a culture of working collaboratively and as a facilitator for organisations and people to support one another.

Evidence-based decision making: Expanding our Knowledge Observatory using Ward Profiles to assess and understand need across the Borough.

Strong and effective governance: Enhancing our approach to managing risk, alongside effective controls, to support and empower staff to deliver big ideas.

Staying on track and measuring success: Revamping how to measure and manage performance, identifying key results with regular monitoring integrated into service planning and made publicly available. In 2020 Lewisham Council published its Climate Emergency Action Plan, updated in 2024 which sets out a range of actions supporting the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the ambition for the borough to be net zero carbon. This Action Plan includes a range of measures supporting long-term sustainability of decision-making across the Council.

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory, and practical interventions (courses of action). Determining the right mix of these courses of action is a critically important strategic choice that local government must make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. They need robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the several types of resource inputs while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

We have clear decision-making procedures that draw in a wide range of considerations to support selected interventions. In 2023/24 we expanded our use of social value to support procurement decisions, building on the evidence provided in the annual Social Value Report published.

need to be reviewed frequently to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.

Decision Making

The constitution requires councillors to follow formal procedures when taking decisions to make sure that decisions are made transparently and openly. This includes declaring if they have a personal interest in the matters under discussion and, if required, withdrawing from the room whilst the decision is taken. Reports are produced in a standard format so report authors address all significant implications of decisions. These considerations have been expanded to include environment, wellbeing, and (for contracts) social value implications. The minutes of every formal meeting are published on the Council website.

The constitution requires Executive decisions to be published within two working days of being taken and they may be called-in (referred to the Mayor for reconsideration) by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. For 2023/24, no Mayor & Cabinet decisions were called-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be reconsidered.

The Council has a Governance Committee, to advise on constitutional arrangements but in practice, the procedure rules set out in the constitution are under constant review by the Monitoring Officer to reflect changing needs.

E. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Local government needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications and mindset, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve intended outcomes within the specified periods. A local government organisation must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation. Because both individuals and the environment in which an organisation operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of individual staff members. Leadership in local government is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities.

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

We have comprehensive training and development programmes supporting both Members and Officers showing our clear commitment to developing capacity and capability. We have permanent officers in key positions, including Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer and a settled Executive Management Team.

Training and Development

The Council runs a comprehensive Member Development Programme, with an intensive induction programme in the period following local elections. The programme ensures that all Councillors have access to the training and development opportunities they need to fulfil their responsibilities to the local community and provide clear leadership and effective scrutiny of local Council functions. Training and development are available for councillors every year, inclusive of regular all member briefings; training sessions for all councillors or specific cohorts of councillors; and tailored learning for individuals provided based on assessed needs. The Member Development Strategy supports the overall Organisational Development Strategy, which sets out a framework to ensure the organisation performs effectively, through its design, function, structure and processes.

The development needs of senior officers are the responsibility of the Director of People & Organisational Development and the Monitoring Officer who are aware of their statutory duties and stay abreast any changes in relevant legislation. At the

Annual Governance Statement

start of the financial year the Chief Executive, as the Head of Paid Service, defines objectives for each member of the Executive Management Team which are then cascaded to officers throughout the organisation through the objective setting arrangements set out in the People Management Framework. During the year this has also involved partnership with an external consultancy on an extensive Leadership Development Programme supporting our Senior Leadership Team and Executive Management Team.

We also have a Corporate Equalities Board to provide strategic direction for equalities across the Council. This includes oversight of our equality and diversity learning and development offer plus identifying and promoting opportunities for our range of staff networks to support employee engagement and development.

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and are crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision-making activities.

A robust system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will enforce financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery and accountability.

It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny are in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful service delivery. Importantly, this culture does not

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

During 2022/23 we extensively refreshed our approach to both risk and performance management. We published a new risk framework in March 2023, and revised Corporate Performance Report in early 2023/24. Both built on existing and developing internal practices and will continue to form the basis of public risk and performance reporting as it evolves through the year.

