2022/23

Swindon Borough Council & Group DRAFT2 Statement of Accounts

Introduction by the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets

The 2022/23 financial year was marked by the work of the Council supporting residents and businesses in dealing with the effects of inflation. As with all local authorities, Swindon faced additional inflationary pressures on its own costs and continued shortfalls on some sources of income that had not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

There is still considerable uncertainty about funding in the years ahead along with longer-term financial implications of the sharp increases in inflation. We will continue to deliver improvements that will enable the Council to respond to the anticipated challenges.

The following statement of accounts are signed off giving a true and fair view of the Council's accounts of the areas that are directly within its reporting control. The required final data from the actuary to complete the necessary IAS19 pension adjustments has so far not been received and the pension liability is brought forward from 21/22. On receipt of a final pensions report both the liability and service costs will be updated to reflect the IAS19 adjusted position and related disclosures added. It is not possible to estimate these adjustments given the specialist advice and analysis that the actuary provides.

Mick Bowden

Corporate Director of Finance and Assets

May 2023

Narrative Report

These accounts relate to the financial year ended 31 March 2023 and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain (The Code). The Code is to be adopted by Local Authorities when publishing their accounts. The accounting convention adopted is historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of tangible property, plant and equipment (PPE) assets. Any diversion from the Code is stated where applicable.

Updates to the Accounts Required Under Changes to Accounting Practice

There have been no prior period updates to the accounts from changes to accounting practice.

The Statements

The financial statements follow recommended practice and are split between core statements of the authority and their notes, and supplementary statements.

Financial Overview

Swindon Borough Council is a Unitary Council that, alongside its other core functions, also provides Council housing. It is required to account for its expenditure in three distinct categories:

- General Fund (GF) Revenue Account

This includes day-to-day expenditure on all services except those directly relating to council housing. Expenditure is financed mainly from government grant, (Formulae Grant, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)), other specific grants, fees & charges and Council Tax.

- Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Included within this account is all expenditure on the day-to-day management of the Council's housing stock. Expenditure is principally funded from council house rents. HRA income cannot be used to fund GF services beyond the extent that it buys support from those services.

- Capital

All improvements and enhancements to the Council's long-term assets are included in this category. This expenditure is funded from the sale of capital assets, borrowing, Government grant support or contributions from developers/revenue. Capital funding cannot be used for revenue activities unless a capitalisation directive is authorised by the Secretary of State.

Financial Overview – The General Fund (GF)

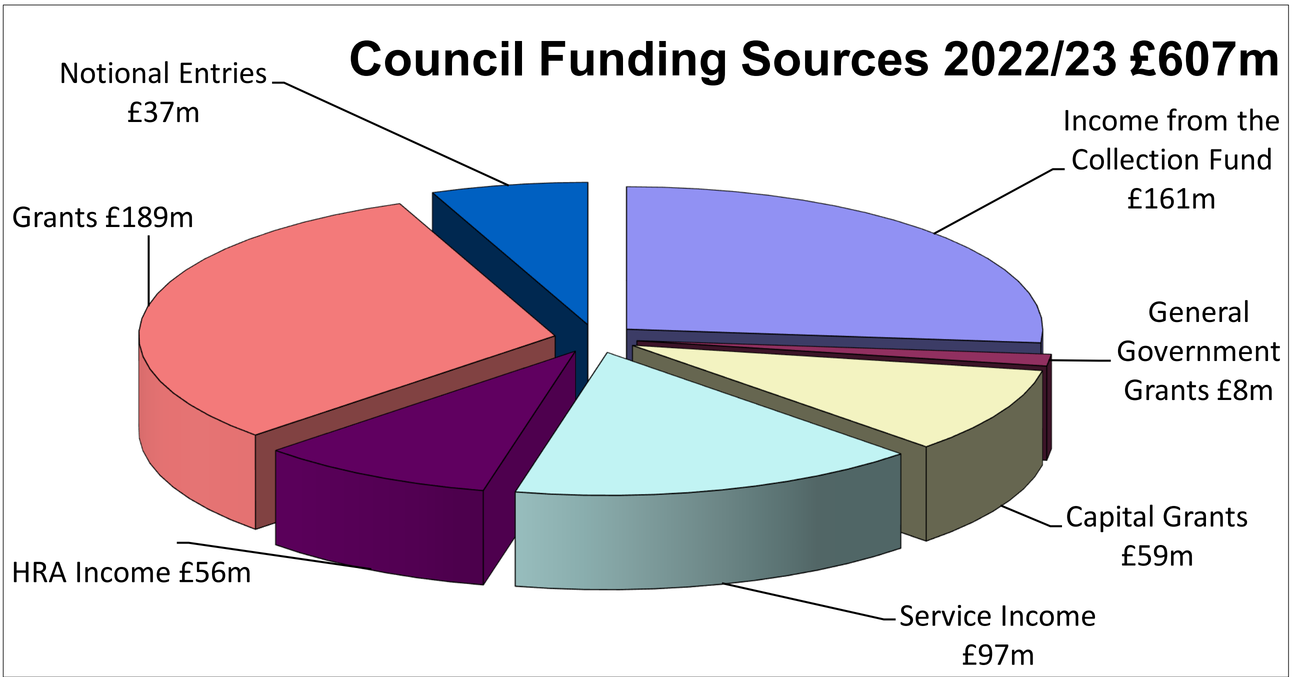
The net GF budget for the year was set at £156.7m. This excludes funding for schools, which is provided via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

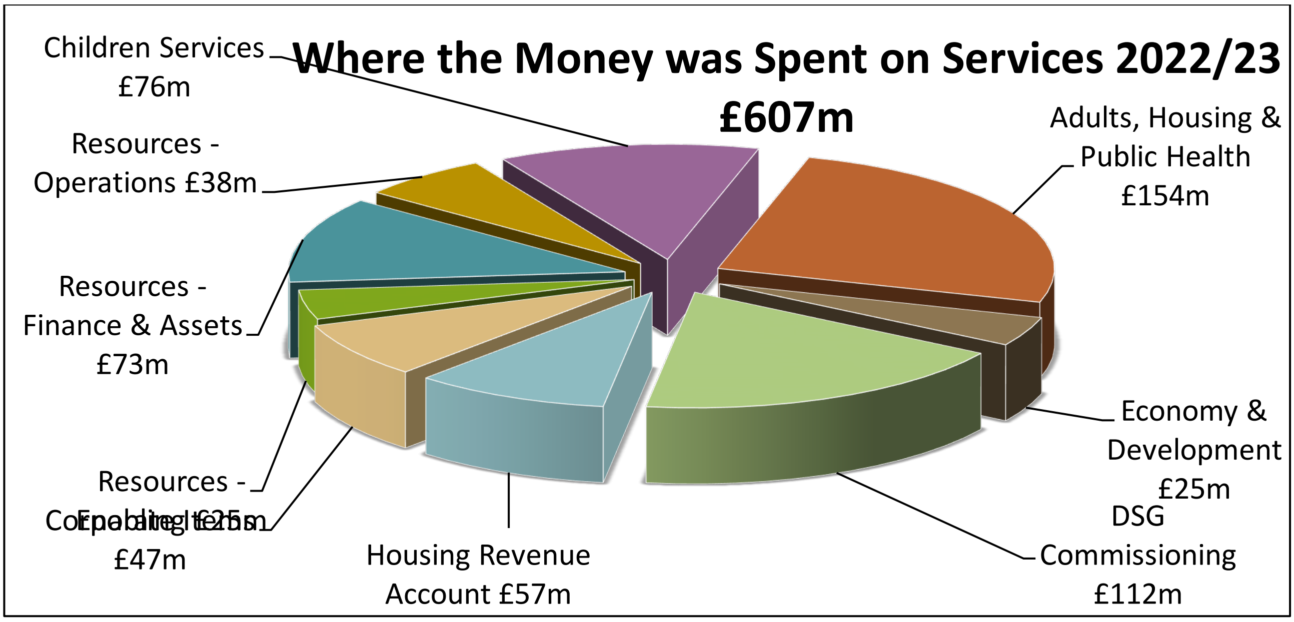
The overall budget was delivered with the balance on the general fund able to be increased but there remain variations within individual Service Areas. This includes significant pressures on Children services, which has been partially offset from savings in other services.

The following table provides more detail on the outturn position for the year for each of the Council's service areas.

	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Resources - Enabling	18,920	18,169	(751)
Resources - Finance & Assets	(14,423)	(22,875)	(8,452)
Resources - Operations	18,162	19,267	1,105
Children Services	53,572	62,136	8,564
Adults, Housing & Public Health	75,303	75,368	65
Economy & Development	5,154	4,507	(647)
Net Cost of General Fund Services (outturn)	**156,688**	**156,572**	**(116)**
Reconciliation to Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement			
Parish Precepts		9,599	
Net Corporate Income and Expenditure		36,958	
Net HRA, Capital, Reserves and other Appropriations in Net Cost of Services		62,077	
Sub-total		**265,206**	
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income		(227,805)	
Net (Surplus)/Deficit For Year on Provision of services in CIES		**37,401**	

The following charts analyse the main income flows to the Council in 2022/23, and the gross expenditure on services. Income includes grants funding revenue expenditure, HRA income, service fees and charges, net corporate notional income streams representing the surplus/deficit on provision of services and the transfer of capital grants.





Financial Overview – The Collection Fund

The Council Tax Collection Fund is credited with Council Tax income and debited with Swindon Borough Council's budgeted call on the fund plus the precepts of the Fire and Police Authorities and Town and Parish Councils. The Fund is used to smooth the difference between the actual and budgeted amount of Council Tax collected each year. Any surplus or deficit on the Fund is reflected in the following year's Council Tax calculations.

A Business Rates Collection Fund account is also held within the overarching Collection Fund. In general terms this operates in the same way as the Council Tax Collection Fund account. The Collection Fund as a whole has a net surplus of £9.6m at 31 March 2023. Reducing the previous deficit was spread over a number of years and has reduced since 31 March 2022 when it was £27.7m.

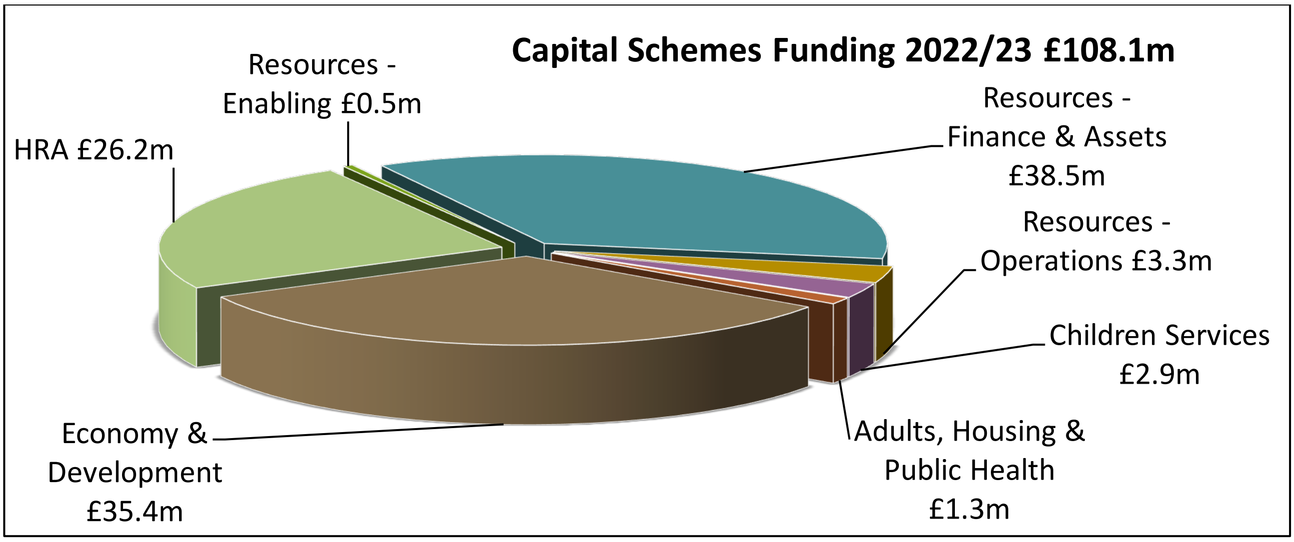
The accounting treatment for the Collection Fund means the Council shows only its own proportion of balances through the accounts on an agency basis. This does not change the Collection Fund itself, which is prescribed under statute, but does remove the overall Collection Fund balance from the Council's Balance Sheet. It is replaced by a Collection Fund Adjustment Account to account for the Authority's movement on the fund, and debtors or creditors for amounts owed to/from major preceptors.

Financial Overview – The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

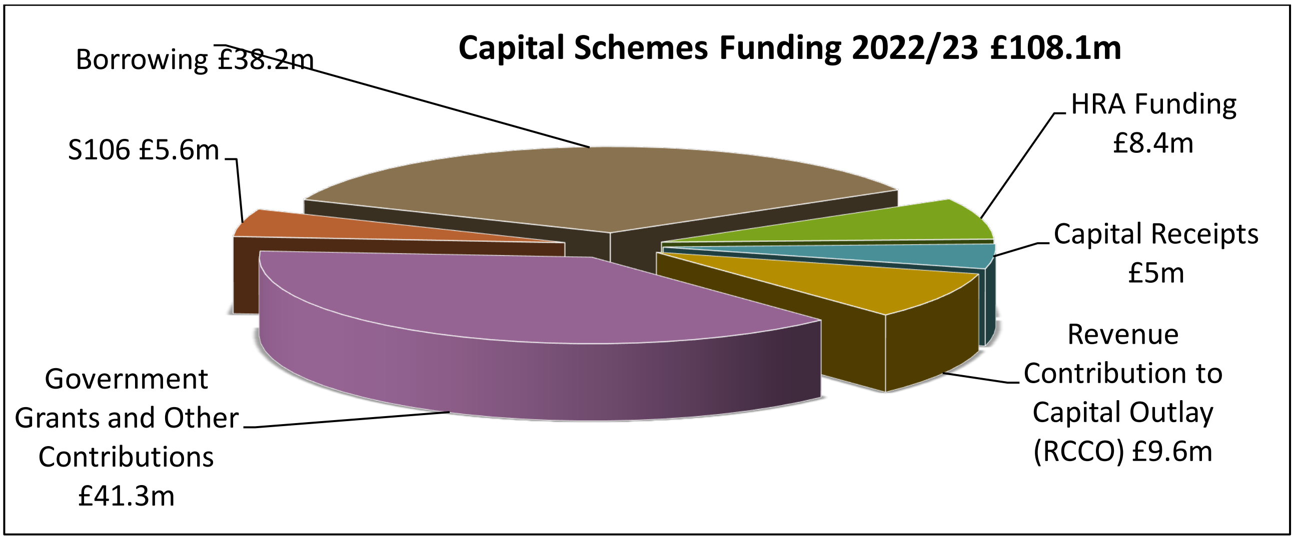
During the year the HRA came in underspent by £0.15m. This has seen the HRA reserve increase to £12.3m at 31 March 2023.

Financial Overview – Capital Income & Expenditure

During the year, the Council incurred additional borrowing of £38.2m towards capital expenditure of £108.0m. This expenditure is analysed in the following chart into key service areas of the Council.



In-year borrowing contributes to total borrowing of £361m, inclusive of HRA debt, with a related capital finance requirement of £547m. This should be seen in the context of a non-current asset base of £1,440m.



Financial Overview – Other Key Disclosures

Pension Liability

The net pension liability as disclosed in the balance sheet, under International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19) requirements is reported as £26m (£270m for 2021/22). The significant reduction in the liability stems from favourable increases in corporate bond yields that the discount rate is derived from. In isolation this reduced the liability by £337.9m but other changes reduce this, noticeably the actual change seen in pension increases, which contributed a loss of £65.1m.

Within the pension liability is a balance for unfunded Teacher pensions. The actuary has applied a roll forward approach to this for 31/3/23 balances due to challenges with underlying data. It remains in line with previous years' at around £3m.

Major Asset Transfers

The Council continues to see transfer of schools into Academy status. Once transferred to Academy status the underlying assets are not classed as Council property but disposed of under long-term finance leasing at nil value. There were two such transfers in 2022/23 removing £8m from the balance sheet value of non-current assets. There were three transfers in 2021/22 removing £10m.

Business Combinations

The Authority is involved with three local developments which, although continuing to have immaterial impact on the accounts, will affect the Borough more over future years. The main development is the joint venture (JV) for the Wichelstowe southern development area. This has seen the creation of a joint venture company with a housing developer; the Authority contributing land and the developer funding the infrastructure and building the housing, which will then go for sale with split proceeds.

The second development is the ongoing activity from the two energy production solar farm companies. The third development relates to the establishment of a group of companies for the construction of dwellings for sale or rent. In addition the Authority is parent company to Public Power Solutions (PPS), which has operated waste and recycling services in the Borough during the first half of the financial year.

The Authority has a joint 50% ownership in the JV, which has the relevant share of net equity consolidated in the group statements, and is the controlling shareholder for the remaining companies and fully consolidates these in the group accounts.

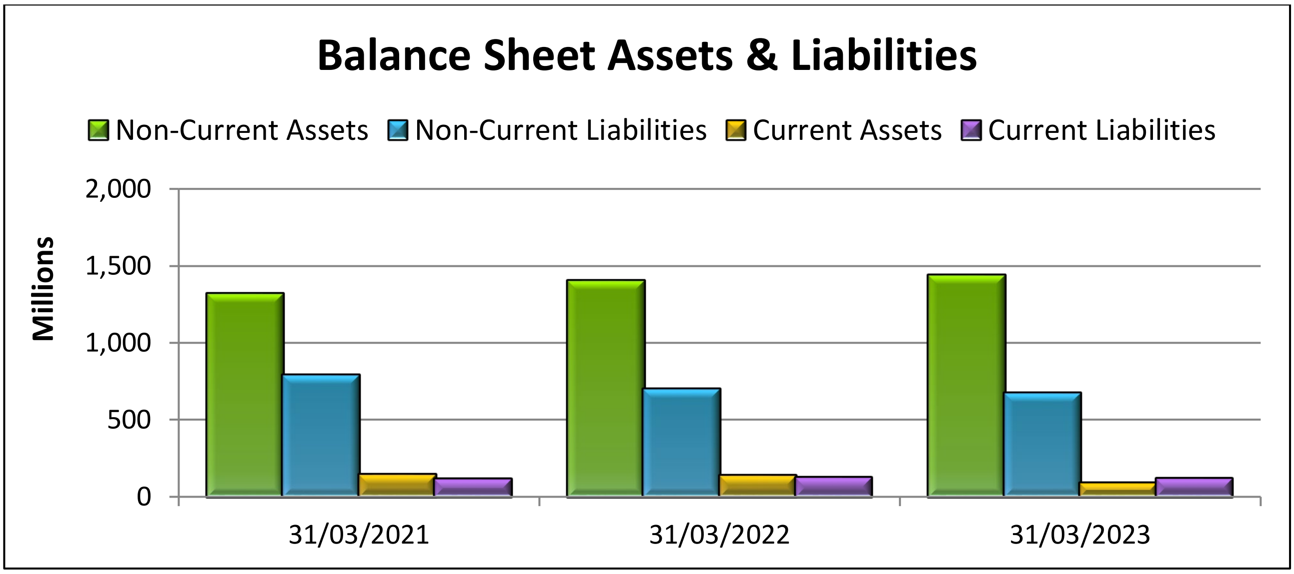
Impact of Materiality

Materiality impacts the accounting statements by either reducing the number of disclosures or the amount of detail within them, for example by combining several balances together which has no impact on understanding of the statements. It also acts as an aid when assessing the impact of events or transactions and whether they change the understanding of the statements if not corrected or highlighted. The general threshold for either individual or combined balances materially affecting the accounts is c£7m, though items identified below this level by the auditor may be presented to Audit Committee for review if not adjusted for.

Financial Overview – Financial Outlook

General Fund earmarked reserves have decreased during 2022/23. This was mainly due to receipt of grant received in prior years drawn upon to support the Collection Fund. Planned use of reserves will see continued reduction in future years, recognising the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Council. The General Fund balance increased from £8.2m to £8.3m.

Non-current assets have increased by £38m, mainly due to the acquisition and revaluation of Property assets. The liabilities of the Council generally remain constant, with the pension liability being a specific and significant variable. The chart below shows the year-by-year values of main balance sheet categories.



Most Authorities also face challenging financial positions, and the changing relationship with Central Government may impact on future cash flows. With the potential for future cash flow changes Treasury Management will continue to be important in ensuring that cash is available when needed.

Financial Overview – Medium Term Financial Strategy

A national spending review took place during 2021 and provided a new three-year funding settlement for central government departments. This was updated in the Autumn Statement announced in November 2022, which was followed by a two-year finance policy statement on 12th December 2022 and a single year provisional funding settlement on 19th December 2022. This means that the future funding arrangements for the Council are uncertain beyond 2024/25.

The central planning assumption is the following funding streams will increase in line with the national figures announced by central government:

Social Care Grant
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund
Adult Social Care Sustainability and Improvement Grant

It is anticipated that all other funding will remain at the same levels, or increase in line with inflation. This incorporates the current funding streams of Revenue Support Grant, Services Grant, Better Care Fund and the baseline level of retained business rates. The exception to this being the New Homes Bonus as the Government has indicated that this will not continue in future years.

The Government has announced that the limit of core council tax increases, without requiring a referendum, is 2.99% over the next two years. There is also the opportunity to raise an Adult Social Care precept of up to 2% in each year. The planning assumption used in the medium term projections is that increases of 4.99% (including a 2% adult social care precept) will be applied annually in years 1 and 2. With an overall increase of 2.99% modelled for year 3.