We have an existing strong financial management system managed by the Executive Director of Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources, including a revised Whistleblowing Policy launched in Autumn 2022.

happen automatically, it needs repeated public commitment from those in authority.

Monitoring Performance

The Council's performance is monitored via a suite of regular Directorate (Children and Young People Services, Community Services, Housing, Place, Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources, and Chief Executive) management reports and quarterly at the Executive Management Team. The reports use exception reporting to focus

attention on underperforming or high-risk areas and is a critical tool for supporting decisions across the organisation.

These reports are shared with Cabinet Leads, giving them direct line of sight to current and emerging performance issues. The appropriateness of Directorate performance measures is reviewed annually. The quality of services for users is also measured through satisfaction surveys and information from the complaints management resolution processes.

During 2022/23 we also developed a refreshed corporate performance report, using a Power BI interface that allows residents and stakeholders to better interact with and scrutinise our performance data. This Corporate Performance Report ([link](#)) went live in the early months of 2023/24 and is updated each quarter. The Council is also planning on publishing its Annual Report in the summer of 2024.

Compliance

The Monitoring Officer is central to ensuring compliance with the rules and procedures set out in the constitution. The Monitoring Officer attends Mayor, & Cabinet, Full Council meetings and is a member of the Executive Management Team (EMT). The Monitoring Officer regularly briefs councillors and relevant staff on corporate legislative developments; and legal advice is incorporated in every council report. Where gaps or non-compliance are identified, appropriate action is taken.

The financial management of the authority is conducted in accordance with financial regulations set out in the constitution and the Council has designated the Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources as its Section 151 Officer, who advises on the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, keeping proper financial records and maintaining effective systems of financial control. The Council has a whistleblowing and speaking up policy in place which is publicised on the Council's website and were refreshed and updated during 2022/23.

G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them. Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the organisation plans and conducts its activities in a transparent

Assurance Level: Satisfactory

The Council has strong audit arrangements, with unqualified opinions recorded for both internal audit (2023/24) and the last completed year for external audit (2022/23). In addition during 2023/24 the Council underwent a full Ofsted inspection of its Children's Services, which rated the services as "Good" overall.

manner. Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.

Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2023/24

The Council's Head of Assurance is the officer who serves as Chief Audit Executive as defined in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. In May 2024 he prepared an annual opinion as required by Regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. That opinion was not formally presented to the Audit & Risk Committee as planned on 4 June 2024 after the snap general election forced the Council to cancel the meeting. However, he circulated the opinion informally to committee members for discussion and will present at the next scheduled Audit & Risk Committee. The key conclusions were:

Internal Control

I am satisfied that during the year ended 31 March 2024 the Council managed its internal controls to offer satisfactory assurance on their adequacy and effectiveness.

Framework of Governance

I am satisfied that the Council's framework of governance for the year ended 31 March 2024 complies in all material respects with guidance on proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)"

Risk Management

I am satisfied the risk management arrangements at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 are effective and provide satisfactory assurance.

Other Matters

We have reported findings through the year related to the quality and consistency of the Council's record keeping. This finding has arisen in both adverse assurance reports and work that is otherwise positive about control and governance arrangements. The Council should have regard to improving its record keeping and information management, as it increasingly takes the opportunities for cloud storage and using tools such as SharePoint and MS Teams.

A further recurring finding relates to compliance with centralised governance and policy requirements. Examples include staff performance appraisals; information governance returns and health & safety service audits. While we note significant improvement in some areas, the most notable being the Council's performance in fulfilling freedom of information requests, further work is needed to improve the general level of compliance across the Council with returns its Executive Management Team have sanctioned as a required part of maintaining effective governance.

I recommend the Council include these two matters as areas for improvement in its Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

External Audit and Inspection

Our external auditors for 2023/24 are KPMG and they have completed their work on the 2023/24 financial statements by issuing unqualified opinions on the Council and Pension Fund in February 2024.

The 2023/24 audit by KPMG on the value for money arrangements within the Council has identified two significant weaknesses, both in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). These are in relation to the financial sustainability and governance arrangements associated with the HRA. Given the decision taken to bring the responsibility for housing management back into the Council, and the ensuing self-referral to the housing regulator in relation to the condition of the council dwellings, these findings are not surprising. The Council has HRA recovery plans which it is confident will be delivered as planned and will be able to satisfy the auditors that the arrangements in 2024/25 demonstrate this.

In addition to the annual independent review of the Council's governance, risk and control management arrangements, Children and Young People's Services is

subject to regular inspection through one of the following four inspection frameworks (in addition to the inspection of schools):

- Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (Ofsted)
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (Ofsted, CQC and HMICFRS) – the latter is the police inspectorate
- Special Educational Needs and disability Inspection (Ofsted and CQC)
- Youth Offending Inspection (HMIP) – Probation inspectorate

During December 2023 the Council’s Children’s Services were subject to inspection by Ofsted. Ofsted published its report in January 2024 and rated the services as “Good” across all judgements: the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, the experiences and progress of children in care, the experiences and progress of care leavers and overall effectiveness.

Ofsted concluded: “A determined focus by the experienced Executive Director for Children & Young People (DCS) and his highly effective leadership team has driven widespread improvements in services since the last inspection in 2019. Children and young people now benefit from good, high-quality help and support. The pace of change has been purposeful, and the areas identified for improvement at previous inspections have been priorities, leading to better outcomes for children.

Political and corporate leaders are committed corporate parents and ambitious for children and young people. Additional investment has been provided to strengthen services and stabilise the workforce. This includes a targeted early help service which has been fully developed and embedded since the last inspection, so that children and families receive timely and appropriate support. Partnerships with key stakeholders are well developed, supporting continued improvements for vulnerable children.”

Ofsted identified four key areas for improvement. Each area is being tracked by the Council and monitored to check improvements are developing and sustained.

Self-Referral to the Regulator of Social Housing

In December 2023, we took the decision to refer ourselves to the government’s Regulator of Social Housing for a potential breach of its consumer standards. We specifically asked the Regulator to examine whether we are providing decent homes, running an efficient repairs service, and completing fire safety actions within acceptable timescales.

The Regulator has now reached its conclusions and [published a Regulatory Notice](#), where it confirms our concerns and details its findings, along with recommendations for which areas are most urgent to address.

We accept the Housing Regulator's findings and acknowledge our underperformance and ongoing challenges in some areas of the service. The regulator is not taking statutory action at this stage, and the notice is very much in line with what we were expecting, and what we raised in our self-referral.

We have already made progress in some areas, which the Regulator recognises in its notice. We will continue working with the Regulator until we have satisfied their concerns and achieved full compliance for our residents.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Council's Audit & Risk Committee meets quarterly and is made up of a mixture of Councillors and independent advisors. The key roles of the Committee are to:

- Review and comment on the strategy, plans and resources of Internal Audit. Internal Audit update reports, summarising the audit reports issued, management's progress on implementing any recommendations and the performance of the Internal Audit function, are received by the Committee on a quarterly basis.
- Consider and monitor the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.
- Consider the external auditor's annual plan and other relevant external reports which contribute to the level of assurance.
- Consider the Council's annual Statement of Accounts and this statement and make comments to Full Council when it considers the accounts.

During 2023/24 the Audit & Risk Committee worked to a terms of reference modelled on the CIPFA model. A full Committee of the Council, it attracts a Special Responsibility Allowance for its Chair and includes a focus on risk running alongside the Council's broader refresh of its risk management arrangements. The Committee has also emphasised its position as a source of independent expert challenge by appointing three co-opted independent members. These independent members, with backgrounds in Local and Central Government, health and voluntary sectors, as well as private business bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the Committee's function. The independent co-opted members attended all Audit & Risk Committee meetings following their appointment in summer 2023.

Annual Governance Statement

The Committee met four times during 2023/24 but its last two meetings (in March and June 2024) were both cancelled in the wake of separate pre-election periods. Neither election event was planned or avoidable, but the Council has taken steps to keep the Committee abreast of governance developments outside the formal meetings. This included preparing meeting papers for informal distribution and inviting questions and discussion. Audit & Risk Committee meetings will resume in the autumn.