Allowance has been made for growth in the council tax base and business rates, in line with recent experience.

Forecast Expenditure

Following the experience of recent years, the key expenditure pressures are anticipated to be related to demand pressures in children and adults social care. More generally, the council will face pressures relating to population growth.

Inflation continues to poses a significant risk to the Council. Spikes in energy prices and supply chain pressures have been a feature of the last twelve months. The Bank of England's most recent projections are based on current inflationary pressures easing over the medium term. This will need to be carefully monitored over time as the medium term financial strategy is refreshed.

The Council's Strategy

The scale of the increased pressures on the base budget arising from inflation has been unprecedented. The proposed budget builds upon the adoption of a Financial Stability Plan which managed the pressures faced in 2022/23 and enabled the Council to protect its limited reserves to ensure longer term financial sustainability can be maintained.

Building on its existing approach to continuous improvement the Council will continue its focus on developing the Council to be a modern, efficient and effective organisation. The performance of the Council's companies, both wholly owned and the joint venture, will continue to be a priority.

Financial Projections from 2023/24

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Pressures:			
Pay and Prices Inflation	22.3	9.8	5.7
Service Pressures	17.5	7.9	8.0
Allowance for future pressures	0.0	2.0	2.0
Total Cost Pressures	**39.8**	**19.7**	**15.7**
Funding Changes:			
Council Tax Increase - Core Element	(3.6)	(3.8)	(2.7)
Council Tax Increase - ASC Precept	(2.4)	(2.5)	(1.3)
Increase in council tax base	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.4)
Removal of one-off funding	2.2	4.3	0.2
Change in Collection Fund balance	(2.5)	2.6	0.0
Reduction in New Homes Bonus	2.1	1.1	0.0
Cessation of lower tier services grant	0.3	0.0	0.0
Retained business rate growth	(2.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)
Reduction in services grant	1.0	0.0	0.0
Increase in social care grant	(4.2)	(1.2)	0.0
Increase in revenue support grant	(0.7)	(0.2)	(0.2)
ASC – Market Sustainability & Improvement	(1.8)	(0.9)	0.0
ASC – Discharge Fund	(0.8)	(0.5)	0.0
Total Funding Change	**(13.9)**	**(3.5)**	**(6.4)**
Savings Needed	**25.9**	**16.2**	**9.3**
Savings proposals to date	(25.9)	(7.4)	(0.6)
Further Savings Required	**0.0**	**8.8**	**8.7**

Organisational Overview

The following will give an overview of the Council's vision, priorities and pledges and will summarise progress made as at 31st March 2023.

The Council's vision is that, by 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies; a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well managed housing growth which supports and improves new and existing communities. Swindon will be physically transformed with existing heritage and landmarks complemented by new ones that people who live, work and visit here will recognise and admire. It will remain, at heart, a place of fairness and opportunity where people can aspire to and achieve prosperity, supported by strong civic and community leadership.

In November 2021, the Council Plan 2022-2025 was approved by Council with new Priorities ad Pledges to reflect the focus over the next four years and how the Council will deliver the priorities for the residents of Swindon.

As a result of change in administration at the local elections in May 2025, the Council Plan will be updated to reflect the missions and pledges of the new administration.

<u>Performance against the current Council Plan 2022-2025</u>

The Council Plan 2022-2025 is made up of six priorities and formally began in January 2022. Performance against the priorities and pledges is managed through progress against quarterly deliverables and the outcomes of key performance indicators.

Pledges are rated as 'Pledge Completed', 'On Track', 'Needs Improvement' or 'Of Concern'.

Some pledges do not have Outcomes Ratings, for example, capital projects do not have support key performance indicators and are assessed against progress with deliverables.

Priority One – Build an economy that works for you

Pledges in Priority One focus on creating more well-paid jobs, attracting further investment in the town and making Swindon a great place to start and grow businesses.

High Speed Broadband – On Track – Good progress have been made in extending the roll-out of gigabit speed internet coverage. 90.8% of premises have gigabit access against a target of 88%, and is up from 84.8% at the end of March 2022.

Kimmerfields – On Track – The Zurich infrastructure works have been complete and the building is open. The pre-application discussions on the residential phase are complete and the scoping of works for remediation is ongoing. Engagement with local communities is planned for May (post-elections).

Bus Boulevard – On Track – Fleming Way has closed for development. Shops have been demolished by the Parade and works with utilities have taken place.

Carriage works – On Track – Phase 2 works were completed with units being filled by the University of Bath and Create Studios. A timetable of works is in place to enable Phase 3 works.

Health Hydro – On Track – Planning permission and listed building consent has been granted.

Town Centre Leisure Facility – Of Concern – The Council's bid to the Levelling Ip Fund was unsuccessful. The Council continues to work with Seven Capital on their proposals to refurbish the Oasis, recognising the challenge the listed building has made in finding a solution.

Heritage Action Zone – On Track – Works on the Carriage Works ground floor have been completed. The GWR Park Blossom Circle has been completed. The refurbishment of The Cricketers has commenced.

Local Plan – On Track – A tender has been issued for specialist consultancy work. Cabinet approved the Local Development Scheme in December 2022. A strategic planning application for the redevelopment of the former Honda site for a more intensive employment use approved by Committee (subject to S106) in April 2023.

Priority Two - Protect and enhance our heritage, cultural and leisure facilities

Pledges in Priority Two focus on delivering improvements to Swindon's heritage, cultural and leisure facilities now, while also securing their long-term future.

Parks Strategy – A draft masterplan brief has been developed for Coate Water and outlines a long-term approach. The Coate Water play area and diving board is complete.

Heritage Assets – Valuation work for the Corn Exchange has taken place and a statement is being based on the adopted Planning Brief to comply with the current planning policy.

Cultural Quarter – An options paper has been prepared with options for securing a new theatre for Swindon. A change of use and listed building applications for the Civic offices has been determined, award of tenders for the Lift and museum works is imminent.

Priority Three - Deliver sustainable growth

Pledges in Priority Three focus on the delivery of high-quality affordable homes and by investing in infrastructure to support our growing town.

Junction 15 – Pledge Complete –The M4 Junction 15 improvement scheme was completed in October 2021 and is fully open to traffic. The circa £17M improvement scheme included carriageway widening on approaches, a dedicated on-slip onto the motorway, footway improvements and the closure of Day House Lane to vehicular traffic.

New Eastern Villages – On Track – Improvements complete to the White Hart Junction, Nythe & Piccadilly and Gablecross Junction. Southern Connector Road on track for completion end of June 2023.

Wichelstowe Southern Access – On Track – Works were complete in June 2022 and defect period ended December 2022.

Local Transport Fund – On Track – Delivery is currently underway across a range of highways and transport schemes funded through Local Transport Plan grant. Delivery has been delayed due to staff resource issues at SBC and with contractors meaning that utilisation is at 73%.

Potholes – On Track – Pothole numbers grew as expected in Q4 with the winter weather creating more road defects. Our overall number of Potholes for Q4 was 4483 with those repaired within 5 days being 81% against a target of 90% and the number repaired within 10 days being 95.6% against a target of 100%. The Council has taken delivery of an additional pothole repair machine to increase capacity.

Housing Development – On Track – Planning consent granted across a number of key development areas including New Eastern Villages, Wichelstowe, Tadpole Garden Village and Badbury Park.

Swindon Housing Company – Of Concern – SHC have focused their delivery on two relatively complex sites, Clays Close and Lechlade Rd, although work has progressed on other pipeline sites, the result is that development remains stalled. Planning permission achieved for Clays Close however financial viability has been affected. Lechlade Road has been subject to negotiations with the Town Council.

Affordable Homes – Needs Improvement – Good progress has been made with Queens Drive however the Council has not acquired as many units in other developments as planned due to delays at Ashley Close and Ventnor Close.

Priority Four – Equip all our young people with the education and skills they need

Pledges in Priority Four focus on the provision of additional and enhanced skills and higher education opportunities.

Good settings and placements – On Track – the Council continues to develop pathways for post 16 and apprenticeships. A needs analysis is underway across all phases and being progressed under the Capital Access and Sufficiency Group. The education ecosystem is embedded to support a system led approach across all partners and improve multi-agency working.

Access to Learning – On Track – A post 16 position statement and delivery plan is being monitored with a deep dive into NEET's and withdrawals from College. A standard for inclusion is in place across all education providers. An attendance strategy is in place with regular monitoring.

Lifelong Learning – On Track – There is a focus on independent living skills for care leavers, promoting an all age literacy provision, increasing the number of children in the Summer Reading Challenge and increasing the range of qualifications for adult residents.

Access to Activities – On Track - A service delivery plan for an inclusive Youth Offer is being developed. The Meadows and the Everleigh Centre have increased activity for social care and youth colleagues. A childcare sufficient assessment is being commissioned.

Priority Five – Make Swindon greener and more sustainable

Priority Five focuses on helping residents and organisations across the Borough to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and, as a council, achieve this by 2030.

Green Travel – On Track – Options are being considered for development at Waterside to move to an electrified/ decarbonised fleet. There are challenges in the number of hydrogens, electric of hybrid buses and taxis. Funding has been secured from Active Travel England to progress schemes. A Local Cycling and Walking Strategy has been published.

Biodiversity – On Track – 9 woodland planting schemes have been delivered in the 2022/23 planting season. 8 of the new woodlands planted in 2022/23 will be accessible to the Swindon public. The Council continue to securing funding via biodiversity offsetting payments, which is money paid by developers who cannot achieve biodiversity net gain within their sites. This will be invested within Swindon.

Waste Strategy – On Track – The new waste vehicles have been ordered and are due to be delivered over the Summer of 23. The Councils has submitted a capital bid for a multi-product bailer and processing line which will support the separation of material and therefore the improvement of revenues associated against recycling in this year's budget.

Fly tipping – On Track – Fly Tipping incidents have plateaued after the last two years of improvement. Performance per 1000 residents stands at 3.3 for Swindon compared to 9.7 for the South West and 20.1 for England.

Priority Six – Make Swindon safer, fairer and healthier

Pledges in Priority Six focus on helping people to help themselves while always protecting the children and adults who need most support, increasing health and wellbeing facilities and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Safer Swindon – On Track - The Safer Streets funding has been utilised in projects and interventions across the Borough including workshops focussing on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) as well as engagement activities directed within communities such as providing youth mentoring provision.

Domestic Abuse – On Track – The Safe Accommodation provision has been re-commissioned and begins on 1st April 2023. The Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan has been refreshed to incorporate the Government DA Plan. A multi-agency Swindon Perpetrator Strategy has now had final sign off from the DA & VAWG Board. 5The Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SDASS) contract is due for renewal from April 2024.

Rough Sleepers – On Track – 100% of Housing First Clients have sustained their tenancies in the first 12 months. The Rough Sleeper Strategy has been reviewed.

Armed Forces Covenant – On Track – A voluntary sector lead has been appointed and planning is on track for Armed Services Day.

Financial Inclusion – On Track – Financial First Aiders provide training on budgeting, benefits and debt. Cost of Living Campaign provides information and support to households. £1,048,316 of support has also been provided to households between January 2023 and March 2023 utilising a Central Government Grant provided under the Household Support Fund.

Looked After Children – Of Concern – Foster Carer numbers have fallen which has affected the percentage of looked after children within 20 miles however 8 possible carers are in assessment with 3 due to commence. The Council is looking to increase fees to remain on par with neighbouring Local Authorities. The Foster with Swindon webpages were revitalised and went live on the website on 25 November 2022

Independent Living – On Track - Quality and Risk Forums established and are improving strength-based practice in the teams. Performance Data continues to show decreases in funded support. HomeFirst approach (discharging people ahead of assessments in the hospital) is resulting in people's independence being maximised, as end support plans shows less care than predicted on discharge.

Healthy Lifestyles: Obesity – On Track – Whole Systems Approach to Obesity: We have begun to identify key partners to support the development and delivery of the Whole Systems Action plan. The Get Swindon Active partnership is taking forward the physical activity theme of the Whole Systems Approach. As part of this workstream, we have commissioned Wiltshire and Swindon Sport to deliver the Swindon Senior Games. We have received the 12-month evaluation report from Beat The Street which shows that the programme reached over 29,000 people in Swindon during the six-week game phase (14% of the population).

Healthy Lifestyles: Smoking – On Track – The newly refreshed Tobacco Control Strategy for Swindon 2023-2028 sets out how partners will work together to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Swindon over the next five years. The strategy has been developed in partnership with the multi-agency Swindon Tobacco Control Alliance and presents a vision of a smoke free Swindon where everyone lives a long and healthy life protected from the harms caused by tobacco.

Volunteering – On Track – At the end of March 2023, there were a recorded 361 Volunteers supporting work programmes at SBC (excluding Steam Vaccine volunteers). This is a 46% increase from last year. Volunteers are working across a range of departments but most significantly in Live Well (64%).

Audit Report

The draft accounts are required to be approved by the 31 May by the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets, the Council's designated Section 151 Officer, and independently audited and published in their audited form by 30 September. The Council's auditors are Grant Thornton UK LLP and their audit report is at the end of this document.

Further Information

If readers would like to know more about the accounts of the Council, please write to Mick Bowden, Corporate Director of Finance and Assets, Civic Offices, Swindon SN1 2JH, or email mbowden@swindon.gov.uk

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities
The Council is required:

To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs (Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972). During the financial year 2022/23, the designated officer was the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets.

To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

The Officer's Responsibilities
The Corporate Director of Finance and Assets had the responsibility to ensure that these final accounts were prepared in accordance with best practice. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain ("the Code") requires the Statement to give 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 31st March 2023.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Corporate Director Finance and Assets:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the Code.

The Corporate Director Finance and Assets also:

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

Approval of the Accounts
I certify that the above responsibilities have been accounted for in the production of these statements and that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the authority at 31 March 2023.

Signed: *Mick Bowden* Date: 31/05/23

Mick Bowden
Corporate Director of Finance and Assets

Approval of the Final Accounts
The Council's Audit Committee, being the relevant body within the Authority for such purpose, approved the final accounts on the date below. The dates of approval are also taken as the dates that the accounts were authorised for issue.

Signed: Date:

Chair of Audit Committee

The Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement summarises the income and expenditure on all functions of the Authority and shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. Negative figures denote income.

Note	Continuing Operations:	2021/22 Gross Expenditure £000	2021/22 Gross Income £000	2021/22 Net Expenditure £000	2022/23 Gross Expenditure £000	2022/23 Gross Income £000	2022/23 Net Expenditure £000
	Resources - Enabling	26,636	(3,816)	22,820	25,469	(3,165)	22,304
	Resources - Finance & Assets	70,781	(86,515)	(15,734)	73,011	(81,167)	(8,156)
	Resources - Operations	31,762	(8,497)	23,265	37,854	(9,714)	28,140
	Children Services	69,232	(9,353)	59,879	76,427	(12,247)	64,180
	Adults, Housing & Public Health	152,304	(74,854)	77,450	154,316	(73,546)	80,770
	Economy & Development	32,442	(10,774)	21,668	24,937	(7,696)	17,241
6	DSG Commissioning	111,318	(97,443)	13,875	111,864	(98,688)	13,176
	HRA - Housing	35,985	(53,317)	(17,332)	43,591	(55,399)	(11,808)
	HRA - Operations	12,060	(273)	11,787	13,196	(394)	12,802
	Surplus / Deficit on Continuing Operations	**542,520**	**(344,842)**	**197,678**	**560,665**	**(342,016)**	**218,649**
4	Other operating expenditure			32,205			24,983
5	Financing & investment (income)/expenditure			16,261			21,574
7	Taxation and non-specific grant income			(211,111)			(227,805)
	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services			**35,033**			**37,401**
15	(Surplus) / Deficit on revaluation of PPE assets			(69,310)			(31,846)
31	Re-measurements on pension assets / liabilities			(123,116)			(269,559)
	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(192,426)**			**(301,405)**
	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(157,393)**			**(264,004)**

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

This statement shows the movements between the CIES revenue account and balance sheet ‘usable reserves’ (i.e. revenue and capital reserves that can be applied to fund relevant expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The (Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the authority’s services, more details of which are shown in the CIES. The ‘General Fund Balance’ column shows that after accounting adjustments and reserve transfer the General Fund balance has increased by £400k. Earmarked GF reserves are a part of the statutory General Fund balance, whilst HRA balances are a statutory ring-fenced section for housing.

	GF Balance £'000	HRA £'000	Earmarked GF Reserves £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
1 April 2022	**(8,220)**	**(12,186)**	**(79,250)**	**(1,569)**	**(7,195)**	**(1,034)**	**(32,237)**	**(141,691)**	**(575,266)**	**(716,957)**
(Surplus) / Deficit on Service provision	28,721	8,680	0	0	0	0	0	37,401	0	37,401
Other (Income) / Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(301,405)	(301,405)
Total Comprehensive (Income) /Exp.	**28,721**	**8,680**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**37,401**	**(301,405)**	**(264,004)**
Adjusts between accounting & funding basis (note 13)	(1,510)	(8,559)	0	0	(4,193)	(821)	(11,908)	(26,991)	26,991	0
Transfer of DSG deficit	(930)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(930)	930	0
Net (Increase)/ Decrease before Reserves	**26,281**	**121**	**0**	**0**	**(4,193)**	**(821)**	**(11,908)**	**9,480**	**(273,484)**	**(264,004)**
Transfers to / (from) Other Reserves (note 14)	(26,396)	(275)	26,396	275	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/ Decrease in-year	**(115)**	**(154)**	**26,396**	**275**	**(4,193)**	**(821)**	**(11,908)**	**9,480**	**(273,484)**	**(264,004)**
31 March 2023	**(8,335)**	**(12,340)**	**(52,854)**	**(1,294)**	**(11,388)**	**(1,855)**	**(44,145)**	**(132,211)**	**(848,750)**	**(980,961)**

Movement in Reserves Statement continued

	GF Balance £'000	HRA £'000	Earmarked GF Reserves £'000	Earmarked HRA Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
1 April 2021	**(7,820)**	**(12,035)**	**(90,678)**	**(1,697)**	**(16,609)**	**(7,686)**	**(29,593)**	**(166,118)**	**(393,446)**	**(559,564)**
(Surplus) / Deficit on Service provision	29,367	5,666	0	0	0	0	0	35,033	0	35,033
Other (Income) / Exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(192,426)	(192,426)
Total Comprehensive (Income) /Exp.	**29,367**	**5,666**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**35,033**	**(192,426)**	**(157,393)**
Adjusts between accounting & funding basis (note 13)	(17,242	(5,689)	0	0	9,414	6,652	(2,644)	(9,509)	9,509	0
Transfer of DSG deficit	(1,097)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,097)	1,097	0
Net (Increase)/ Decrease before Reserves	**11,028**	**(23)**	**0**	**0**	**9,414**	**6,652**	**(2,644)**	**24,427**	**(181,820)**	**(157,393)**
Transfers to / (from) Other Reserves (note 14)	(11,428)	(128)	11,428	128	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/ Decrease in-year	**(400)**	**(151)**	**11,428**	**128**	**9,414**	**6,652**	**(2,644)**	**24,427**	**(181,820)**	**(157,393)**
31 March 2022	**(8,220)**	**(12,186)**	**(79,250)**	**(1,569)**	**(7,195)**	**(1,034)**	**(32,237)**	**(141,691)**	**(575,266)**	**(716,957)**

Balance Sheet

This statement shows the balance sheet assets and liabilities of the Council at the 31 March. The net assets of the authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by reserves held. Reserves are reported in two categories; those that are useable 'cash-backed' reserves and can be used in funding revenue or capital spend, and those that are unusable for funding and represent as yet unrealised gains and losses.

Note		31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000
15/48	Property, Plant & Equipment	1,336,749	1,380,575
16	Investment property	7,362	5,770
17	Heritage	29,200	29,200
42	Long term investments	20,637	16,614
20	Long term debtors	7,092	6,868
	Total Non-Current Assets	**1,401,040**	**1,439,027**
	Cash & Cash equivalents	44,901	33,930
	Inventories & Work in Progress	819	888
21	Short term debtors	59,542	45,866
32	Short term investments	26,536	1,400
	Assets held for sale (current)	5,959	6,065
	Current Assets	**137,757**	**88,149**
22	Short term creditors	(108,779)	(79,033)
32	Short term borrowing	(13,259)	(34,959)
23	Provisions (short term)	(1,212)	(1,583)
	Current Liabilities	**(123,250)**	**(115,575)**
32	Long term borrowing	(341,157)	(326,198)
29/32	Long term creditors	(42,302)	(39,991)
23	Provisions (long term)	(14,658)	(11,514)
31	Pension Asset/Liability	(270,210)	(25,917)
7	Capital Grants receipts in advance	(30,263)	(27,020)
	Non-Current Liabilities	**(698,590)**	**(430,640)**
	Net Assets	**716,957**	**980,961**

Balance Sheet continued

Note		31st March 2022 £000	31st March 2023 £000
	General Fund Balance	(8,220)	(8,335)
	HRA Balance	(12,186)	(12,340)
14	GF Earmarked Reserves	(79,250)	(52,854)
14	HRA Earmarked Reserves	(1,569)	(1,294)
	Major Repairs Reserve	(1,034)	(1,855)
	Capital Receipts Reserve	(7,195)	(11,388)
	Capital Grants Unapplied	(32,237)	(44,145)
MiRS*	**Usable Reserves**	**(141,691)**	**(132,211)**
24	Capital Adjustment Account	(276,696)	(273,902)
25	Revaluation Reserve	(584,175)	(601,165)
26	Pension Reserve	270,210	25,917
27	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	14,104	(4,007)
	Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account	(1,846)	340
6	DSG Deficit	4,370	5,300
	Deferred Capital Receipts	(1,233)	(1,233)
	Unusable Reserves:	**(575,266)**	**(848,750)**
	Total Reserves	**(716,957)**	**(980,961)**

*MiRS – Movement in Reserves Statement

The unaudited accounts were issued on 1 June 2023.

Mick Bowden

Mick Bowden

Corporate Director of Finance and Assets

S151 Officer

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. 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. Negative figures denote losses or reductions.

Note		2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(35,033)	(37,401)
34	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	123,814	86,439
34	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(57,227)	(61,829)
	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	**31,554**	**(12,791)**
35	Investing Activities	(29,533)	(19,816)
36	Financing Activities	4,736	21,636
	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**6,757**	**(10,971)**
	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	38,144	44,901
	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**44,901**	**33,930**

Notes to the Financial Statements

Disclosures Relating to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) 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 EFA also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's service functions. Transfers to earmarked reserves are items not chargeable to the GF or HRA.

	2022/23 Net Exp. Report to Cabinet £000	2022/23 Remove Not Chargeable to the GF or HRA £000	2022/23 Net Exp. Chargeable to GF and HRA £000	2022/23 Changes Between Funding & Accounting Basis £000	2022/23 Net Expenditure In the CIES £000
Resources - Enabling	18,170	583	18,753	3,551	22,304
Resources - Finance & Assets	(22,875)	5,651	(17,224)	9,068	(8,156)
Resources - Operations	19,267	866	20,133	8,007	28,140
Children Services	62,136	(1,863)	60,273	3,907	64,180
Adults, Housing & Public Health	75,368	1,123	76,491	4,279	80,770
Economy & Development	4,507	372	4,879	12,362	17,241
DSG Commissioning	0	398	398	12,778	13,176
HRA - Housing	(11,726)	(13)	(11,739)	(69)	(11,808)
HRA - Operations	11,726	0	11,726	1,076	12,802
(Surplus)/Deficit on Continuing Operations	**156,573**	**7,117**	**163,690**	**54,959**	**218,649**

Other Income & Expenditure	9,599	0	9,599	15,384	24,983
Financing and Investment Income and	0	0	0	21,574	21,574
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(166,288)	19,401	(146,887)	(80,918)	(227,805)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	**(116)**	**26,518**	**26,402**	**10,999**	**37,401**

Reconciliation of Movement to Balances	Opening	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	Closing
General Fund	(8,220)	(115)	(8,335)
HRA	(12,185)	(154)	(12,339)
Net Exp. Chargeable to the GF and HRA Balances		**(269)**	
Earmarked reserves	(80,820)	26,671	(54,149)
Remove Not Chargeable to the GF or HRA	**(80,820)**	**26,671**	**(54,149)**
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services		**26,402**	

Reconciliation of Reserve Movements not chargeable to GF or HRA as shown in Movement in Reserves (MiRS)

Movement Reason	Net Reserve movement in EFA	Direct BS reserve transfer to GF balance	Net Transfers from earmarked reserves	Net Adjustment for reserves
£000	26,517	154	(26,671)	0

	2021/22 Net Exp. Report to Cabinet £000	2021/22 Remove Not Chargeable to the GF or HRA £000	2021/22 Net Exp. Chargeable to GF and HRA £000	2021/22 Changes Between Funding & Accounting Basis £000	2021/22 Net Expenditure In the CIES £000
Resources - Enabling	16,751	926	17,677	5,143	22,820
Resources - Finance & Assets	(14,498)	(10,989)	(25,487)	9,753	(15,734)
Resources - Operations	19,163	(130)	19,033	4,232	23,265
Children Services	55,329	(762)	54,567	5,312	59,879
Adults, Housing & Public Health	71,574	(268)	71,306	6,144	77,450
Economy & Development	4,559	(2,341)	2,218	19,450	21,668
DSG Commissioning	1,097	(575)	522	13,353	13,875
HRA - Housing	(10,686)	127	(10,559)	(6,773)	(17,332)
HRA - Operations	10,535	0	10,535	1,252	11,787
(Surplus)/Deficit on Continuing Operations	**153,824**	**(14,012)**	**139,812**	**57,866**	**197,678**

Other Income & Expenditure	9,235	0	9,235	22,970	32,205
Financing and Investment Income and	0	0	0	16,261	16,261
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	(138,042)	0	(138,042)	(73,069)	(211,111)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	**24,740**	**(14,012)**	**11,005**	**24,028**	**35,033**

Reconciliation of Movement to Balances	**Opening**	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**	**Closing**
General Fund	(7,820)	(400)	(8,220)
HRA	(12,034)	(151)	(12,185)
Net Exp. Chargeable to the GF and HRA Balances		**(551)**	
Earmarked reserves	(92,376)	11,556	(80,820)
Remove Not Chargeable to the GF or HRA	**(92,376)**	**11,556**	**(80,820)**
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services		**11,005**	

Reconciliation of Reserve Movements not chargeable to GF or HRA as shown in Movement in Reserves (MiRS)

Movement Reason	**Net Reserve movement in EFA**	**Direct BS reserve transfer to GF balance**	**Net Transfers from earmarked reserves**	**Net Adjustment for reserves**
£000	(14,012)	25,568	(11,556)	0

This note details the adjustments that are made in the EFA and total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

'Pensions' adjustments are for the change in accounting for the pension liability under IFRS 19, which represents adjusting in-year payments made to the fund and including current / past service / interest costs per actuary estimates. 'Capital' adds in depreciation, impairment and revaluation gains and losses. 'Treasury' accounts for adjustments in interest payable / receivable and minimum revenue provision that are not service expense within the CIES. 'Other' relates mainly to grant adjustments.

2022/23	Pensions £'000	Capital £'000	Treasury £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
Resources - Enabling	1,842	1,026	(134)	817	1,709
Resources - Finance & Assets	(179)	16,409	(12,129)	4,967	8,520
Resources - Operations	1,332	8,033	(1,358)	0	6,675
Children Services	3,459	457	(9)	0	448
Adults, Housing & Public Health	2,646	1,637	(4)	0	1,633
Economy & Development	891	11,480	(9)	0	11,471
DSG Commissioning	5,608	6,240	0	930	7,170
HRA - Housing	1,063	6,817	(7,949)	0	(1,132)
HRA - Operations	1,076	0	0	0	0
Total Adjustments	**17,738**	**52,099**	**(21,592)**	**6,714**	**36,494**
Other Income & Expenditure	0	15,384	0	0	15,384
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	7,528	3,067	10,979	0	14,046
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(58,776)	0	(22,142)	(80,918)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	**25,266**	**11,774**	**(10,613)**	**(15,428)**	**(14,994)**

2021/22	Pensions £'000	Capital £'000	Treasury £'000	Other £'000	Total £'000
Resources - Enabling	2,244	2,138	(116)	877	5,143
Resources - Finance & Assets	171	13,036	(10,232)	6,778	9,753
Resources - Operations	1,378	4,075	(1,221)	0	4,232
Children Services	4,080	1,232	0	0	5,312
Adults, Housing & Public Health	3,254	2,890	0	0	6,144
Economy & Development	1,157	18,293	0	0	19,450
DSG Commissioning	7,099	5,157	0	1,097	13,353
HRA - Housing	1,213	52	(8,263)	225	(6,776)
HRA - Operations	1,252	0	0	0	1,252
Total Adjustments	**21,848**	**46,873**	**(19,832)**	**8,977**	**57,866**
Other Income & Expenditure	0	22,970	0	0	22,970
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	7,496	(1,990)	10,755	0	16,261
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(54,092)	0	(18,977)	(73,069)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	**29,344**	**13,761**	**(9,077)**	**(10,000)**	**24,028**

2. Subjective Analysis of Service Expenditure

This disclosure shows the type of expenditure and income incurred through the CIES:

Expenditure and Income Type	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Employee related expenses	174,642	184,624
Other service expenses	321,311	314,910
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	46,301	68,543
Interest Payments	22,086	19,455
Precepts & Levies	9,235	9,599
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1,851	2,705
Gain or Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	21,119	12,679
Total operating expenses	**596,545**	**612,515**
Fees, charges & other service income	(103,058)	(106,851)
Interest and investment income	(5,817)	(5,409)
Income from Council Tax and Business Rates	(147,363)	(161,369)
Government grants and contributions	(305,274)	(301,485)
Total Income	**(561,512)**	**(575,114)**
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	**35,033**	**37,401**

Description	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Non-grant contributions to service provision Contributions from social care clients	(9,009)	(9,875)
Income from fees & licenses Includes parking, planning, permit and professional services income	(21,311)	(18,082)
Income from rentals and hires Includes income from rentals/hires, including HRA rents	(54,961)	(58,898)
Income from sales of goods & services Includes service charges, waste management and sales of goods	(12,120)	(14,487)
Other Miscellaneous Income	(5,657)	(5,509)
Total Fees, charges & other service income	**(103,058)**	**(106,851)**

3. Material Items of Income and Expense

A number of material items are included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) surplus or deficit, that relate to the below:

Items	Explanation
2022/23	
	No material items.
2021/22	

COVID-19 Funding	The Council received grant for support towards sales, fees and charges shortfalls is estimated to be £1.7m
Group Loan	A write-down of £8.7m from capital loan balances has been processed following a change in waste provider. It has been reversed to the capital adjustment account and funded from capital receipts.

Within the net cost of services of the CIES there are variances between years on service expenditure and income. Some of these changes will be due to general higher costs of purchasing external goods and services and changes in the cost of employing Council staff, some of which is offset by changes in income from fees and charges. Other changes will be due to the year-on-year variation of asset charges, such as depreciation and impairments.

4. Other Operating Expenditure

Breakdown of items included under Other Operating Expenditure. The disposal of schools to academy status continues to see the high balances on disposal of non-current assets.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets	21,118	12,679
Parish council precepts	9,236	9,599
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1,851	2,705
Total Other Operating Expenditure	**32,205**	**24,983**

5. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Breakdown of items included under Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Interest payable and similar charges	16,572	16,388
Interest receivable and similar income	(4,962)	(4,852)
Investment income	(855)	(557)
Movement on market value of investment property	525	880
(Gains)/losses on assets held for sale	(2,515)	2,187
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability	7,496	7,528
Total Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	**16,261**	**21,574**

6. Dedicated Schools Grant

Schools' funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget. The Schools Budget includes elements for a restricted range of services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual School Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each school. Over- and under-spends on the two elements are required to be accounted for separately. Recent changes to legislation require a deficit recovery plan for any deficit value. The deficit is shown as a specific unusable reserve on the balance sheet with a debit balance.

	Central Expenditure 2022/23 £'000	Schools Budgets 2022/23 £'000	Total 2022/23 £'000
Final DSG before Academy Recoupment			228,801
Academy figure recouped for the year			149,105
DSG after Academy Recoupment			**79,696**
Brought Forward from prior year			0
Carry Forward agreed in advance			0
Agreed initial budgeted distribution	**46,819**	**32,877**	**79,696**
In year adjustments	(806)	0	**(806)**
Final budgeted distribution for year	**46,013**	**32,877**	**78,890**
Less actual central expenditure	47,903	0	47,903
Less actual ISB deployed to schools	0	31,918	31,918
Carry forward to next year (including carry forward agreed in advance)	**(1,890)**	**959**	**(931)**
DSG unusable reserves at the end of 2021/22			(4,370)
Addition to DSG unusable reserves at end of 2022/23			(930)
Total of DSG unusable reserves at the end of 2022/23			**(5,300)**

7. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grant related income to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Funding Body	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Arts Council - South West	(1)	0
Heritage Lottery Fund	(156)	(247)
Department for Education (DfE)	(85,881)	(87,688)
Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)	(40,594)	(40,723)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	(41,534)	(41,246)
Department of Health	(17,553)	(13,612)
Department of Transport	(482)	(423)
Environment Agency / DEFRA	(166)	(313)
Home Office	(2,153)	(3,552)
Learning Skills Council / Skills Funding Agency	(434)	(603)
Youth Justice board	(333)	(350)
Sport England	(557)	(3)
Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	(2,202)	(475)
Historic England	(110)	0
Homes England	0	(200)
Total	**(192,156)**	**(189,435)**

The value of Business Rates received by the authority under taxation and grant income is lower than the Billing Authority share disclosed in the Collection Fund statement due to the application of a government tariff.

Credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Collection Fund Income - Council Tax	(122,203)	(126,606)
Collection Fund Adjustments – Council Tax	(1,721)	(666)
Collection Fund Income - Business Rates	(28,766)	(33,071)
Collection Fund Income - Business Rates Tariff	17,288	17,288
Collection Fund Adjustments – Business Rates	(11,962)	(18,315)
Revenue Support Grant	(4,361)	(4,498)
Other non-ring-fenced government grants	(5,294)	(3,161)
S106 - used in funding	(4,562)	(5,608)
Capital grants and contributions - to CGUA*	(49,530)	(53,168)
Total	**(211,111)**	**(227,805)**

*Capital Grants Unapplied Account

The Authority has received a number of capital contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them which are not reasonably assured to be met and may require the funds to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	**(28,498)**	**(30,263)**
New funds received	(55,856)	(58,752)
Funds written out to fund capital schemes	54,091	61,993
Funds written out for repayment	0	2
Balance at 31 March	**(30,263)**	**(27,020)**

8. Members' Allowances

The Authority paid the following amounts to members of the council during the year.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Basic Allowances	497	497
Special Responsibility Allowances	244	167
Expenses	0	0
Total	**741**	**664**

9. Officers' Remuneration

The below shows estimates of remuneration to senior officers of the Corporate Management Team. The annual pay award for 21/22 was paid in 22/23 and estimates included in the 21/22 disclosures. Payments made in 22/23 have therefore been reduced to exclude the impact of the prior year pay award. In both years the Chief Executive was not in the pension scheme.

Position	Remuneration	Emp. Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£
2022/23			
Chief Executive Officer – Susie Kemp	179,574	0	179,574
Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (S151 Officer)	129,434	27,699	157,133
Corporate Director for Adults, Health and Housing	138,950	29,735	168,685
Corporate Director of Children Services ***	208,331	29,155	237,486
Chief Operating Officer	138,950	29,735	168,685
2021/22			
Chief Executive Officer – Susie Kemp	177,649	0	177,649
Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (S151 Officer)	127,509	27,287	154,796
Corporate Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health *	67,090	14,298	81,388
Corporate Director for Adults, Health and Housing **	62,251	13,322	75,573
Corporate Director of Children Services	144,130	30,844	174,974
Chief Operating Officer	137,025	29,205	166,230

* left 30th September 2021
** started 18th October 2021
*** left 6th March 2023

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

Remuneration Band			Number of Employees	
£		£	2021/22	2022/23
50,000	to	54,999	54	84
55,000	to	59,999	40	55
60,000	to	64,999	21	25
65,000	to	69,999	15	25
70,000	to	74,999	12	8
75,000	to	79,999	3	13
80,000	to	84,999	3	4
85,000	to	89,999	3	3
90,000	to	94,999	0	4
95,000	to	99,999	2	0
100,000	to	104,999	2	3
105,000	to	109,999	2	1
110,000	To	114,999	0	2

10.Exit Packages

The Council incurred costs of £1.39m (£0.728m in 21/22) for known compulsory redundancy and other departure reasons payments.

Exit Package Band			Number of Employees			
			2021/22		2022/23	
£		£	Compulsory	Other	Compulsory	Other
0	to	19,999	8	10	11	18
20,000	to	39,999	7	1	6	4
40,000	to	59,999	0	2	6	0
60,000	to	79,999	0	0	4	1
80,000	to	179,999	2	0	3	0

* Under the Code, ranges can be grouped if it could otherwise identify individual staff.

11.External Audit Costs

The Authority has the following scale fees in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts and certification of grant claims provided by the Authority's external auditors. Additional fees of £63k are expected to be billed for 2022/23 whilst £124k were billed for 2021/22.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Statutory Audit of the Accounts	105	114
Review of Grant Claims	19	28
Other services	13	18
Scale Fees Due	**137**	**160**
Total Fees including additional	**261**	**223**

12. Better Care Fund

The government created the Better Care Fund in 2015 with the aim of developing and improving joint health and social care planning. The Better Care Fund is a pooling of existing Health and Social Care budgets. The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. It allows for the NHS Mandate to include specific requirements relating to the establishment and use of an integration fund.

The Council entered into an arrangement in 2015, with Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), now the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to comply with the requirements of the Better Care Fund. The Section 75 ("S75") agreement covers a range of budgets as well as the Better Care Fund and runs for 5 years. Each year a Deed of Variation to the S75 is drawn up and agreed by both partners, this variation document provides up to date budget allocations for the financial year.

Swindon's Better Care Fund was presented to and approved by Swindon's Health & Wellbeing Board and NHS England. The funding provided by each partner and risk share are identified within the Section 75 agreements. This results in the budgets not being a true pooled budget arrangement, as Swindon Borough Council generally retains responsibility for service and financial pressures on social care and public health services, and ICB retains responsibility for service and financial pressures on health services.

The following table is for information only and provides a memorandum of the split between parties. The budget is hosted by the Council on behalf of the two partners to the agreement, so it nominally collects and redistributes all funds, but does not control ICB commissioning activities and expenditure. It operates on an agency basis with amounts shown against the Council as Better Care Fund included within the Adults Section 75 arrangement balances. Costs from activities directly commissioned by the ICB are shown at the foot of the table.

			2021/22			**2022/23**
	SBC	**ICB**	**Total**	**SBC**	**ICB**	**Total**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Adult Section 75	76,514	12,386	88,900	74,460	15,000	89,460
Public Health	10,862	0	10,862	11,129	0	11,129
Children - Commissioning & Service Delivery	44,647	4,400	49,047	51,139	4,789	55,928
Capital - DFG	652	0	652	728	0	728
Total	**132,675**	**16,786**	**149,461**	**137,456**	**19,789**	**157,245**
Better Care Fund						
SBC Commissioned activities	29,075	9,488	38,564	29,751	9,761	39,512
Capital - DFG	652	0	652	728	0	728
Total	**29,727**	**9,488**	**39,216**	**30,479**	**9,761**	**40,240**
Activities directly commissioned and recorded within Swindon CCG accounts.	0	30,033	30,033	0	39,051	39,051

13.Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

Adjustments shown within the Movement in Reserves statement – the net balance of entries against Total Useable Reserves is matched by entries to an Unusable Reserve, generally used for accounting adjustments and not for supporting the General Fund:

2022/23	General Fund Balance £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Major Repairs Reserve £'000	Capital Grants Unapplied £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(24,523)	(9,221)	0	0	0	(33,744)
Charges for impairment and revaluation losses of non-current assets	(18,638)	(16,161)	0	0	0	(34,799)
Movement in the market value of investment properties	(880)	0	0	0	0	(880)
Capital grants and contributions applied	5,608	0	0	0	0	5,608
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,388)	0	0	0	0	(2,388)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(17,692)	(8,040)	0	0	0	(25,732)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	5,054	0	0	0	0	5,054
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Capital expenditure charged against the GF and HRA balances	269	9,344	0	0	0	9,613
Adjustments for capital grants:						
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	53,168	0	0	0	(53,168)	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA	0	0	0	0	41,260	41,260
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	8,750	4,303	(13,053)	0	0	0
Flexible use of UCR to finance transformational projects	(1,196)	0	1,196	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	4,960	0	0	4,960
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve Voluntary debt funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool.	(2,705)	0	2,705	0	0	0

Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	0
Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
HRA resources credited to the MRR	0	9,222	0	(9,222)	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	8,401	0	8,401
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Net reversal from CIES of items relating to IAS19 retirement benefits	(22,260)	(3,006)	0	0	0	(25,266)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax / business rate income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	18,111	0	0	0	0	18,111
Adjustments primarily involving the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of the Gains or Losses on AHFS	(2,188)	0	0	0	0	(2,188)
Total Adjustments	**(1,510)**	**(8,559)**	**(4,193)**	**(821)**	**(11,908)**	**(26,991)**

2021/22	**General Fund Balance £'000**	**Housing Revenue Account £'000**	**Capital Receipts Reserve £'000**	**Major Repairs Reserve £'000**	**Capital Grants Unapplied £'000**	**Total Usable Reserves £'000**
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(23,622)	(10,240)	0	0	0	(33,862)
Charges for impairment and revaluation losses of non-current assets	(4,873)	(8,654)	0	0	0	(13,527)
Movement in the market value of investment properties	(525)	0	0	0	0	(525)
Capital grants and contributions applied	4,562	0	0	0	0	4,562
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(18,324)	0	0	0	0	(18,324)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CIES	(16,205)	(10,324)	0	0	0	(26,529)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	3,213	0	0	0	0	3,213
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Capital expenditure charged against the GF and HRA balances	0	8,603	0	0	0	8,603
Adjustments for capital grants:						

Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	49,530	0	0	0	(49,530)	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the CAA	0	0	0	0	46,886	46,886
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:						
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,436	2,975	(5,411)	0	0	0
Flexible use of UCR to finance transformational projects	(1,142)	0	1,142	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	11,633	0	0	11,633
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve Voluntary debt funding	0	0	200	0	0	200
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool.	(1,851)	0	1,851	0	0	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales):						
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0	0	0	(1)	0
Adjustment primarily involving the Major Repairs Reserve						
HRA resources credited to the MRR	0	10,239	0	(10,239)	0	0
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	16,891	0	16,891
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:						
Net reversal from CIES of items relating to IAS19 retirement benefits	(26,056)	(3,288)	0	0	0	(29,344)
Adjustments primarily involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Amount by which council tax / business rate income credited to the CIES is different from that calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	13,100	0	0	0	0	13,100
Adjustments primarily involving the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account:						
Reversal of the Gains or Losses on AHFS	2,515	0	0	0	0	2,515
Total Adjustments	**(25,601)**	**(5689)**	**9,414**	**6,652**	**(2,644)**	**(9,509)**

14. Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure. Transfers out are generally used to support specific projects, or budgeted contributions to the general fund.

	Balance 31/3/21 £'000	Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	Balance 31/3/22 £'000	Transfers In £'000	Transfers Out £'000	Balance 31/3/23 £'000
HRA Earmarked	**(1,697)**	**(391)**	**519**	**(1,569)**	**(68)**	**343**	**(1,294)**
Service Earmarked	(26,193)	(4,554)	5,274	(25,473)	(5,750)	5,390	(25,833)
Major Project Cashflowing	(2,110)	(768)	0	(2,878)	0	1,634	(1,244)
Schools	(4,665)	(35)	0	(4,700)	0	364	(4,336)
Infrastructure & Regeneration	(987)	(200)	158	(1,029)	0	47	(982)
Budget Delivery Cashflowing	(56,723)	(3,848)	15,401	(45,170)	0	24,711	(20,459)
General Fund Reserves per BS	**(90,678)**	**(9,405)**	**20,833**	**(79,250)**	**(5,750)**	**32,146**	**(52,854)**
Total Earmarked Reserves	**(92,375)**	**(9,796)**	**21,352**	**(80,819)**	**(5,818)**	**32,489**	**(54,148)**

The reserves above serve a number of purposes and can be summarised as:

Reserve	**Purpose**
HRA Earmarked	These reserves support the specific service requirements of the HRA
Schools	For schools' related rollovers
Service Earmarked	To support individual services of the GF, such as commuted sums, self-insurance, children's development and public health
Major Project Cash flowing	Ongoing Wichelstowe and PFI-related support
Infrastructure & Regeneration	To provide support to activities in these areas
Budget Delivery Cash flowing	Collection Fund deficit support; implementing future year's savings, such as service redevelopment and IT reshaping.

Disclosures Relating to the Balance Sheet

15. Property, Plant and Equipment

In 2022/23 the Council made no material changes to its accounting estimates methods for Property, Plant and Equipment.
The revaluation programme is such that the top twenty assets by value are revalued annually, whilst the majority of the remaining items of Other Land and Buildings are revalued bi-annually. This results in the majority of assets going no longer than a year without undergoing revaluation review. Accumulated depreciation is written back at the revaluation date.

	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Carried at historical cost	0	0	18,338	13,014	0	61,159	92,511
Value of assets revalued in year ending:							
31-Mar-22	551,820	379,651	0	0	21,417	0	**952,888**
31-Mar-21	0	114,904	0	0	7,656	0	122,560
Total Value of category on the balance sheet	**551,820**	**494,555**	**18,338**	**13,014**	**29,073**	**61,159**	**1,527,685**

The revaluation decreases recognised in the surplus/deficit on provision of services relates to a general fall in prices across the relevant asset categories for General Fund assets. HRA council dwellings are also subject to specific impairment where the value of new build property is affected by social housing valuations. The certified valuation date is the 31 December, but the Valuer confirms any material change to the valuations at the end of the year. There has been an improvement in the housing market during the year which is reflected in the increase to HRA dwellings valuation, although such valuations are limited by application of a social housing discount factor.

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code on infrastructure assets this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

2022/23	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total PPE
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2021	**530,713**	**475,226**	**21,273**		**12,453**	**50,893**	**71,751**	**1,162,309**
Additions	13,566	44,074	4,301		561	30	28,254	90,786
Revaluation + / (-) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	19,380	9,545	0		0	(16,113)	0	12,812
Revaluation + / (-) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(16,273)	(16,723)	0		0	(4,127)	0	(37,123)
Derecognition – disposals	(8,844)	(14,881)	(7,236)		0	(151)	0	(50,140)
Reclassification	13,278	(2,686)	0		0	(1,459)	(38,846)	(1,514)
At 31 March 2022	**551,820**	**494,555**	**18,338**		**13,014**	**29,073**	**61,159**	**1,527,685**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2021	**(2,492)**	**(6,570)**	**(16,593)**		**0**	**(165)**	**0**	**(25,820)**
Depreciation charge	(8,817)	(13,533)	(2,141)		0	(59)	0	(24,550)
Depreciation w/b on Revaluation	8,305	10,675	0		0	54	0	19,034
Depreciation written to/from the CIES	112	2,144	0		0	68	0	2,324
Depreciation written to/from the CIES - Reclassifications	(117)	123	0		0	(6)	0	0
Derecognition – disposals	804	362	6,359		0	5	0	7,530
At 31 March 2022	**(2,205)**	**(6,799)**	**(12,375)**		**0**	**(103)**	**0**	**(21,482)**
Net Book Value as per the Balance Sheet								
At 1 April 2021	**528,221**	**468,656**	**4,680**	**200,260**	**12,453**	**50,728**	**71,751**	**1,336,749**
At 31 March 2022	**549,615**	**487,756**	**5,963**	**234,098**	**13,014**	**28,970**	**61,159**	**1,380,575**

2021/22	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment	Infrastructure Assets	Community Assets	Surplus Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total PPE
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2021	**492,584**	**481,640**	**19,137**		**17,623**	**51,175**	**35,413**	**1,097,572**
Additions	18,378	7,214	2,136		515	98	36,338	64,679
Revaluation + / (-) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	39,773	5,563	0		0	150	0	45,486
Revaluation + / (-) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,654)	(6,757)	0		0	(55)	0	(15,466)
Derecognition – disposals	(11,368)	(10,461)	0		(5,685)	(298)	0	(27,812)
Reclassification	0	(1,973)	0		0	(177)	0	(2,150)
At 31 March 2022	**530,713**	**475,226**	**21,273**		**12,453**	**50,893**	**71,751**	**1,162,309**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2021	**(5,722)**	**(6,743)**	**(14,801)**		**0**	**(208)**	**0**	**(27,474)**
Depreciation charge	(9,962)	(13,939)	(1,792)		0	(188)	0	(25,881)
Depreciation w/b on Revaluation	12,149	11,888	0		0	203	0	24,240
Depreciation written to/from the CIES	0	1,609	0		0	13	0	1,622
Depreciation written to/from the CIES - Reclassifications	0	386	0		0	4	0	390
Derecognition – disposals	1,043	229	0		0	11	0	1,283
At 31 March 2022	**(2,492)**	**(6,570)**	**(16,593)**		**0**	**(165)**	**0**	**(25,820)**
Net Book Value as per the Balance Sheet								
At 1 April 2021	**486,862**	**474,897**	**4,336**	**174,770**	**17,623**	**50,967**	**35,413**	**1,244,758**
At 31 March 2022	**528,221**	**468,656**	**4,680**	**200,260**	**12,453**	**50,728**	**71,751**	**1,328,390**

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.

Net movement in Infrastructure Assets	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Net Book Value (modified historical cost) at 1 April	**174,770**	**200,260**
Additions	33,861	14,833
Reclassifications	0	28,199
Depreciation	(8,371)	(9,194)
Net book value at 31 March	**200,260**	**234,098**

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.

The infrastructure accounting policy for Swindon Borough Council was revised in 2021/22 to reflect component parts of the network and changes in the useful lives following review. Carriageway/Path/Lighting components are now depreciated over 30 years, structures 100 and street furniture 15. The following table shows the revised estimated useful lives, the recorded net book value of the relevant component element of the network and their relative proportion of the overall net book value.

Infrastructure Components	Useful Life	In-year Depreciation	31/3/22 NBV £000	Percentage
Carriageways	30	(8,088)	176,888	76%
Footways/ Cycle Tracks	30	(64)	1,846	1%
Structures (bridges, tunnels, underpasses)	100	(490)	40,826	17%
Street Lighting	30	(447)	12,162	5%
Street Furniture	15	(103)	2,376	1%
NBV per the Balance Sheet		**(9,192)**	**234,098**	**100%**

In valuing surplus assets the valuers have used a desktop valuation with physical inspections. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets. The material proportion of surplus assets (82%) relates to land available for development, which is considered the highest and best use of the asset.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and non-observable inputs	Key sensitivities
Surplus assets	Level 2	Valued at Fair Value as at 31 December 2022 using the market approach.	Review of similar markets for development land.	The inputs listed are exposed to future market changes. These are either at a macro level based on factors such as the performance of the economy, or micro level such as the local demand for development, however, a material value of the surplus assets is for known future development.

Sensitivity of asset	Asset	Valuation Range	Value as at 31/3/23	Valuation Variation
			£'000	£'000
The valuation report states that there is a valuation tolerance of +/- 10%, and the impact of this range on the closing value of surplus assets at 31/3/23 is shown.	Surplus assets	+/- 10%	29,695	2,969

16. Investment Properties

The following table summarises the movement of the fair value investment properties over the year:

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at start of the year	**7,887**	**7,362**
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	(525)	(880)
To/from Property, Plant and Equipment	0	(712)
Balance at end of the year	**7,362**	**5,770**

The valuers have used a desktop valuation with physical inspections, with valuations taking account of the following factors: existing lease terms and rentals taken from the tenancy schedule and independent research into market evidence including Market rentals and yields. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for investment properties. In estimating the fair value of the Authority's investment property, the highest and best use of the properties is deemed to be their current use.

Description of Asset	Valuation Hierarchy	Basis of Valuation	Observable and non-observable inputs	Key sensitivities
Investment property	Level 3	Valued at Fair Value as at 31 December 2022 using the income method.	Estimated rental value. Capitalisation rate.	The inputs listed are exposed to future market changes. These are either at a macro level based on factors such as the performance of the economy, or micro level such as the local tenant demand for property or house prices.

Sensitivity of asset	Asset	Valuation Range	Value as at 31/3/21 £'000	Valuation Variation £'000
The Council owns one material investment property, Lysander House in Bristol, which it has considered the potential impact of valuation changes on. The valuation report states that there is a valuation tolerance of +/- 10%, and the impact of this range on the closing value of this investment at 31/3/23 is shown.	Lysander House	+/- 10%	5,770	577

17.Heritage Assets

The valuation rules are relaxed in relation to heritage assets and values for collections have been taken by reference to accepted valuations by external insurers. The nature of heritage assets means they are expected to have indefinite lives, as they are held for future prosperity without consumption of benefits. The Council also insures £11m of items which are loaned for display. The Council's holdings can be broken down to collections held at the following sites:

Collections held on location at:	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Steam Railway Heritage Centre	14,200	14,200
Bath Road Museum	11,800	11,800
Lydiard Park House	2,500	2,500
Richard Jefferies Museum	120	120
Agricultural Store Coate	120	120
Whitehall Farm Stores	60	60
Transport Depot Stores	60	60
Civic Regalia	340	340
Total Valuation	**29,200**	**29,200**

18.Capital Commitment

At 31 March 2022, Council has approved a Capital Programme of £703m with £367m remaining budgeted to be spent on the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2023/24 and future years. Whilst a departure from the Code and not contractually committed, there is reasonable expectation that the work will be undertaken. External grants and borrowing will primarily fund this programme of works, which includes the major New Eastern Villages and Kimmerfields developments. Further expenditure depends on borrowing, grants and other contributions, some of which have already been received or promised. Similar budgeted commitments at 31 March 2022 were £334m.

19.Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR was £525.4m as at 31/03/22 and has increased by £28.2m to £553.6m as at 31/03/23.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	**£'000**
Property, Plant & Equipment	71,092	79,434
HRA Dwellings & AUC	27,448	26,215
Total Additions to Balance Sheet	**98,540**	**105,649**
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	18,324	2,388
Total Expenditure to be Financed	**116,864**	**108,037**
HRA Funding	(16,891)	(8,401)
Capital Receipts	(11,633)	(4,960)
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO)	(8,603)	(9,613)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(46,886)	(41,260)
S106	(4,562)	(5,608)
Sources of non-borrowing finance	**(88,575)**	**(69,842)**
Opening CFR	**514,746**	**525,498**
Balance of capital expenditure financed from borrowing	28,289	38,195
Reduction from MRP	(3,213)	(5,054)
Reduction from Voluntary HRA repayments	(5,000)	(5,000)
Other movements (loan/debtor adjustments)	(9,324)	0
Movement in CFR	**10,752**	**28,141**
Closing CFR	**525,498**	**553,639**

20. Long-term Debtors

The balance of long-term debtors consists of the following elements:

Balance at 31 March	2022	2023
	£'000	£'000
Mortgage Advances	237	233
Finance Lease Asset	1,234	1,233
Long term loans	5,621	5,402
Total	**7,092**	**6,868**

21. Short-term Debtors

The balances of short-term debtors are summarised in the following table.

Balance at 31 March	2022	2023
	£'000	£'000
Central government bodies	15,201	12,282
Other local authorities	1,434	858
NHS bodies	2,962	3,865
Collection Fund	22,032	21,751
Sundry organisations and individuals	28,030	21,567
Payments in Advance	9,588	7,190
Sub-total	**79,247**	**67,513**
Impairment of debtors	(7,174)	(7,498)
Collection Fund loss allowance	(12,531)	(14,149)
Net Debtors	**59,542**	**45,866**

22. Short-Term Creditors

Balance at 31 March	2022	2023
	£'000	£'000
Central government bodies	(41,207)	(25,748)
Other local authorities	(1,151)	(1,372)
NHS bodies	(2,039)	(1,733)
Collection Fund	(5,302)	(4,508)
Sundry organisations and individuals	(37,299)	(27,226)
Receipts in advance	(21,781)	(18,446)
Total	**(108,779)**	**(79,033)**

23.Provisions

Insurance

The provision is in respect of employers and public liability claims where incidents have already taken place but the claims have yet to be settled. The provision is based on the total of the individual claim "reserves" estimated by the Council's loss adjusters. It includes a provision for outstanding Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI – relating to old Mesothelioma claims) claims that are now becoming certain that payment will be necessary in future.

Capitalised Landfill

This provision represents the sixty year liability for the reclamation of the Shaw landfill site. The cost of the provision represents a capital cost as part of the decommissioning of the asset.

Rates Appeals

This provision is required under the revised business rate accounting of the collection fund and is based upon estimates of valuations appeals.

Other

The other provisions mainly relate to Housing, where housing review costs are known to be payable every fourth year, or where the Authority is required to underwrite accommodation costs and may need be charged if amounts are not paid.

Expenditure relating to these provisions occurs when the Insurers close claims, when confirmation of NDR balances can be used is received, or as temporary housing needs require. This occurs during the course of any year and is not fixed to specific dates. The provisions are reviewed annually to ensure they cover prudently estimated liabilities.

2022/23	**Insurance**	**Landfill**	**Rates Appeals**	**Other**	**Total**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Balance Outstanding at start of year	**(3,182)**	**(2,470)**	**(10,094)**	**(124)**	**(15,870)**
Additional provisions made	(492)	0	0	0	(492)
Amounts used	1,008	155	2,102	0	3,265
Balance outstanding at year end	**(2,666)**	**(2,315)**	**(7,992)**	**(124)**	**(13,097)**
Relating to short-term	(1,583)	0	0	0	(1,583)
Relating to long-term	(1,083)	(2,315)	(7,992)	(124)	(11,514)

24.Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties.

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

The movement in reserves statement provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	**(260,643)**	**(276,696)**
Reversal of capital related items debited or credited to the CIES:		
Adjusting balance for rounding	(6)	4
Charges for depreciation of noncurrent assets	34,252	33,744
Charges for impairment of noncurrent assets	15,149	37,011
Depreciation written back on reclassifications	(390)	0
Depreciation written back on disposals	(1,284)	(26,559)
Depreciation written back on general gain/loss	(1,622)	(2,212)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	18,324	2,388
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	27,813	52,291
Application of the HRA debt	(5,000)	(5,000)
	87,236	**91,667**
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(11,825)	(14,856)
Deferred Receipts	(1)	(1)
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(11,633)	(4,960)
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(16,891)	(8,401)
Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(4,562)	(5,608)
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(46,886)	(41,260)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(3,213)	(5,054)
Voluntary provision for financing of capital expenditure	(200)	0
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	(8,603)	(9,613)
Movement in the market value of investments	525	880
	(103,289)	**(88,873)**
Balance at 31 March	**(276,696)**	**(273,902)**

25. Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its non-current assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

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

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Balance at 1 April	**(526,690)**	**(584,175)**
Revaluation of assets in asset table note	(45,070)	(12,812)
Revaluation of held for sale assets	0	0
Depreciation added back on revaluation	(24,240)	(19,034)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**(69,310)**	**(31,846)**
Adjustments against historic cost	8,650	7,633
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	3,175	7,223
Balance at 31 March	**(584,175)**	**(601,165)**

26.Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	**£'000**
Balance at 1 April	**363,982**	**270,210**
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(123,116)	(269,559)
Net reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	29,344	25,266
Balance at 31 March	**270,210**	**25,917**

Statutory arrangements, however, require a benefit earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid. Note 31 contains more detail on the pension fund.

27.Collection Fund Adjustment Account

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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.

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	**£'000**
Balance at 1 April	**27,196**	**14,104**
Amount by which council tax income credited to the CIES is different from council tax income calculated under statute	(1,123)	202
Amount by which business rates income credited to the CIES is different from business rates income calculated under statute	(11,969)	(18,313)
Balance at 31 March	**14,104**	**(4,007)**

28. Leases

Authority as Lessee

Under reporting standards the Council has finance lease arrangements for its PFI scheme, shown in note 29. The Council has no other known finance lease arrangements, either as a direct leasing process or from service arrangements.

Operating Leases

The Council leases and then sub-lets a range of private sector accommodation for its Housing services.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Not later than one year	2,206	1,404
Later than one year not later than five	690	974
Total	**2,896**	**2,378**
The charge to services is:		
Minimum lease payments (total above)	2,897	2,378
Sublease payments receivable	(2,554)	(1,954)
Charge to services	**343**	**424**

Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

The Authority has leased out a range of property across the Borough where it holds assets on commercial estates, farms and office space. Most of these are classified as operating leases, but one lease for a recreational site is a finance lease.

Operating Leases

The Authority leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes:

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

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

	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	5,870	5,088
Later than one year and not later than five	19,982	17,672
Later than five years	3,759	3,437
Total Payments Due	**29,611**	**26,197**

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

29.Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts

Schools PFI Scheme

In 2004/05 the Council entered into a PFI contract with Equion plc. to provide seven schools in the northern sector of Swindon. The Department for Education & Skills sponsored the project and has issued the Council with a Notional Credit Approval of £62.8m. The Council is committed to making payments estimated at £269.5m under the contract although the actual level of payments will depend on contract performance by the provider. Periodic contract reviews may also increase or decrease payments depending on inflation and utility costs. This payment covers a range of on-going services in the management of the schools, with the expectation that the schools will be available for educational use throughout the school term and day. The contract expires in 2032.

As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI scheme and as ownership of the schools will pass to the council at the end of the contracts, the council carries the PPE used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet. Assets are transferred out if a PFI schools changes to academy status. There are no known implications to the accounting model, or impact of onerous contracts, from agreed academy transfers that have taken place.

The original recognition of this PPE was balanced by the recognition of a finance lease liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the assets. In a departure from the Code, that is not material, lifecycle costs are recorded through revenue as modelled, rather than carried forward as a payment in advance if renewal works have not been undertaken. This ensures a consistent flow through revenue and limits the impact of significant prepayment balances building up over the duration of the contract.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- Fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Income and Expenditure Account

- Finance cost – an interest charge of 13% on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to Interest Payable and Similar Charges in the Income and Expenditure Account
- Contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to Interest Payable and Similar Charges in the Income and Expenditure Account
- Payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator
- Lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as expensed in the CIES.

PFI assets are accounted for on the Council's balance sheet at current value with a related finance lease liability. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property, Plant and Equipment balance in Note 15. Revised MRP policy allows for PFI liability costs of the lease repayment to be funded from capital receipts, permissible under regulations.

Although the payments made to the contractor are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the contractor for the fair value of the services they provide, the capital expenditure incurred and interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Opening Balance	(45,505)	(43,052)
Unitary Charge Paid	11,552	11,615
Expenditure / Financing Cost	(9,099)	(8,996)
Closing Balance	**(43,052)**	**(40,433)**

The payments due, as calculated under the finance lease methodology, which relate to service charges, interest and lease liability are shown in the following table.

Balance at 31 March	2022			2023		
	Service Charges £'000	Interest £'000	Liability £'000	Service Charges £'000	Interest £'000	Liability £'000
Within 1 Year	4,029	4,967	2,619	4,028	4,665	2,989
Within 2 - 5 Years	17,159	16,468	13,534	17,828	14,906	14,727
Within 6 - 10 Years	24,952	10,233	25,600	21,939	7,280	22,717
Within 11 - 15 Years	1,684	150	1,299	0	0	0
	47,824	**31,818**	**43,052**	**43,795**	**26,851**	**40,433**

The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under the PFI lease liability comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the assets acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

	2021/22	2022/23
Finance Lease Liabilities	**£'000**	**£'000**
- Current	(2,619)	(2,989)
- Non-current	(40,433)	(37,444)
Finance Cost Payable in Future Years	(79,123)	(70,550)
Minimum lease payments	**(122,175)**	**(110,983)**

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	2021/22	**2022/23**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Not later than one year	11,192	11,273	(2,619)	(2,989)
Later than 1 not later than 5	57,389	57,951	(17,716)	(19,179)
Later than 5	53,594	41,760	(22,717)	(18,265)
	122,175	**110,983**	**(43,052)**	**(40,433)**

The minimum lease payments do not include rents that are contingent on events taking place after the lease was entered into.

30.Pensions Schemes Accounted for as Defined Contribution Schemes

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

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

In 2022/23, the council paid £1.067m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 23.7% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2021/22 were £1.209m and 23.7%.

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement outside of the terms of the teachers' scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis.

Health staff transferred to the Council in 2013/14 and many maintained their membership in the NHS Pension Scheme. The Scheme provides these staff with specified benefits upon their retirement and the Council contributes towards the costs by making contributions based on a percentage of members' pensionable salaries.

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

31.Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Wiltshire Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement – this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there is no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

The Council paid an employer's contribution of £16.82m (£20.3m in 2021/22) into Wiltshire Council's Pension Fund. Wiltshire Council manages the fund, which provides participants with defined benefits relating to pay and service. This represented 22% of employees' pensionable pay including some lump sum payments. The basic contribution rate to cover the cost of on-going pensions was 21.4% for General Fund staff, with the additional lump sum payments being paid to reduce the deficit on the Pension Fund.

The Fund's Actuary, based on triennial actuarial valuations, determines the contribution rate. The last review was as at 31 March 2022. Future contribution rates are set so that fund assets should be sufficient to meet 100% of the overall liabilities of the fund over time; however, the current position of the pension fund is that it is not fully funded. Though a significant liability, the Council can meet the proportion applicable.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

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

IAS19 Summary Disclosures Through The CIES	**2021/22 £'000**	**2022/23 £'000**
Within Net Cost of Service:		
Current service cost	44,235	42,169
Non-Distributed cost/(benefit) (impact of past service costs and settlements and curtailments)	(597)	(830)
Within Net operating Expenditure:		
Interest cost	7,496	7,528
Within Reserves Movement:		
Movement on Pensions Reserve	(29,344)	(25,266)
Actual Amount Charged Against Council tax for the Year:		
All employer's contributions payable to the scheme	(21,790)	(23,601)
Net effect on Council Tax of IAS19 adjustments	0	0

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

Assumptions as at 31 March	**2022**	**2023**
Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3.2%	3.0%
Salary Increase Rate	3.6%	3.5%
Discount Rate	2.7%	4.8%
The average future life expectancies at age 65 , in years	**Male**	**Female**
Current Pensioners	21.2	24.2
Future Pensioners	22.1	25.7

Commutation Adjustment

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take a percentage of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits. There are different rates for pre- (50%) and post (75%) - April 2008 service.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme has been assessed by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the County Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme.

There are risks associated with the pension liability around scheme membership, where the life expectancy of members may be longer than estimated, resulting in benefits being payable for a longer period.

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £777m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a negative overall balance of £26m. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy:

- The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due)
- Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when pensions are paid
- The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the council in the year to 31 March 2024 is £21.483m.

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:

			2022			2023
	Asset	Obligation	Net	Asset	Obligation	Net
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Employer Assets	744,469	0	**744,469**	800,974	0	**800,974**
Present Value of Liabilities	0	(1,108,451)	**(1,108,451)**	0	(1,071,184)	**(1,071,184)**
Opening Position 1 April	**744,469**	**(1,108,451)**	**(363,982)**	**800,974**	**(1,071,184)**	**(270,210)**
Current Service Cost	0	(44,235)	**(44,235)**	0	(42,169)	**(42,169)**
Past Service (Costs) / Gains	0	(155)	**(155)**	0	(617)	**(617)**
Effect of Settlements	(1,301)	2,063	**762**	(1,011)	2,458	**1,447**
Total Service Cost	**(1,301)**	**(42,327)**	**(43,628)**	**(1,011)**	**(40,328)**	**(41,339)**
Interest Income on plan assets	14,843	0	**14,843**	21,535	0	**21.535**
Interest cost on obligation	0	(22,339)	**(22,339)**	0	(29,063)	**(29,063)**
Total Net Interest	**14,843**	**(22,339)**	**(7,496)**	**21,535**	**(29,063)**	**(7,528)**
Total Cost Recognised in Profit/(Loss)	**13,542**	**(64,666)**	**(51,124)**	**20,524**	**(69,391)**	**(48,867)**
Plan participant contributions	5,234	(5,234)	**0**	5,672	(5,672)	**0**
Employer contributions	20,694	0	**20,694**	22,569	0	**22,569**
Contributions for Unfunded Benefits	1,096	0	**1,096**	942	0	**942**
Benefits Paid	(28,984)	28,984	**0**	(32,986)	32,986	**0**
Unfunded Benefits Paid	(1,096)	1,096	**0**	(942)	942	**0**
Effect of business combinations and disposals	12	(22)	**(10)**	0	0	**0**
Expected Closing Position	**754,967**	**(1,148,293)**	**(393,326)**	**816,843**	**(1,112,319)**	**(295,476)**
Change in demographic assumptions	0	73,146	**73,146**	0	1,938	**1,938**
Change in financial assumptions	0	5,882	**5,882**	0	383,617	**383,617**
Other experience	0	(1,919)	**(1,919)**	3,943	50,057	**(46,114)**
Return on assets excluding interest	46,007	0	**46,007**	(69,882)	0	**(69,882**
Total Re-measurements in Other Income	**46,007**	**77,109**	**123,116**	**(65,939)**	**335,498**	**269,559**
Sub-Total	**800,974**	**(1,071,184)**	**(270,210)**	**750,904**	**(776,821)**	**(25,917)**
Fair Value of Employer Assets	800,974	0	800,974	750,904	0	**750,904**
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	0	(1,055,765)	(1,055,765)	0	(765,426)	**(765,426)**
Present Value of Unfunded Liabilities	0	(15,419)	(15,419)	0	(11,395)	**(11,395)**
Closing Position 31 March	**800,974**	**(1,071,184)**	**(270,210)**	**750,904**	**(776,821)**	**(25,917)**

Fair Value of Employer Assets

Asset Category	Non-Quoted Prices £'000	Total 2022 £'000	%	Non-Quoted Prices £'000	Total 2023 £'000	%
Real estate:						
UK Property	55,828	**55,828**	7.0%	52,338	**52,338**	7%
Overseas Property	33,617	**33,617**	4.0%	31,516	**31,516**	4%
Investment Funds & Unit Trusts:						
Equities	320,969	**320,969**	40.0%	300,905	**300,905**	40%
Bonds	219,383	**219,383**	27.0%	205,669	**205,669**	27%
Infrastructure	60,969	**60,969**	8.0%	57,159	**57,159**	8%
Other	106,595	**106,595**	13.0%	99,932	**99,932**	13%
Derivatives:						
Cash / Cash Equivalents	3,610	**3,610**	1.0%	3,385	**3,385**	1%
Total	**800,971**	**800,971**	**100.0%**	**750,904**	**750,904**	**100%**

32.Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

The Authority's Treasury strategy is mainly to borrow or invest in Government institutions or highly credit-rated financial organisations. The majority of instruments are carried at amortised cost, whilst the Property Fund is carried at fair value (through profit and loss). The statutory override, extended until 2024/25, requires any gain/loss on revaluation of the Property Fund to be cleared to a Pooled Investments Adjustment Account and therefore any revaluation currently has no general fund impact. Current and non-current investments relate to deposits made with both group and other institutions.

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet, debtors and creditors relate only to trade activities:

	Non-Current 31st March 2022 £'000	Non-Current 31st March 2023 £'000	Current 31st March 2022 £'000	Current 31st March 2023 £'000
Amortised Cost				
Investments	3,791	11,955	26,536	1,400
Debtors	5,621	5,401	12,886	13,833
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0	0	44,901	33,930
Fair value through profit and Loss				
Property Fund Investment	16,845	4,657	0	0
Total Financial Assets	**26,257**	**22,013**	**84,323**	**49,163**
Borrowings				
Financial liabilities PWLB	(295,700)	(292,199)	(11,800)	(13,501)
Financial liabilities Money Market	(30,000)	(30,000)	0	0
Financial liabilities Other Temporary Borrowing	(15,457)	(3,999)	(1,459)	(21,458)
Creditors	0	0	(1,617)	(262)
Other Long Term Liabilities	(1,869)	(2,547)	0	0
PFI	(40,433)	(37,444)	(2,619)	(2,989)
Total Financial Liabilities	**(383,459)**	**(366,189)**	**(17,495)**	**(38,210)**

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to interest and investing financial instruments are shown in note 5.

Fair Values of Assets and Liabilities

One of the authority’s financial assets is measured at fair value on a recurring basis and is described in the following table, including the valuation technique used to measure them.

Recurring fair value measurements	**Input level in fair value hierarchy**	**Valuation technique used to measure fair value**	**Basis of valuation**	**As at 31/3/22**	**As at 31/3/23**
Fair value through profit and Loss				**£'000**	**£'000**
Property Fund Investment	Level 2	Observable inputs for the sales value of the asset	Evaluated prices provided by Fund management services.	16,845	4,657
Total				**16,845**	**4,657**

Gains and losses included in fair value through profit and loss for the current year relate to the Property Fund Investment and are taken to the Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account.

	2021/22 £'000	**2022/23 £'000**
Opening Balance	14,325	16,845
Adjusting Transfer In/(Out)	5	(10,000)
Gain/(Loss) to Other Operating Income (reversed to Pooled Investment Funds Adjustment Account)	2,515	(2,188)
Closing Balance	**16,845**	**4,657**

Except for the financial asset carried at fair value described in the table above, all other financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables and long term debtors and creditors are carried on the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their comparative fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining life of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- For PWLB, and non-PWLB loans payable, new borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value
- Where an instrument has a maturity of less than 12 months or is a trade or other receivable the fair value is taken to be the carrying or billed amount;

These, and the PFI liability, are carried at amortised cost on the balance sheet, but for fair value comparison are estimated as Level 2 Inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, and the fair values calculated by third party Treasury specialist are as follows.

Balance at 31 March	**2022**		**2023**	
	Carrying Amount	**Fair Value**	**Carrying Amount**	**Fair Value**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
PWLB long term liabilities	(295,700)	(311,011)	(292,199)	(242,575)
PWLB short term liabilities	(11,800)	(12,066)	(13,501)	(12,065)
Non-PWLB long term liabilities	(5,457)	(5,457)	(3,999)	(3,999)
Non-PWLB short term liabilities	(1,459)	(1,459)	(21,458)	(21,459)
Money Market	(40,000)	(51,498)	(30,000)	(53,377)
PFI liability	(43,052)	(66,728)	(40,433)	(55,052)
Investments	26,536	26,536	1,400	1,400

The fair value of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans of £254.639m measures the economic effect of the terms agreed with the PWLB compared with estimates of the terms that would be offered for market transactions undertaken at the Balance Sheet date, which has been assumed as the new borrowing rates available from the PWLB. The difference between the carrying amount and the fair value measures the additional interest that the authority will pay over the remaining terms of the loans under the agreements with the PWLB, against what would be paid if the loans were at prevailing market rates. However, the authority has a continuing ability to borrow at concessionary rates from the PWLB rather than from the markets, termed the PWLB Certainty interest rates.

A supplementary measure of the fair value as a result of its PWLB commitments for fixed rate loans is to compare the terms of these loans with the PWLB redemption interest rates. If a value is calculated on this basis, the carrying amount of £305.707m would be valued at £280.718m. But, if the authority were to seek to avoid the projected loss by repaying the loans to the PWLB, the PWLB would raise a penalty charge, based on the redemption interest rates, for early redemption of £26.078m for the additional interest that will not now be paid. The exit price for the PWLB loans including the penalty charge would be £331.779m.

The fair values of assets or liabilities shown above are higher or lower than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate varies over the prevailing rates at the Balance Sheet date. This shows notional future gains/losses (based on economic conditions at 31 March) arising from a commitment to pay or receive interest at market rates that differ from the current market at the balance sheet date. This includes the PFI liability which has a higher internal rate of return than current market conditions. Premature repayment rate has been used in estimating the PFI fair value, which is expected to be similar to new loan value and includes the penalty charge that would be expected by the market in ending the term early.

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

33. Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks where there is the possibility that:

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

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

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the authority's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, available via the Council website, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. This Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

The instruments carried by the Authority are such that they have no lifetime expected credit loss applied as they are either held with government institutions, are highly credit-rated with non-material risk or are consolidated under the group. Short-term debtors held at amortised cost are assessed via the simplified approach and the balance of debtor impairment for the year was £7.5m.

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk at 31 March, in relation to its investments in banks and building societies of £10m, cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of not being able to recover funds applies to all of the Authority's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 31 March that this was likely to crystallise.

The Authority does not generally allow credit for customers, such that all of the balance is past its due date for payment. The past due but not impaired amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Less than three months	7,125	7,126
Three to six months	1,203	1,385
Six months to one year	991	1,281
More than one year	3,811	4,708
Total	**13,130**	**14,500**

Liquidity Risk

The authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the authority has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

Instead, the risk is that the 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 during specified periods. The strategy is to ensure that not more than 45% of loans are due to mature within any rolling three-year period through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Less than one year	13,259	34,959
Between one and two years	13,500	14,200
Between two and five years	44,535	48,278
More than five years	93,628	89,926
Over ten years	189,494	173,794
Total	**354,416**	**361,157**

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

Market Interest Rate & Price Risk

The Council is exposed to changes in interest rates as a result of its borrowings being at long-term fixed rates and investment being short-term or at variable rates of interest. Falls in interest rates will subsequently have an adverse impact on the Council's finances but other movements in interest rates can have a complex impact on the authority. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates – interest charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise
- Borrowings / Investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the liability/asset will fall
- Investments at variable rates – the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise

The impact of a 1% increase in interest rates on the fair values of the below liabilities would be:

Balance at 31 March	**2023 Fair Value £'000**	**Impact of 1% Rise £'000**	**2023 Revised Fair Value £'000**	**Impact of 1% increase on:**	**2023 £'000**
PWLB liabilities	(254,639)	22,762	(231,878)	Interest payable	164
Non-PWLB liabilities	(25,458)	0	(25,458)	Interest receivable	(49)
Money Market	(53,377)	4,176	(49,201)	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	114
PFI liability	(55,052)	2,442	(52,610)		
Total	**(388,527)**	**29,380**	**(359,147)**		

Balance at 31 March	**2022 Fair Value £'000**	**Impact of 1% Rise £'000**	**2022 Revised Fair Value £'000**	**Impact of 1% increase on:**	**2022 £'000**
PWLB liabilities	(323,077)	36,848	(286,228)	Interest payable	166
Non-PWLB liabilities	(6,916)	0	(6,916)	Interest receivable	(50)
Money Market	(51,498)	7,044	(44,454)	Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	460
PFI liability	(66,728)	3,366	(63,362)		
Total	**(448,219)**	**47,258**	**(400,960)**		

The Authority holds £5m in property/multi-asset fund, and the interest / price varies, however, any movements in price will not currently impact on the General Fund Balance as regulations are in force to ameliorate the impact of fair value movements.

Disclosures Relating to the Cashflow Statement

34.Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Interest received	4,028	6,269
Interest paid	(17,002)	(16,632)
Total	**(12,974)**	**(10,363)**
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following non-cash movements:		
Depreciation	32,578	31,585
Impairment and downward valuations	12,450	36,958
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	14,678	(39,456)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,128)	6,069
Increase/(decrease) in inventories	10	(69)
Pension Liability Movement	29,344	25,266
Carrying amount of non-current assets and non-current assets held for sale, sold or derecognised	27,813	25,732
Other non-cash items charged to the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services, mainly relating to pension adjustments	8,069	354
Total	**123,814**	**86,439**
The surplus or deficit on the provision of services has been adjusted for the following items that are investing and financing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and investment assets	(3,136)	(13,053)
Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows, mainly relating to capital grants	(54,091)	(48,776)
Total	**(57,227)**	**(61,829)**

35. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(92,343)	(113,115)
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(76,347)	(313,631)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	5,411	13,053
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	56,335	330,603
Other payments / receipts from investing activities, mainly capital grants for funding capital	77,411	63,274
Net cash flow from Investing Activities	**(29,533)**	**(19,816)**

36.Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Cash receipts of short- and long-term borrowing	27,124	45,269
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	(2,291)	(2,630)
Repayments of short- and long-term borrowing	(34,383)	(38,528)
Collection Fund & Other receipts / (payments) for financing activities	14,286	17,525
Net cash flow from Financing Activities	**4,736**	**21,636**

General Disclosures

37.Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Applied

The following accounting standards have been issued that will be applied in the Code in the following year: Amendments to IAS 8 (Definition of Accounting Estimates), Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 (Disclosure of Accounting Policies), Amendments to IAS 12 (Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction), Amendments to IFRS 3 (Updating a Reference to the Conceptual Framework). None of these standards are known to impact on the 2023/24 statements.

38.Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

There remains uncertainty about future levels of funding for individual local authorities in the absence of multi-year financial settlements.

The Authority is deemed to control the services provided under the agreement for school provision in seven PFI schools and also to control the residual value of the buildings at the end of the agreement. The accounting policies for PFI schemes and similar contracts have been applied to the arrangement and the schools are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment on the Authority's Balance Sheet. However, with on-going transfers of schools to Academy status, the authority is left with no relevant asset, but still holds the long-term liability. Schools are charged each year for their own contribution to the PFI costs, both before and after Academy transfer where relevant. As the schools continue to contribute their share of funding, there is no indicator that this change results in an onerous contract.

The Authority transferred the operating of its leisure services to third party providers in 2014/15. Review of the status of the long-term assets connected with the transfer concluded that they should remain on the Local Authority balance sheet as operational assets. This is in line with requirements of the Code, where assets are leased for the provision of services but risks and rewards from ownership remain. By holding the leisure centres on balance sheet the revenue account is exposed to annual depreciation charges and any valuation changes that would affect surplus or deficit on provision of services. Capital expenditure will also be added to the balance sheet asset rather than adjusted for through revenue expenditure funded by capital under statute.

The Authority is party to an arrangement with the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The agreement between the two bodies has previously been reviewed and discussion had with stakeholders in agreeing that the Council does not control the commissioning activities of the CCG as each party retains responsibility for services provided within its own areas of social care/health.

The overriding concept of materiality has been applied in the production of these accounts. This involves both the judgement of materiality in the application of transactions for accruals, and in the presentation of disclosures that relate to the accounting statements. Statutory notes are not affected.

39.Assumptions Made About the Future & Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

The below show the potential impact of some key assumptions:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Results Differ from Assumptions	
Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. Assets are valued based on estimates and assumptions at a point in time but market conditions can fluctuate.	If useful lives of assets reduce, depreciation increases and the net book value falls. Assets may be under or over-valued but should be within valuation tolerances acceptable to valuers.	
		Change	Est. value
Revaluation charge through the CIES from reduction in operational land and building valuation		10% reduction	£103m
Depreciation charge through the CIES from reduction in life of operational land and building		2 year reduction	£2.6m
Net Pensions Liability / Asset	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements, advised by actuaries, relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on fund assets.	Changes to the pension liability can be complex with a variety of items that may cause impact on the balance sheet or revenue statement with either a positive or negative change. Sensitivity analysis on the liability assumptions is shown below.	
		Est. % Liability increase	Est. value
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate		2%	12,894
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate		0%	837
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate		2%	12,259

40.Events after the Balance Sheet Date / Contingent Liability

Subject to receipt of the actuarial data, there are no known events that would have material impact on the Council's position as at 31 March 2023.

41.Related Parties

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

Central Government

The UK government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework, within which the Authority operates, provides funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties (e.g. council tax bills, housing benefits). Grants received from government departments are shown elsewhere in the accounts.

Members

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid is shown in Note 8. Members have completed an annual declaration of any possible related party situation and transactions with them. There are no significant transactions identified.

Officers

Officers of the Council have also made an annual declaration involving related parties. There are no significant transactions identified.

Controlled Companies

The Council is parent company to Public Power Solutions Limited (PPSL), Common and Chapel Solar Farms and Housing companies. Further details on these companies are contained within the group section of these accounts.

Company	PPSL	Common Farm	Chapel Farm	Housing Dev. Co.	JV
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Payments	(2,200)	0	0	0	0
Receipts	469	208	109	239	0
Loan Balances	0	0	0	1,627	10,040
Capital Loan Balances	0	2,188	2,704	0	510

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Authority

The Council entered into a 50/50 Joint Venture development agreement in January 2018, with Barratt Developments PLC, for the development of the Wichelstowe area of the Borough through the creation of a new company, Wichelstowe LLP.

The Council makes several grants and contributions to third party organisations each year, which follow individual process before award.

The Council is responsible as Trustee for a range of small charitable funds, totalling £742k over eighteen Funds. Internal interest is applied to the balances held by the Council's Treasury service, whilst the direction of Trust Fund support is agreed by Council.

Members of the Council also sit on boards of other groups or organisations, such as the Group Companies of the Council, and the Fire Authority. These are not necessarily material related parties but show the range of bodies that Members are involved with. A listing of outside bodies that Members are represented on can be found on the Committee and Member Information Site pages of the Council website.

There were 22 maintained Community schools within the Council's group included within the single entity accounts. Such schools account for expenditure of £51m, income of £56m and reserve balances of £5m. This includes income and expenditure of schools that have transferred to academy status up until the point of transfer. Academies are outside the Council's control.

42.Long Term Investments

The Council has a number of group companies which form part of the balance of the Council's long-term investments. These investments include deposits made to the companies and the Council shareholdings. They are removed as part of the consolidation process in the following group accounts section.

	2021/22	**2022/23**
	£'000	**£'000**
Property Fund	16,846	4,657
Subsidiary Companies	1,601	1,915
Joint Venture	2,190	10,040
Total	**20,637**	**16,612**

The Swindon Borough Council Group Accounts

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Continuing Operations	2021/22 Gross Expenditure £000	2021/22 Gross Income £000	2021/22 Net Expenditure £000	2022/23 Gross Expenditure £000	2022/23 Gross Income £000	2022/23 Net Expenditure £000
Resources - Enabling	26,636	(3,816)	22,820	25,469	(3,165)	22,304
Resources - Finance & Assets	61,886	(86,320)	(24,434)	72,603	(80,759)	(8,156)
Resources - Operations	31,762	(8,497)	23,265	37,854	(9,714)	28,140
Children Services	69,232	(9,353)	59,879	76,427	(12,247)	64,180
Adults, Housing & Public Health	156,408	(79,351)	77,057	156,310	(74,919)	81,391
Economy & Development	32,442	(10,774)	21,668	24,937	(7,696)	17,241
DSG Commissioning	111,318	(97,443)	13,875	111,864	(98,688)	13,176
HRA - Housing	35,985	(53,317)	(17,332)	43,591	(55,399)	(11,808)
HRA - Operations	12,060	(273)	11,787	13,196	(394)	12,802
Surplus / Deficit on All Services	**537,729**	**(349,144)**	**188,585**	**562,251**	**(342,981)**	**219,270**
Group taxation & share of joint venture			(3,398)			(266)
Other operating expenditure			32,205			24,983
Financing and investment income and expenditure			20,572			21,266
Taxation and non-specific grant income			(211,111)			(227,805)
Group (Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services			**26,853**			**37,448**
(Surplus) / deficit on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment			(69,310)			(31,846)
Re-measurements on pension assets / liabilities			(123,116)			(269,559)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(192,426)**			**(301,405)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			**(165,573)**			**(263,957)**

The Group Movement in Reserves Statement

2022/23	General Fund Balance	HRA	Earmarked GF Reserves	Earmarked HRA Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Authority's Share of Group Reserves	Group Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	**(8,220)**	**(12,186)**	**(79,250)**	**(1,569)**	**(7,195)**	**(1,034)**	**(32,237)**	**(141,691)**	**(575,266)**	**(716,957)**	**(3,445)**	**(720,402)**
Surplus /deficit on provision of services	28,721	8,680	0	0	0	0	0	11,408	0	37,401	47	37,448
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(301,405)	(301,405)	0	(301,405)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**28,721**	**8,680**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11,408**	**(301,405)**	**(264,004)**	**47**	**(263,957)**
Adjustments between Group and Authority accounts	(1,369)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,369)	0	(1,369)	1,369	0
Net increase before transfers	**27,352**	**8,680**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10,039**	**(301,405)**	**(265,373)**	**1,416**	**(263,957)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	(141)	(8,559)	0	0	(4,193)	(821)	(11,908)	371	26,991	1,369	(1,369)	0
Transfer of DSG deficit	(930)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(930)	930	0	0	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Reserves	**26,281**	**121**	**0**	**0**	**(4,193)**	**(821)**	**(11,908)**	**9,480**	**(273,484)**	**(264,004)**	**47**	**(263,957)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(26,396)	(275)	26,396	275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in year	**(115)**	**(154)**	**26,396**	**275**	**(4,193)**	**(821)**	**(11,908)**	**9,480**	**(273,484)**	**(264,004)**	**47**	**(263,957)**
Balance at 31 March	**(8,335)**	**(12,340)**	**(52,854)**	**(1,294)**	**(11,388)**	**(1,855)**	**(44,145)**	**(132,211)**	**(848,750)**	**(980,961)**	**(3,398)**	**(984,359)**

2021/22	General Fund Balance	HRA	Earmarked GF Reserves	Earmarked HRA Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves	Authority's Share of Group Reserves	Group Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April	**(7,820)**	**(12,035)**	**(90,678)**	**(1,697)**	**(16,609)**	**(7,686)**	**(29,593)**	**(166,118)**	**(393,446)**	**(559,564)**	**4,735**	**(554,829)**
Surplus /deficit on provision of services	21,065	5,666	0	0	0	0	0	35,090	0	26,731	122	26,853
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(192,426)	(192,426)	0	(192,426)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**21,065**	**5,666**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**35,090**	**(192,426)**	**(165,695)**	**122**	**(165,573)**
Adjustments between Group and Authority accounts	8,302	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,302	0	8,302	(8,302)	0
Net increase before transfers	**29,367**	**5,666**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**43,392**	**(192,426)**	**(157,393)**	**(8,180)**	**(165,573)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	(17,242)	(5,689)	0	0	9,414	6,652	(2,644)	(9,509)	9,509	0	0	0
Transfer of DSG deficit	(1,097)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,097)	1,097	0	0	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Reserves	**11,028**	**(23)**	**0**	**0**	**9,414**	**6,652**	**(2,644)**	**24,427**	**(181,820)**	**(157,393)**	**(8,180)**	**(165,573)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(11,428)	(128)	11,428	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in year	**(400)**	**(151)**	**11,428**	**128**	**9,414**	**6,652**	**(2,644)**	**24,427**	**(181,820)**	**(157,393)**	**(8,180)**	**(165,573)**
Balance at 31 March	**(8,220)**	**(12,186)**	**(79,250)**	**(1,569)**	**(7,195)**	**(1,034)**	**(32,237)**	**(141,691)**	**(575,266)**	**(716,957)**	**(3,445)**	**(720,402)**

The Group Balance Sheet

Note		31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2023 £000
44	Property, Plant & Equipment	1,346,065	1,388,714
	Investment property	7,362	5,770
	Heritage	29,200	29,200
	Intangible Assets	11	0
	Long term investments	24,596	23,339
	Long Term debtors	1,783	11,780
	Total Non-Current Assets	**1,409,017**	**1,458,803**
	Short term investments	26,536	1,400
	Inventories & Work in Progress	1,040	1,035
	Short term debtors	61,877	47,109
	Cash & Cash equivalents	45,951	34,737
	Assets held for sale (current)	5,959	6,065
	Current Assets	**141,363**	**90,346**
	Short term borrowing	(13,307)	(38,269)
	Short term creditors	(113,232)	(81,041)
	Provisions (short term)	(1,212)	(1,583)
	Current Liabilities	**(127,751)**	**(120,893)**
	Long term borrowing	(341,157)	(326,198)
	Long term creditors	(45,939)	(53,248)
	Provisions (long term)	(14,658)	(11,514)
	Pension Asset/Liability	(270,210)	(25,917)
	Capital Grants receipts in advance	(30,263)	(27,020)
	Non-Current Liabilities	**(702,227)**	**(443,897)**
	Net Assets	**720,402**	**984,359**
	Usable Reserves of Group	(145,136)	(135,609)
	Unusable Reserves of authority only	(575,266)	(848,750)
	Total Reserves	**(720,402)**	**(984,359)**

The Group Cash flow Statement

Note		2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(26,853)	(37,448)
	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	128,449	87,407
	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(69,500)	(62,403)
	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	**32,096**	**(12,444)**
	Investing Activities	(30,723)	(20,280)
	Financing Activities	3,310	21,510
	Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	**4,683**	**(11,214)**
	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	41,268	45,951
	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**45,951**	**34,737**

43. Long Term Investments – Group Consolidation

For a variety of legal and regulatory reasons, organisations are often required to conduct their activities through several undertakings, each under the control of the parent company. In such circumstances the financial reports of the parent organisation do not present the full picture by themselves. To understand the full picture, and therefore the full economic benefits and risks, group accounts are required.

The authority has considered its relationship with key partners and has produced Group Accounts for consolidation of Public Power Solutions Ltd (PPSL), Swindon Common Farm Solar Community Interest Plc (Common Farm), Chapel Farm Solar Ltd, and Swindon Housing Development Company Ltd only. As a joint venture (JV) Wichelstowe LLP is not consolidated on a line by line basis but requires the relevant share of the net assets to be accounted for, with the Council's investment being adjusted to represent the gain/loss of the Council's 50% interest.

Public Power Solutions Limited (PPSL)

The Council wholly owned the PPSL Company at a notional shareholding value of £10. The company was created on 1st January 2010 (as Swindon Commercial Services), however, services providing waste, highways, catering, grounds, cleaning and buildings services reintegrated back to the Council in 2013. The accounts and annual report of the company are held at Public Power Solutions Limited, Waterside, Darby Close, Cheney Manor, Swindon, Wiltshire, from which the figures below are extracted.

Swindon Common Farm Solar Community Interest Company Plc

The Council became owner of the above company during 2016/17. This company generates electricity from a solar array, part funded from a community bond issue.

Swindon Chapel Farm Solar Ltd

The Council became owner of the above company at the end of 2016/17. This company generates electricity from a solar array.

Swindon Housing Development Company Limited

The Council became owner of the above company during 2017/18. This company is involved in the construction and selling of housing.

Changes from Single Entity

In consolidating the group accounts transactions with the group entities are removed. As the single entity statements show the write down of a loan to PPS in 2021/22 this is ignored on consolidation, where the loan has not existed. Long term debtors on the balance sheet are also different between the single entity and group accounts, where other group loans within the single entity accounts do not exist on consolidation.

The following tables summarise the performance of the group companies prior to their consolidation:

	PPSL		Housing Dev. Co.	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit / (Loss) before taxation	(3,526)	199	(69)	(69)
Tax Adjustment	0	0	13	13
Profit / (Loss) after taxation	**(3,526)**	**199**	**(56)**	**(56)**
As at 31 March	**2022**	**2023**	**2022**	**2023**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Net Balance Sheet Asset/(Liability)	(411)	(212)	(276)	(628)

	Common Farm Solar		Chapel Farm Solar	
	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit / (Loss) before taxation	(85)	(85)	(238)	(77)
Tax Adjustment	11	11	(0)	82
Profit / (Loss) after taxation	**(74)**	**(74)**	**(239)**	**5**
As at 31 March	**2022**	**2023**	**2022**	**2023**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Net Balance Sheet Asset/(Liability)	(154)	(35)	(828)	(824)

These group statements contain the accounts for Swindon Borough Council, Public Power Solutions Limited, Swindon Common Farm Solar Community Interest Plc, Swindon Chapel Farm Solar Ltd, and Swindon Housing Development Company Limited. They have been adjusted for presentational changes to statements and for transactions between the parent and subsidiary undertakings. For example, to show lower spend paid out by the parent and lower income received by the subsidiary, or the removal of long term investments from the parent and long term creditors from the subsidiary.

The statements are also adjusted for any accruals made by the organisations. This generally results in debtors and creditors figures reducing. Disclosure notes are only included within the consolidated group accounts if they are materially different from those disclosed in the single entity accounts.

44. Group Property, Plant & Equipment

2022/23 Cost or Valuation	Council Dwellings £'000	Other Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment £'000	Infra-structure Assets £'000	Community Assets £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Total PPE £'000
1st April	**530,713**	**475,941**	**38,051**		**12,453**	**50,893**	**71,751**	**1,179,802**
Additions	13,566	44,074	4,301		561	30	28,254	90,786
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	19,380	9,545	0		0	(16,113)	0	12,812
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(16,273)	(16,723)	0		0	(4,127)	0	(37,123)
Derecognition – disposals	(8,844)	(14,881)	(14,086)		0	(151)	0	(37,962)
Reclassification	13,278	(2,686)	0		0	(1,459)	(38,846)	(29,713)
31st March	**551,820**	**495,270**	**28,266**		**13,014**	**29,073**	**61,159**	**1,178,602**
1st April	**(2,492)**	**(6,570)**	**(24,770)**		**0**	**(165)**	**0**	**(33,997)**
Depreciation charge	(8,817)	(13,533)	(2,540)		0	(59)	0	(24,949)
Depreciation w/b on Revaluation	8,305	10,675	0		0	54	0	19,034
Depreciation written to/from the CIES	112	2,144	0		0	68	0	2,324
Depreciation written to/from the CIES - Reclassifications	(117)	123	0		0	(6)	0	0
Derecognition – disposals	804	362	12,431		0	5	0	13,602
31st March	**(2,205)**	**(6,799)**	**(14,879)**		**0**	**(103)**	**0**	**(23,986)**
Net Book Value								
1st April	**528,221**	**469,371**	**13,281**	**200,260**	**12,453**	**50,728**	**71,751**	**1,346,065**
31st March	**549,615**	**488,471**	**13,387**	**234,098**	**13,014**	**28,970**	**61,159**	**1,388,714**

2021/22 **Cost or Valuation**	**Council Dwellings** **£'000**	**Other Land and Buildings** **£'000**	**Vehicles, Plant, & Equipment** **£'000**	**Infra-structure Assets** **£'000**	**Community Assets** **£'000**	**Surplus Assets** **£'000**	**Assets Under Construction** **£'000**	**Total PPE** **£'000**
1st April	**492,584**	**482,355**	**40,539**		**17,623**	**51,175**	**35,413**	**1,119,689**
Additions	18,378	7,214	2,188		515	98	36,338	64,731
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	39,773	5,563	0		0	150	0	45,486
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,654)	(6,757)	(4,485)		0	(55)	0	(19,951)
Derecognition – disposals	(11,368)	(10,461)	(191)		(5,685)	(298)	0	(28,003)
Reclassification	0	(1,973)	0		0	(177)	0	(2,150)
31st March	**530,713**	**475,941**	**38,051**		**12,453**	**50,893**	**71,751**	**1,179,802**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
1st April	**(5,722)**	**(6,743)**	**(22,017)**		**0**	**(208)**	**0**	**(34,690)**
Depreciation charge	(9,962)	(13,939)	(2,762)		0	(188)	0	(26,851)
Depreciation w/b on Revaluation	12,149	11,888	0		0	203	0	24,240
Depreciation written to/from the CIES	0	1,609	0		0	13	0	1,622
Depreciation written to/from the CIES - Reclassifications	0	386	0		0	4	0	390
Derecognition – disposals	1,043	229	9		0	11	0	1,292
31st March	**(2,492)**	**(6,570)**	**(24,770)**		**0**	**(165)**	**0**	**(33,997)**
Net Book Value								
1st April	**486,862**	**475,612**	**18,522**	**174,770**	**17,623**	**50,967**	**35,413**	**1,259,769**
31st March	**528,221**	**469,371**	**13,281**	**200,260**	**12,453**	**50,728**	**71,751**	**1,346,065**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) General Principles

The Statement of Accounts for Swindon Borough Council are prepared and published in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the latest Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code") issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). Any divergence form the Code is noted where applicable.
The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards, as adapted for the UK public sector. The Accounts are prepared under a going concern and modified historical cost basis and also apply to the group accounts consolidation.

b) Revenue recognition and Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Transactions are accrued into the period that rights and obligations are transferred, or performance obligations are met, except for immaterial items or where cyclical payments include twelve months' worth of charges, but not necessarily Apr-Mar.

c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable within 24 hours. Cash equivalents are readily convertible investments that mature within one month of acquisition.

d) Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Errors

Unless changes from the Code require otherwise, when a prior period adjustment is made due to a change in accounting policy, or from correcting material errors, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparatives. Balances are rounded separately for the main statements and disclosure notes which may cause minor inconsistency between table balances but are not material errors.

e) Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services making use of long term assets will be charged with an amount for the assets' depreciation, and revaluation and impairment losses where no accumulated gains exists.

These transactions are not charged against council tax, but reversed out to the capital adjustment account through the movement in reserves statement. The minimum revenue provision charge represents the Council's payment to reduce its borrowing.

f) Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages, salaries, and paid annual leave for current employees.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of The Teachers' Pension Scheme or the Local Government Pension Scheme. The schemes provide defined benefits earned as employees work for the Authority.

Arrangements for the teachers' scheme, administered by the Teachers' Pensions Agency, mean that these liabilities cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Authority and is accounted for as if it was a defined contribution scheme, with no balance sheet liability.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Authority's liabilities of the Local Government scheme, administered by Wiltshire pension fund, are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis.

The change in the net pension liability is analysed into seven components of past service cost, interest cost, net interest on the defined benefit liability, gains or losses on settlements or curtailments, remeasurement and contributions paid to the pension fund.

Statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount of retirement benefits payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year. The movements on accounting entries for pensions are therefore reversed through the MiRS to/from the Pension Reserve.

Discretionary Benefits

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

g) Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are events that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. They may provide evidence of conditions that existed at the balance sheet date which require the Statements to be adjusted, or indicate conditions that arose after the balance sheet date, where only disclosure is made if material.

h) Financial Instruments

This accounting policy was amended for 2018/19 statements due to the introduction of IFRS9 Financial Instruments. The introduction has not had material impact on the statements or ongoing policy, as the material financial instruments of the Authority are with other Government institutions and recorded at cost.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the balances sheet when the authority becomes party to contractual provisions of a financial instrument. They are initially measured at fair value and carried at amortised cost, meaning the balance sheet typically contains balance for the outstanding principle repayable. Interest is charged to the CIES as per loan agreements.

Financial Assets

The authority's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows, i.e. there is no speculation on the capital appreciation of an investment to sell for a profit. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest.

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are initially measured at fair value and are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Interest receivable is charged annually based on the asset carrying amount and effective interest rate. For the authority this means the balance sheet records the outstanding principal receivable and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

The authority recognises expected credit losses on its financial assets either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The authority uses the simplified approach for trade and lease receivables where a collective assessment is undertaken based upon an historic and professional understanding of the risk involved with different customers.

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit of Loss

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

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the quoted market price where instruments have one, or where none exists the relevant market or analysis of cash flows.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

Level 1 inputs – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.

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

Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset.

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

i) Government Grants and Contributions

Grants, contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Authority when there is reasonable assurance that any conditions will be complied with and the grants will be received.

Where monies are advanced but conditions have not been satisfied a creditor or receipt in advance is carried on the balance sheet, released to services in the CIES when conditions are met.

Capital grants credited to the CIES are reversed out of the General Fund to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. When used in funding it is transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

j) Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

k) Investment Property

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

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value. Such properties are not depreciated but revalued according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses are transferred in and out of the CIES to the capital adjustment account or capital receipts reserve, if receipts are over £10,000.

There are no restrictions on the Authority’s ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Authority’s right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Authority has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

l) Leases

Leases are either classified as finance leases, where the risks and rewards incidental to ownership substantially transfer from the lessor to the lessee, or as operating leases if not. Arrangements that may include the right to use an asset for a payment are accounted for under this policy where non-substitutable specific assets are involved.

The Authority as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower), plus or minus initial costs and premiums. Once on balance sheet it is accounted for under relevant polices for long term assets.

Lease payments are apportioned between an interest charge and a writing down of the lease liability.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is any lease other than a finance lease and rentals paid are charged as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment.

The Authority as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Authority grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal, matched by the creation of a lease (long-term debtor) asset.

Lease rentals receivable are subsequently apportioned between writing down the lease asset and an interest receipt.

Operating Leases

Where the Authority grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet and rental income credited to the CIES.

m) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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.

Highways infrastructure assets include carriageways, footways and cycle tracks, structures, street lighting, street furniture, traffic management systems and land which together form a single integrated network.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of PPE is capitalised on an accruals basis, where probable that the associated future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Measurement

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

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising the purchase price and any attributable costs of bringing the asset into use intended.

The measurement of cost for assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value.

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Surplus assets - fair value, estimated at highest and best use to reflect their likely rather than last use.

- Dwellings – current value, determined using the basis of existing use value for social housing (EUV-SH).
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end. Valuations are carried out by internal valuers. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are initially accounted for by charging against any previously accumulated revaluation gains, or charging to services in the CIES if there are none.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

The Authority carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all operational property is revalued at least every five years, with more frequent reviews for market valued assets. The valuers consider the impact of market changes to valuations and will revalue assets annually where evidence suggests carrying value is materially misstated. The de minimis level applied for balance sheet revaluation additions is £10,000. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. All valuations have been carried out by the Council's internal valuers, who are RICS qualified.

Impairment

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

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

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains).
- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Depreciation

The Council uses the straight-line method of calculating depreciation on its PPE, with the exception of non-depreciable land, community assets, investment properties and assets under construction.

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 for a full year, in the year of addition or revaluation, no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

Deprecation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property, 20 years for dwellings, and up to 70 years as estimated by the valuer for other assets
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – generally straight-line over five years (dependent on the assessed expected useful life)
- Infrastructure – generally straight-line allocation over thirty years for carriageway/path/lighting, fifteen for street furniture and 100 for structures unless other specific timeframes are appropriate as advised by Highways engineers.

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.

Components

Each asset on the balance sheet is made up of possible components, some of which may have different life spans to others and which might be accounted for distinctly for depreciation purposes. Componentisation is applied to HRA Dwellings. Other assets that are valued over £5m and undergone activity in year would also be considered for componentisation where a components would form material elements of the asset.

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it is probable an asset will be sold and is being actively marketed it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. Depreciation is not charged on this category of asset. If an asset no longer meets the criteria to be classed as held for sale they are transferred back to non-current assets and revalued accordingly.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned the carrying amount of the asset is written off to the CIES as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals are credited to the same line (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Associated costs of disposal are contained within the net cost of services analysis, as part of apportioned central support costs. Any associated revaluation gains held in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for other assets) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts received is credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve through the MiRS, and unless a statutory override exist, can only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Authority's underlying need to borrow.

The carrying value of disposals written off to the CIES is not a charge against council tax but is reversed to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the MiRS.

Assets under Construction

These assets are in the process of being built, are not operational for use and do not have depreciation applied.

Heritage Assets

The Authority's Heritage Assets are mainly held in the Authority's Museums. The Museums contain a range of artistic, porcelain, locomotive and archaeological collections which are held for local knowledge, details of which can be found on the Council's related websites.

Heritage Assets follow the Authority's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment, however, rules for their measurement are relaxed and have been taken by reference to insurance valuations.

n) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

As the Authority is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI scheme, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Authority carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment and accounts for them under relevant policies.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. For the PFI schools, the liability was written down by an initial capital contribution of £10m.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into elements for service charges, finance/interest costs and asset lifecycle replacement.

o) Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires a payment to settle, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the CIES in the year that the authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date.

Related payments are charged against the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Where it becomes less than probable that an existing provision is needed at the current carrying value, the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority a possible obligation but whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence, or otherwise, of future events. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but the amount of resources cannot be reliably measured or a payment is not probable.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of future events.

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

p) Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as useable reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created on the balance sheet by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund via the MiRS. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service and the reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund.

q) Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

This represents expenditure incurred which ordinarily could be revenue, or which does not result in the creation of a non-current asset for the Authority. It is charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the CIES but reversed under statutory provision to the capital adjustment account via the MiRS to be funded from capital resources.

r) Agency Arrangements - Collection Fund / BCF

Following principle and agent standards, whereby only those costs/incomes that the Authority is responsible for and is not just acting as an agent of a third party, the Better Care Fund (see note) and Collection Fund are accounted for under agency arrangements.

The Collection Fund is a separate account that presents the amounts collected as income and the amounts paid out as precepts to precepting authorities. Within the balance sheet the Authority records on an agency basis the amounts that relate only to its own balances.

s) Group Accounts- Interests in Companies and Other Entities

In the Authority's own single-entity accounts, the interests in companies and other entities are recorded as financial assets at cost.

In the group accounts consolidation of Public Power Solutions Limited, Swindon Housing Development Company and Common & Chapel Solar Farms figures is by the acquisition method, on a line-by-line basis, using the companies' final accounts as the base detail for consolidation, using the accounting policies of the Authority, disclosing only material differences.

The Wichelstowe LLP joint venture company is considered a joint venture for accounting purposes, with net assets and liabilities of the company shown proportionately (50%) in the SBC statements when material.

The Authority includes maintained schools within its single entity accounts as per the Code. For such schools their material assets are contained on the single entity balance sheet, and their income and expenditure transferred onto the Council general ledger at end of year for inclusion in the CIES.

Supplementary Statements

The following statements are not core statements of the authority but do constitute a significant element in understanding the wider services and position the authority holds.

The Collection Fund

Shows the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic rates income collected and paid during the year.

INCOME	2021/22 Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000	2022/23 Business Rates £000	Council Tax £000	Total £000
Council Tax Receivable	0	(147,967)	(147,967)	0	(152,545)	(152,545)
Business Rates Receivable	(87,521)	0	(87,521)	(101,991)	0	(101,991)
	(87,521)	**(147,967)**	**(235,488)**	**(101,991)**	**(152,545)**	**(254,536)**
EXPENDITURE						
Apportionment of Previous Year Surplus						
Billing Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Precepts, Demands and Shares						
Central Government	29,354	0	29,354	33,746	0	33,746
Billing Authority	28,765	122,203	150,967	33,078	126,606	159,684
Fire Authority	587	5,900	6,487	675	6,053	6,728
Police Authority	0	17,527	17,527	0	18,390	18,390
	58,706	**145,630**	**204,336**	**67,499**	**151,049**	**218,548**
Charges to Collection Fund						
Less write offs of uncollectable amounts	853	740	1,593	650	(277)	373
Less : Increase / (Decrease) in Bad Debt Provision	(567)	260	(307)	(105)	2,019	1,914
Less : Increase / (Decrease) in Provision for Appeals	3,260	0	3,260	(4,291)	0	(4,291)
Less : Renewables	591	0	591	604	0	604
Less : Cost of Collection	259	0	259	259	0	259
	4,396	**1,000**	**5,396**	**(2,883)**	**1,742**	**(1,141)**
(Surplus) / Deficit arising during the year	(24,419)	(1,337)	(25,756)	(37,376)	246	(37,130)
(Surplus) / deficit brought forward 1st April	50,489	2,926	53,415	26,070	1,589	27,659
(Surplus) / deficit carried forward 31st March	**26,070**	**1,589**	**27,659**	**(11,306)**	**1,835**	**(9,471)**
Reconciliation to Collection Fund Adjustment Account:						
Less Balance Attributable to Major Preceptors	(13,299)	(256)	(13,555)	5,764	(300)	5,464
Balance Remaining Attributable to SBC	**12,771**	**1,333**	**14,104**	**(5,542)**	**1,535**	**(4,007)**

Notes to the Collection Fund

45.Rateable Value

	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
Total rateable value in the Local Rating List	£256,618,837	£265,245,237
	2021/22	**2022/23**
Multiplier for most properties	51.2p	51.2p
Small Business Multiplier	49.9p	49.9p

46.Council Tax Base

The Council Tax Base for the year, i.e. the number of chargeable dwellings in each band (adjusted for dwellings where discounts apply in band A) converted to an equivalent number of Band D dwellings, was as shown in the table below.

Band		No of Taxable Properties *	Ratio to Band D	Band D Equivalents
A		12,817	6/9	8,573
B		24,980	7/9	19,429
C		22,334	8/9	19,853
D		16,425	9/9	16,425
E		8,811	11/9	10,770
F		3,651	13/9	5,274
G		1,354	15/9	2,257
H		61	18/9	122
Total	**Band D equivalents**			**82,703**
Contributions in lieu	(MOD properties)			95
Add:	Anticipated changes in year			(5,081)
Less:	Provision for non-collection (1.20%)			(933)
	Tax Base			**76,784**

* After adjustment for discounts and relief.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

This statement consolidates the income and expenditure in respect of the provision of local authority housing.

HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	**2021/22 £'000**	**2022/23 £'000**
Expenditure		
Repairs and maintenance	15,370	16,203
Supervision and management	7,150	7,401
Special Services	6,336	7,230
Rents, rates, taxes and other charges	255	251
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	18,894	25,382
Debt management costs	60	60
Movement in the allowance for bad debts	(20)	260
Total Expenditure	**48,045**	**56,787**
Income		
Dwelling rents	(44,269)	(46,173)
Non-dwelling rents	(34)	(420)
Charges for services and facilities	(6,041)	(6,293)
Contributions towards expenditure	(2,825)	(1,986)
Leaseholders' charges for services and facilities	(421)	(921)
Total Income	**(53,590)**	**(55,793)**
Net Cost of HRA Services as included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**(5,545)**	**994**
HRA services' share of Corporate and Democratic Core	124	124
HRA share of other amounts included in the whole authority Cost of Services but not allocated to specific services	9	9
Net (Income)/Expense for HRA Services	**(5,412)**	**1,127**
HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(Gain) / loss on sale of HRA non-current assets	7,349	3,737
Interest payable and similar charges	3,263	3,202
Interest and investment income	0	(253)
Investment Properties Income	(357)	0
Revaluation on investments	0	0
Net Pensions Interest Cost / Return on Asset	823	867
(Surplus) / deficit for the year on HRA services	**5,666**	**8,680**

Statement of Movement in the Housing Revenue Account

	2021/22 £000	**2022/23 £000**
1 April	**(12,035)**	**(12,186)**

(Surplus) / Deficit on Service provision	5,666	8,680
Adjustments between accounting & funding basis	(5,689)	(8,559)
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(128)	(275)
(Increase)/Decrease in-year	**(151)**	**(154)**
31 March	**(12,186)**	**(12,340)**

HRA Movement in Reserves Adjustments	**2021/22 £'000**	**2022/23 £'000**
Adjustments between accounting & funding basis in reconciling the HRA balance for the year		
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(10,240)	(9,221)
Charges for impairment of non-current assets	(8,654)	(16,161)
Movement in the market value of investment properties	0	0
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(10,324)	(8,040)
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital investment	5,000	5,000
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	8,603	9,344
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,975	4,303
HRA resources credited to the MRR	10,239	9,222
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(3,288)	(3,006)
Total Adjustments	**(5,689)**	**(8,559)**

Notes to the HRA

47.Housing Stock

The stock of Council dwellings at 31st March was:

Type	31st March 22	Movement	31st March 23
Low Rise Flats:			
1 Bedroom	1789	5	1794
2 Bedrooms	720	6	726
3 or more Bedrooms	9	6	15
Medium Rise Flats:			
1 Bedroom	819	17	836
2 Bedrooms	463	16	479
3 or more Bedrooms	49	0	49
High Rise Flats:			
1 Bedroom	26	53	79
2 Bedrooms	241	7	248
Houses and Bungalows:			
1 Bedroom	922	4	926
2 Bedrooms	1398	3	1401
3 Bedrooms	3585	-28	3557
4 or more Bedrooms	207	2	209
Total	**10,228**	**91**	**10,319**

The Balance Sheet value of land, houses and other property relating to the Housing Revenue Account as at 31 March is summarised below.

Assets:	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Dwellings	528,221	549,615
Plant and Equipment	609	2,517
Investment properties	712	0
Total Balance Sheet Value	**529,542**	**552,132**

There is a statutory requirement for the Council's assets to be revalued at least every 5 years. The tenanted dwellings were revalued as at 31st December 2022.

48.Vacant Possession Valuation

In addition to the balance sheet valuation it is a requirement of the HRA (Accounting Practices) Direction 2007 that the vacant possession value of dwellings as at 1st April is disclosed as a note to the accounts. The inclusion of both the balance sheet valuation and the vacant possession valuation ensures that the economic cost to the Government of providing council housing at less than open market rents is shown in the accounts.

	31 March 2022 £'000	31 March 2023 £'000
Vacant possession valuation	1,516,318	1,576,628

49.Major Repairs Reserve

Balance at 31 March	2022 £'000	2023 £'000
Capital expenditure for HRA purposes financed by MRR Resources:		
Houses	16,891	8,401
Total Expenditure	**16,891**	**8,401**
Amount equivalent to total depreciation charges for all HRA assets	(10,239)	(9,222)
Transfer from HRA	0	0
Total Income	**(10,239)**	**(9,222)**
Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year	**6,652**	**(821)**
Deficit / (Surplus) brought forward	(7,686)	(1,034)
Deficit / (Surplus) Carried Forward	**(1,034)**	**(1,855)**

50.HRA Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure and financing for the HRA was:

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Dwellings	13,600	10,233
Buildings	13,848	15,984
Other works contribution	0	82
Total to Finance	**27,448**	**26,299**
Major Repairs Reserve	16,891	8,401
Usable Capital Receipts	1,093	1,723
Revenue Contributions	8,603	9,344
Other contributions	52	28
HCA Grant for New Build	809	6,803
Total Finance	**27,448**	**26,299**

51.Housing Repairs Account

Balance at 31 March	2022 £'000	2023 £'000
Repairs & Maintenance	12,587	13,598
Total Expenditure	**12,587**	**13,598**
Contribution from HRA	(12,315)	(13,111)
Service charges	(272)	(487)
Total Income	**(12,587)**	**(13,598)**
Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year	**0**	**0**
Deficit / (Surplus) brought forward	0	0
Deficit / (Surplus) Carried Forward	**0**	**0**

52.HRA Capital Receipts

The following table shows how much the Council paid to the Secretary of State for pooling of capital receipts arising from the disposal of housing assets as required in the Local Government Act 2003. Notional amounts were also payable under Pooling Payment requirement, however, under relevant conditions is allowed to be retained as a receipt in advance for new acquisitions.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Sale of Council Houses	2,944	4,303
Capital receipt retained for new property acquisitions	(1,115)	(2,705)

Total	**1,829**	**1,598**

53.HRA Cost of Capital Charge

Depreciation is the cost of capital charge on the HRA that pays for the wearing out, using up or other reduction in the remaining life of the asset through use, passage of time or obsolescence. The majority of council dwellings are being depreciated over 70 years.

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Depreciation on dwellings	9,962	8,817
Depreciation on plant & equipment	278	404
Impairment and revaluation losses of dwellings	8,654	16,161
Total	**18,894**	**25,382**

54.HRA Arrears & Provisions for Bad Debt

Arrears of rent and other housing related charges due to the Council at 31st March were:

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Current tenants	1,767	1,790
Former tenants	243	235
Total Arrears	**2,010**	**2,025**
Less: provision for bad debts	(2,010)	(2,025)
Total Arrears After Provisions	**0**	**0**

Arrears after provisions represent 0% of rent income and service charges due to the Council.

Annual Governance Statement

Introduction

Swindon Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty to arrange to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having a regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement each year that describes its governance arrangements not just for the Council but also for the whole group including wholly owned subsidiaries. The Council reviews its governance framework through the Audit Committee. This review identifies where the framework is working; and whether there are any significant governance issues that need to be addressed.

The Annual Governance Statement is signed off by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive after being reviewed by the Audit Committee.

Corporate Governance

The purpose of a governance framework

The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a local code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE *Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)*.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

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

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

The Council's framework for ensuring compliance with the core principles of effective governance:

Good corporate governance requires local authorities to carry out their functions in a way that demonstrates accountability, transparency, effectiveness, integrity and inclusion. The Council's Local

Code of Corporate Governance sets out the framework by which the Council will meet that commitment. The Code is based upon the following seven core principles:

CIPFA International framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector

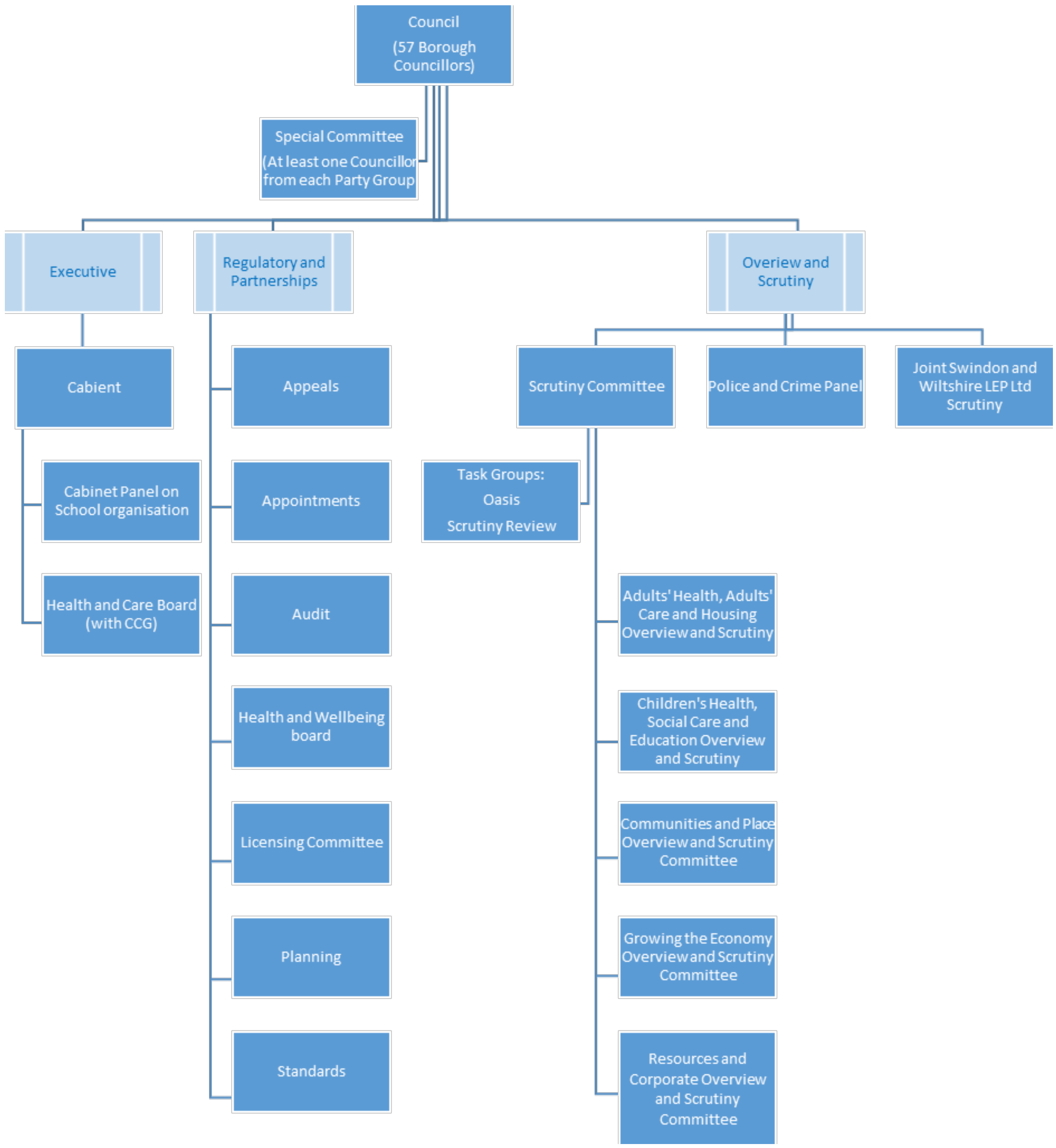
The Local Code of Corporate Governance forms part of the Council's Constitution and the full version can be found at (page 345 of the Constitution): Constitution - Local Code of Corporate Governance

The Council has 57 Councillors and operates a Leader and Executive model of decision-making. All Councillors meet at Full Council to agree the budget and the policy framework etc. Ten Councillors, including the Leader, form the Executive (Cabinet). The Executive decide on how to deliver the budget and the policy framework.

Scrutiny committees are drawn from the remaining 47 Councillors. These committees review the policies, process and implications of Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Officer decision-making and the way in which Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions are made.

There are also a number of regulatory committees such as Audit, Standards, Planning and Licensing.

The Council's Committee structure during 2022/23 is set out below:



Outcomes

The Council's previous vision, priorities and pledges:

In 2015, the Council adopted, under the previous Administration, its Vision for Swindon: *by 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well-managed housing growth, which supports and improves new and existing communities.*

Swindon will be physically transformed with existing heritage and landmarks complemented by new ones that people who live, work and visit here would recognise and admire. It will remain a place of fairness, and opportunity, where people can aspire to, and achieve prosperity supported by strong civic and community leadership.

The following priorities were in place during 2022/23:

- Build an economy that works for you: creating more well-paid jobs, attracting further investment in our town and making Swindon a great place to start and grow businesses.
- Protect and enhance our heritage, cultural and leisure facilities: delivering improvements now and securing long-term investment.
- Deliver sustainable growth: through high quality affordable homes alongside infrastructure to support our growing town.
- Equip all our young people with the education and skills they need: through additional and enhanced skills and higher education opportunities.
- Make Swindon greener and more sustainable: we will help residents reduce their environmental impact and, as a council, we will aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.
- We will make Swindon safer, fairer and healthier: by helping people to help themselves while always protecting our children and adults, increasing health and wellbeing facilities and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Progress against the Council's Priorities and Pledges was regularly monitored through the Corporate Management Team and bi-annually through Cabinet.

Priorities of the new Administration

The new Administration set out their long term missions and shorter term priorities at Cabinet on 12th July 2023:

Three decade long missions:

- Combat Inequality – ensuring we make Swindon a fairer place, reducing disadvantage, make poorer areas richer and eliminate big disparities in life expectancy, education levels and social justice.
- Build a Better Swindon – create a town ready for the challenge of the coming decades, understanding what facilities and infrastructure we need. Understanding the Council's direct and indirect role in improving the town centre and in creating more affordable housing while supporting and brokering support from the private sector.
- Achieving Net Zero – ensuring we fully play our part as a Council and a town in combatting climate change. Working with communities to find new ways of doing things that help not hinder the natural environment.

Five shorter-term priorities over the course of its time in office:

- Get Swindon Moving
- Keep Council Tax as Low as Possible
- A Stronger Local Economy

- Get Tough with Developers
- Keep Residents Safe and Fight Knife Crime

It is intended that these long-term missions and shorter-term pledges will underpin the way the Council works in the future and will drive everything that the Council does.

The administration wants to engage residents and communities how we bring these missions to life and how we can work more collaboratively with all Swindon residents, businesses and community groups to co-create programmes of work which improve the lives of all residents, now and in the future. To enable this a significant programme of engagement will be undertaken to flesh out these missions and co- produce the outcomes we collectively seek to achieve so that a Swindon plan can be brought forward for consideration by Council in the coming municipal year.

The outcomes of this engagement will be shared with Cabinet and full Council when the new Swindon plan is brought forward for agreement by both bodies.

Modern, efficient and effective

Following on from the successful Swindon Programme, the Council continued with its approach to improve to become a modern, efficient and effective organisation. The words *'At Our Best'* puts a name to an organisational ethos that will be established over the coming months and years. Three main aims are to be a Council which:

- Uses best practice and appropriate use of technology
- Uses its money and people wisely in delivering services quickly and accurately
- Delivers quality services to the expected standard and which makes a difference to the people of Swindon

During 2021/22 the Council developed its updated medium term financial plan, extending the timeframe to March 2026.

Value for Money

Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditor, was satisfied that in all significant respects, the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources. In reaching this conclusion, the External Auditor completed an overall assessment of arrangements and risks for the year of audit (2022/23).

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2015). The Council has carried out a self-assessment against the requirements of the CIPFA Financial Management Code and reported the outcome to the Corporate Management Team.

Findings and recommendations from both our Internal and External Auditors are considered by senior management and at the Council's Audit Committee.

The role of Elected Members

Elected members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council. The full Council's responsibilities include:

- Agreeing the Council's constitution, comprising the key governance documents including the executive arrangements and making major changes to reflect best practice
- Agreeing the policy framework including key strategies and agreeing the budget
- Appointing the chief officers
- Appointing committees responsible for overview and scrutiny functions, audit and regulatory matters and for appointing members to them.

The executive (Cabinet) is responsible for:

- Proposing the policy framework and key strategies
- Proposing the budget
- Implementing the policy framework and key strategies.

The role of management

The Chief Executive advises councillors on policy and necessary procedures to drive the aims and objectives of the authority. The Chief Executive leads the corporate management team consisting of corporate directors and other senior managers.

The Corporate Director: Finance and Assets, Chief Legal Officer and other senior managers are responsible for advising the executive and scrutiny committees on financial, legislative and other policy considerations to achieve the aims and objectives of the authority. They are responsible for

implementing councillors' decisions and for service performance.

The Council's Corporate Management Team has a shared responsibility for delivering the organisational strategic direction, agreeing priorities and driving their successful achievement.

The development and rollout of the Swindon (transformation) Programme is continually ensuring that the skills and capacity required to manage the organisation going forwards helps better position the Council to be a modern, efficient and effective organisation.

Risk Management

Risk management is about identifying and understanding the threats to the achievement of the Council's Vision and priorities by taking reasonable and sensible action to reduce the chance of them happening. The Council is committed to managing risks within its control, to keep employees safe, protect assets, maintain and improve its services and make good use of funds, as part of sound corporate governance.

Risk is managed through the activities of the Council, including planning, monitoring, design, and decision-making. Risk is integrated within the planning and performance system and is not a separate standalone process as the management of risk and uncertainty is integral to the delivery of priorities and objectives. The process is designed to be simple to complete and is more focused on identifying and managing key risks rather than all risks.

The Council's Corporate Risk Register is regularly reviewed at Audit Committee and the Corporate Management Team as part of their review of overall organisational performance to ensure that the significant risks are being managed effectively. The risk register was last presented at Audit Committee in July 2022.

There have been a number of internal updates including a risk workshop in November 2022, a full update in March 2023 and an updated in May 2023 which forms the basis of discussion for this report.

Risk continues to be an intrinsic part of the monthly discussions focussing on risk and performance in the context of the Corporate Management Team's focus on improvement.

Council wide and Directorate scorecards capture in one document the key performance and risk information. Corporate Directors present their scorecards to Corporate Management Team monthly which ensures that there is peer scrutiny on discussions around performance and risk. The focus is on mitigating actions to reduce the risk and the efficacy of those actions.

As a result of both Internal and External Audit recommendations, the Council refreshed the Corporate Risk Register to ensure it was more aligned to the Priorities in Pledges in the Council Plan 2022-2025 as well as the supporting strategies. Given the recent change in administration the risk register will need to be reviewed in light of the new missions and pledges.

The Corporate Risk Register focusses on key corporate risks. All risks are owned by a Director which reinforces accountability for risk.

Risk is assessed by both Likelihood and Impact. The risk register then has mitigating actions that will reduce the likelihood and impact and covers the progress that the Council is making with those actions.

Based upon the position presented at Audit Committee in June 2022 the key risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register and their associated level of risk after mitigations are:

Risk area	Risk likelihood	Risk current impact
Build an economy that works for you	HIGH	HIGH
Protect and enhance our heritage, cultural and leisure facilities	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Deliver sustainable growth	HIGH	HIGH
Equip all our young people with the education and skills they need	HIGH	HIGH
Make Swindon greener and more sustainable	HIGH	HIGH
Make Swindon safer, fairer and healthier	HIGH	HIGH

Risk area	Risk likelihood	Risk current impact
Empowering communities, customer access and communications	**MEDIUM**	**MEDIUM**
IT, Digital and Data	**MEDIUM**	**HIGH**
Finance	**HIGH**	**HIGH**
People Strategy	**MEDIUM**	**MEDIUM**
Payroll	**MEDIUM**	**HIGH**
Health and Safety	**MEDIUM**	**MEDIUM**
Business Continuity	**MEDIUM**	**MEDIUM**

Review of the effectiveness of our governance arrangements

Swindon Borough Council annually reviews the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by executive managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Internal Audit's annual report, and by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The Head of Internal Audit's report stated that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control during 2022/23 are considered satisfactory, resulting in a 'moderate' level of risk.

The Council's External Auditor has been very positive regarding the content and nature of the Internal Audit reports presented to Audit Committee stating that where issues are found they are reported upon and relevant senior managers attend Audit Committee to respond to queries raised by Members

Corporate Directors and relevant Heads of Service have completed an assurance questionnaire reviewing the control environment within their service and the results of the questionnaire have been used to help inform our assessment of significant control issues for the Council.

Details of the review were presented to Audit Committee at their July 2023 meeting. Details can be found at: Audit Committee - July 2022

Opinion on the Council's governance arrangements

The review has found that the Council's governance arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

Areas of focus – looking forward

Whilst the Council's governance arrangements generally work well the review identified a number of significant issues that need to be addressed:

Governance issue	Lead Officer
Children Services	**Corporate Director Children**
GCSE attainment	**Head of Education**
Payroll	**Chief Operating Officer**
Recruitment and retention	**Chief Operating Officer**

- ***Children Services:*** Continued pressure for Social work recruitment which is a national issue but is impacting service improvement.

  Quality of staff through the interim market has been really poor and this has impacted on children being able to form relationships for change.

  Demand remains high so casework levels are higher than we would like.

  Limited sufficiency creates limited choice for our children who we look after and too many children are out of area than we would like.

  We also have a high % of children we consider could be supported in early help but the financial situation has created a delay in getting staff in to be able to support.

- ***GCSE Attainment:*** Relationships continue to be strengthened across partners however staffing issues have impacted on attendance at meetings this year.

  The DfE have restructured the Regional school commissioner's office into the Regional Divisional Directors office, to include all aspects of DfE requirements, including Free School decisions, SEND and Children's social care.

  Absence at school for the last full academic year (2021 to 2022) has risen from 4.7% in 2020/21 to 7.6%. This is in line with increases nationally which rose from 4.6% in 2020/21 to 7.6% in 2021/22.

  Key Stage 4 data. Attainment 8 reported at 46.5 (down from 49.3 in 2020/21. National value has also reduced to 47.1 (down from 48.9 in 2020/21).

  Progress 8, in 2021/22 the Swindon values was -0.11 against an England value of -0.06 (below national).

  For English & Maths 9-5 the Swindon value was 46.7, slightly above national at 46.6%.

  Swindon performs better with English and Maths 9-4 at 65.4% compared to national 64.3%

  The proportion of students taking EBacc qualifications is significantly below National (23.9% in Swindon in 2021/22 against 36% in England).

  The gap for Attainment 8 for disadvantaged pupils against national has grown. In 2020/21 the gap from Swindon to England was 1.1% (39.2% in Swindon against 40.3% in England), in 2021/22 the gap has grown to 2% (35.7% Swindon against 37.7% in England). Attainment 8 in Swindon has fallen below the national for the first year since 2017/18.

- ***Payroll:*** Whilst there has been an improvement with the payroll system, there are still some outstanding issues that require resolving. These are mostly in relation to overpayments and the processing of Schools HR.

  A project board has been established to work through the outcomes of the recent audit findings to ensure an end to end process review with the priority being governance.

  The team remains under capacity due the lack of ability to be able to recruit to role, largely due to the candidate market but also attraction to the complexity of work involved.

- ***Recruitment and retention:*** During 2022/2023 we have continued to see significant challenges in the recruitment, retention and maintenance of the wider Adult Services workforce; this included the registered practitioner's workforce and that across wider commissioned providers.

  The mitigation actions that were taken forward during this period were, to work with our Integrated Care Alliance, acute and community health colleagues to work with providers to closely monitor and manage the impact, offering additional support as well as increasing our pay rates to offset inflationary cost pressures.

  The registered social work and occupational therapy workforce continues to carry a significant 30% vacancy rate. Mitigating actions have included, development of a Workforce Strategy, investment in lead principal Social Work and Occupational Therapy roles, utilising apprenticeships to support internal staff to progress, reviewing and redesigning the skill mix across the workforce and significant investment in recruitment campaigns.

An action plan will accompany the final version of the Annual Governance Statement setting out actions to be taken to address the above issues.

Looking back to 2022/23

The review has identified that the following area included in last year's statement has progressed sufficiently during 2022/23 them not to be included in this year's statement. These areas will continue to be reviewed and relevant risks will be included and managed through the Council's corporate risk register and service area risk registers.

- ***Information governance and security:*** A cyber response guide has been created and can be used during a disruptive cyber event. The guide has been independently assessed and IT practices benchmarked to assess our overall cyber maturity. Recommendations from this assessment are now being delivered as part of a long term plan to cover the National Cyber Security Centre's 10 Steps to Cyber Security.

  The Council has recruited well into the Information Governance team and the team are maintaining FOI and SAR requests. There are SARs requests which have breached statutory timescales and a new processes has been approved to help address these. Data breach numbers have come down as a result of the communications campaigns and a technical change to the way outlook caches external email addresses.

- ***State of the Council's data:*** The plans developed in 2022/23 are now being delivered. We have recruited a Data Engineer, who is building our new Data Architecture.

An interim Data Governance manager has been recruited and started to implement corporate polices, processes and systems to catalogue our data, set business rules to assess its quality and ensure processes for data quality issue identification and issue resolution are in place. This interim post has just been recruited to permanently and a Data Quality Analyst has just started who will be introducing these polices and processes to Council services.

We are depreciating legacy not fit for purpose reporting systems, with only a one significant system still reliant on these technologies.

The Council is working closely with Brighter Futures as part of the DHLUC Data Accelerator scheme to develop our data maturity at pace, mentoring us in the development of new ways of working with data in Children's Services that are applicable across the Council.

A significant amount of insight in relation to the borough, its residents and communities has been released through the Swindon Data Story.

Management information across Directorates is now available on the Data, Performance and Insight intranet site.

- ***SEND:*** The 20 week performance continues to be above average (75%) and the focus on this KPI remains strong. One of our reviewing hubs has been piloting timeliness for Annual Reviews in light of the Devon Judgement and performance is at 83%, the team are prevented from reaching 100% by late paperwork from schools and this is being addressed. Phase Transfer timeliness is high with pre-16 decisions being at 100% and Post 16 at 97%.

  The quality of plans remains variable; the embedding of Invision 360 is taking longer than anticipated.

  The DFE Advisory Team has recently undertaken an audit of our plans and this feedback will be valuable as this area continues to be an area for improvement in the recently published SENDI & AP Strategy 2023-2028

  A DSG Recovery Plan has been developed and this is aligned to the priorities in the SEND and Inclusion (SEND) Delivery Plan. This is at the early stages of implementation and it is too early to assess impact at this stage.

  Swindon requested an opportunity to join tranche two of the programme and this was granted. We are currently in the midst of module two of this work and our bid for the grant is due to be submitted in June 2023.

  There is a strong focus on children with SEND, exclusions and the use of Part-Time Tables, although capacity issues within the EWS team has impacted upon this work.

  Swindon's response to the Government's Green Paper on SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) has been shortlisted by the DFE as a sector lead and are the only LA in the South-West to be shortlisted to bid to be one of the DFEs Regional SEND Experts and to lead the partnership (REP). Short-listing was done against a set of matrix and performance measures.

- ***Highways:*** An Internal Audit into two schemes had been undertaken during 2021/22 that identified significant issues, therefore this area was included in the Annual Governance statement for that year.

- Measures have been put in place to ensure that appropriate services are sighted on risk and that an escalation process is in place.
- External resource has been secured to undertake regular Quantitative Risk Assessments on outstanding schemes and a Consultant Director for Capital Projects has been appointed.
- Conversations are ongoing with funding agencies around grant flexibilities and additional work is being undertaken to determine flexibilities around S106 funds.
- New contracts are worded to de-risk future schemes as much as is possible and new strategic schemes are only considered once full life costs are taken into account.
- No significant new infrastructure projects are to be authorised at the present time

- ***Delivery of planned Housing capital repairs:*** An Internal Audit during 2021/22 on the 'Delivery of planned Housing capital repairs' identified a number of significant issues and this area was therefore included in the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.

  Internal Audit recommendations were agreed with the service area along with timescales for implementation. The service areas have stated that key recommendations have been implemented, including:

  - The Programme Board now has terms of reference in place.
  - Senior posts have been recruited to including an additional asset manager recruited to focus on decarbonisation of the housing stock and associated capital improvements.
  - Housing Capital Board is reported as showing good signs of maturity as the outturn for 2022/23 continues to improve based on previous years.
  - Service improvement plans in both Operations and Housing continue to address improvements

Certification

To the best of our knowledge, the governance arrangements, as defined above, have been effectively operating during the year although we recognise the areas for additional focus identified in this statement. We are satisfied that these enhancements will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed:	Signed:
Councillor Jim Robbins Leader of the Council	Sam Mowbray Interim Chief Executive

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

To follow.

GLOSSARY

ACCRUALS

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

AMORTISATION

The depreciation write-out of long-term assets to revenue on a systematic basis over its economic life.

ASSET

An item having value in monetary terms. Assets are defined as current or long-term.

A current asset will be consumed or cease to have value within the next financial year, e.g. stock and debtors.

A long-current asset provides benefits to the Authority and to the services that it provides for a period of greater than one year.

BUDGET

A forecast of revenue or capital expenditure over the accounting period.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a PPE that will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period or expenditure that adds to an existing PPE.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other long-term assets.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

Current asset investments that are readily disposable by the authority without disrupting its business and are either: readily convertible to known amounts of cash, at or close to, the carrying amount, or traded in an active market.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the local authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

CONSISTENCY

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next is the same.

CONTINGENCY

A condition that exists at the balance sheet date, where the outcome will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events.

CREDITOR

Amounts owed by the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been made by the end of that accounting period.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of defined benefit pension scheme liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

CURTAILMENT

For a defined benefit pension scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- Termination of employees' services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing a factory or discontinuing a segment of a business, and
- Termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEBTOR

Amounts owed to the Authority for works done, goods received or services rendered before the end of the accounting period but for which payments have not been received by the end of that accounting period.

DEFERRED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Expenditure or income that may properly be deferred but is recognised in the appropriate section of the balance sheet, e.g. mortgage repayments.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

DEPRECIATION

The theoretical loss in value of an asset due to age, wear and tear, deterioration or obsolescence.

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and which are awarded under the authority's discretionary powers, such as The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996, the Local Government (Discretionary

Payments and Injury Benefits)(Scotland) Regulations 1998, or The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.

EXPECTED RATE OF RETURN ON PENSIONS ASSETS

For a funded defined benefit pension scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Material items, possessing a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items nor do they include prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

FAIR VALUE

The amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a 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.

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of PPE to the lessee.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. For local authorities, which do not issue equity instruments such as share capital, this means the following:

Financial asset

A right to future economic benefits controlled by the authority that is represented by:

- Cash
- An equity instrument of another entity
- A contractual right to receive cash (or another financial asset) from another entity
- A contractual right to exchange financial assets/liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the authority.

Financial liability

An obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the authority that is represented by:

- A contractual obligation to deliver cash (or another financial asset) to another entity
- A contractual obligation to exchange financial assets/liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the authority.

Equity instrument

A contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities (such as an equity share in a company) – will only apply to investments in other entities held by the authority.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Assistance by Government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

GRANT CONDITIONS

Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

Impairment is caused by the consumption of economic benefits e.g. physical damage to be a general fall in process and requires the value of PPE to be adjusted.

INTANGIBLE NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Intangible assets are defined as non-financial assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and controlled by the entity through custody or legal right. Examples are: scientific or technical knowledge in order to produce new or improved materials, copyright, intellectual property rights and computer software licences. The Authority itself has no class of this asset.

INTEREST COST (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

INVENTORIES

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in expectation of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use of consumption when it arises. Stocks comprise the following categories:

- Goods or other assets purchased for resale;
- Consumable stores;
- Raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale;
- Products and services in intermediate stages of completion;
- Long-term contract balances; and
- Finished goods.

INVESTMENTS (NON-PENSIONS FUND)

A non-current investment is an investment that is intended to be held for use on a continuing basis in the activities of the authority. Investments should be so classified only where an intention to hold the investment for the long term can clearly be demonstrated or where there are restrictions as to the investor’s ability to dispose of the investment.

Investments, other than those in relation to the pension fund, that do not meet the above criteria, should be classified as current assets.

INVESTMENTS (PENSIONS FUND)

The investments of the Pensions Fund will be accounted for in the statements of that Fund. However authorities (other than town parish and community councils and district councils in

Northern Ireland) are also required to disclose the relevant share of pension scheme assets associated with their underlying obligations.

MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE (MRR)

A reserve to be created from HRA contributions, for investment in large-scale capital investment schemes to improve Council dwellings and estates in future years.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which PPE is included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use, i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS

These are overheads for which no user now benefits and should not be apportioned to services.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

PPE held by a local authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of non-operational assets are investment properties, assets surplus to requirement awaiting disposal or redevelopment, assets in construction.

OPERATING LEASES

A lease where the ownership of PPE remains with the lessor.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Non-current assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the local authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility.

PAST SERVICE COST

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

PENSIONS / IAS 19

The requirements of the International Accounting Standard on retirement benefits is based on a simple principle – that an organisation should account for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future. The important accounting distinction for pension schemes is whether they are “defined contribution” or “defined benefit”.

PFI (PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE)

PFI allows the public sector to contract with the private sector to provide quality services on a long-term basis, typically 25-30 years, so as to take advantage of private sector infrastructure delivery and service management skills, incentivised by having private finance at risk.

The private sector takes on the responsibility for providing a public service against an agreed specification of required outputs prepared by the public sector.

The private sector carries the responsibility and risks for designing, financing, enhancing or constructing, maintaining and operating the infrastructure assets to deliver the public service in accordance with the public sector's output specification.

The public sector typically pays for the project through a series of performance or throughput related payments, which cover service delivery and return on investment. Central Government may provide payment support to the public sector through grants and other financial mechanisms.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Those events, both favourable and unfavourable, which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Chair of the Audit Committee.

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

A prior period adjustment is the material adjustment applicable to prior year figures arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. A fundamental error is one that is of such significance as to destroy the validity of the financial statements. They do not include normal recurring correction or adjustments to accounting estimates made in prior years.

PROJECTED UNIT METHOD

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:

- the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases, and
- the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date.

The accrued benefits are the benefits for service up to a given point in time, whether vested rights or not. Guidance on the projected unit method is given in the Guidance Note GN26 issued by the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

PROPERT, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

The overarching classification for operational non-current assets.

PRUDENCE

The concept that revenue is not anticipated but is recognised only when realised in the form either of cash or of other assets the ultimate cash realisation of which can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

RELATED PARTIES

Two or more parties are related parties when at any time during the financial period:

- One party has direct or indirect control of the other party; or
- The parties are subject to common control from the same sources; or

- One party has influence over the financial and operational policies of the other party to an extent that the other party might be inhibited from pursuing at all times its own separate interest; or
- The parties, in entering a transaction, are subject to influence from the same source to such an extent that one of the parties to the transaction has subordinated its own separate interests.

Examples of related parties of an authority include:

- Central Government;
- Local authorities and other bodies precepting or levying demands on the Council Tax;
- Its subsidiary and associated companies;
- Its joint ventures and joint venture partners;
- Its members;
- Its chief officers; and
- Its pension fund.

Examples of related parties of a pension fund include its:

- Administering authority and its related parties;
- Scheduled bodies and their related parties; and
- Trustees and advisers.

These lists are not intended to be comprehensive.

For individuals identified as related parties, the following are also presumed to be related parties:

- Members of the close family, or the same household; and
- Partnerships, companies, trusts or other entities in which the individual, or a member of their close family or the same household, has a controlling interest.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

A related party transaction is the transfer of assets or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made. Examples of related party transactions include:

- The purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties;
- The provision by a pension fund to a related party of assets of loans, irrespective of any direct economic benefit to the pension fund;
- The provision of a guarantee to a third party in relation to a liability or obligation or a related party;
- The provision of services to a related party, including the provision of pension fund administration services;
- Transactions with individuals who are related parties of an authority or a pension fund, except those applicable to other members of the community or the pension fund, such as Council Tax, rents and payments of benefits.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive.

The materiality of related party transactions should be judged not only in terms of their significance to the authority, but also in relation to its related party.

REMEASUREMENT OF THE NET DEFINED BENEFIT LIABILITY

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses) or
- The actuarial assumptions have changed.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either (i) an employer's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date or (ii) an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

REVENUE EXENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STAUTUE

Expenditure which may properly be capitalised, but which does not result in, or remain matched with, tangible assets and is written out to revenue in the year it is incurred.

SCHEME LIABILITIES

The liabilities of a defined benefit pension scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflects the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

SECTION 106

Monies received from developers under section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as a contribution towards the cost of providing facilities and infrastructure which may be required as a result of their development.

TOTAL COST

The total cost of a service or activity includes all costs which relate to the provision of the service (directly or bought in) or to the undertaking of the activity. Gross total cost includes employee costs, expenditure relating to premises and transport, supplies and services, third party payments, transfer payments, support services and capital charges. This includes an appropriate share of all support services and overheads, which need to be apportioned.

USEFUL LIFE

The period over which the local authority will derive benefits from the use of a PPE.

VESTED RIGHTS

In relation to a defined benefit pension scheme, these are:

- For active members, benefits they would unconditionally be entitled on leaving the scheme;
- For deferred pensioners, their preserved benefits;
- For pensioners, pensions to which they are entitled.

Vested rights include where appropriate the related benefits for spouses or other dependants.

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