Governance Action Plan

Update on 2023/24 Governance Priorities

Our 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement described a range of priorities. We have monitored these through the year and provide below an update on progress.

Priority	Progress
Progressing delivery of the Mayor's policy programme, as set out in the Corporate Strategy 2022 to 2026.	In progress. The Council has retained its 2022-26 Corporate Strategy, but a new Mayoralty will place fresh emphasis on various priorities and we will adapt delivery accordingly. For 2024/25, action will focus on the <i>Annual Performance Report</i> .
Embedding the revised Corporate Values Statement launched in September 2023.	In progress. We continue to embed the Corporate Values in our processes. For example, the Values form a key strand in our revised staff appraisal process underway in Spring 2024.
Successfully incorporating Lewisham Homes back into the Council during 2023/24.	Immediate priority completed, but further actions required. We successfully brought Lewisham Homes stock back under Council management, with determination to address long-term challenges with openness and transparency, including self-referral to the Regulator.
Addressing remedial actions to improve IT Asset Management.	Completed. Actions confirmed in place by internal audit review. Further internal audit work in 2024/25 will examine continuing compliance.
Further developing the Council's Performance Reporting Dashboard.	Completed. The Council is now regularly published its key performance information in a Power BI enabled dashboard. We can and will develop further, but key priority delivered.
Full rollout of the refreshed Risk Management Strategy published in March 2023.	Immediate priority completed, but further actions required. While the approach continues to develop, all key milestones and components in place.

Annual Governance Statement

Priority	Progress
Maximising the role of Social Value in procurement as set out in the Social Value Policy for Procurement 2022-26 published October 2022.	Completed. Our Social Value impact report for 2023 showed that the first year of the policy saw a £74m injection into the local economy. We will continue building on this success, but the key priority is delivered.

2024/25 Governance Priorities Monitoring

We will continue to track ongoing priorities alongside the 2023/24 set highlighted below. This monitoring will take place in various places in our Governance structure, most notably:

- At the **Corporate Assurance Board**. An officer-led group including the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources (s151 Officer), Director of Law & Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer) and Head of Assurance (Chief Audit Executive). This Board meets up to ten times per year to consider a broad range of governance challenges and track progress on key actions to address defects and mitigate risk.
- Through the **Audit & Risk Committee**. This public, Member Committee will receive periodic updates as part of its governance monitoring.

Priority	Exec Management Team Owner
Compile Annual Performance Report setting out how well we met our ambitions in 2023/24, key areas of focus for 2024/25, risks to meeting objectives plus information on budget and financial performance.	Jennifer Daothong Chief Executive
Embedding the revised Corporate Values Statement launched in September 2023.	Jennifer Daothong Chief Executive
Improve consistency and quality of record keeping as the Council increasingly uses more shared document spaces such as MS Teams and SharePoint.	David Austin Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources
Improve compliance with centralised governance processes, especially staff performance appraisal completion rates.	Jennifer Daothong Chief Executive

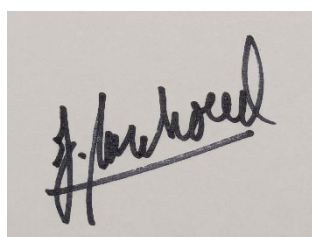
Annual Governance Statement

Priority	Exec Management Team Owner
Continue to embed risk management information in Council governance and decision-making processes.	David Austin Executive Director for Finance, Digital and Corporate Resources
Responding to the Regulator of Social Housing's <u>Regulatory Notice</u> .	Gillian Douglas Executive Director Housing
Implement our Housing Improvement Programme, including a stock condition survey, addressing non-decency, monitoring fire risk assessment remedial actions and transforming repairs and complaints.	Gillian Douglas Executive Director Housing

Signatures



JENNIFER DAOTHONG
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



COUNCILLOR JACQ PASCHOUD
SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL