Public Document Pack

Shropshire Council

Date: Thursday, 7 September 2017

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Contact: Michelle Dulson, Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257719
Email: michelle.dulson@shropshire.gov.uk

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

9 Audited Annual Statement of Accounts 2016/17

(Pages 1 - 214)

The report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) is to follow.

Contact: James Walton 01743 258915

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Committee and date

Audit Committee
07 September 2017
Council
21 September 2017

AUDITED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

Responsible Officer James Walton
Email: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 258915

1. Summary

1.1 This covering report and attached Annual Statement of Accounts, present to Members the final audited outturn position for the financial year 2016/17.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

A. Consider and approve the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts and that the Chairman of the Council signs them (in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015).

B. Agree that the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance be authorised to make any minor adjustments to the Statement of Accounts prior to the 30th September 2017.

C. Agree that the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance and the Chairman of the Audit Committee sign the letter of representation in relation to the financial statements on behalf of the Council and send to the External Auditor.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

3.1. Details of the potential risks affecting the balances and financial health of the authority are considered within the Statement of Accounts.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. This report considers the overall financial position of the Authority in the form of the Council's Statement of Accounts. The accounts consider the level of assets controlled and owned by the Authority, and the level of balances of held.

5. Background

5.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that members are required to approve the annual accounts after, rather than before, the findings of the audit are known. The formal date for approval and publication of the accounts is 30 September.

5.2. A copy of the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts is attached at Appendix 1. The Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, have audited the accounts during June and July. The audit of the accounts is substantially complete and the Auditor has indicated that an unqualified audit opinion will be issued on the accounts, subject to the successful completion of the outstanding matters.

5.3. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 also require that the Statement of Accounts is accompanied by the Council's Annual Governance Statement which details the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Audit Committee on 29 June 2017 and is attached at Appendix 2.

6. External Audit Opinion

6.1. Grant Thornton are expected to provide an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts and therefore will report as follows.

"In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and Group as at 31 March 2017 and of the Authority's and Group's expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and applicable law."

7. Changes from the Draft Statement of Accounts Certified by the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance on 16 June 2017

7.1 There have been no material changes identified during the audit, however there have been a number of amendments made to disclosures, all with the agreement of Grant Thornton. The changes are listed below:

- Amendment to disclosures within the Related Parties Note to the Accounts
- Amendments to disclosures within the Financial Instrument Note to the Accounts
- Minor amendments to other disclosures to address inconsistencies
- Minor typographical amendments have been included across the Statement of Accounts
- Audit amendments made within the Pension Fund Accounts have now been reflected within the Pension Fund section of the Statement of Accounts. These were minor changes to disclosures and presentational adjustments with no amendments required to the prime financial statements.

8. Letter of Representation

8.1 The Council is required to produce a letter of representation for the external auditors which provides assurance that the information submitted within the accounts is accurate and that all material information has been disclosed to the auditors. External audit will only sign off the accounts once this letter has been received.

8.2 For Shropshire Council, this letter is produced in consultation with the external auditor, signed by the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance and the Chairman of the Audit Committee and issued prior to the publication date of 30th September 2017.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Annual Statement of Accounts 2016/17. Audit Committee 29 June 2017 CIPFA's Code of Practice (Code) on Local Authority Accounting CIPFA/SOLACE guidance on the Annual Governance Statement Revenue and Capital Budget 2016/17
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) All
Local Member All
Appendices

1. Audited Statement of Accounts 2016/17
2. Annual Governance Statement

Draft Statement of Accounts

2016-2017

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The Statement of Accounts is the formal financial report on the Council's activities as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and other statutory provisions.

The statement includes:

Further information about the Council's Accounts can be obtained from the Finance Department at the Shirehall.

For details please contact James Walton on (01743) 258915, or Ros Bridges on (01743) 258948.

James Walton
Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance

Section 1

Narrative Report

The Statement of Accounts

The purpose of the Statement of Accounts is to give electors, those subject to locally levied taxes and charges, Members of the Council, employees and other interested parties clear information about the Council's finances. The format of the Statement of Accounts is governed by The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, published by CIPFA (the Code). To make the document as useful as possible to its audience and so as to make meaningful comparisons between authorities possible the Code requires:

- All Statement of Accounts to reflect a common pattern of presentation, although this does not necessarily require them to be in an identical format.
- Interpretation and explanation of the Statement of Accounts to be provided.
- The Statement of Accounts and supporting notes to be written in plain language.

This statement of accounts comprises various sections and statements, which are briefly explained below:

- **A Narrative Report** – this provides an effective guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts, including an explanation of the Council's financial position and details the performance of the Council during the financial year.

- **The Statement of Responsibilities** – this details the responsibilities of the Council and the Chief Financial Officer concerning the Council's financial affairs and the actual Statement of Accounts.

- **The Audit Opinion and Certificate** – this is provided by the external auditor following the completion of the annual audit.

- **The Core Financial Statements,** comprising:

    - **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** – this is fundamental to the understanding of a Council's activities. It brings together all of the functions of the Council and summarises all of the resources the Council has generated, consumed or set aside in providing services during the year. As such, it is intended to show the true financial position of the Council, before allowing for the concessions provided by statute to raise council tax according to different rules and for the ability to divert particular expenditure to be met from capital resources.

    - **The Movement in Reserves Statement –** this shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council which is analysed into 'usable reserves' and other reserves.

    - **The Balance Sheet** – like the Income and Expenditure Statement this is also fundamental to the understanding of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2017. It shows the balances and reserves at the Council's disposal, long term liabilities and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operations, together with summarised information on the non current assets held.

- **The Cash Flow Statement** – this consolidated statement summarises the Council's inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes. Cash is defined for the purpose of this statement, as cash in hand and cash equivalents.

- **The Notes to the Core Financial Statements** provide supporting and explanatory information on the Core Financial Statements and include the Council's accounting policies.

- **Group Accounts** – group financial statements are required in order to reflect the variety of undertakings that local authorities conduct under the ultimate control of the parent undertaking of that group. The group accounts should also include any interests where the Council is partly accountable for the activities because of the closeness of its involvements i.e. in associates and joint ventures.

- **The Pension Fund Accounts and Disclosure Notes** – the Shropshire County Pension Fund is administered by this Council, however, the pension fund has to be completely separate from the Council's own finances. The accounts summarise the financial position of the Shropshire County Pension Fund, including all income and expenditure for 2016/17 and assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2017.

- **The Housing Revenue Account** – There is a statutory duty to account separately for local authority housing provision.

- **The Collection Fund –** This account reflects the statutory requirement for billing authorities to maintain a separate Collection Fund, which shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to Non-Domestic Rates and the Council Tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to preceptors and the General Fund.

A glossary to the Statement of Accounts is also included to help to make, what is ultimately a very technical accounting document, more understandable to the reader.

Financial Report

Revenue Outturn for 2016/17

The revenue budget for 2016/17 was agreed by Council in February 2016. During the course of the year, budgets can move between service areas in line with the Council's approval process, however the Net Budget remains the same, to reflect the funding that the Council receives. Revenue budgets are monitored and reported regularly to Cabinet in order that service areas can identify any problem areas and take the necessary action to deal with the issues arising.

The final outturn position for each Service Area is shown in the table below which compares actual net expenditure with the approved budget. Further details of the outturn position for each directorate is shown in the Revenue Outturn report which is presented to Cabinet and Council.

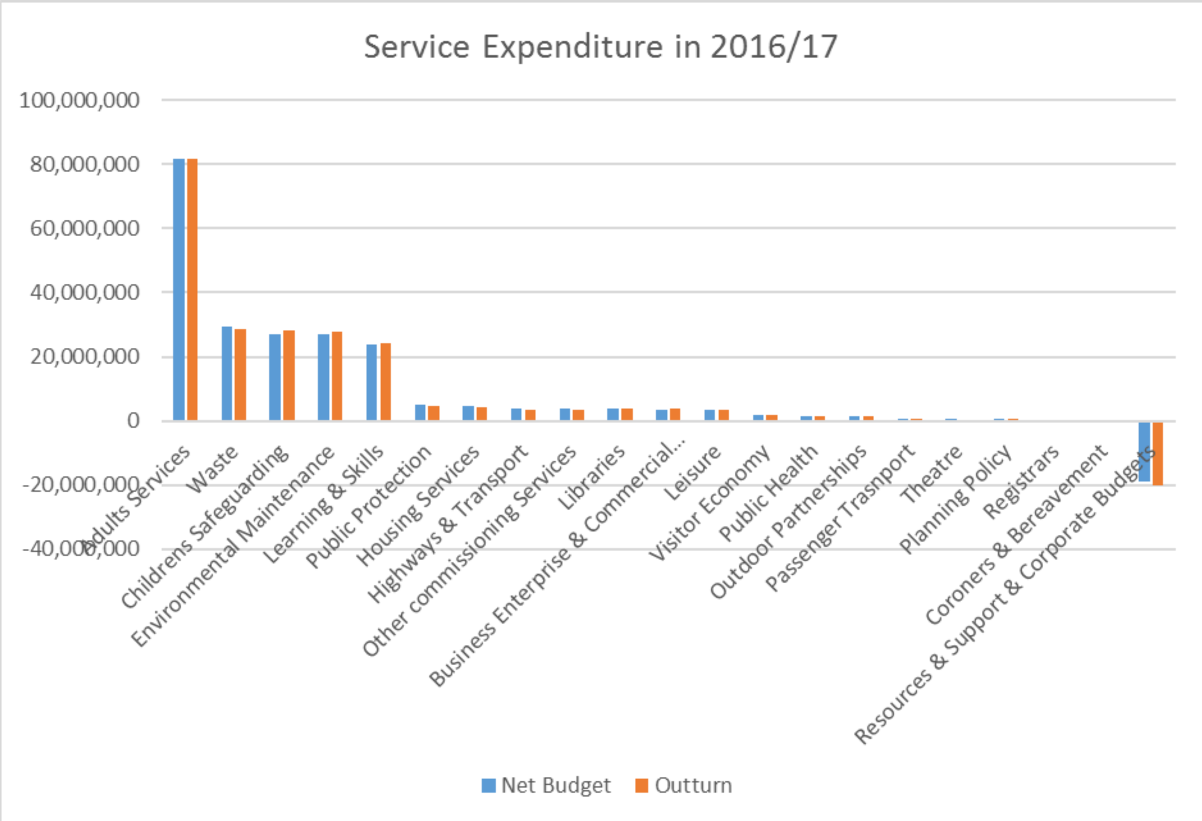
	Final Budget £000	Actual Outturn £000	Over/ (Under) £000
Service Expenditure			
Adult Services	86,439	86,048	(391)
Children's Services	50,814	52,376	1,562
Place & Enterprise	79,411	78,958	(453)
Public Health	6,963	6,523	(440)
Resources & Support	2,924	2,172	(752)
Corporate	(22,024)	(22,374)	(350)
Net Budget	**204,527**	**203,703**	**(824)**
Funded By:			
Revenue Support Grant	(31,566)	(31,566)	
Top Up grant	(10,120)	(10,120)	
Business Rates	(38,747)	(38,747)	
Collection Fund Surplus	2,974	2,974	
Council Tax	(127,068)	(127,068)	
Total Funding	**(204,527)**	**(204,527)**	

Budget monitoring reports during the course of the year have shown the following position:

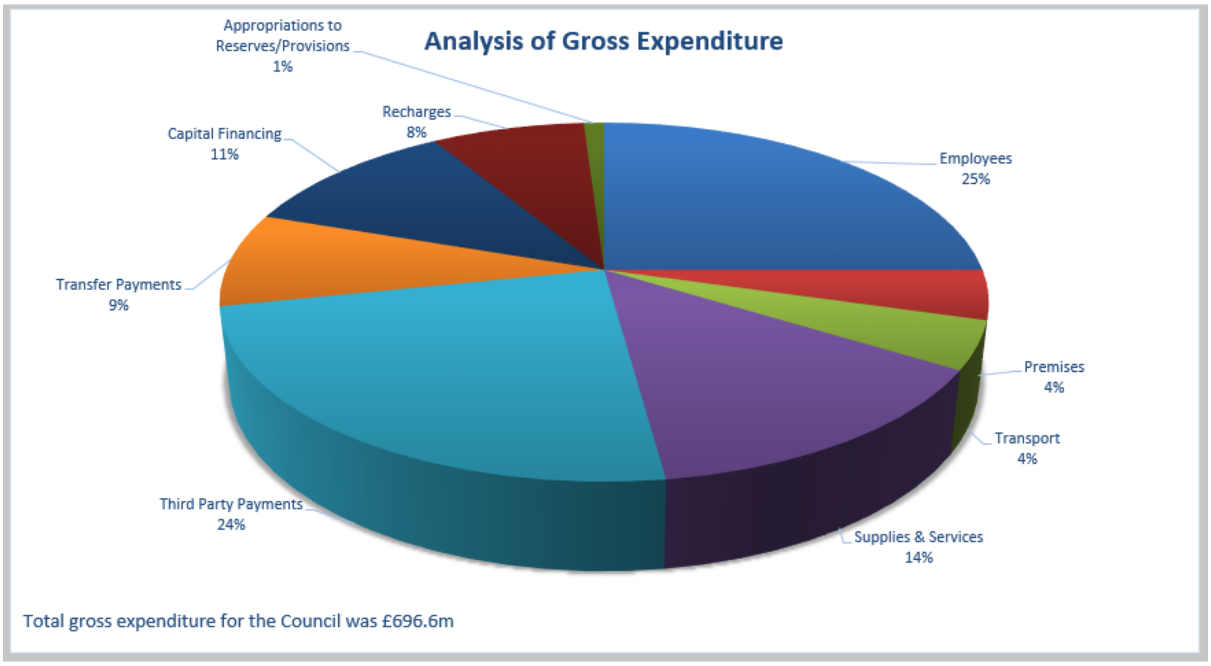
Over/(Under)spend Projected	Quarter 1 £000	Quarter 2 £000	Quarter 3 £000	Outturn £000
Adult Services	(391)	(123)	(108)	(391)
Children's Services	1,658	1,665	1,568	1,562
Place & Enterprise	(395)	(225)	(510)	(453)
Public Health	333	(74)	(197)	(440)
Resources & Support	640	478	182	(752)
Corporate	(483)	(1,086)	(1,179)	(350)
TOTAL	**1,362**	**635**	**(244)**	**(824)**

The main area of overspend identified during the year was in Children's Services, where it was identified that savings targets would be difficult to meet and agency costs, whilst reducing year on year, would be in excess of budget. The overall pressure caused by Children's Services was able to be offset by underspends in other directorates.

The chart below demonstrates which services the Council has spent its net budget on. It should be noted that this excludes any expenditure on schools which is funded separately through the Dedicated Schools Grant.



The gross expenditure for the Council, including expenditure for schools was £696.6m and this was spent on the following types of expenditure:



The overall underspend of £0.824m against service area's budgets represents 0.14% of the gross budget of £568.8m.

In addition, School balances, including invested sums, have decreased by £0.893m from the previous year. Schools' balances have to be ring-fenced for use by schools, and schools have the right to spend those balances at their discretion. Seven schools converted to academies during the year.

Further detail on the Council's service expenditure can be found within the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes 7 and 8 to the Accounts.

Capital Outturn for 2016/17

The Capital Budget is monitored throughout the year to identify any pressures and re-profile budgets based on revised expenditure projections. The budget changes as a result of slippage from the previous financial years capital programme, new capital allocations received or reductions in existing allocations and re-profiling of capital allocations between financial years.

The table below provides a summary of the revised capital budget and expenditure for 2016/17 as at outturn and slippage into the next financial year. Further details of the outturn position are provided in the Capital Outturn report presented to Cabinet and Full Council.

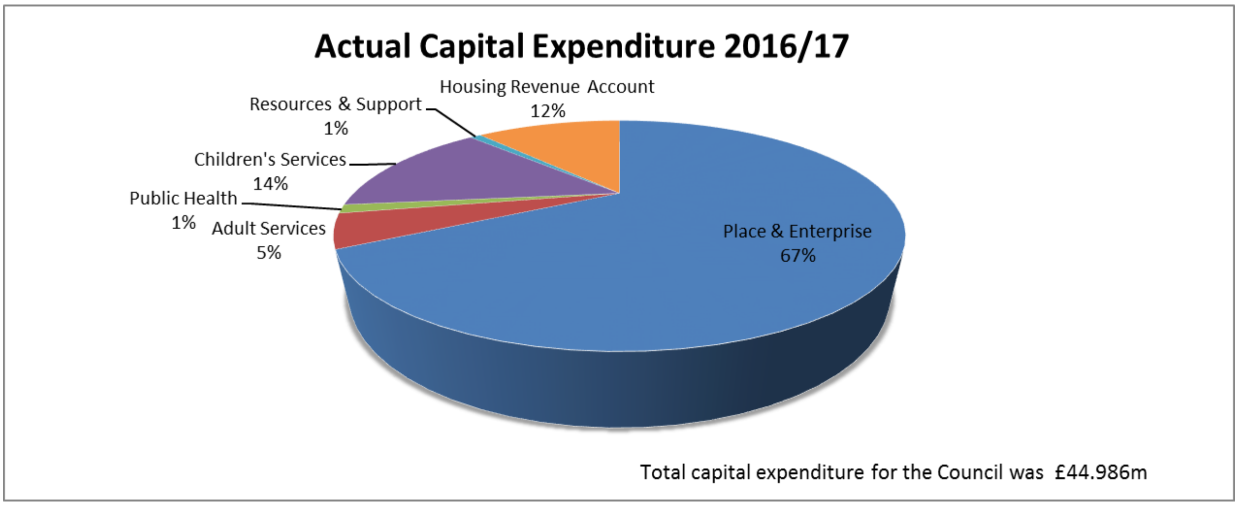
Service Area	Revised Budget 2016/17 £000	Actual Spend 2016/17 £000	Variance 2016/17 £000
General Fund			
Place & Enterprise	35,468	30,259	(5,209)
Adult Services	3,225	2,137	(1,088)
Public Health	676	559	(117)
Children's Services	8,171	6,408	(1,762)
Resources & Support	443	385	(58)
Total General Fund	47,982	39,748	(8,235)
Housing Revenue Account	6,450	5,238	(1,212)
Total Capital Programme	**54,432**	**44,986**	**(9,446)**

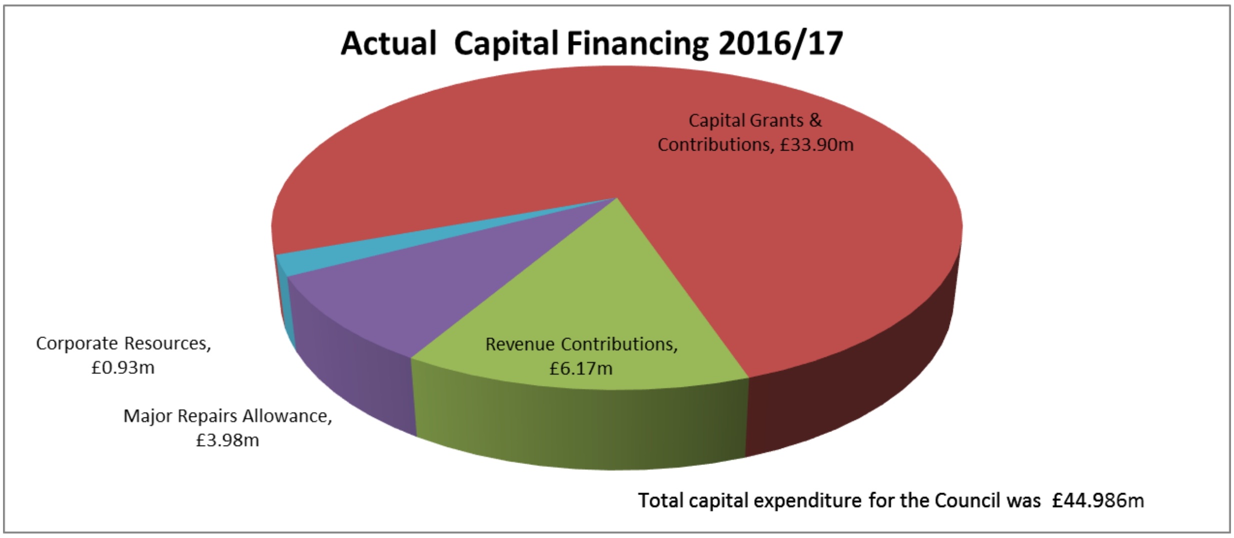
The table below provides a summary of the capital financing for the actual capital expenditure for 2016/17.

Financing	2016/17 £000
Capital Grants & Contributions	33,904
Revenue Contributions	6,165
Major Repairs Allowance	3,982
Corporate Resources (Prudential Borrowing/Capital Receipts)	934
	44,986

The areas of most significant expenditure for schemes undertaken in 2016/17 are as follows:

	Expenditure 2016/17 £000	Scheme Total Budget £000
Place & Enterprise		
Highways, Bridges & Street Lighting Infrastructure	22,406	Ongoing
Broadband Phase 1 and Phase 2	2,383	35,873
LEP Schemes	2,173	13,154
Flood defences and water management	1,275	4,727
Affordable Housing Schemes	946	Ongoing
Adult Services		
Supported Living and improvements to buildings for use by service users	488	Ongoing
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,526	Ongoing
Children's Services		
Early Years and Primary School Schemes	1,540	Ongoing
Secondary School Schemes	269	Ongoing
School Condition Schemes	3,320	Ongoing
Devolved Formula Capital & UIFSM - Allocated by schools	1,650	Ongoing
Housing Revenue Account		
Housing Major Repairs Programme	2,802	Ongoing
New Build Programme - Phase 1 - 3	2,342	15,412





Reserves

The general fund balance has decreased by £3.672m in 2016/17 to a total of £14.698m. This reflects the underspend within the revenue account during 2016/17, a contribution to the financial strategy reserve and other minor adjustments. This balance lies above the risk assessed level of balances calculated.

Earmarked reserves have increased by £3.018m during 2016/17, which includes a decrease in schools delegated balances of £0.893m.

The Financial Strategy Reserve, which was created during 2015/16, has increased by £18.796m to provide one off funding for savings proposals in 2017/18 and 2018/19. £5.4m of this increase has come from the confirmed release of earmarked reserves and £13.3m of the increase has come from the conditional release of earmarked reserves. This element will fund pension increases and is released on the basis that the Council will utilise the new statutory powers to use capital receipts for a revenue purpose.

Assets

During 2016/17, facilities at eight schools were written out of the Council balance sheet because of the schools transferring to Academy School status or the transfer of the buildings and hardstanding areas to the Diocese was completed, prior to the school transferring to Academy School status. In accordance with the Council's accounting policies, these are now valued at nil value in the Council's balance sheet and as a result of the transfers assets of £33.8m were written out of the balance sheet, accounted for as a loss on disposal.

Borrowing

The Council undertakes long-term borrowing, for periods in excess of one year, in order to finance capital spending. The Council satisfies its borrowing requirement for this purpose by securing external loans. However, the Council is able to temporarily defer the need to borrow externally by using the cash it has set aside for longer term purposes; this practice means that there is no immediate link between the need to borrow to pay for capital spend and the level of external borrowing. The effect of using the cash set aside for longer term purposes to temporarily defer external borrowing is to reduce the level of cash that the Council has available for investment.

Due to the reduction in the capital programme and slippage within the programme, there has been no additional borrowing required for current schemes.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The Council accounts for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years into the future. This means that:

- The financial statements reflect the liabilities arising from the Council's retirement obligations.
- The costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are recognised in the accounting period in which the benefits are earned by employees, and the related finance costs and any other changes in value of assets and liabilities are recognised in the accounting periods in which they arise.
- The financial statements disclose the cost of providing retirement benefits and related gains, losses, assets and liabilities.

As at 1 April 2016, the Council's net pensions liability amounted to £389m. In comparison, the deficit amounts to £462m at 31 March 2017 due to a change in financial assumptions impacting on the asset and liability figures. Statutory requirements for funding the deficit means the financial position of the Council remains healthy, as the deficit will be met by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees.

Further details on the basis on which the Council accounts for retirement benefits are provided within the Accounting Policies in note 1 on page 27, and the change to the pension liability in 2016/17 is analysed in note 38 to the accounts.

Shropshire County Pension Fund is working with eight other Funds in the Midlands region in order to meet the tight deadlines set by Government to pool assets by 1 April 2018. The Shropshire Fund is part of LGPS Central, a multi asset manager, investing approximately £40 billion on behalf of its members from 2018 onwards, on behalf of 893,265 members and 2,441 employers. The aims of LGPS Central will be to deliver cost savings, to build on existing investment expertise of its member funds through increased scale, resilience and sharing of knowledge and will have in place strong governance and decision making arrangements. It will aim to make the best use of a blend of internal and external investment management. LGPS Central Ltd is jointly owned on an equal share basis by eight Pension Funds and is seeking to become a Collective Portfolio Management Investment Firm regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The company is a private company limited by shares and was incorporated in October 2016. The majority of assets under management will be structured in an Authorised Contractual Scheme (ACS), itself regulated by the FCA, in addition to other pooled investments held in alternative structures.

Performance in 2017/18

The Council adopted its Corporate Plan in December 2016. The Plan sets out high-level outcomes and a range of medium term outcomes and objectives for the coming 12 to 24 months. The medium term outcomes and objectives are the basis for the Council's Strategic Action Plans which are thematic and cross cutting.

The Council's corporate performance management framework is structured around the high-level outcomes listed below and incorporate the measures and project delivery milestones from the strategic action plans.

- **Healthy People**
- **Resilient Communities**
- **Prosperous Economy**
- **Operating the Council**

The delivery of the outcomes for Shropshire is monitored on a quarterly basis. It is presented using a performance portal, which enables a drill down into the measure. The information is reported to Council with the report identifying specific measures by exception. The full information for each measure is published on the performance portal when the report goes to Cabinet and this provides Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to identify any measures which stand out that they would like to understand in greater detail. They can request additional information and receive it to inform whether they would want to add it to their work programme.

2016/17 has seen improvement and stabilisation in performance across a range of services.

The Theatre Severn and the Old Market Hall Cinema joint attendance reached 249,834 during 2016/17, the highest recorded attendance.

Shropshire continues to maintain high food safety standards with 99.5% of premises are rated as generally satisfactory or higher.

Current rate of claimants for Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit actively seeking work in Shropshire is below the regional and national averages. The claimant count for young people (aged 18 – 24) has achieved a constant level of between 525 and 435 during 2016/17, continuing the pattern in place since summer 2015. At the 31 March 2017, the number was 465 young people. This reflects a maintained reduction from the peak in February 2013 when there were 1370 claimants.

The number of children looked after by the authority has remained stable throughout 2016/17, and the annual rate of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) for year ending March 2017 is 40.8; this has now fallen below the national average and the Statistical Neighbours average.

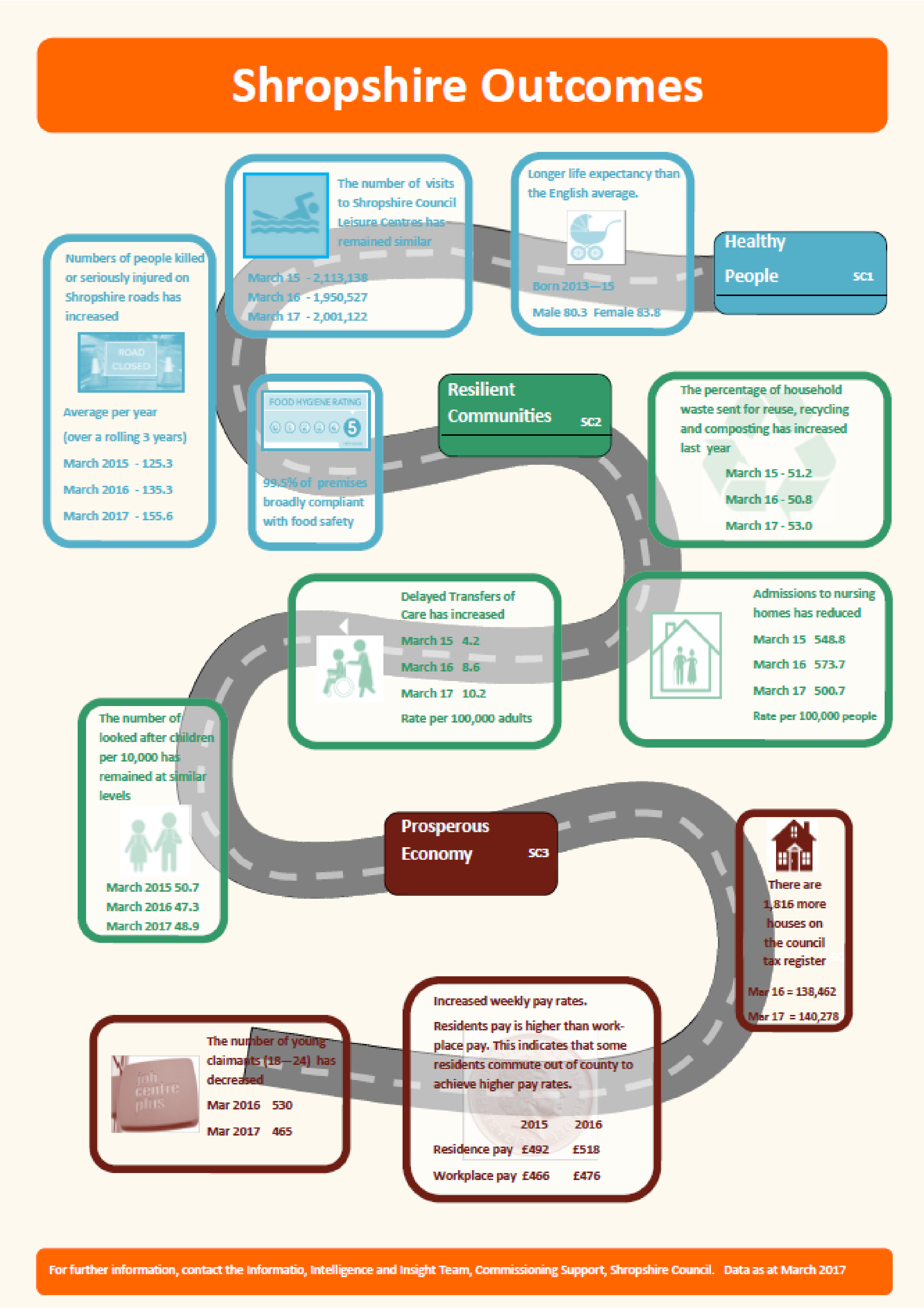
In addition to these, there are confirmed challenges to be faced, and results show that they are being managed by the relevant service areas.

- Delays in discharge from hospital continues to be a key area of focus.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The increase in the numbers of delays in discharge in Shropshire is increasing above the national trend. Monitoring and reviews with partners are taking place to identify areas for focus and to ensure delays are kept to a minimum. Reducing delays is a high priority as this links to the supporting measures to deliver the Better Care Fund outcomes and priorities.

The number of people killed or seriously injured has increased; as such, this has been identified as a potential topic for a more detailed review by Overview and Scrutiny.


Shropshire Outcomes
Healthy People SC1
The number of visits to Shropshire Council Leisure Centres has remained similar
March 15 - 2,113,138
March 16 - 1,950,527
March 17 - 2,001,122
Longer life expectancy than the English average.
Born 2013—15
Male 80.3 Female 83.8
Numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Shropshire roads has increased
ROAD CLOSED
Average per year
(over a rolling 3 years)
March 2015 - 125.3
March 2016 - 135.3
March 2017 - 155.6
FOOD HYGIENE RATING
99.5% of premises broadly compliant with food safety
Resilient Communities SC2
The percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting has increased last year
March 15 - 51.2
March 16 - 50.8
March 17 - 53.0
Delayed Transfers of Care has increased
March 15 4.2
March 16 8.6
March 17 10.2
Rate per 100,000 adults
Admissions to nursing homes has reduced
March 15 548.8
March 16 573.7
March 17 500.7
Rate per 100,000 people
The number of looked after children per 10,000 has remained at similar levels
March 2015 50.7
March 2016 47.3
March 2017 48.9
Prosperous Economy SC3
There are 1,816 more houses on the council tax register
Mar 16 = 138,462
Mar 17 = 140,278
The number of young claimants (18—24) has decreased
Mar 2016 530
Mar 2017 465
Increased weekly pay rates.
Residents pay is higher than work-place pay. This indicates that some residents commute out of county to achieve higher pay rates.
2015 2016
Residence pay £492 £518
Workplace pay £466 £476
For further information, contact the Informatio, Intelligence and Insight Team, Commissioning Support, Shropshire Council. Data as at March 2017

Current and Future Prospects

2016/17 represents the last year of the 3 year MTFP approved to commence in 2014/15. Looking ahead the Council's Financial Strategy reflects a point in time of unprecedented uncertainty in local government finance. The Government's offer of a multi-year settlement has been taken by Shropshire Council (as approved by Council in October 2016) and ostensibly provides certainty in finances through to 2019/20. The reality, however, is that a number of significant funding streams are excluded from the multi-year settlement and the fourth and final year of the settlement period (2019/20) is also the year that 100% Business Rate Retention and Fair Funding is timetabled to begin.

Government backed Technical Working Groups continue to develop this approach, representing the greatest change in local government finance for a generation, but at present, no details of how this could operate have been forthcoming. It is therefore impossible to calculate the impact of these changes on Shropshire Council. The option to create a longterm financial strategy is consequently not available and as such, the Council has developed a two-stage approach:

1) Develop a short-term financial strategy for the years 2017/18 and 2018/19 based on achievable, lower impact savings proposals and using one-off resources to close the resultant gap.

2) Ahead of the 2019/20 Financial Year, develop strategies alongside the emerging themes emanating from Central Government to create fit for purpose and consistent Corporate Plan, Economic Growth and Commercial Strategies, to form the infrastructure by which a coherent, long-term Financial Strategy can be developed alongside the mechanics and implications of the emerging Fair Funding mechanism.

In the meantime, Shropshire Council continues to manage its budget within the confines of significantly reducing resources as a result of government cuts. A model of growth in costs over the next three years was created and demonstrated that the Council could not afford, for example, to fund the growth in Adult Social Care based on the resources that would be available. A review of Adult Social Care expenditure attempted to model, in detail, how spend is expected to grow in future years as a result of demographic change and an aging population. The level of growth in the budget necessary to reflect the model was in the order of £15m in 2016/17 and growth of £8m to £10m every year thereafter. A series of savings proposals in other areas of the Council were put forward to enable this level of growth to be redirected to Adult Social Care, but the resultant impact on other statutory and discretionary services was considered to be unachievable. As a result, a funding gap was identified and reported to Council.

We have a legal obligation to deliver statutory services such as Adult Social Care, and we also have a statutory duty to set a legal budget. As a result, the Financial Strategy attempts to accurately reflect the level of spend we are due to undertake in future years reflecting the services we believe we have a duty to deliver. To produce a balanced budget, the gap between this estimated level of spend and our estimated level of resources has been bridged by the use of one-off funds. The outcome (regardless of how it is described within the budget process) is that the growth in Adult Social Care and the costs of other statutory responsibilities of this council are not affordable under the current funding model. The current Financial Strategy sets out the planning in the short and medium term to attempt to manage this, in advance of the Government Fair Funding Review.

Section 2

Statement of Responsibilities

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

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

Approved by Council

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 was formally approved at a meeting of the Council on 21 September 2017.

Ann Hartley
Chairman of the Council
21 September 2017

Responsibilities of Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance

The Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ("the Code").

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance has:

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

The Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance has also:

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

Certificate of the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance

I hereby certify that the Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position and the income and expenditure of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2017.

James Walton
Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance
16 June 2017

Section 3

Audit Opinion & Certificate

AUDIT OPINION AND CERTIFICATE

TO BE UPDATED FOLLOWING AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

We have audited the financial statements of Shropshire Council (the "Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the "Act"). The financial statements comprise the Core Financial Statements (Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cashflow Statement), the Notes to the Core Financial Statements, the Group Accounts (the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts in the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts in the Group Movements in Reserves Statement, the Group Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement and the Notes to the Group Accounts), the Housing Revenue Account (the Housing Revenue Account's Income and Expenditure Statement, the Movement on the Housing Revenue Account's Statement and the Notes to the Housing Revenue Account) and the Collection Fund (the Collection Fund and the Notes to the Collection Fund).

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Act and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement Responsibilities, the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, the Code Of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the "Code of Audit Practice") and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority and Group's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report, the Group Accounts Introduction and the Annual Governance Statement to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion:

- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and Group as at 31 March 2017 and of the Authority's and Group's expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and applicable law.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the other information published together with the audited financial statements in the Narrative Report, the Group Accounts Introduction and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the audited financial statements.

Matters on which we report by exception

We are required to report to you if:

- in our opinion the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the guidance included in 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)' published by CIPFA and SOLACE; or
- we have reported a matter in the public interest under section 24 of the Act in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we have made a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Act in the course of, or at the conclusion of the audit; or
- we have exercised any other special powers of the auditor under the Act.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Act to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

AUDIT OPINION AND CERTIFICATE

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

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2016, as to whether the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criteria as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work, as we considered necessary to form a view on whether in all significant respects the Authority has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2016, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the financial statements of the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Code of Audit Practice.

Mark Stocks
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

The Colmore Building,
20 Colmore Circus,
Birmingham
B4 6AT

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Section 4

Core Financial Statements

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

2015/16 (Restated) Gross Expenditure £000	2015/16 (Restated) Income £000	2015/16 (Restated) Net Expenditure £000		2016/17 Gross Expenditure £000	2016/17 Income £000	2016/17 Net Expenditure £000
			Expenditure on Continuing Services (Notes 7, 8 and 9)			
117,287	(38,315)	78,972	Adult Services	120,962	(36,088)	84,874
15,782	(18,471)	(2,689)	Local Authority Housing	10,224	(18,396)	(8,172)
0	0	0	Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings	(28,230)	0	(28,230)
224,836	(174,805)	50,031	Children's Services	220,505	(167,440)	53,065
120,903	(35,400)	85,503	Place and Enterprise	111,105	(33,311)	77,794
28,748	(21,633)	7,115	Public Health	23,533	(17,495)	6,038
79,289	(74,849)	4,440	Resources and Support	79,062	(75,130)	3,932
10,258	(5,124)	5,134	Corporate	6,578	(4,650)	1,928
597,103	**(368,597)**	**228,506**	**Net Cost of Services**	**543,739**	**(352,510)**	**191,229**
		28,667	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 12)			43,159
		33,715	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 13)			36,240
		(259,387)	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income (Note 14)			(268,574)
		31,501	**(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services**			**2,054**
		(26,901)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of non current assets			(35,853)
		3,031	Impairment Losses on Non-Current Assets Charged to the Revaluation Reserve			759
		(35,144)	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability			61,785
		(59,014)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**26,691**
		(27,513)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**			**28,745**

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'.

The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance and the Housing Revenue Account for council tax setting and dwellings rent setting purposes.

The Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the council.

	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2016	**18,370**	**60,841**	**79,211**	**5,823**	**2,802**	**6,612**	**94,448**	**324,124**	**418,572**
<u>Movement in reserves during 2016/17</u>									
Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(36,300)	0	(36,300)	34,246	0	0	(2,054)	0	(2,054)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(26,691)	(26,691)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(36,300)**	**0**	**(36,300)**	**34,246**	**0**	**0**	**(2,054)**	**(26,691)**	**(28,745)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 10)	35,647	0	35,647	(31,038)	(433)	4,962	9,138	(9,138)	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	**(653)**	**0**	**(653)**	**3,208**	**(433)**	**4,962**	**7,084**	**(35,829)**	**(28,745)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 11)	(3,019)	3,019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in 2016/17	**(3,672)**	**3,019**	**(653)**	**3,208**	**(433)**	**4,962**	**7,084**	**(35,829)**	**(28,745)**
Balance at 31 March 2017	**14,698**	**63,860**	**78,558**	**9,031**	**2,369**	**11,574**	**101,532**	**288,295**	**389,827**

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

2015/16	General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserves	Total General Fund Balance	Housing Revenue Account	Major Repairs Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2015	**15,206**	**55,027**	**70,233**	**3,076**	**1,635**	**3,954**	**78,898**	**312,161**	**391,059**
<u>**Movement in reserves during 2015/16**</u>									
Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(31,997)	0	(31,997)	496	0	0	(31,501)	0	(31,501)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,014	59,014
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(31,997)**	**0**	**(31,997)**	**496**	**0**	**0**	**(31,501)**	**59,014**	**27,513**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (Note 10)	40,975	0	40,975	2,251	1,167	2,658	47,051	(47,051)	(0)
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	**8,978**	**0**	**8,978**	**2,747**	**1,167**	**2,658**	**15,550**	**11,963**	**27,513**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves (Note 11)	(5,814)	5,814	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in 2015/16	**3,164**	**5,814**	**8,978**	**2,747**	**1,167**	**2,658**	**15,550**	**11,963**	**27,513**
Balance at 31 March 2016	**18,370**	**60,841**	**79,211**	**5,823**	**2,802**	**6,612**	**94,448**	**324,124**	**418,572**

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses, where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000	£000
1,072,784	Property, Plant & Equipment (Note 15)	1,106,346	
2,622	Heritage Assets	2,553	
50,855	Investment Property (Note 16)	50,935	
173	Intangible Assets	121	
599	Assets Held for Sale	599	
1,127,033	**Total Non Current Assets**		**1,160,554**
400	Long Term Investment (Note 20)	400	
13,614	Long Term Debtors (Note 20)	20,898	
1,141,047	**Total Long Term Assets**		**1,181,852**
	Current Assets		
160	Current Held for Sale Investment Properties (Note 16)	0	
5,860	Assets Held for Sale	5,514	
58,850	Short Term Investments (Note 20)	59,000	
824	Inventories	808	
67,430	Short Term Debtors (Notes 20 & 22)	55,326	
75,956	Cash & Cash Equivalents (Notes 20 & 23)	93,233	
209,080	**Total Current Assets**		**213,881**
1,350,127	**Total Assets**		**1,395,733**
	Current Liabilities		
(11,028)	Bank Overdraft (Notes 20 & 23)	(13,150)	
(7,200)	Short Term Borrowing (Note 20)	(8,482)	
(62,785)	Short Term Creditors (Notes 20 & 24)	(67,800)	
(2,708)	Provisions	(2,488)	
(6,926)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue (Note 36)	(4,635)	
(114)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital (Note 36)	(2,367)	
(90,761)	**Total Current Liabilities**		**(98,922)**
1,259,366	**Total Assets Less Current Liabilities**		**1,296,811**
	Long Term Liabilities		
(695)	Long Term Creditors (Note 20)	(684)	
(323,968)	Long Term Borrowing (Note 20)	(317,568)	
(118,426)	Other Long Term Liabilities (Note 19)	(119,577)	
(388,736)	Pensions Liability (Notes 26 & 38)	(461,828)	
(8,969)	Provisions	(7,327)	
(840,794)	**Total Long Term Liabilities**		**(906,984)**
418,572	**Net Assets**		**389,827**
	Financed by:		
94,448	Usable Reserves (Note 25)	101,532	
324,124	Unusable Reserves (Note 26)	288,295	
418,572	**Total Reserves**		**389,827**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

2015/16 £000	Revenue Activities	2016/17 £000	£000
31,501	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	2,054	
(107,502)	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	(66,342)	
59,055	Adjust for items in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	44,865	
(16,946)	**Net cash flows from Operating Activities (Note 27 and 28)**		**(19,423)**
(4,658)	Investing Activities (Note 29)	4,777	
14,888	Financing Activities (Note 30)	(509)	
(6,716)	**Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents**		**(15,155)**
58,212	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		64,928
64,928	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 23)**		**80,083**

Section 5

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2017. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which require them to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2016/17, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted by the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

1.2 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

Revenue transactions are recorded on an accruals basis in accordance with proper accounting practices. In particular:

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

1.3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is defined for the purpose of this statement, as cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable on demand without penalty on notice. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, normally with a maturity of 90 days or less, that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

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

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

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

1.5. Non-Current Assets - Intangible

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. It must be controlled by the Council as a result of past events, and future economic or service benefits must be expected to flow from the intangible asset to the Council (e.g. computer software licences).

Intangible assets are recognised based on cost and are amortised over the economic life of the intangible asset to reflect the pattern of consumption of benefits. Only intangible assets included in the capital programme are capitalised. Each intangible asset is assessed in terms of economic life, usually up to five years.

1.6. Non-Current Assets – Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are 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.

<u>Recognition</u>
The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment shall only be recognised (and hence capitalised) as an asset on the balance sheet if, and only if:

- It is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity, and
- The cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Costs that meet the recognition principle include initial costs of acquisition, production or construction of assets for use by, or disposal to, a person other than the local authority; and costs incurred subsequently to enhance, replace part of, or service the asset. Subsequent costs arising from day-to-day servicing of an asset (i.e. labour costs and consumables), commonly referred to as 'repairs and maintenance', should not be capitalised if they do not meet the recognition principle because the expenditure does not add to the future economic benefits or service potential of the asset and are charged to revenue.

Initial Measurement

An item of property, plant and equipment that qualifies for recognition as an asset is measured at its cost and capitalised on an accruals basis. Accruals are made for capital works with a value of £75,000 or more undertaken but not paid for by the end of the financial year.

Measurement after recognition

Property, plant and equipment assets are subsequently valued at current value on the basis recommended by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and in accordance with The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation Standards. Property, plant and equipment assets are classified into the groupings required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and valued on the following bases:

Category	**Valuation Method (Fair Value definition)**
Operational	
Council Dwellings	Existing Use Value – Social Housing (EUV-SH)
Land & Buildings	Existing Use Value (EUV) – determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use. Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) – for specialist properties where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of the asset and the asset is rarely sold.
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Depreciated Historic Cost (HC)
Infrastructure	Historic Cost (HC)
Community Assets	Historic Cost (HC)
Non-operational	
Surplus Assets	Market Value (MV) fair value measurement estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.
Assets Under Construction	Historic Cost (HC)

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. When new material assets are acquired/constructed or assets substantially enhanced, the asset will be valued in the financial year in which the asset becomes operational. When an asset is revalued, any accumulated depreciation and impairment at the date of valuation shall be eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

The Housing Revenue Account Council Dwellings are subject a full valuation every five years and to an annual desktop review of value undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency.

Where the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is increased as a result of a revaluation, the increase shall be recognised in the Revaluation Reserve, unless the increase is reversing a previous impairment loss charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services on the same asset or reversing a previous revaluation decrease charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services on the same asset.

Where the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is decreased as a result of a revaluation, i.e. a significant decline in an asset's carrying amount during the period that is not specific to the asset (as opposed to an impairment, see 1.9), the decrease shall be recognised in the Revaluation Reserve up to the credit balance existing in respect of the asset (i.e. up to its historical cost) and thereafter in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Componentisation

Where components of an asset are significant in value in relation to the total value of the asset and they have substantially different economic lives, they are recognised and depreciated separately. The requirement for componentisation for depreciation purposes is applicable to enhancement and acquisition expenditure and revaluations carried out from 1 April 2010. Significant assets for this purpose are properties with a capital value of £2.5m or over, where depreciation is £100,000 per annum or over, or any component that represents 25% of the total capital value.

Derecognition

The carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment shall be derecognised:

- On disposal, or
- When no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss arising from derecognition of an asset shall be the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the asset. The gain or loss arising from derecognition of an asset shall be included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services when the item is derecognised.

If the asset derecognised was carried at a revalued amount, an additional entry is required; the balance on the Revaluation Reserve in respect of the asset derecognised is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

A proportion (based on Agreement – Section 11(6) of the Local Government Act 2003) of receipts relating to dwellings disposed of under the Right to Buy Scheme are payable to the Government through the pooling system. The proportion that is required to be paid over to central government as a 'housing pooled capital receipt' is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and the same amount appropriated from the Capital Receipts Reserve and credited to the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where a component of an asset is replaced or restored, the carrying amount of the old component is derecognised, based on the cost of the new component indexed back to the last valuation date. Where the new expenditure is deemed to also enhance the component of the original asset e.g. energy efficiency schemes the carrying amount of the old component is reduced further based on an assessment of the level of enhancement.

1.7. Investment Properties

An Investment property is a property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes, or sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Investment properties shall be initially measured at cost and thereafter at fair value, which is interpreted as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its highest and best use, i.e. market value (MV).

Investment properties held at fair value are not depreciated. The fair value of investment properties shall reflect market conditions at the Balance Sheet date; this means the periodic (5-yearly) revaluation approach may only be used where the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at Balance Sheet date. As such Investment Properties are subject to an annual review to ensure their valuation reflects fair value at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

1.8. Non-Current Assets Held for Sale

A non-current asset is classified as held for sale if its carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. The following criteria have to be met before an asset can be classified as held for sale under this section of the Code:

- The asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition.
- The sale must be highly probable; with an active programme to dispose of the asset.
- The asset must be actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value.
- The sale should be expected to complete within one year of the date of classification.

Assets Held for Sale are valued at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value (market value) less costs to sell at initial reclassification and at the end of each reporting date, and are not subject to depreciation. Investment Properties that are to be disposed of are not reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale and remain as Investment Properties until disposed of, reclassified to short terms investment properties where they are expected to be disposed of within a year of the balance sheet date.

1.9. Impairment

At the end of each reporting period an assessment takes place as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Examples of events and changes in circumstances that indicate an impairment may have incurred include:

- A significant decline (i.e. more than expected as a result of the passage of time or normal use) in an asset's carrying amount during the period, that is specific to the asset;
- Evidence of obsolescence or physical damage of an asset;
- A commitment by the Council to undertake a significant reorganisation; or
- A significant adverse change in the statutory or other regulatory environment in which the Council operates.

An impairment loss on a revalued asset is recognised in the Revaluation Reserve (to the extent that the impairment does not exceed the amount in the Revaluation Reserve for the same asset) and thereafter in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

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

1.10. Depreciation

Land and buildings are separate assets and are accounted for separately, even when they are acquired together. Depreciation applies to all property, plant and equipment, whether held at historical cost or revalued amount, with the exception of:

- Investment properties carried at fair value;
- Assets Held for Sale; and
- Land where it can be demonstrated that the asset has an unlimited useful life (excluding land subject to depletion, i.e. quarries and landfill sites).

An asset is not depreciated until it is available for use and depreciation ceases at the earlier of: the date the asset is classified as held for sale and the date the asset is derecognised.

The finite useful life of an asset is determined at the time of acquisition or revaluation. Each part of an item of property, plant and equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item is depreciated separately. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method. For Council Dwellings the depreciation charge is calculated on a componentised depreciation basis, using the Planned Programme Approach. The depreciation charge is calculated based on the stock data at 1st April, using the stock data of the major components at that date, from the housing condition data. The components are depreciated on a straightline basis over their useful life (10-80 years) for Decent Homes Standard; with the residual amount (excluding land) depreciated over 150 years.

On a revalued asset, a transfer between the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account shall be carried out which represents the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and the depreciation based on the asset's historical cost.

1.11. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Service revenue accounts, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the real cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and Impairment losses used on assets used by the service in excess of any balance on the Revaluation Reserve for the asset.
- Amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service.

Depreciation, amortisation, impairments, revaluation gains or losses charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services are not proper charges to the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account. Such amounts are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The only exception is depreciation charges for HRA dwellings and other properties, which are real charges to the HRA since the Major Repairs Allowance constitutes a reasonable estimate of depreciation for HRA dwellings.

This ensures the Council is not required to raise Council Tax to cover depreciation, amortisation or revaluation/impairment losses. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement; further details are provided at Accounting Policy 1.15 (The Redemption of Debt). Depreciation, amortisation and revaluation/impairment losses are therefore replaced by revenue provision transferred from the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Interest payable is reported within Net Operating cost within the Income and Expenditure Account and depreciation, calculated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.10 (Depreciation), is charged directly to service revenue accounts.

Amounts set aside from revenue for the repayment of external loans, to finance capital expenditure or as transfers to other earmarked reserves are disclosed separately on the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.12. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as a non-current asset. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund and impact on that year's council tax. These items are generally grants and expenditure on property not owned by the Council, and amounts directed under section 16(2) of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Such expenditure is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in accordance with the general provisions of the Code. Any statutory provision that allows capital resources to meet the expenditure shall be accounted for by debiting the Capital Adjustment Account and crediting the General Fund Balance and shown as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.13. Heritage Assets

Tangible Heritage Assets are tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained by the Council principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. Intangible heritage assets are intangible assets with cultural, environmental, or historical significance.

Heritage Assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Councils accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. However, due to the unique nature of Heritage Assets, some of the measurement rules are relaxed in relation to the categories of Heritage Assets held as detailed below. This is due to the lack of valuation information and the disproportionate cost of obtaining the information in comparison to the benefits to the users of the Council's financial statements.

- **Outdoor Statues/Monuments/Historic Building Remains**

The Council has a small number of assets relating to Outdoor Statues/ Monuments/ Historic Building Remains. These assets are reported on the balance sheet, but valuation of these assets is not practical due to the unique nature and lack of comparable market values. These assets are held on the balance sheet at depreciated historic cost, where this is available. Where historic cost information is not available due to the age of the asset, the assets are held at nil value.

The Council's Historical Environment Team, including the Shropshire Archaeology Service manage the Council's historic environment and archaeological sites. The Council does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for the assets held under the Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and the majority would fall into the de-minimus category. This is because of the unique nature of the assets held and lack of comparable market values. It is also recognised that the cost of obtaining this information outweighs any benefits. Consequently, the Council does not recognise these assets on the balance sheet, other than those included under Statues/Monuments/Historic Building Remains.

- **Museum and Archives artefacts**

Museum Service

The Shropshire Museum Service runs a countywide service which collects, documents, preserves, exhibits and interprets the material remains of Shropshire's natural and human history for public benefit. The service operates six museums and a museum resource centre.

Principal collections held by the Museum Service include:

- Agricultural
- Archaeology (including Prehistory, Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval and Foreign)
- Archives
- Biology
- Costume & Textiles
- Decorative & Applied Arts
- Ethnography
- Fine Art
- Geological
- Numismatics
- Social History

The acquisition priorities vary between the principal collections based on existing gaps in the collection and the capabilities and resources available to the service to adequately store, conserve and display collections.

The Museum Service exercises due diligence and makes every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body can acquire a valid title to the item.

By definition, the Museum Service has a long-term purpose and should possess permanent collections in relation to its stated objectives. As a consequence there is a strong presumption against the disposal of any items in the museum's collection. In the event of the Museum

Service closing the collections would be offered to other museum authorities and neither the collections nor individual items within them would be sold to generate income.

Complete holdings are not valued, as items are generally unique and full valuation would be extremely expensive; however, some significant items have a market valuation at purchase or insurance valuation. As a consequence only those items for which the Museum Service holds an existing valuation (above a de-minimus threshold of £5,000) are recognised in the balance sheet. These principally consist of fine art paintings and items of decorative art. These assets are deemed to have indeterminate lives and a high residual value; hence the Council does not consider it appropriate to charge depreciation. Any new acquisitions will be recognised at purchase price valuation. Assets are not subject to a revaluation cycle, with revaluations only undertaken where required by the Museum Service.

Archives

The Shropshire archives and local studies service preserves and make accessible documents, books, maps, photographs, plans and drawings relating to Shropshire past and present. Not all material is owned by the Council, with a significant proportion on deposit from record owners. No reliable cost or valuation information is held for holdings, with items generally unique and valuation would be considered to be extremely expensive. Consequently the Council does not recognise these assets on the balance sheet.

Shropshire Archives has an Acquisition and Disposal policy. Shropshire Archives will acquire material for the study of all aspects of Shropshire past and present. Material will be acquired by transfer, gift, purchase or deposit. Shropshire Archives will only acquire material if the responsible officer is satisfied that the vendor, donor or depositor has a valid title to the material and will not acquire material if it cannot provide adequate storage or professional care for it. There is a strong presumption against the disposal by sale of any material in Shropshire Archives ownership. If materials are to be sold they should first be offered to other appropriate public collecting institutions. All monies received by Shropshire Archives from the sale of material shall be used for the benefit of the Service's collections.

Heritage Assets – Impairment

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

1.14. Capital Receipts

Capital receipts from the disposal of assets are held in the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as they are used to finance capital expenditure, used to finance expenditure under the new flexibilities around the use of Capital Receipts for transformational revenue purposes over the 3 year period 2016/17 to 2018/19 or are used to repay debt. At the balance sheet date, the Council may opt to set aside capital receipts in-hand within the Capital Adjustment Account to reduce the Capital Financing Requirement and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge for the following financial year.

1.15. The Redemption of Debt

The Council makes provision for the repayment of debt in accordance with the statutory "Minimum Revenue Provision" (MRP) requirements. For supported and unsupported borrowing MRP is calculated based on a straight line basis over the expected life of the asset for which the borrowing was undertaken. This amount is transferred from the Capital Adjustment Account and reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

For HRA debt there is no mandatory requirement to make provision in the HRA for annual MRP payments. However, the Council will make annual voluntary provision for debt repayment in the HRA based on affordable levels in the HRA against the need for investment and delivering services in the HRA.

For assets under on-balance sheet PFI contracts and finance leases, the annual principal payment amount in the PFI or finance lease model is used as the MRP payment amount, with no additional charges above those within the contract.

Where the Council has made capital loans to third parties financed from the Councils balances, the annual repayments of principal amounts are treated as capital receipts and set aside in the Capital Adjustment Account in place of a revenue MRP charge.

1.16. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases when substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Whether a lease is a finance lease or an operating lease depends on the substance of the transaction rather than the form of the contract. Examples of situations that individually or in combination would normally lead to a lease being classified as a finance lease are:

1) the lease transfers ownership of the asset to the lessee by the end of the lease term;

2) the lessee has the option to purchase the asset at a price that is expected to be sufficiently lower than the fair value so as to make it reasonably certain the option will be exercised;

3) the lease term is for the major part of the economic life of the asset;

4) the present value of the minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset; and

5) the leased assets are of such a specialised nature that only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

Should a yes response be given to two or more of the above questions, then consideration is given to treating the lease as a finance lease.

The Council as Lessee

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases are initially recognised, at the inception of the lease, at fair value or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments, with a matching liability for the lease obligation to the lessor. Lease payments are apportioned between finance charges and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are recognised in calculating the Council's Revenue Account balance.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Lease incentives are recognised initially as a liability and subsequently as a reduction of rentals on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Contingent rentals are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Where a lease is for land and buildings, the land and building components are separated. Leased land is treated as an operating lease. Leased buildings are assessed as to whether they are operating or finance leases.

The Council as Lessor

Amounts due from lessees under finance leases are recorded as receivables at the amount of the Council's net investment in the leases. Finance lease income is allocated to accounting periods so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the council's net investment outstanding in respect of the leases.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.17. Government Grants and Contributions

Revenue Grants

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as income at the date that the Council satisfies the conditions of entitlement to the grant/contribution and there is reasonable assurance that the monies will be received. If there are outstanding conditions on the grant income the income is held on the Balance Sheet as a Government debtor/creditor. Revenue grants are matched in service revenue accounts with the service expenditure to which they relate. Grants to cover general expenditure (e.g. Revenue Support Grant and New Homes Bonus) are credited to the foot of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement after Net Operating Expenditure.

Capital Grants

Grants and contributions relating to capital expenditure shall be accounted for on an accruals basis, and recognised immediately in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as income, except to the extent that the grant or contribution has a condition(s) (as opposed to restrictions) that the Council has not satisfied.

Where a capital grant or contribution (or part thereof) has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution shall be transferred from the General Fund (or Housing Revenue Account) to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer shall be reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council has elected to charge Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with effect from 1 January 2012. The levy applies to planning applications for the following types of development:

- The formation of one or more new dwellings, (including holiday lets), either through conversion or new build, regardless of size (unless it is 'affordable housing'); or
- The establishment of new residential floor space (including extensions and replacements) of 100sqm or above.

The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund infrastructure projects. This will largely be capital expenditure and includes roads and other transport schemes, flood defences, schools and other education facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreation facilities and open spaces. Five percent of CIL charges will be used to meet the administrative costs of operating the levy.

CIL is received without outstanding conditions; it is therefore recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the Council CIL instalment policy, following commencement date of the chargeable development in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above.

The only exception for this is CIL monies received on developments where the CIL Liability Notice has been issued after 25th April 2013. On these receipts 15% of gross receipt or 25% in areas with a statutory Neighbourhood Plan in place; is treated as the Neighbourhood Fund element. The Neighbourhood Fund is the portion of CIL provided directly to Town and Parish Councils to be used for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else which is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

1.18. Financial Assets

The Council holds financial assets in the form of loans and receivables. These are assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market. The loans and receivables are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable, adjusted for accrued interest receivable at the year end. Interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Council has made a number of loans to individuals at less than market rates (soft loans). Ordinarily when soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest would then be credited at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the individual, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance would be managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. However, the soft loans that the Council has made are not material to the accounts so the impact has not been incorporated into the Core Financial statements, instead Note 20 to the Core Financial Statements provides details about these soft loans.

1.19. Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For the borrowings that the Council has, this means the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable, adjusted for accrued interest payable at the year end. Interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year in the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement.

However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

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

1.20. Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year. The reserve is then appropriated back into the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

1.21. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by the transfer of economic benefits, 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes apparent that a transfer of economic benefits is not required, 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 Council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but any material liabilities will be disclosed in a separate note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the council.

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

1.22. Inventories

Inventories and stock are valued at the lower of cost price or net realisable value.

1.23. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2016/17. The total absorption costing principle is used - the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

1.24. Group Accounts

The Council has financial relationships with a number of entities and partnerships and, therefore, is required to prepare Group Accounts, in addition to its main financial statements. All of the financial relationships within the scope of Group Accounts have been assessed.

The Council has accounted for Group Accounts in accordance with IFRS 3 - Business Combination, IFRS10 – Consolidated Financial Statements, IFRS 11 - Joint Arrangements, IFRS12 – Disclosure of Interest in Other Entities, IAS 27 - Separate Financial Statements, IAS28 - Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures except where interpretations or adaptations to fit the public sector have been detailed in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Subsidiaries and joint ventures have been consolidated within the Council's accounts on a cost basis, and accounting policies have been aligned between the Council and the companies consolidated in the Group.

1.25. Value Added Tax (VAT)

Only irrecoverable VAT is included in revenue and capital expenditure. All VAT receivable is excluded from income.

1.26. Employee Benefits

The Council accounts for employee benefits in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 – Employee Benefits. This covers short-term employee benefits such as salaries, annual leave and flexi leave, termination benefits and post-employment benefits such as pension costs.

In accounting for annual leave the Council has categorised the staff into teachers and other staff. Teaching staff have been accounted for on the basis that working during term time entitles them to paid leave during the holidays e.g. working the Spring Term entitles them to paid Easter holidays. An accrual has been calculated based on the untaken holiday entitlement relating to the Spring Term. An accrual has been calculated for other staff based on the amount of untaken leave as at 31 March.

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. The cost of these are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement.

Employees of the Council are members of three separate pension schemes:

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

All schemes provide defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the Council. However, the arrangements for the Teachers' scheme and the NHS scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The schemes are therefore accounted for as if they were defined contribution schemes and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet. The relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are charged with the employer's contributions payable to the two schemes in the year.

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

- The liabilities of the Shropshire County Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.2% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds of appropriate duration)
- The assets of the Shropshire County Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
    - quoted securities – current bid price
    - unquoted securities – professional estimate
    - unitised securities – current bid price
    - property – market value.

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

- Service cost comprising:
    - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked

- past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs

- net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- Remeasurements comprising:
  - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

  - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

- Contributions paid to the Shropshire County Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

1.28. Foreign Currency Transactions

Foreign currency transactions are accounted for on the basis of the equivalent sterling value of the underlying transaction, by applying the spot exchange rate at the date of the transaction.

1.29. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Schemes

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services, where the PFI contractor has responsibility for making available the assets needed to provide the services. The Council pays the contractor a payment, which is called a unitary charge, for the services delivered under the contract.

The Council has two PFI projects: the Quality in Community Services (QICS) PFI and the Waste Services PFI. Further details of these PFI projects are set out later in the document. The Council is deemed to control the services provided under these two PFI schemes, and as ownership of property, plant and equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the operational assets used under the contracts on its balance sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (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 QICS scheme, the liability was written down by an initial capital contribution of £2.5m. At the commencement of the Waste contract the Council made various existing waste infrastructure assets available to the contractor. Under the Waste scheme, not all property, plant and equipment scheduled to be provided in the initial years of the contract has been provided and as a result part of the payments made to the scheme operator have been accounted for as a prepayment, with a corresponding entry also made to set aside the prepayment element of the unitary payment in the Capital Adjustment Account.

Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Council.

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Finance cost** – an interest charge as a percentage (based on the Internal Rate of Return of the scheme) of the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Contingent rent** – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
- **Payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease)
- **Lifecycle replacement costs** – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out. On recognising the prepayment for lifecycle replacement costs a corresponding entry is also made to set aside the prepayment element of the unitary payment in the Capital Adjustment Account.

1.30. Accounting for Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates

The Council Tax income included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is the accrued income for the year, and not the amount required under regulation to be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund (the Collection Fund Demand). The difference is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

As the collection of Council Tax for preceptors (the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority) is an agency arrangement, the cash collected belongs proportionately to Shropshire Council as the billing authority and to the preceptors. This gives rises to a debtor or creditor position for the difference between cash collected from tax-payers and cash paid to preceptors under regulation.

In relation to Non-Domestic Rates, Shropshire Council collects income due as an agency arrangement. As with council tax, the cash collected belongs proportionately to Shropshire Council as the billing authority, and to Central Government and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority as preceptors. This gives rise to a debtor or creditor position for the difference between cash collected from tax-payers and cash paid to preceptors under regulation.

1.31. Accounting for Local Authority Maintained Schools

All Local Authority Maintained Schools in the Council area are considered to be entities controlled by the Council. In order to simplify the consolidation process and avoid consolidating in Group Accounts a considerable number of separate, relatively small entities; the Council’s single entity financial statements include all the transactions of Local Authority Maintained Schools i.e. income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of the schools.

The Council has the following types of maintained schools under its control:

- Community
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Foundation

The Council recognises on balance sheet the non-current assets of schools where the Council legally owns the assets or where the school is in the legal ownership of a non religious body, on the basis that they are the assets of the school and need to be consolidated in to the Council’s accounts.

Community schools are owned by the Council and therefore recognised on the balance sheet.

The majority of Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools in the Council area are owned by the respective Diocese. There is currently no legal arrangement in place for the School/Council to use the Diocese owned schools. The School/Council uses the school building to provide education under the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. On this basis the school assets are used under "mere" licences and the assets are not recognised on the Council's balance sheet. The only exception to this is there are a small number of schools that should have transferred to Diocese under Education Legislation; but the legal transfer has not been completed. These are still recognised in the Council balance sheet with an additional note disclosing that they are due to transfer.

Foundation schools owned by the Diocese are not recognised on the Council balance sheet as the position is the same as Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled. Where ownership lies with the school or the school's Governing Body the School is recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. There are a small number of schools who have recently changed their status to Foundation as part of local area Education Trusts. As yet no legal transfers have taken place of school land and buildings. On the assumption that these trusts will constitute the Governing Bodies of these schools, the schools are to remain on-balance sheet. This will be reviewed when the legal transfers are agreed in case the position is different.

Academy schools are not maintained schools controlled by the Council and as such are not accounted for in the Council's Accounts. Schools in Council ownership (Community Schools) which become Academies are provided to the Academy on a 125 year peppercorn lease. When schools transfer to Academy status the assets are written out of the balance sheet as at the date that the asset transfers. Additional notes are included in the accounts disclosing details of any schools where approval by the Department of Education to transfer the School to Academy has been granted, but the school has not transferred by the balance sheet date.

1.32. Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

Prior period adjustments have been made to the Council's 2015/16 published financial statements as a result of a change to the presentation of income and expenditure. In 2015/16 the CIPFA Code of Local Authority Accounting in the UK required income and expenditure to be presented in accordance with the Service Expenditure Code of Practice (SERCOP). The 2016/17 Code requires expenditure and income to be reported on the basis of its reportable segments which are based on the Council's internal management reporting structure. The impact of this change on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is detailed below:

SERCOP Service Line	Expenditure As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Expenditure on Continuing Services				
Adult Social Care	111,135	6,152	117,287	Adult Services
Central Services to the public	8,978	(8,978)	0	Central Services to the public
Children's and Education Services	225,245	(409)	224,836	Childrens Services
Cultural and Related Services	20,088	(20,088)	0	
Environmental and Regulatory Services	48,938	(48,938)	0	
Highways and Transport Services	37,503	(37,503)	0	
	0	120,903	120,903	Place & Enterprise
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	15,588	194	15,782	Local Authority Housing (HRA)
Other Housing Services	81,034	(81,034)	0	
Planning Services	25,219	(25,219)	0	

SERCOP Service Line	As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Public Health	14,204	14,544	28,748	Public Health
Corporate and Democratic Core	4,437	5,821	10,258	Corporate Services
	0	79,289	79,289	Resources & Support
Non Distributed Costs	2,454	(2,454)	0	
Net Cost of Services	**594,823**	**2,280**	**597,103**	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 13)				
(Surpluses)/deficits on Trading Activities	67,230	(2,319)	64,911	

	Income			
SERCOP Service Line	As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Expenditure on Continuing Services				
Adult Social Care	(36,534)	(1,781)	(38,315)	Adult Services
Central Services to the public	(3,586)	3,586	0	Central Services to the public
Children's and Education Services	(178,102)	3,297	(174,805)	Childrens Services
Cultural and Related Services	(7,530)	7,530	0	
Environmental and Regulatory Services	(8,265)	8,265	0	
Highways and Transport Services	(10,450)	10,450	0	
	0	(35,400)	(35,400)	Place & Enterprise

NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SERCOP Service Line	Income: As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Income: Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Income: Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(18,471)	0	(18,471)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)
Other Housing Services	(76,042)	76,042	0	
Planning Services	(17,188)	17,188	0	
Public Health	(13,073)	(8,560)	(21,633)	Public Health
Corporate and Democratic Core	0	(5,124)	(5,124)	Corporate Services
	0	(74,849)	(74,849)	Resources & Support
Non Distributed Costs	0	0	0	
Net Cost of Services	**(369,241)**	**644**	**(368,597)**	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 13)				
(Surpluses)/deficits on Trading Activities	(60,418)	(606)	(61,024)	

SERCOP Service Line	Net: As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Net: Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Net: Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Expenditure on Continuing Services				
Adult Social Care	74,601	4,371	78,972	Adult Services
Central Services to the public	5,392	(5,392)	0	Central Services to the public
Children’s and Education Services	47,143	2,888	50,031	Childrens Services

SERCOP Service Line	Net As reported in the 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Adjustments between SERCOP classifications and internal reporting classifications £000	Restated 2015/16 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements £000	Directorate
Cultural and Related Services	12,558	(12,558)	0	
Environmental and Regulatory Services	40,673	(40,673)	0	
Highways and Transport Services	27,053	(27,053)	0	
	0	85,503	85,503	Place & Enterprise
Local Authority Housing (HRA)	(2,883)	194	(2,689)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)
Other Housing Services	4,992	(4,992)	0	
Planning Services	8,031	(8,031)	0	
Public Health	1,131	5,984	7,115	Public Health
Corporate and Democratic Core	4,437	697	5,134	Corporate Services
	0	4,440	4,440	Resources & Support
Non Distributed Costs	2,454	(2,454)	0	
Net Cost of Services	**225,582**	**2,924**	**228,506**	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (Note 13)				
(Surpluses)/deficits on Trading Activities	6,812	(2,924)	3,886	

3. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

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

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

4. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- There is a high degree of uncertainty regarding future levels of funding for local government. The Council has undertaken the rigorous challenge of reviewing its spending and as a result has ensured appropriate savings are built into its medium term financial plans. The Council has determined that this uncertainty regarding future funding levels is not known in sufficient enough detail to provide an indication that its assets would be impaired or services reduced significantly. Any action to reduce spending would be taken in a planned and systematic way to reduce the impact on service delivery.

- The Council takes judgements over the element of control in terms of deciding which assets should be on our balance sheet. One such judgement has been taken around Local Authority Maintained schools and particularly Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools that are not owned by the Council. The Council recognises the land and buildings used by schools in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice. It states that property used by local authority maintained schools should be recognised in accordance with the asset recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property. The Council recognises the school's land and buildings on its Balance Sheet where it legally owns the assets or the school Governing Body own the school. Where the land and building assets used by the school are owned by an entity other than the Council, school or school Governing Body then they are not included on the Council's Balance Sheet.

  The Council has completed an assessment of the different types of schools it controls within the Shropshire Council area to determine how these should be accounted for. The accounting treatment is detailed in the accounting policies (see 1.31).

- The Council is part of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) along with Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin. The Council acts as accountable body for the LEP and therefore receives grant income on behalf of the LEP and processes expenditure in line with the grant schemes. The Council has concluded that the role of accountable body is to be deemed as an agent, and therefore the net grant held should not be accounted within the Council's accounts. Further details are provided at Note 40.

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

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

There is a risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year for the following items in the council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Property, Plant & Equipment	Full valuation is carried out a minimum of every 5 years. An impairment and valuation review is carried out as a desk exercise for properties not valued in the year.	There is a risk of material adjustment in the year when the property is revalued.
	Estimates of remaining useful economic life are provided as part of the valuation and are used to calculate the depreciation charge on a straightline basis.	There is a risk that annual depreciation charges are over or under stated and also correspondingly the NBV of the asset. This could also result in a risk of material adjustment in the year when the property is revalued.
Dwellings	The value of dwellings held on the balance sheet is subject to impairment due to an estimated increase or decrease in house prices. The Council accounting policy is to use ONS data as the basis for this estimate.	The valuation of dwellings may require a material adjustment in the following year if ONS data is not a reliable estimate.
NDR Appeals Provision	The provision set aside for Non Domestic Rate appeals is estimated based on the number of outstanding appeals as per the Valuation Office and then the percentage rateable value change of successful appeals is applied.	There is a risk that successful appeals will be significantly more than the estimate leading to an increased demand on the NDR collection fund in the year.
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance a 0.1% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £21.36m.
Fair value measurements	When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured or based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques. Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include	The authority uses the discounted cash flow model to measure the fair value of some of its investment properties and financial assets. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, vacancy levels (for investment properties) and discount rates – adjusted for regional factors (for both investment

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities. Where level 1 inputs are not available, the Council employs relevant experts to identify the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value (for example for investment properties, the authority's chief valuation officer). Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Council's assets and liabilities is disclosed in notes to below.	properties and some financial assets). Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for the investment properties and financial assets.
Accruals	Estimates of known future expenses or income where amounts are not yet certain are accrued in the year that they relate to. The proportion of estimates within the accruals processed for debtors and creditors are: • Debtors 22% • Creditors 11%	The expense or the income could be either higher or lower than expected. A 10% increase in the estimates for debtors would result in an additional debtor of £0.179m. A 10% increase from the estimate for creditors would result in an additional creditor of £0.217m.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance on 16 June 2017. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statement or notes.

At balance sheet date, Department of Education approval had been granted to six schools to convert to Academy status. All six schools have converted to Academy School status early in the 2017/18 financial year. Three of these schools were in Council freehold ownership and the value of the schools and associated facilities in the 2016/17 accounts is £11.56m. This is considered as a non-adjusting event after the reporting date.

7. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, council tax and business rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's service areas. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2015/16						2016/17				
Net expenditure reported for resource management £000	Adjustment to arrive at net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000		Net expenditure reported for resource management £000	Adjustment to arrive at net amount chargeable to the General Fund and HRA balances £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and HRA Balances £000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £000
77,388	2,717	80,105	(1,133)	78,972	Adult Services	85,799	(1,315)	84,484	390	84,874
0	(5,679)	(5,679)	2,990	(2,689)	Local Authority Housing	0	(6,123)	(6,123)	(2,049)	(8,172)
0	0	0	0	0	Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings	0	0	0	(28,230)	(28,230)
53,894	(8,054)	45,840	4,191	50,031	Children's Services	51,298	(4,568)	46,730	6,335	53,065
98,678	(38,812)	59,866	25,637	85,503	Place & Enterprise	92,335	(42,080)	50,255	27,539	77,794

6,390	606	6,996	119	7,115	Public Health	6,698	(1,174)	5,524	514	6,038
1,756	2,613	4,369	71	4,440	Resources & Support	2,169	1,756	3,925	7	3,932
(25,080)	28,383	3,303	1,831	5,134	Corporate	(34,596)	48,481	13,885	(11,957)	1,928
213,026	**(18,226)**	**194,800**	**33,706**	**228,506**	**Net Cost of Services**	**203,703**	**(5,023)**	**198,680**	**(7,451)**	**191,229**
0	(206,525)	(206,525)	9,520	(197,005)	Other Income and Expenditure	0	(201,235)	(201,235)	12,060	(189,175)
213,026	**(224,751)**	**(11,725)**	**43,226**	**31,501**	**Surplus or Deficit**	**203,703**	**(206,258)**	**(2,555)**	**4,609**	**2,054**
		73,309			Opening General Fund and HRA Balance			85,034		
		11,725			Less/Plus Surplus or (Deficit) on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year			2,555		
		85,034			**Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March***			**87,589**		

* For a split of this balance between the General Fund and the HRA – see the Movement in Reserves Statement

8. NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

2016/17

Adjustments from management reporting and General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Capital items reported at Directorate level (note 1) £000	Pension items reported at Directorate level (note 1) £000	Reserves reported at Directorate level (note 1) £000	Interest Payable and Receivable reported at Directorate level (note 2) £000	Reallocation of traded services and internal recharges (note 2) £000	Investment properties/Levies reported at Directorate level (note 2) £000	Other Adjustments (note 3) £000	Total to arrive at amount charged to the general fund & HRA £000	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £000	Other Differences £000	Total Adjustment between funding and accounting basis £000
Adult Services	(663)	97	(1,201)	1	451	0	0	**(1,315)**	550	(160)	0	**390**
Local Authority Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	(6,123)	**(6,123)**	(2,049)	0	0	**(2,049)**
Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	(28,230)	0	0	**(28,230)**
Children's Services	(6,794)	306	1,887	(152)	2	0	183	**(4,568)**	6,137	198	0	**6,335**
Place & Enterprise	(31,810)	127	802	(11,496)	(545)	841	1	**(42,080)**	27,728	(189)	0	**27,539**
Public Health	(657)	48	22	0	(587)	0	0	**(1,174)**	590	(76)	0	**514**
Resources & Support	(7)	26	1,546	0	191	0	0	**1,756**	7	0	0	**7**
Corporate	41,344	(677)	(1,103)	(10,745)	131	0	19,531	**48,481**	(10,501)	(1,136)	(320)	**(11,957)**
Net Cost of Services	**1,413**	**(73)**	**1,953**	**(22,392)**	**(357)**	**841**	**13,592**	**(5,023)**	**(5,768)**	**(1,363)**	**(320)**	**(7,451)**
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(1,413)	73	(476)	22,392	357	(841)	(221,327)	**(201,235)**	5,143	12,993	(6,076)	**12,060**
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**0**	**0**	**1,477**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(207,735)**	**(206,258)**	**(625)**	**11,630**	**(6,396)**	**4,609**

2015/16

Adjustments from management reporting and General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Capital items reported at Directorate level (note 1)	Pension items reported at Directorate level (note 1)	Reserves reported at Directorate level (note 1)	Interest Payable and Receivable reported at Directorate level (note 2)	Reallocation of traded services and internal recharges (note 2)	Investment properties/Levies reported at Directorate level (note 2)	Other Adjustments (note 3)	Total to arrive at amount charged to the general fund & HRA	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments	Other Differences	Total Adjustment between funding and accounting basis
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adult Services	1,073	(366)	1,926	0	84	0	0	**2,717**	(1,398)	265	0	**(1,133)**
Local Authority Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	(5,679)	**(5,679)**	2,990	0	0	**2,990**
Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
Children's Services	(4,505)	(1,110)	(1,530)	(152)	(939)	0	182	**(8,054)**	3,714	477	0	**4,191**
Place & Enterprise	(28,876)	(493)	201	(8,152)	(2,567)	1,015	60	**(38,812)**	25,231	406	0	**25,637**
Public Health	(18)	(140)	764	0	0	0	0	**606**	18	101	0	**119**
Resources & Support	(8)	(120)	1,540	0	1,384	0	(183)	**2,613**	8	63	0	**71**
Corporate	35,871	2,583	(12,042)	(11,026)	646	0	12,351	**28,383**	1,270	880	(319)	**1,831**
Net Cost of Services	**3,537**	**354**	**(9,141)**	**(19,330)**	**(1,392)**	**1,015**	**6,731**	**(18,226)**	**31,833**	**2,192**	**(319)**	**33,706**
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(3,537)	(354)	2,919	19,330	1,392	(1,015)	(225,260)	**(206,525)**	(6,103)	12,850	2,773	**9,520**
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**0**	**0**	**(6,222)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(218,529)**	**(224,751)**	**25,730**	**15,042**	**2,454**	**43,226**

Note 1) For resource management purposes, the authority includes depreciation, pension charges in relation to IAS19 debits and credits in its directorate reporting, however this needs to be removed as it is not included in the net expenditure chargeable to the general fund and HRA balances.

Note 2) The authority includes income and expenditure in relation to investment properties, interest payable and receivable, levies and trading accounts within the Directorates however this is reported in the financial statements below the cost of services line and therefore the above table shows these items being reallocated. The income and expenditure for Corporate Landlord and Passenger Transport is also adjusted within the amendments for trading/internal recharges.

Note 3) Corporate Funding and Housing Revenue Account are not reported to management as part of the Directorate reporting therefore these items have been included as adjustments in the above table.

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

1) Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:
   - Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
   - Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
   - Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

2) Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:
   - For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
   - For Financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest in the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

Other Differences

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

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

9. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

The Council's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

Expenditure/Income	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	204,202	203,630
Other service expenses	345,391	358,699
Support service recharges	36,701	53,393
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	21,125	55,275
Interest payments	27,301	24,434
Precepts and levies	6,780	6,424
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	591	600
Gain on the disposal of assets	35,789	21,639
Total Expenditure	**677,880**	**724,094**
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	(157,678)	(175,298)
Interest and investment income	(1,974)	(2,153)
Income from council tax, non-domestic rates	(185,696)	(175,221)
Government grants and contributions	(330,478)	(339,921)
Total Income	**(675,826)**	**(692,593)**
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**2,054**	**31,501**

10. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

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

2016/17	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources:						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pension costs	11,307	0	0	0	0	(11,307)
Financial instruments	(320)	0	0	0	0	320
Council tax and NDR	(6,076)	0	0	0	0	6,076
Holiday pay	323	0	0	0	0	(323)
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure	48,954	(29,202)	3,549	0	5,178	(28,479)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	**54,188**	**(29,202)**	**3,549**	**0**	**5,178**	**(33,713)**
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:						
Transfer of non-current asset proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(3,417)	(1,872)	0	5,786	0	(497)
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	36	0	(36)	0	0
Payments to the government housing receipts pool	591	0	0	(591)	0	0
Pooling of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	(8,009)	0	0	0	0	8,009
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(7,706)	0	0	0	0	7,706
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	**(18,541)**	**(1,836)**	**0**	**5,159**	**0**	**15,218**
Adjustments to Capital Resources:						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(5,184)	0	5,184
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(3,982)	0	0	3,982
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(216)	216
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	25	0	(25)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	**0**	**0**	**(3,982)**	**(5,159)**	**(216)**	**9,357**
Total Adjustments	**35,647**	**(31,038)**	**(433)**	**0**	**4,962**	**(9,138)**

2015/16 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Receipts Reserves £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments to the Revenue Resources:						
Amounts by which income and expenditure included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from revenue for the year calculated in accordance with statutory requirements:						
Pension costs	16,088	0	0	0	0	(16,088)
Financial instruments	(319)	0	0	0	0	319
Council tax and NDR	2,773	0	0	0	0	(2,773)
Holiday pay	(1,046)	0	0	0	0	1,046
Reversal of entries included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in relation to capital expenditure	39,007	5,080	4,440	0	3,122	(51,649)
Total Adjustments to Revenue Resources	56,503	5,080	4,440	0	3,122	(69,145)
Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources:						
Transfer of non-current asset proceeds from revenue to the Capital Receipts Reserve	(1,595)	(2,869)	0	4,821	0	(357)
Administrative costs of non-current asset disposals	0	40	0	(40)	0	0
Payments to the government housing receipts pool	600	0	0	(600)	0	0
Pooling of HRA resources from revenue to the Major Repairs Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory provision for the repayment of debt	(12,268)	0	0	0	0	12,268
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	(2,265)	0	0	0	0	2,265
Total Adjustments between Revenue and Capital Resources	(15,528)	(2,829)	0	4,181	0	14,176
Adjustments to Capital Resources:						
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	(4,213)	0	4,213
Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance capital expenditure	0	0	(3,273)	0	0	3,273
Application of capital grants to finance capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(464)	464
Cash payments in relation to deferred capital receipts	0	0	0	32	0	(32)
Total Adjustments to Capital Resources	0	0	(3,273)	(4,181)	(464)	7,918
Total Adjustments	**40,975**	**2,251**	**1,167**	**0**	**2,658**	**(47,051)**

11. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

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

	Balance at 31 March 2015 £000	Transfers Out 2015/16 £000	Transfers In 2015/16 £000	Balance at 31 March 2016 £000	Transfers Out 2016/17 £000	Transfers In 2016/17 £000	Balance at 31 March 2017 £000
Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments, or to fund major reorganisations	19,493	(7,120)	1,663	14,036	(12,781)	7,913	9,168
Insurance Reserves	3,002	0	409	3,411	0	440	3,851
Reserves of trading and business units	300	0	307	607	(103)	130	634
Reserves retained for service departmental use	26,339	(12,525)	19,767	33,581	(47,506)	55,919	41,994
School Balances	5,893	(3,991)	7,304	9,206	(7,517)	6,524	8,213
Total	**55,027**	**(23,636)**	**29,450**	**60,841**	**(67,907)**	**70,926**	**63,860**

RESERVES

Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments, or to fund major reorganisations – includes redundancy reserve, and specific reserves to fund capital and major projects including the university and other service transformation within the Council.

Insurance Reserves – includes fire liability and motor insurance reserves to fund the Council's future self insurance liabilities.

Reserves of trading and business units – includes any balance carried forward in relation to Shire Services to help smooth trading profits and losses over future years.

Reserves retained for service departmental use – includes a number of specific earmarked reserves for known service expenditure in future years. Significant balances include an IT expenditure reserve and a reserve including unringfenced revenue grants that have not been spent.

School Balances – includes unspent balances of budgets delegated to individual schools.

A breakdown of all specific earmarked reserve balances is shown in the 2016/17 Revenue Outturn report.

12. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Parish Council Precepts	6,659	6,307
Levies	120	121
Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	591	600
(Gains)/losses on the disposal of non-current assets*	35,442	20,755
(Gains)/losses on change in valuation of non-current assets	347	884
	43,159	**28,667**

* Losses on disposal include the transfer of schools to Academy which has resulted in a significant asset value being written out of the balance sheet. Further details are provided at Note 15.

13. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Interest payable and similar charges	27,302	24,434
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	13,119	12,624
Interest receivable and similar income	(1,974)	(2,152)
Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	(1,741)	(5,077)
(Surpluses)/deficits on Trading Activities	(466)	3,886
	36,240	**33,715**

14. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOMES

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Council tax income	(135,883)	(128,428)
Non domestic rates	(49,813)	(46,793)
Non ringfenced government grants	(51,281)	(56,504)
Capital grants and contributions	(31,597)	(27,662)
	(268,574)	**(259,387)**

15. PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

The figures below provide information on the movement of non-current assets held by the Council during 2016/17.

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles Plant, & Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or valuation									
At 1 April 2016	**158,153**	**603,159**	**10,501**	**456,427**	**3,616**	**2079**	**4,049**	**1,237,984**	**121,624**
Additions	4,878	5,936	10,446	22,463	34	0	4,912	**48,669**	12,775
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(40)	21,694	0	0	0	(350)	0	**21,304**	0
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	26,901	(1,018)	0	0	0	0	0	**25,883**	0
Derecognition - disposals	(1,275)	(35,812)	(413)	0	0	0	0	**(37,500)**	0
Derecognition - other	0	(2,392)	(2,478)	0	0	0	0	**(4,870)**	(1,635)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(364)	(1,732)	0	0	0	(800)	0	**(2,896)**	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	1,835	(1,255)	23	(119)	0	1,006	(2,865)	**(1,375)**	0
At 31 March 2017	**190,088**	**588,580**	**18,079**	**478,771**	**3,650**	**1,935**	**6,096**	**1,287,199**	**132,764**
Depreciation and Impairments									
At 1 April 2016	**0**	**(27,983)**	**(5,408)**	**(130,816)**	**(983)**	**(10)**	**0**	**(165,200)**	**(7,449)**
Depreciation charge for 2016/17	(3,522)	(16,313)	(2,709)	(12,644)	(181)	(6)	0	**(35,375)**	(5,563)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	145	14,404	0	0	0	0	0	**14,549**	0
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,377	229	0	0	0	0	0	**3,606**	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	(759)	0	0	0	0	0	**(759)**	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(3,457)	0	0	0	(1,003)	0	**(4,460)**	(2,969)
Derecognition - disposals	0	2,013	187	0	0	0	0	**2,200**	0

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles Plant, & Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Derecognition - other	0	53	2,478	0	0	0	0	**2,531**	1,561
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	1,971	0	84	0	0	0	**2,055**	0
At 31 March 2017	**0**	**(29,842)**	**(5,452)**	**(143,376)**	**(1,164)**	**(1,019)**	**0**	**(180,853)**	**(14,420)**
NBV at 31 March 2017	**190,088**	**558,738**	**12,627**	**335,395**	**2,486**	**916**	**6,096**	**1,106,346**	**118,344**
NBV at 31 March 2016	**158,153**	**575,176**	**5,093**	**325,611**	**2,633**	**2,069**	**4,049**	**1,072,784**	**114,175**

The comparative movements in 2015/16 were as detailed below:

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or valuation									
At 1 April 2015	**170,500**	**527,753**	**16,089**	**438,847**	**3,583**	**2,737**	**6,301**	**1,165,810**	**33,527**
Additions	3,539	107,843	1,933	17,641	33	0	2,116	**133,105**	99,703
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	966	12,876	0	0	0	472	0	**14,314**	1,118
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(15,711)	(44)	0	0	0	46	0	**(15,709)**	143
Derecognition - disposals	(1,328)	(20,293)	(120)	(42)	0	(200)	0	**(21,983)**	0
Derecognition - other	(39)	(3,530)	(6,083)	(19)	0	(7)	0	**(9,678)**	(2,747)
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(335)	(3,059)	0	0	0	(814)	0	**(4,208)**	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	561	(18,387)	(1,318)	0	0	(155)	(4,368)	**(23,667)**	(10,120)
At 31 March 2016	**158,153**	**603,159**	**10,501**	**456,427**	**3,616**	**2,079**	**4,049**	**1,237,984**	**121,624**

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles Plant & Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total £000	PFI Assets Included in Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Depreciation and Impairments									
At 1 April 2015	**(8,970)**	**(31,130)**	**(9,653)**	**(119,193)**	**(805)**	**(155)**	**0**	**(169,906)**	**(6,794)**
Depreciation charge for 2015/16	(4,430)	(14,578)	(2,364)	(11,666)	(178)	(10)	0	**(33,226)**	(4,695)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	89	12,483	0	0	0	15	0	**12,587**	1,300
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	12,734	290	0	0	0	0	0	**13,024**	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	0	(2,155)	0	0	0	(876)	0	**(3,031)**	0
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(14,623)	(858)	0	0	(1,119)	0	**(16,600)**	(10,127)
Derecognition - disposals	68	1,273	65	24	0	27	0	**1,457**	0
Derecognition - other	6	365	6,083	19	0	7	0	**6,480**	2,747
Other movements in depreciation and impairment	503	20,092	1,319	0	0	2,101	0	**24,015**	10,120
At 31 March 2016	**0**	**(27,983)**	**(5,408)**	**(130,816)**	**(983)**	**(10)**	**0**	**(165,200)**	**(7,449)**
NBV at 31 March 2016	**158,153**	**575,176**	**5,093**	**325,611**	**2,633**	**2,069**	**4,049**	**1,072,784**	**114,175**
NBV at 31 March 2015	**161,530**	**496,623**	**6,436**	**319,654**	**2,778**	**2,582**	**6,301**	**995,904**	**26,733**

Local Authority Maintained Schools

Included in the above balances for other land and buildings are all or a significant part of 9 primary schools for which plans are being finalised with the Diocese or for which instructions have been issued, but full ownership has not yet transferred to the Diocese. This detailed work is necessary because in many circumstances the schools are now physically different and it is necessary to ensure that the transfers relate purely to the school function and not other uses which may now be on site. There is a legal obligation to transfer ownership under Education legislation (Education Act 1946 or Schools Standards and Framework 1998).

Work commenced on the first transfers in 2008/09, and further schools were identified in 2011/12, mainly as a result of Primary School Amalgamations, which resulted in the change of the category of a number of schools. These schools will be removed from the Council's balance sheet on completion of the legal transfer, of which two transfers to the Diocese were completed in 2016/17. The total net book value for these schools still included as at the balance sheet date is £20.69m.

In addition there are a number of primary schools where a small part of the site is required to transfer from the Council to the Diocese, these are mainly as a result of extensions to schools which have been built across land still in Shropshire Council ownership (e.g. former playing field land). Work is ongoing to legally transfer these further sections and they are not included in the Council's balance sheet.

One Secondary school is listed as Voluntary Controlled schools on the Department of Education list. Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('the 1998 Act') the school buildings and hard standing should be transferred to the trustees of the school. This should also be transferred to the governing body, and is still to be actioned, but may be overtaken by any plans to transfer these school to Academy status, as occurred with one other schools that was in this position and transferred in 2016/17. The total net book value for the school still included as at the balance sheet date is £11.38m.

Academy Schools

In 2016/17 seven further schools became Academies. Where the School land and premises are in the freehold ownership of the Council, these are now leased by the Council to the Academy school on a 125 year peppercorn rent. On this basis the school is now listed in the Council's fixed asset register at nil value. The value written out of the Council balance sheet in 2016/17 for schools transferring was £33.82m. This included three schools that transferred to the Diocese prior to Academy conversion, of which two of the schools will not transfer to Academy until early 2017/18.

At balance sheet date, Department of Education approval had been granted to six schools to convert to Academy status. All six schools have converted to Academy School status in early 2017/18 financial year. Three of these schools were in Council freehold ownership and the value of the schools and associated facilities in the 2016/17 accounts is £11.56m. This is considered as a non-adjusting event after the reporting date.

Depreciation

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

- Council Dwelling – componentised depreciation basis, using the Planned Programme Approach. The components are depreciated on a straightline basis over their useful life (10-80 years) for Decent Homes Standard; with the residual amount (excluding land) depreciated over 150 years.
- Other Land and Buildings – average 10 to 60 years range.
- Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment – average 5 years.
- Infrastructure – average 40 years.

Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2017, the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the purchase, construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment or to provide grant funding to other bodies for a capital purpose in 2017/18 and future years budgeted to cost £22.211m. Similar commitments at 31 March 2016 were £28.112m. The major commitments were:

- Rural Broadband - £4.645m.
- Highways & Transport schemes - £7.519m.
- HRA Major Repairs Programme - £4.639m.
- HRA New Build Programme - £3.983m.

Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations were carried out internally. 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. Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are held on historic cost basis. The significant assumptions applied in estimating the fair values are:

- That the property is free from any undisclosed onerous burdens, outgoings or restrictions and that good title can be shown.
- That the land and property is not contaminated (including Radon Gas).
- The property and its values are unaffected by any matters which could be revealed by local search or inspection of any register and that the use and occupation of the asset are lawful.
- In valuing the property, plant and machinery have been excluded unless forming part of the structure and normally valued with the building.
- The report does not take account of any liability for taxation which may arise on disposal whether actual or notional, e.g. Capital Gains Tax, or transaction costs, e.g. Stamp Duty.
- Details concerning “title” have been taken from the Council’s Terrier.
- Where there are user rights these have not been considered as having a value because of the inability to transfer such rights.
- In providing Fair Value (Market Value) valuation assumptions have been made as to what is the “highest and best” use of the asset.
- The property has not been discussed with the Planning Authorities and therefore certain assumptions in respect of planning issues have been made in determining values. The assumptions made are based on information on file available to the Valuer when undertaking the Valuation.
- The remaining useful life of each asset has been estimated, these estimates are subject to ongoing planned maintenance programme.

Valuations of Non-Current Assets carried at Current Value

The following statement shows the progress of the Council’s rolling programme for the revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment. The valuations are carried out by the Council’s internal valuation unit. The basis of valuation is set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies. All values are stated on a net present value basis.

	Council Dwellings £000	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Surplus Assets £000	Total £000
Carried at Historical Cost	0	0	12,627	0	12,627
Valued at Fair Value as at:					
31-Mar-17	190,088	780	0	0	190,868
01-Apr-16	0	270,100	0	0	270,100
01-Apr-15	0	197,343	0	916	198,259
01-Apr-14	0	90,515	0	0	90,515
Total Cost or Valuation	**190,088**	**558,738**	**12,627**	**916**	**762,369**

In addition the Council has also instructed its valuers to undertake a review of all assets held in the other land and buildings category to ensure that the carrying value of assets as valued in previous years is not materially different from their fair value. All other asset classes are unaffected.

In order to perform this exercise the other land and building category was split into the sub-categories with the relevant values detailed in the table below:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Schools, Children's Services and other Education Facilities	210,732	226,978
Culture & Heritage Buildings	62,332	63,876
Leisure & Recreation	50,508	53,791
Highways & Car Parks	52,481	44,101
Social Services	31,576	30,556
Administrative Offices	16,558	17,195
Waste Management Site	99,427	103,569
Business / Commercial Sites (including Markets)	16,105	14,000
Housing Services (including Gypsy Sites)	8,101	8,257
Smallholdings	8,960	10,873
Other	1,958	1,980
Total	**558,738**	**575,176**

16. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Rental income & service charges from investment property	(1,292)	(1,517)
Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	311	361
Net (gain)/loss	**(981)**	**(1,156)**

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

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

	Long term		Current	
	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at start of the year	50,855	47,673	160	125
Additions:				
- Purchases	0	0	0	0
Disposals:	0	(231)	(160)	(125)
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	760	5,013	0	(1,092)
Transfers:				
- To/from Property, Plant and Equipment	(680)	(1,450)	0	1,102
- To/from Current/Long term	0	(150)	0	150
Balance at end of the year	**50,935**	**50,855**	**0**	**160**

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Council's investment properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2017 are as follows:

2016/17 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair value as at 31 March 2016 £000
Residential (market rental) properties	0	8,272	0	8,272
Office units	0	33,690	0	33,690
Commercial units	4,220	4,753	0	8,973
Total	**4,220**	**46,715**	**0**	**50,935**

2015/16 comparatives Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Fair value as at 31 March 2016 £000
Residential (market rental) properties	0	7,942	0	7,942
Office units	0	32,579	0	32,579
Commercial units	5,335	5,159	0	10,494
Total	**5,335**	**45,680**	**0**	**51,015**

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Significant Observable Inputs – Level 2

The market approach and the income approach have been used to as the valuation techniques to measure the fair value of Investment Properties.

The fair value of properties has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local authority area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

The Income approach has been used mainly in relation to Investment Properties leased on a commercial basis. The income approach is calculated by means of the discounted cash flow method, where the expected cash flows from the properties are discounted to establish the present value of the net income stream. This approach is based on the authorities lease data and data on the local rental market.

Highest and Best Use of Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the authority's Investment Properties, the valuations have been on the basis of the highest and best use of the asset. In a small number of instances this differs to their current use, mainly where sites would have a higher value if use for residential development, and it is expected planning permission for these sites would be granted based on existing planning policy. The authority is actively working to bring these sites forward for development, but this process can take a number of years.

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the authority's investment properties are subject to revaluations in accordance with the authority's policy on revaluing non-current assets, undertaken by the authority's internal Estates Department for General Fund assets and Valuation Office Agency for HRA assets. As Investment Properties are valued on a market value basis and hence more volatile to changes in valuation, they are also subject to annual desktop review, to ensure the valuation reflects current value at the balance sheet date.

17. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement (including PFI & Finance Lease)	**424,867**	**330,609**
Adjustment for loans for capital purposes not previously included in CFR	**0**	**0**
Adjusted Opening Capital Financing Requirement (including PFI & Finance Lease)	**424,867**	**330,609**
Capital investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	48,686	133,221
Investment Properties	0	0
Intangible Assets	103	53
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	11,298	10,760
Capital Loans	7,820	6,870
Sources of finance		
Capital receipts	(5,184)	(4,213)
Capital grants and other contributions	(33,903)	(34,626)
Direct Revenue Financing (Including MRA)	(11,688)	(5,538)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(8,009)	(12,268)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement (including PFI & Finance Lease)	**433,988**	**424,868**
Closing Capital Financing Requirement – Supported & Unsupported Borrowing – General Fund	242,645	242,875
Closing Capital Financing Requirement – Supported & Unsupported Borrowing – HRA	84,595	84,595
Closing Capital Financing Requirement – PFI & Finance Lease	106,748	97,397
	433,988	**424,867**
Explanation of movements in year		
Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (supported by Government financial assistance)	(6,065)	(11,571)
Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	5,835	8,402
Assets acquired under finance leases	0	0
Assets acquired under PFI contracts	9,351	97,427
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	**9,121**	**94,258**

18. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE SCHEMES

The Council has two Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes: The Quality in Community Services (QICS) PFI, signed on 21 May 2005, and the Waste Services PFI contract, signed on 29 September 2007.

a. The Quality in Community Services PFI Project

On 21 May 2005 the Council entered into a 30 year contract with Integrated Care Solutions (ICS) to supply and maintain six buildings:

- Three Resource Centres
- A Nursing Home
- A Joint Service Centre
- An Intermediate Care Hub

The contract was a Private Finance Initiative under the Capital Finance Regulations. The Council was awarded a PFI credit of £20.400m.

b. The Waste Services PFI Project

On 29 September 2007, the former Shropshire County Council, in its capacity as Contracting Authority for the former Shropshire Waste Partnership, entered into a 27 year waste contract with Veolia ES Shropshire Limited. Services under the contract commenced on 1 October 2007. On 20 October 2008 Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council joined the Partnership and the contract with Veolia for the remaining 26 years.
The contract is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract and is part funded by £40.800m of PFI credits which are paid as an annual PFI grant.

There are two separable elements to the contract: a collection and recycling element and a waste treatment services element.

The collection and recycling element comprises the kerbside collections of recycling and waste, the operation of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (comprising the household recycling centres and transfer stations) and waste treatment and disposal other than the operation of the Energy Recovery Facility. The contract is an output based contract but proposed waste infrastructure that will be used to deliver services under this element of the contract includes upgrades of the existing Craven Arms and Whitchurch recycling facilities, the development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities to service the Oswestry and Bridgnorth areas and the development of an In Vessel Composting Facility.

Two broad groups of assets are being provided under the Waste Services PFI contract:

- Vehicles and waste receptacles used to deliver the day to day waste service.
- Assets to be constructed under the contract to deliver improved recycling and diversion performance.

The value of assets held and liabilities resulting from the QICS and Waste PFI contract at each balance sheet date since the commencement of the contract and an analysis of the movements are shown below:

	QICS PFI		Waste PFI	
	Year Ended 31/03/17 £000	Year Ended 31/03/16 £000	Year Ended 31/03/17 £000	Year Ended 31/03/16 £000
Non-Current Assets – Land & Buildings				
Balance Brought Forward	13,428	13,697	99,266	11,134
- Depreciation in Period	(269)	(269)	(3,428)	(3,426)
- Additions	0	7	3,095	99,118
- Revaluation/Impairment	0	0	(2,969)	2,561
- Derecognition	0	(7)	(74)	(10,120)
Balance Carried Forward	13,159	13,428	95,890	99,266
Non-Current Assets - Vehicles, Plant & Equipment				
Balance Brought Forward	0	0	1,479	1,901
- Depreciation in Period	0	0	(1,866)	(1,000)
- Additions	0	0	9,680	578
Balance Carried Forward	0	0	9,293	1,479
Prepayments				
Balance Brought Forward	0	0	21,029	22,706
- Planned Capital Expenditure	0	0	(8,201)	(1,677)
Balance Carried Forward	0	0	12,828	21,029
Finance Lease Liability				
Balance Brought Forward	(12,822)	(13,038)	(105,604)	(9,638)
- Additions	0	0	(3,020)	(99,469)
- Early Lifecycle			(1,883)	
- Repayment of Principal	236	216	3,516	3,503
Balance Carried Forward	(12,586)	(12,822)	(106,991)	(105,604)

Details of Payments due to be made under PFI contracts

Year	Service Charges * £000	Principal £000	Interest # £000	Total Unitary Charge Payment £000
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	19,485	6,932	11,397	37,814
Amounts Falling Due Within 2 - 5 Years	85,927	17,558	45,182	148,667
Amounts Falling Due Within 6 - 10 Years	128,241	14,927	51,133	194,301
Amounts Falling Due Within 11 - 15 Years	144,837	26,610	46,373	217,820
Amounts Falling Due Within 16 - 20 Years	165,860	39,733	36,927	242,520
Amounts Falling Due Within 21 - 25 Years	65,591	19,590	11,924	97,105

* comprised of operating costs and lifecycle costs
# comprised of finance lease interest and contingent rental

19. LEASES

Authority as a Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has two PFI projects: the Quality in Community Services (QICS) PFI and the Waste Services PFI. The Council pays an annual unitary charge (in monthly instalments) to the contractor for the assets and services provided under each PFI contract. This annual unitary charge is comprised of two basic elements: a service element, which is expensed as incurred, and a construction element, which is accounted for as if it were a finance lease.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Buildings and Vehicles, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following amounts:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Buildings	109,050	112,695
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment (PFI)	9,294	1,480
Total	**118,344**	**114,175**

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

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Finance lease liabilities (NPV of minimum lease payments)	125,350	124,200
Finance costs payable in future years	202,936	218,707
Minimum lease payments	**328,286**	**342,907**

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Not later than one year	18,329	17,450	6,932	5,152
Later than one year and not later than five years	62,740	64,832	17,558	18,275
Later than five years	247,217	260,625	100,860	100,773
Total	**328,286**	**342,907**	**125,350**	**124,200**

The finance lease liabilities recognised on the balance sheet as “Deferred Liabilities” totals £119.576m. The analysis of the deferred liability is detailed below. Further details of the QICS and Waste PFI lease values are detailed in Note 18 Private Finance Initiative Schemes.

	QICS £000	Waste £000	Total £000
Lease liability (due within 1 year)	(257)	(6,675)	(6,932)
Lease liability (due after 1 year)	(12,329)	(100,316)	(112,645)
Total	**(12,586)**	**(106,991)**	**(119,577)**

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired vehicles and equipment by entering into operating leases, with typical lease lengths of three to seven years. The Council also has a number of land and buildings that are held under operating leases.

The minimum lease payments due for the following financial year under non-cancellable leases committed at 31 March under operating leases years are:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Expiring not later than one year	176	106
Expiring later than one year and not later than five years	530	657
Expiring later than five years	373	409
Total	**1,079**	**1,172**

The expenditure charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Lease payments	1,329	1,654
Sub Lease receivable	0	0
Total	**1,329**	**1,654**

Authority as Lessor

Operating Leases

The Council leases out property under operating leases for a variety of purposes, including:

- For the provision of community services.
- For economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for local businesses.
- For income generation as Investment Properties.

The minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases committed at 31 March under operating leases years are:

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Expiring not later than one year	172	234
Expiring later than one year and not later than five years	307	397
Expiring later than five years	1,218	1,370
Total	**1,697**	**2,001**

20. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	Long term		Current	
	31-Mar-17	31-Mar-16	31-Mar-17	31-Mar-16
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments:				
Loans and receivables	400	400	152,233	134,806
Total investments	**400**	**400**	**152,233**	**134,806**
Debtors:				
Loans and receivables	20,898	13,614	0	0
Financial assets carried at contract amounts	0	0	29,192	30,152
Total Debtors	**20,898**	**13,614**	**29,192**	**30,152**
Borrowing:				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(317,568)	(323,968)	(8,482)	(7,200)
Total Borrowings	**(317,568)**	**(323,968)**	**(8,482)**	**(7,200)**
Other Long Term Liabilities:				
PFI and finance lease liabilities	(119,577)	(118,426)	0	0
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**(119,577)**	**(118,426)**	**0**	**0**
Creditors:				
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount	(684)	(695)	(47,340)	(49,773)
Cash overdrawn	0	0	(13,150)	(11,028)
Total Creditors	**(684)**	**(695)**	**(60,490)**	**(60,801)**

The debtors figure included in the balance sheet includes payments in advance from individuals and organisations and transactions relating to Council Tax and Business Rates which are not considered to be financial instruments, therefore these prepayments have been excluded above. Similarly the creditors figure also includes transactions relating to Council Tax and Business Rates and receipts in advance which are not a financial instrument, therefore these have been excluded above. A reconciliation of the Financial Instrument figures to the Balance Sheet is provided below:

	31-Mar-17 £000	31-Mar-16 £000
Debtors:		
Financial assets carried at contract amounts as per Financial Instruments	29,192	30,152
Debtors that are not financial instruments	26,134	37,278
Total Debtors as per Balance Sheet	**55,326**	**67,430**
Creditors:		
Financial liabilities carried at contract amount as per Financial Instruments	(47,340)	(49,773)
Creditors that are not financial instruments	(20,460)	(13,012)
Total Creditors as per Balance Sheet	**(67,800)**	**(62,785)**

Soft Loans

Small Business Loans

Shropshire Council has entered into two legal contracts with MRRT Ltd to provide funding to MRRT Ltd to be used to provide small business loans. As at the balance sheet date a total of £0.750m has been loaned to MRRT Ltd.

Valuation Assumptions

The interest rate at which the fair value of this soft loan has been made is based on the PWLB rate at point at which the loan payment is made to MRRT Ltd plus 0.5% for the Council's transactional costs.

Other Soft Loans

Following a review in this area it has been identified that interest free loans with a nominal value of £2.399m are advanced to clients receiving residential/nursing care, who following assessment, are required to pay the full cost of their care. As all of the clients funds are tied up in the property they own, a legal charge is made against the property and when the property is sold the outstanding debts are cleared and the legal charge removed.

In addition, clients who are required to make adaptations to their homes to maintain their independence are also given interest free loans, the nominal value of these loans is £0.306m. A legal charge is again placed against the property and when the property is sold the amount of the loan is repaid and the legal charge removed.

The deferred charges loans are part of the Charging Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG) assessment and the adaptation loans are part of Disabled Facilities Grant legislation, which means they are part of national agreements. These loans are not part of the Councils internal policies and therefore are not classified as soft loans.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2016/17			2015/16		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables £000	Total £000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans and receivables £000	Total £000
Interest expense	27,302	0	27,302	24,433	0	24,433
Total expense in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**27,302**	**0**	**27,302**	**24,433**	**0**	**24,433**
Interest income	0	(1,974)	(1,974)	0	(2,153)	(2,153)
Interest income accrued on impaired financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**0**	**(1,974)**	**(1,974)**	**0**	**(2,153)**	**(2,153)**
Net (gain)/loss for the year	**27,302**	**(1,974)**	**25,328**	**24,433**	**(2,153)**	**22,280**

The Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities that are not Measured at Fair Value (but for which Fair Value Disclosures are Required)

Except for the financial assets carried at fair value (described in the table above), all other financial liabilities and financial assets held by the authority are classified as loans and receivables and long-term debtors and creditors and are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. The fair values calculated are as follows. The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31-Mar-17		31-Mar-16	
	Carrying amount £000	Fair value £000	Carrying amount £000	Fair value £000
Financial liabilities - LOBOS	49,200	75,571	49,200	62,659
Financial liabilities - PWLB	274,768	361,229	279,768	345,266
PFI liabilities	119,577	241,785	118,426	239,887

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

Financial Assets	31 March 2017 Carrying amount £000	31 March 2017 Fair value £000	31 March 2016 Carrying amount £000	31 March 2016 Fair value £000
Loans and receivables:				
Cash	40,000	40,000	47,480	47,480
Fixed Term Deposits	110,260	110,530	87,000	87,324
Money Market Funds	1,710	1,710	0	0
Long term debtors	20,898	20,898	7,240	7,240
Long term investments	400	400	400	400

The fair value of the assets is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. This shows a notional future gain (based on economic conditions at 31 March 2017) attributable to the commitment to receive interest below current market rates.

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

Fair value hierarchy for financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at fair value

	31=Mar-17			
Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets(Level 1) £000	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Total £000
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:				
Loans/borrowings	0	436,800	0	436,800
PFI and finance lease liabilities	0	241,785	0	241,785
Total	**0**	**678,585**	**0**	**678,585**
Financial assets				
Loans and receivables:				
Soft loans to third parties	0	0	750	750
Other loans and receivables	0	152,240	0	152,240
Total	**0**	**152,240**	**750**	**152,990**

Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1) £000	31-Mar-16 Comparative Year Other significant observable inputs (Level 2) £000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) £000	Total £000
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost:				
Long term creditors	0	407,925	0	407,925
PFI and finance lease liabilities	0	239,887	0	239,887
Total	**0**	**647,812**	**0**	**647,812**
Financial assets				
Loans and receivables:				
Soft loans to third parties	0	0	650	650
Other loans and receivables	0	134,804	0	134,804
Total	**0**	**134,804**	**650**	**135,454**

The fair value for financial liabilities and financial assets that are not measured at fair value included in levels 2 and 3 in the table above have been arrived at using a discounted cash flow analysis with the most significant inputs being the discount rate.

The fair value for financial liabilities and financial assets that are not measured at fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions.

Financial Assets	Financial Liabilities
No early repayment or impairment is recognised	No early repayment is recognised
Estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2017 of 0.10% to 0.55% for loans receivable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date	Estimated ranges of interest rates at 31 March 2017 of 0.83% to 2.60% for loans payable, based on new lending rates for equivalent loans at that date
The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount	

21. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The identification, understanding and management of risk are, by necessity, a major part of the Council's treasury management activities. The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets, and are structured to implement suitable controls to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management require the Council to manage risk in the following ways:

- By formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice;
- By the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses;
- By approving annually in advance prudential and treasury indicators for the following three years;

- By approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year.

To avoid the Council suffering loss as a result of its treasury management activities a number of risk management procedures have been put in place.

These procedures are based on the concept that firstly security of principal is paramount, secondly that there is a need to maintain liquidity and finally earning a rate of return commensurate with the first two concepts.

Credit Risk Exposure

Credit and counterparty risk is the failure by a third party to meet its contractual obligations under an investment, loan or other commitment, especially due to deterioration in its creditworthiness.

As a holder of public funds, Shropshire Council regards it a prime objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. The enhancement of returns is a secondary consideration to the reduction or minimisation of risk. Accordingly, the Council ensures that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited.

The main criteria for determining the suitability of investment counterparties is outlined in the Council's creditworthiness policy which is approved as part of the Annual Investment Strategy. The Council's lending list is reviewed continuously in conjunction with its treasury advisor and formally updated monthly. Additions to, and deletions from, the list are approved by the Section 151 Officer.

The total permitted investment in any one organisation at any one time varies with the strength of the individual credit rating. For the highest rating the maximum amount is currently limited to £30.000m.

The analysis below summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on the experience of default, adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

	Amount deposited at 31 March 2017	Historical experience of default	Historical experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 2017	Estimated maximum exposure to default and uncollectability at 31 March 2017	Estimated maximum exposure at 31 March 2017
	£000	%	%	%	£000
	A	B	C	(AxC)	
Loans and receivables held with counterparties having a default rating of:					
AAA	1,710	0.00	0.00	0	0
AA	20,000	0.01	0.03	0	0
A	72,360	0.07	0.08	0	0
BBB	10,000	0.15	0.19	0	0
Other Local Authorities	47,000	0.00	0.00	0	0
Debtors (Customers)	22,417	Local Experience	Local Experience	Local Experience	Local Experience

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

The Council generally allows its customers 30 days credit. Of the £22.417m outstanding from customers £12.246m is past its due date for payment. This amount past due date is analysed by age as follows:

Age of Debt	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Less than 3 months overdue	3,143	2,263
3 to 6 months overdue	1,544	2,618
6 months to 1 year overdue	1,458	2,277
More than 1 year overdue	6,101	5,720
	12,246	**12,878**

Liquidity Risk Exposure

Liquidity risk is the risk that cash is not available when required. This can jeopardise the ability of the Council to carry out its functions or disrupt those functions being carried out in the most cost effective manner. The Council therefore has sufficient standby facilities to ensure that there is always sufficient liquidity to deal with unexpected circumstances.

As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day to day cash flow need, and the Public Works Loan Board and money markets for access to longer term funds, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourably high interest rates. The Council's strategy therefore is to ensure that no more than 15% of loans mature in any one financial year.

In addition, all of the Council's short term liquidity requirements can be satisfied through short term borrowing and bank overdraft facilities.

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Age of Debt	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Less than 1 year	6,400	5,061
Between 1 and 2 years	6,000	6,400
Between 2 and 5 years	20,000	14,000
Between 5 and 10 years	6,600	18,600
More than ten years	284,968	284,968
	323,968	**329,029**

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that unexpected changes in interest rates expose the Council to greater costs or a shortfall in income than have been budgeted for. The Council minimises this risk by seeking expert advice on forecasts on interest rates from its Treasury Management consultants, and agreeing with them the strategy for the forthcoming year for the investment and debt portfolios. Movement of actual interest rates against these expectations is monitored continuously with advice from our treasury advisor.

The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential and treasury indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. Interest rate exposure limits and other prudential limits are set through this Strategy. The limit for variable rate debt is 50% of the total debt portfolio however the Council works to a more prudent level and maximises its exposure to 25%. As borrowings are not carried at fair value, nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings do not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

As at 31 March 2017 the Council's total outstanding debt (excluding accrued interest) amounted to £323.994m of which none of these loans were at stepped interest rates. Out of this balance £274.768m relates to fixed rate Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans, £49.200m relates to Lenders Option Borrower Option (LOBO) market loans, £0.026m relates to temporary loans for voluntary groups. As the LOBO loans have a call option where the lender can increase the rate of the loan at predetermined dates these loans are classified as variable rate loans. If the lender increases the interest rate on the LOBO loans at the predetermined date then the Council has the option to repay the loan in full thereby offering the potential for the Council to avoid this increase in interest payable.

The majority of the Council's investments are fixed rate deposits however, investments in Call Accounts are classified as variable rate investments. As at the end of March 2017, £41.710m was held in a Call Account.

Price Risk

The Council, excluding the pension fund, does not invest in equity shares or bonds, therefore is not exposed to losses arising from movements in share/bond prices.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies therefore the exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates is zero.

22. DEBTORS

These are sums of money due to the Council but unpaid at 31 March 2017.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Central Government Bodies	6,944	7,923
Other Local Authorities	1,941	2,228
NHS Bodies	4,593	6,044
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	0	4
Other Entities and Individuals	29,020	30,202
Waste PFI Prepayments	12,828	21,029
	55,326	**67,430**

23. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Bank current accounts	26,741	32,480
Short term deposits with building societies	66,492	43,476
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**93,233**	**75,956**
Bank Overdraft	(13,150)	(11,028)
Cash Overdrawn	**(13,150)**	**(11,028)**

24. CREDITORS

These are amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered which had not been paid by 31 March 2017.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Central Government Bodies	(10,750)	(5,281)
Other Local Authorities	(2,147)	(1,566)
NHS Bodies	(2,680)	(2,265)
Public Corporations and Trading Funds	0	0
Other Entities and Individuals	(52,223)	(53,673)
	(67,800)	**(62,785)**

25. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	0	0
Major Repairs Reserve	2,369	2,802
Reserves	63,860	60,841
Capital Grants Unapplied Account	11,574	6,612
HRA Balance	9,031	5,823
General Fund Balance	14,698	18,370
Total Usable Reserves	**101,532**	**94,448**

26. UNUSABLE RESERVES

	31 March 2017 £000	31 March 2016 £000
Revaluation Reserve	158,153	136,248
Capital Adjustment Account	594,146	584,836
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(4,964)	(5,284)
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	715	740
Pensions Reserve	(461,828)	(388,736)
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	4,561	(1,515)
Accumulated Absences Account	(2,488)	(2,165)
Total Unusable Reserves	**288,295**	**324,124**

Revaluation Reserve

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**136,248**	**121,439**
Upward revaluation of assets	39,035	29,446
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,941)	(5,576)
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**35,094**	**23,870**
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical depreciation	(5,658)	(3,604)
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	(7,531)	(5,457)
Other transfers to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	**(13,189)**	**(9,061)**
Balance at 31 March	**158,153**	**136,248**

Capital Adjustment Account

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**584,836**	**605,297**
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(39,916)	(49,906)
- Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	29,142	(3,569)
- Amortisation of intangible assets	(161)	(318)
- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(11,298)	(10,760)
- Amounts of non current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss of disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(41,192)	(25,536)
	(63,425)	**(90,089)**
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	**13,189**	**9,061**
Net written out amount of the cost of non current assets consumed in the year	**(50,236)**	**(81,028)**
Capital financing applied in the year:		
- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	5,184	4,213
- Use of the Major Repairs Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	3,982	3,273
- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	33,689	34,163
- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	216	464
- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	8,009	12,268
- Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund and HRA balances	7,706	2,265
	58,786	**56,646**
Movements in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**760**	**3,921**
Balance at 31 March	**594,146**	**584,836**

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**(5,284)**	**(5,603)**
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements.	315	315
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	5	4
Balance at 31 March	**(4,964)**	**(5,284)**

Pensions Reserve

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**(388,736)**	**(407,792)**
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(61,785)	35,144
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(31,532)	(36,529)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	20,225	20,441
Balance at 31 March	**(461,828)**	**(388,736)**

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**740**	**772**
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0	0
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(25)	(32)
Balance at 31 March	**715**	**740**

Collection Fund Adjustment Account

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**(1,515)**	**1,259**
Amount by which council tax and non-domestic rates income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax and non-domestic rates income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	6,076	(2,774)
Balance at 31 March	**4,561**	**(1,515)**

Accumulated Absences Account

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Balance at 1 April	**(2,165)**	**(3,211)**
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	2,165	3,211
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(2,488)	(2,165)
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	**(323)**	**1,046**
Balance at 31 March	**(2,488)**	**(2,165)**

27. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – RECONCILIATION OF NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT TO THE MOVEMENT ON REVENUE ACTIVITIES

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Surplus/(Deficit) for year per Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	**(2,054)**	**(31,501)**
Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements		
Depreciation	39,915	49,906
Impairment and downward valuations	(29,142)	3,569
Amortisation	161	317
Impairment losses on Loans & advances debited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services in year	5	7
Increase/Decrease in Interest Creditors	(83)	(113)
Increase/Decrease in Creditors	(3,028)	9,384
Increase/Decrease in Interest and Dividend Debtors	63	(171)
Increase/Decrease in Debtors	9,055	6,894
Increase/Decrease in Inventories	16	170
Pension Liability	11,307	16,088
Contributions to/(from) Provisions	(1,861)	193
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	40,694	25,179
Movement in Investment Property Values	(760)	(3,921)
	66,342	**107,502**
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities		
Carrying amount of short and long term investment sold	(213)	(16,949)
Capital Grants credited to surplus or deficit on the provision of services	(38,866)	(37,284)
Proceeds from the sale of property plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(5,786)	(4,822)
	(44,865)	**(59,055)**
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**19,423**	**16,946**

28. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Interest received	(2,037)	(1,981)
Interest paid	27,380	24,540

29. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	44,393	31,111
Other payments for investing activities	8,330	7,192
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(25)	(32)
Other receipts from investing activities*	(47,921)	(42,929)
Net cash flows from investing activities	**4,777**	**(4,658)**

* This includes capital grants received in year.

30. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on balance sheet PFI contracts	3,753	3,719
Repayments of short and long term borrowing	5,046	8,812
Other payments for financing activities*	(9,308)	2,357
Net cash flows from financing activities	**(509)**	**14,888**

* Represents change in value of NNDR debtor/creditor

31. TRADING OPERATIONS

The Council has 19 trading units where the service manager is required to operate in a commercial environment and balance their budget by generating income from other parts of the Council or other organisations. Details of these units with a turnover of greater than £5m in 2016/17 are as follows:

		2016/17		2015/16 (Restated)	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Shire Services operates as a trading organisation within the Council, delivering catering and cleaning services. Shire Services provides catering services to schools in Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Telford and North Wales, as well as to a range of non-school sites in Shropshire. Cleaning services are provided to schools and other Council premises in Shropshire, including the Area Headquarters.	Turnover	(15,828)		(15,375)	
	Expenditure	16,244		15,754	
	(Surplus)/ Deficit		**416**		**380**
Shropshire County Training – This trading organisation ceased on 30/04/2016	Turnover	(318)		(5,481)	
	Expenditure	723		7,293	
	(Surplus)/ Deficit		**405**		**1,812**
The consolidated results of the other 17 of the Council's 19 trading units are	Turnover	(35,369)		(40,169)	
	Expenditure	34,081		41,863	
	(Surplus)/ Deficit		**(1,288)**		**1,694**
Net Surplus on Trading Activities			**(467)**		**3,886**

32. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Basic Allowances	849	846
Special Responsibility Allowances	290	282
Expenses	52	53
Total	**1,191**	**1,181**

33. OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

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

Post Holder Information (Post Title & Name)		Salary	Expense Allowances	Total excl. pension contributions	Employers # Pension contributions	Total incl. pension contributions
Chief Executive	2016/17	£124,976	£0	£127,476	£17,209	£144,685
	2015/16	£101,466	£0	£101,466	£13,698	£115,164
Director of Adult Services (started January 2016)	2016/17	£99,929	£0	£99,929	£13,490	£113,419
	2015/16	£20,214	£0	£20,214	£2,729	£22,943
Director of Adult Services (left January 2016)	2016/17	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	2015/16	£81,383	£0	£81,383	£10,628	£92,011
Director of Children's Services	2016/17	£99,929	£0	£99,929	£13,490	£113,419
	2015/16	£98,940	£0	£98,940	£13,357	£112,297
Director of Place & Enterprise	2016/17	£99,929	£0	£99,929	£13,490	£113,419
	2015/16	£98,940	£0	£98,940	£13,357	£112,297
Director of Public Health ^	2016/17	£101,426	£0	£101,426	£14,504	£115,930
	2015/16	£98,781	£0	£98,781	£14,431	£113,212
Director of Resources and Support (left December 2015)*	2016/17	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	2015/16	£69,378	£0	£69,378	£9,264	£78,642
Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Monitoring Officer	2016/17	£98,667	£0	£98,667	£13,320	£111,987
	2015/16	£97,838	£0	£97,838	£13,208	£111,046
Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance, S151 Officer°	2016/17	£97,416	£0	£97,416	£13,151	£110,567
	2015/16	£96,600	£0	£96,600	£13,041	£109,641
Head of Human Resource & Development (reports to Chief Executive from January 2016)	2016/17	£82,416	£0	£82,416	£11,126	£93,542
	2015/16	£20,400	£0	£20,400	£2,754	£23,154

The Council's pension contributions have now been split between a standard percentage contribution and a lump sum for the Council. As a result the standard percentage per person has decreased and the lump sum payment cannot be allocated to specific individuals.

^ An element of the total remuneration paid to the Director of Public Health was recharged to Herefordshire Council (£66,300) to reflect the shared arrangement for the Director of Public Health role.

* An element of the total remuneration paid to the Director of Resources & Support was recharged to ip&e Ltd (£78,642) to reflect the secondment arrangement during 2015/16. The Director Of Resources & Support also received a compromise agreement payment of £23,900 during 2015/16 in accordance with the Council's policy.

° An element of the total remuneration paid to the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance is recharged to Shropshire County Pension Fund (£6,500), Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority (£17,020), West Mercia Energy (£4,000), and Marches LEP (£4,503.95) to reflect the various treasurer roles undertaken within those organisations.

The numbers of officers whose remuneration exceeded £50,000 is analysed into bands of £5,000 as follows. The remuneration disclosed below includes salary costs, expense allowances and claims for reimbursement of expenses:

Salaried Remuneration Band £	2016/17 No. of Employees	2015/16 No. of Employees
50,000 - 54,999	76	78
55,000 - 59,999	40	46
60,000 - 64,999	27	26
65,000 - 69,999	12	15
70,000 - 74,999	6	3
75,000 - 79,999	4	5
80,000 - 84,999	5	9
85,000 - 89,999	5	6
90,000 - 94,999	1	0
95,000 - 99,999	3	4
100,000 - 104,999	4	3
105,000 - 109,999	2	1

The numbers of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the exit packages, including redundancy payments, pension strain and unpaid leave are set out in the table below. The figures disclosed include exit packages for schools and the Council.

	No. of compulsory redundancies		No. of other departures agreed		Total no of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band £000	
	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16
£0 - £20,000	68	102	69	106	137	208	980	1,240
£20,001 - £40,000	5	9	21	13	26	22	734	566
£40,001 - £60,000	2	0	3	12	5	12	235	616
£60,001 - £100,000	3	3	2	11	5	14	391	1,024
£100,001 +	1	0	5	6	6	6	1,172	725
	79	114	100	148	179	262	3,512	4,171

34. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Fees payable to external audit with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	134	134
Fees payable to external audit for the certification of grant claims and returns	12	14
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the external audit during the year	9	21
Total	**155**	**169**

35. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Department for Education (DfE), the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools' Budget. The Schools' Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on a Council-wide basis and for the Individual Schools' Budget (ISB), which is divided into a budget share for each school.

Details of the deployment of DSG for 2016/17 are as follows:

	Central Expenditure £000	ISB £000	Total £000
Final DSG for 2016/17 before Academy recoupment	35,775	153,047	188,822
Central provision with Schools and De-delegated Budgets	4,171	(4,171)	0
Early Years Maintained Settings included in ISB on S251	(2,712)	2,712	0
Re-Allocation of High Needs to ISB	(2,224)	2,224	0
High Needs Commissioned Places	(6,242)	6,242	0
High Needs Recoupment	0	(4,362)	(4,362)
Academy figure recouped for 2016/17	0	(52,623)	(52,623)
Total DSG after Academy recoupment for 2016/17	**28,768**	**103,069**	**131,837**
Plus: Brought forward from 2015/16	3,546	(1,019)	2,527
Less: Carry forward to 2017/18 agreed in advance	0	0	0
Agreed budgeted distribution in 2016/17	**32,314**	**102,050**	**134,364**
In year adjustments	0	11	11
Final budgeted distribution in 2016/17	**32,314**	**102,061**	**134,375**
Less: Actual central expenditure	(30,169)	0	(30,169)
Less: Actual ISB deployed to schools	0	(100,402)	(100,402)
Early Years PVI included in ISB on S251	0	(2,563)	(2,563)
Plus: Local authority contribution for 2016/17	0	0	0
Carry forward to 2017/18	**2,145**	**(904)**	**1,241**

36. GRANT INCOME

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

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
Revenue Support Grant	(31,566)	(43,760)
Local Services Support Grant	(184)	(241)
New Homes Bonus	(9,328)	(7,505)
Council Tax Freeze Grant	0	(1,325)
Business Rates Relief Grant	(3,054)	(3,673)
Rural Service Support Grant	(6,573)	0
Transitional Grant	(576)	0
Capital Grants & contributions	(31,597)	(27,663)
Total	**(82,878)**	**(84,167)**
Credited to Services		
DWP Housing Benefit	(68,343)	(68,100)
DWP Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit Admin Subsidy	(1,166)	(1,346)
DCLG Waste PFI	(3,186)	(3,186)
DCLG Social Services PFI	(1,523)	(1,523)
DFE Dedicated Schools Grant	(133,134)	(135,284)
DFE/DE Sixth Forms funding	(1,844)	(2,029)
DFE Pupil Premium Grant	(6,259)	(6,591)
DFE UFSM	(2,828)	(3,128)
DFE PE & Sports	(1,040)	(1,052)
Education Services Grant	(2,485)	(2,828)
DoH Public Health Grant	(12,628)	(11,032)
DfT Local Sustainable Transport	0	0
DCLG/DoH Adult Social Care New Burdens	0	(2,008)
Independent Living Fund Grant	(1,665)	(1,315)
Other Grants	(4,231)	(6,711)
Capital Grants & contributions	(7,269)	(9,622)
Donated Assets	0	0
Total	**(247,601)**	**(255,755)**

The Council has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

	31-Mar-17 £000	31-Mar-16 £000
Current Liabilities		
Grants Receipts in Advance (Capital Grants)		
Department of Transport	(668)	0
Department for Education	(822)	(8)
Environment Agency	(774)	(45)
Other Grants & Contributions	(103)	(61)
Total	**(2,367)**	**(114)**
Grants Receipts in Advance (Revenue Grants)		
EFA Designated Schools Grant	(1,241)	(2,527)
DWP Housing Benefit Subsidy	0	(1,418)
CLG Tackling Troubled Families	(915)	(650)
Standards Fund	(251)	(354)
SEN Reform	(402)	(523)
Homelessness	(22)	(36)
Arts Council	(283)	(245)
CLG Social Services PFI	(210)	(210)
Police & Crime Commissioner - CCTV	(87)	(189)
Bus Services Operator Grant	(512)	0
Other Grants	(712)	(774)
Total	**(4,635)**	**(6,926)**
TOTAL	**(7,002)**	**(7,040)**

37. PENSION SCHEMES ACCOUNTED FOR AS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Teachers employed by the Council are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education. The scheme is technically a defined benefits scheme. However the Scheme is unfunded and the Department of Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The scheme has in excess of 3,700 participating employers and consequently the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2016/17, the Council paid £8.532m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits. The contribution rate for 2016/17 was 16.48%. The figures for 2015/16 were £8.232m and 16.48%. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year end.

Public Health employees previously employed by the NHS are covered by the provisions of the NHS Pensions Scheme. The scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme that covers NHS employers, GP practices and other bodies, allowed under the direction of the Secretary of State, in England and Wales. The scheme is not designed to be run in a way that would enable NHS bodies to identify their share of the underlying scheme assets and liabilities. Therefore, the scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

In 2016/17, the Council paid £0.122m to the NHS Pensions Scheme in respect of public health employee retirement benefits, representing 14.3% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2015/16 were £0.123m and 14.0%.

38. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEMES

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Shropshire Council is a funded defined benefit scheme. This means that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, which is invested in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

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 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/HRA Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
Cost of Services:		
- current service cost	(19,537)	(23,075)
- past service gain/(cost)	(11)	(8)
- curtailment gain/(cost)	1,135	(169)
	(18,413)	**(23,252)**
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:		
- net interest expense	(13,119)	(12,624)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	**(31,532)**	**(35,876)**

Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
- return on plan assets	148,280	(24,276)
- experience (gain)/loss	7,396	0
- actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	19,020	0
- actuarial gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(236,481)	59,420
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	**(93,317)**	**(732)**
Movement in Reserves Statement		
- reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	31,532	35,876
Actual amount charged against the Fund Balances for pensions in the year:		
- employers' contributions payable to scheme	(20,225)	(20,441)

Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(1,317,633)	(1,085,538)
Fair value of plan assets	855,805	696,802
Net liability arising from defined benefit obligation	**(461,828)**	**(388,736)**

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

	Local Government Pension Scheme 2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets at 1 April	696,802	707,041
Interest income	24,264	22,604
Remeasurement gain/(loss):		
Return on plan assets excluding the amount included in the net interest expense	148,280	(24,276)
Contributions from employer	20,225	20,441
Contributions from employees into the scheme	5,056	5,324
Benefits paid	(38,191)	(34,728)
Other	(631)	396
Closing fair value of scheme assets at 31 March	**855,805**	**696,802**

Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17	2015/16
	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	(1,085,538)	(1,114,833)
Current Service Cost	(19,047)	(22,649)
Interest Cost	(37,383)	(35,228)
Contributions from scheme participants	(5,056)	(5,324)
Remeasurement gain/(loss):		
Experience gains/losses	7,396	0
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	19,020	0
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(236,481)	59,420
Other	0	0
Past service costs	(11)	(8)
Losses/(gains) on curtailment	(1,817)	(1,221)
Benefits paid	38,191	34,728
Liabilities extinguished on settlements	3,093	1,658
Other	0	(2,081)
Closing balance at 31 March	**(1,317,633)**	**(1,085,538)**

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

Assets in the Shropshire County Pension Fund consist of the following categories:

	2016/17	2015/16
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	**19,170**	**11,985**
Equity investments:		
UK quoted	70,860	52,259
Global quoted	397,094	303,527
Sub-total equity	**467,954**	**355,786**
Bonds:		
UK Government fixed	0	0
UK Government indexed	0	77,415
Government	0	0
Overseas Global Fixed Income	51,691	0
PIMCO (Global Investment grade credit)	0	50,797
PIMCO (Global Absolute return bond fund)	126,745	51,076
Sub-total bonds	**178,436**	**179,288**

Property:		
Property funds	38,083	37,279
Sub-total property	**38,083**	**37,279**
Alternatives:		
Private Equity	37,655	30,520
Infrastructure	20,539	10,313
Hedge Funds	58,794	71,631
BMO - LDI Manager	35,174	0
Sub-total alternatives	**152,162**	**112,464**
Total assets	**855,805**	**696,802**

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 is dependent on assumptions about mortality rate, salary levels and other variables.

The Council element of the Fund liabilities has been assessed by Mercer Human Resource Consulting Limited, an independent firm of actuaries. Estimates for the Council element of the Fund are based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2016.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2016/17	**2015/16**
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	23.9yrs	23.9 yrs
Women	26.4yrs	26.3 yrs
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	26.2yrs	26.1 yrs
Women	29.2yrs	29.1 yrs
Rate of inflation	2.3%	2.0%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.8%	3.5%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.3%	2.0%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.5%	3.5%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme	
	Increase in Assumption £000	Decrease in Assumption £000
Longevity (increase or decrease in 1 year)	1,343,731	1,291,535
Rate of inflation (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	1,339,345	1,295,921
Rate of increase in salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	1,320,957	1,314,309
Rate of increase in pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	1,339,345	1,295,921
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	1,296,273	1,338,993

Techniques Employed to Manage Risk

The Shropshire County Pension Fund does not hold an Asset & Liability Matching Strategy however does use other techniques to manage risks within the Fund. The Fund's primary long term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits to pay members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price, currency and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. Further details of the market, credit and liquidity risk management are detailed in Note 16 of the Shropshire County Pension Fund Annual Report.

Impact on the Council's Cash Flows

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Council has agreed a strategy with the scheme's actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 22 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis. The next triennial valuation is due to be completed on 31 March 2019.

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

The Council anticipated to pay £21.416m expected contributions to the scheme in 2017/18.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 16 years for 2016/17 (18 years 2015/16).

39. RELATED PARTIES

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

Central Government
Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, being responsible for the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding through the payment of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties. Details of transactions with Government departments appear in other parts of the Statement of Accounts.

Members and Officers
Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. Certain senior officers may also be in a position to influence policies, particularly those who form the Council's management team. All Council members and senior officers have been contacted, advising them of their obligations and asking for any declarations of related party transactions to be disclosed. Members are also asked to confirm that their entries in their Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests are correct.

The Council has made payments to a number of outside organisations on which it is represented by members. The total amount of payments to these bodies in 2016/17 was £23.535m compared with £24.741m for 2015/16.

Councillors are often members of other public or charitable organisations in their own capacity, or are employed by organisations that we process transactions with. These relationships are declared within the Members' register. The Council has made payments of £3.191m to organisations where members and senior officers are employed and £2.170m to organisations where members and senior officers occupy positions in their own capacity.

The Council also makes contract payments to bodies that members or senior officers may have a beneficial interest in. A total of £0.678m has been made in contract payments to such organisations.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council
As administrator for the pension fund, the Council has control of the fund within the overall statutory framework. The Council received £1.173m from the pension fund for the costs of administration it provided in 2016/17 compared with £0.977m for 2015/16.

The Council also has group relationships with West Mercia Energy, Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing and IP&E Ltd. Further detail on the type of relationship held with each company is considered in more detail under the Group Accounts section which begins on page 108.

40. MARCHES LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council and Herefordshire Council are Partners within the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership. The Partnership was launched in 2010 to create conditions for economic vitality and sustainable employment across the regions represented by the 3 Councils.

The Partnership is not a partnership in law, nor a formal decision making body, and does not have the power to bind the three Councils. The accountable body for the Marches LEP is Shropshire Council and all funding and transactions are processed through Shropshire Council's accounts. Shropshire Council's role within these transactions is deemed to be an agent, acting as an intermediary on behalf of the 3 Councils, therefore Shropshire Council accounts do not include the total income and expenditure for the Marches LEP. Instead, each Council within the Marches LEP will include any funding received from the Marches LEP and expenditure incurred in relation to LEP projects within their accounts. Accordingly any cash balances held by Shropshire Council in relation to the LEP is represented by a creditor within the Council's accounts.

Detailed below are the total funding received and expenditure paid out (cash) by Shropshire Council by 31st March in relation to the Marches LEP including the net creditor within Shropshire Council's balance sheet.

	2016/17		2015/16	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Creditor 01 April		**(16,848)**		**(8,765)**
Funding Received:				
Growth Deal	(30,023)		(12,800)	
DfT South Wye Package	0		(2,146)	
Growth Hub	(205)		(250)	
Core Funding	(450)		(250)	
Capacity Funding	(260)		(250)	
Careers & Enterprise	(79)		0	
Match Funding – Partner Contributions	(115)		(121)	
Marches Investment Fund	(165)		(120)	
Interest on Balances	(185)		(101)	
		(31,482)		(16,038)
Expenditure:				
Growth Deal Projects	36,889		6,866	
Growth Hub	208		247	
Capacity Funding Projects	159		504	
Careers & Enterprise	2		0	
Marches Investment Fund Expenditure	675		49	
LEP Management Costs	573		289	
		38,506		7,955
Marches LEP Creditor		**(9,824)**		**(16,848)**

41. BETTER CARE FUND

Shropshire Council and Shropshire CCG are partners in the provision of a range of services including support to hospital admission avoidance, hospital discharge planning, carers support and housing. Joint arrangements of this type are permitted under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

The aims and benefits of the Partners in entering in to this Agreement are to:
- improve the quality and efficiency of the Services;
- meet the National Conditions and Local Objectives as set out in the Better Care Fund plan;
- make more effective use of resources through the establishment and maintenance of an aligned fund for revenue expenditure on the Services;

Financing	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Funding provided to the pooled Budget:		
Shropshire Council	3,431	2,155
Shropshire CCG	19,302	19,596
	22,733	**21,751**
Expenditure met from the pooled Budget:		
Shropshire Council	10,914	10,149
Shropshire CCG	11,457	11,453
	22,371	**21,602**
Net underspend arising on the pooled budget during the year	**362**	**149**

42. TRUST ACCOUNTS

Funds held in Trust Accounts are not available for the Council's use. The Council supports the work of a number of trusts including:

Trust	Purpose	Income £	Expenditure £	Assets £	Liabilities £
Shropshire Youth Foundation	Supports the development of under 25 year old residents in Shropshire through their leisure time activities.	(9,328)	11,330	239,346	0
Shropshire Schools Jubilee Trust	General fund to support the learning needs of children and young people either living or studying in Shropshire.	(4,162)	6,313	166,461	0
Rosalie Inskip Music Trust	Supports excellence in music for young people living in Shropshire.	(7,476)	2,450	335,768	0
Priory Educational Trust	Charitable trust to support ex-pupils of Priory Boys School.	(1,077)	500	62,557	0

Trust	Purpose	Income £	Expenditure £	Assets £	Liabilities £
Lyneal Trust	A charity that offers canal and canal side holidays for people with disabilities, their family and friends.	(142,167)	40,725	572,000	(12,658)
Sight Loss Shropshire	A charity that helps and supports blind and visually impaired people in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin	(115,051)	42,880	564,294	(5,619)

Accounts are prepared and published for these organisations, Shropshire Council is not the only trustee and turnover is not material.

Trusts deliver great benefit into the local community and make a valuable contribution but the Council itself does not derive benefit from them.

43. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 31 March 2017 Council had the identified the following contingent liabilities:

There are a number of legal cases outstanding that may result in future costs for the Council. These include:

- Numerous potential Article 5 claims for unlawful deprivations of liberty
- Article 8 claims by children accommodated when applications for a Care Order should have been made.
- Planning Inquiries
- Judicial Reviews for planning permission
- Costs awarded against the Council in Barnsley Judicial Review.
- Costs awarded against the Council in the DOLs Judicial Review.
- Potential litigation to seek an injunction to prevent a sale of land in breach of covenant.
- Potential planning enforcement cases where there is the possibility that we will need to do the works and try to recover the costs.

The Council has provided guarantees to a number of Community Bodies that have been admitted to the Shropshire County Pension Fund, to fund any potential pension liabilities. The bodies who currently have employees who are active members of the scheme are

- Age UK Telford & Wrekin (£0.056m),
- ALC (£0.045m),
- Coverage Care (£0.461m),
- South Shropshire Leisure Ltd (£0.048m),
- South Shropshire Housing Association (£0.130m),
- Energize Shropshire Telford & Wrekin (Grouped with Shropshire Council) and
- The Strettons Mayfair Trust (Grouped with Shropshire Council)

Age UK has 8 active members, 21 pensioners and 14 deferred members; ALC has 2 active members and 1 pensioner member. The guarantee for Coverage Care Ltd covers staff Tupe'd to them in a contract entered into 1 March 1997, they have 14 active members, 119 pensioners, 41 deferred members and 6 dependants. Coverage Care also entered into a further contract on 13 January 2013, in which the staff Tupe'd over from Shropshire Council, they have 31 active members, 9 deferred members, 7 pensioners and 1 dependant. South Shropshire District Council offered a guarantee to South Shropshire Leisure Ltd and South Shropshire Housing Association which transferred to Shropshire Council on 1 April 2009. These Employers have jointly 24 active members, 17 pensioners, 26 deferred members and 3 dependant. .The guarantee for Energize Shropshire Telford & Wrekin covers staff Tupe'd to them on 1 January 2013, they have 2 active members. The Guarantee for Strettons Mayfair Trust covers staff Tupe'd to them on 1 December 2015, they have 2 active members. These do not therefore represent a significant potential liability for the Council. The Council has also provided guarantees to Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing within the Shropshire County Pension Fund to fund any potential pension liabilities. The Council has also agreed for 2 Admission Bodies; Bethphage and Enterprise South West Shropshire who are both contracting to run services under contract, to be grouped with the Council for accounting purposes. This means all Pension assets and liabilities stay with the Council for these bodies.

The Council has entered into six "Funding and Development Agreements" with a Development Trust for construction of supported living properties. Under these agreements the Development Trust has provided the Council with funding totalling £2.696m for the construction of a supported living property at each site. The contributions will be repayable if the properties cease to be used as supported living properties or the Council fails to conform to the stipulated conditions of the contract within a period of 30 years from when the properties are first occupied.

The Council has made a provision for NDR Appeals based upon its best estimates of the actual liability as at the year-end in known appeals. It is not possible to quantify appeals that have not yet been lodged with the Valuation Office so there is a risk to the Council that national and local appeals may have a future impact on the accounts.

44. CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Council currently has a number of appeals lodged with HMRC with regard to VAT treatment, which may result in a reimbursement to the Council of VAT paid over to the Government. The specific cases include a compound interest claim, claims for postal services, leisure and cultural exemptions. There is also an appeal lodged with HMRC with regard to Land Fill Tax.

These claims for reimbursement are subject to legal cases being pursued nationally and if successful will provide legal precedent to be applied. Timescales on these cases are uncertain but should be progressed in the next 12-24 months.

Section 6
Group Accounts

Introduction

This document presents the statutory financial statements for the Shropshire Council Group for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 (The Code) published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The aim of the Group Accounts is to provide the reader with an overall view of the material economic activities of the Council.

In common with many other local authorities, the Council uses different forms of service delivery, where this is appropriate. In some cases it has created separate companies with its partners to deliver those services. The use of separate companies mean that the Council's single entity financial statements on their own do not fully reflect the assets and liabilities or income and expenditure associated with all of its activities. The Group Accounts more fully reflect the overall financial picture. A review of all of the Council's relationships with other bodies has been carried out to consider whether it is appropriate to prepare full group accounts. The transactions involved are not considered material to the Council's accounts however the Council has decided to provide a full disclosure in terms of bodies that it has a relationship with.

The single entity accounting policies detailed on pages 27-47 have been adopted and applied for group account purposes.

The pages which follow contain the Group's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, with comparative figures for the previous financial year.

IP&E LIMITED

IP&E Ltd is a trading company wholly owned by Shropshire Council. It was established to provide public services on the council's behalf and also to trade with other organisations. The company was incorporated on 30 May 2012. On 17 February 2016, Cabinet agreed to bring the Council's relationship with ip&e Ltd to an end and terminate the strategic contract between the two parties. It was also agreed to terminate the service contracts between the Council and ip&e Ltd with effect from 31 March 2016. In its role as sole shareholder, the Cabinet agreed that ip&e Ltd should cease trading as soon as possible and take necessary actions to remove the company from the companies register. Whilst trading ceased on 31 March 2016, liabilities and commitments remain that need to be resolved before the company can formally apply to be dissolved and removed from the companies register and therefore financial transactions were incurred in the 2016/17 financial year and further financial transactions will be incurred in 2017/18.

IP&E Ltd has been included within the accounts as a subsidiary under the requirements of IFRS 10 (Consolidated Financial Statements) and IAS 27 (Separate Financial Statements) by means of a line-by-line consolidation of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet. Figures have been consolidated based on the audited statement of accounts for 31st March 2017. For 2016/17 IP&E Ltd had total income of £0.020m, total expenditure of £0.052m, assets of £0.018m and liabilities of £0.001m.

SHROPSHIRE TOWNS & RURAL HOUSING LIMITED

Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Limited (the Company) is a private company limited by guarantee wholly owned by Shropshire Council (the Council). The Company was formed as an Arm's Length Management Organisation under Section 27 of the Housing Act 1985 to undertake the management and maintenance of Shropshire Council's retained housing stock from 1st April 2013.

Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Limited has been included within the accounts as a subsidiary under the requirements of IFRS 10 (Consolidated Financial Statements) and IAS 27 (Separate Financial Statements) by means of a line-by-line consolidation of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet. For 2016/17 Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Limited had total income of £13.838m, total expenditure of £13.311m, assets of £4.714m and liabilities of £5.134m.

WEST MERCIA ENERGY

West Mercia Energy (WME) is a Purchasing Consortium that was established as a Joint Committee under s101 of the Local Government Act 1972. Shropshire Council is one of four constituent Authorities, the other three Councils are Worcestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and the Telford & Wrekin Council.

Shropshire Council has reviewed in detail the accounting treatment that should be applied to WME within this Council. The Council considers that WME should be accounted for as a Joint Venture (under IFRS11 - Joint Arrangements and IAS 28 – Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures) with specific regard to the independence that West Mercia Energy has to pursue its own commercial strategy in buying and selling and has access to the market in its own right for its main inputs and outputs.

Shropshire Council's share of West Mercia Energy' balances is 25.5%. The company has been incorporated into the Group Accounts using the Equity method. Figures have been consolidated based on draft statement of accounts for 31st March 2017. For 2016/17 West Mercia Energy had total income of £57.429m, total expenditure of £58.502m, assets of £12.666m and liabilities of £17.725m.

The Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

2015/16 (Restated) Group Expenditure £000		2016/17 SC Net Expenditure £000	Adjustments £000	Group Expenditure £000
	Expenditure on Continuing Services			
78,972	Adult Services	84,874	0	84,874
(3,386)	Local Authority Housing	(8,172)	(580)	(8,752)
0	Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings	(28,230)	0	(28,230)
50,032	Children's Services	53,065	0	53,065
85,503	Place & Enterprise	77,794	0	77,794
7,115	Public Health	6,038	0	6,038
4,440	Resources & Support	3,932	0	3,932
5,659	Corporate	1,928	539	2,467
228,335	**Net Cost of Services**	**191,229**	**(41)**	**191,188**
28,667	Other Operating Expenditure	43,159	0	43,159
33,786	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	36,240	116	36,356
(259,387)	Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	(268,574)	0	(268,574)
31,402	**(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services**	**2,054**	**75**	**2,129**
(572)	Associates & Joint Ventures Accounted for on an equity basis	0	(302)	(302)
	Tax expenses of subsidiaries	0	7	7
30,829	**Group (Surplus)/Deficit**	**2,054**	**(220)**	**1,834**
(26,901)	(Surplus) or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	(35,853)	0	(35,853)
3,031	Impairment losses on Non-Current Assets Charged to the Revaluation Reserve	759	0	759
(36,359)	Remeasurement of pension assets and liabilities	61,785	1,774	63,559
(60,229)	**Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**	**26,691**	**1,774**	**28,465**
(29,400)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**	**28,745**	**1,554**	**30,299**

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Total General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2016	**18,370**	**60,841**	**79,211**	**5,823**	**2,802**	**6,612**	**94,448**	**324,124**	**418,572**	**(145)**	**418,427**
Movement in reserves during 2016/17											
Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(23,851)	0	(23,851)	34,246	0	0	10,395	0	10,395	(12,229)	(1,834)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(26,691)	(26,691)	(1,774)	(28,465)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(23,851)**	**0**	**(23,851)**	**34,246**	**0**	**0**	**10,395**	**(26,691)**	**(16,296)**	**(14,003)**	**(30,299)**
Adjustments between Group Accounts and authority accounts	(12,449)	0	(12,449)	0	0	0	(12,449)	0	(12,449)	12,449	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers	**(36,300)**	**0**	**(36,300)**	**34,246**	**0**	**0**	**(2,054)**	**(26,691)**	**(28,745)**	**(1,554)**	**(30,299)**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	35,647	0	35,647	(31,038)	(433)	4,962	9,138	(9,138)	0	4	4
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	**(653)**	**0**	**(653)**	**3,208**	**(433)**	**4,962**	**7,084**	**(35,829)**	**(28,745)**	**(1,550)**	**(30,295)**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(3,019)	3,019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in 2016/17	**(3,672)**	**3,019**	**(653)**	**3,208**	**(433)**	**4,962**	**7,084**	**(35,829)**	**(28,745)**	**(1,550)**	**(30,295)**
Balance at 31 March 2017	**14,698**	**63,860**	**78,558**	**9,031**	**2,369**	**11,574**	**101,532**	**288,295**	**389,827**	**(1,694)**	**388,133**

2015/16 Comparative Figures	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Total General Fund Balance £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied Account £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Balance at 31 March 2015	**15,206**	**55,027**	**70,233**	**3,076**	**1,635**	**3,954**	**78,898**	**312,161**	**391,059**	**(2,043)**	**389,016**
Movement in reserves during 2015/16											
Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(23,010)	0	(23,010)	496	0	0	(22,514)	0	(22,514)	(8,313)	(30,827)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,014	59,014	1,215	60,229
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(23,010)**	**0**	**(23,010)**	**496**	**0**	**0**	**(22,514)**	**59,014**	**36,500**	**(7,098)**	**29,402**
Adjustments between Group Accounts and authority accounts	(8,987)	0	(8,987)	0	0	0	(8,987)	0	(8,987)	8,987	0
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers	**(31,997)**	**0**	**(31,997)**	**496**	**0**	**0**	**(31,501)**	**59,014**	**27,513**	**1,889**	**29,402**
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	40,975	0	40,975	2,251	1,167	2,658	47,051	(47,051)	0	9	9
Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	**8,978**	**0**	**8,978**	**2,747**	**1,167**	**2,658**	**15,550**	**11,963**	**27,513**	**1,898**	**29,411**
Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	(5,814)	5,814	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/Decrease in 2015/16	**3,164**	**5,814**	**8,978**	**2,747**	**1,167**	**2,658**	**15,550**	**11,963**	**27,513**	**1,898**	**29,411**
Balance at 31 March 2016	**18,370**	**60,841**	**79,211**	**5,823**	**2,802**	**6,612**	**94,448**	**324,124**	**418,572**	**(145)**	**418,427**

Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts in the Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Major Repairs Reserve £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures £000	Total Authority Reserves £000
Purchase of goods and services from subsidiaries	12,449	0	0	0	12,449	0	12,449	(12,449)	0
Total adjustments between Group Accounts and authority accounts	**12,449**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12,449**	**0**	**12,449**	**(12,449)**	**0**

Group Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017

31 March 2016 £000		31 March 2017 SC £000	Adjustments £000	Group £000
1,072,805	Property, Plant & Equipment	1,106,346	0	1,106,346
2,622	Heritage Assets	2,553	0	2,553
50,855	Investment Property	50,935	0	50,935
173	Intangible Assets	121	0	121
599	Assets Held for Sale	599	0	599
1,127,054	**Total Non-Current Assets**	**1,160,554**	**0**	**1,160,554**
400	Long Term Investment	400	0	400
(555)	Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures	0	(1,291)	(1,291)
13,614	Long Term Debtors	20,898	0	20,898
1,140,514	**Total Long Term Assets**	**1,181,852**	**(1,291)**	**1,180,561**
	Current Assets			
160	Current Held for Sale Investment Properties	0	0	0
5,860	Assets Held for Sale	5,514	0	5,514
58,850	Short Term Investments	59,000	0	59,000
847	Inventories	808	28	836
67,939	Short Term Debtors	55,326	617	55,943
80,285	Cash & Cash Equivalents	93,233	3,917	97,150
213,941	**Total Current Assets**	**213,881**	**4,562**	**218,443**
1,354,454	**Total Assets**	**1,395,733**	**3,271**	**1,399,004**
	Current Liabilities			
(11,028)	Bank Overdraft	(13,150)	0	(13,150)
(7,200)	Short Term Borrowing	(8,482)	0	(8,482)
(65,389)	Short Term Creditors	(67,800)	(1,508)	(69,308)
(2,708)	Provisions	(2,488)	0	(2,488)
(6,926)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Revenue	(4,635)	0	(4,635)
(114)	Grants Receipts in Advance - Capital	(2,367)	0	(2,367)
(93,365)	**Total Current Liabilities**	**(98,922)**	**(1,508)**	**(100,430)**
1,261,089	**Total Assets Less Current Liabilities**	**1,296,811**	**1,763**	**1,298,574**
	Long Term Liabilities			
(695)	Long Term Creditors	(684)	0	(684)
(323,968)	Long Term Borrowing	(317,568)	0	(317,568)
(118,426)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(119,577)	0	(119,577)
(390,605)	Pensions Liability	(461,828)	(3,457)	(465,285)
(8,969)	Provisions	(7,327)	0	(7,327)
(842,663)	**Total Long Term Liabilities**	**(906,984)**	**(3,457)**	**(910,441)**
418,426	**Total Assets Less Liabilities**	**389,827**	**(1,694)**	**388,133**
	Financed by:			
97,438	Usable Reserves	101,532	3,498	105,030
320,988	Unusable Reserves	288,295	(5,192)	283,103
418,426	**Total Reserves**	**389,827**	**(1,694)**	**388,133**

Group Cash Flow Statement

2015/16 Group £000	Revenue Activities	2016/17 SC £000	Adjustments £000	Group £000
30,827	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	2,054	(220)	1,834
(108,303)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	(66,342)	603	(65,739)
59,438	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	44,865	570	45,435
(18,038)	**Net cash flows from operating activities**	**(19,422)**	**953**	**(18,470)**
(4,637)	Investing activities	4,777	(1)	4,776
14,364	Financing activities	(509)	(539)	(1,048)
(8,311)	**Net (increase) or decrease in cash and cash equivalents**	**(15,154)**	**413**	**(14,742)**
60,946	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	64,928	4,330	69,258
69,257	**Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	**80,082**	**3,917**	**84,000**

Notes to Group Accounts

G1. Consolidation of West Mercia Energy

Figures in respect of West Mercia Energy have been consolidated using the equity method. The amounts included in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are:

	WME £000	SC Share (25.5%) £000
Turnover	(57,429)	(14,660)
Cost of Goods Sold and Operating Expenses	56,244	14,357
Interest and Investment Income	148	38
Net Operating Surplus	**(1,037)**	**(265)**
Distribution of Surplus to Member Authorities	2,110	539
Net deficit for the year	**1,073**	**274**

G2. Consolidation of Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing Limited

The operating income (£13.838m) and expenditure (£13.258m) of Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing Limited, giving a net income of £0.580m has been included within Local Authority Housing (HRA) in the Net Cost of Services. The inter-company transactions with Shropshire Council have been excluded from Local Authority Housing (HRA) (Income/Expenditure £12.460m).

G3. Consolidation of IP&E Ltd

The operating income (£0.020m) and expenditure (£0.045m) of IP&E Ltd, giving a net expenditure of £0.025m has been included within Surpluses/deficits on Trading Activities. The inter-company transactions with Shropshire Council have been excluded from Surpluses/deficits on Trading Activities (Income/Expenditure £0.011m).

G4. Investment included in Group Balance Sheet

	WME £000	SC Share (25.5%) £000
Assets		
Plant & Equipment	13	3
Short term debtors	8,979	2,292
Cash and cash equivalents	3,674	938
Total Assets	**12,666**	**3,233**
Liabilities		
Short term creditors	(10,914)	(2,786)
Other long term liabilities	(6,811)	(1,738)
Total Liabilities	**(17,725)**	**(4,524)**
Net Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures	**(5,059)**	**(1,291)**

Section 7

Pension Fund Accounts

Introduction

During the year the Shropshire Fund increased in value by £274 million to be valued at £1.768 billion at the end of the year. The Fund increased in value by 19.2% over the year and outperformed its benchmark by 4.9%. The fund performance was very positive, this was largely due to equity markets performing very strongly throughout the year.

The Shropshire Fund had positive investment returns in a number of asset classes during the year. The strongest returns were experienced in global equities managed by Harris Associates where the Fund's investments increased in value by a notable 43.6% in the year. The Funds other active global equity managers also produced returns in excess of 30%. The Fund has also achieved strong returns in Infrastructure rising by 28.2%, UK Equity rising by 25.6% and Private Equity increasing by 16.5%. The combined fixed income portfolios delivered a return of 11.7%. All managers delivered positive returns during the year.

The Pensions Committee determine the strategic asset allocation for the Fund. This outlines the proportion of assets that the Fund invests in equities, bonds and alternative assets such as property. This is the most important decision that the Committee makes because it has the biggest impact on the long term returns of the Fund.

The Pensions Committee undertakes thorough monitoring of the Fund's investment managers and is prepared to make changes in response to investment underperformance or new investment opportunities.

During 2016/17, the decision was made by the Pension Committee together with Officers and Aon Hewitt, to terminate the contract with Brevan Howard who manage a 5% allocation to Hedge Funds. This was due to a period of underperformance since they were appointed in August 2013 and attempts to enhance their process and improve performance had been unsuccessful. It was agreed in the short term, that the proceeds from the redemption would be split between the funds other hedge fund manager and the funds absolute return strategy managed by PIMCO.

The Fund undergoes an independent actuarial valuation every 3 years. The latest actuarial valuation was conducted at the end of March 2016, identifying that the Fund had a funding level (the relationship between estimated future pension payments and the funds held to pay for these pensions) of 84% which was an increase from 76% at the previous valuation in March 2013. All data was submitted to the Actuary on time during the year and the results of the valuation have been communicated to employers within the fund and contribution rates have been agreed for the next three financial years commencing 1 April 2017.

As a local government pension scheme the Fund is able to take a long term view to the recovery of any funding deficit and is able to phase in any changes in the employer contribution rate in a manageable way.

Following the results of the actuarial valuation, the Committee together with Officers and Aon Hewitt started the process of reviewing the Fund's investment strategy. In March 2017, Aon Hewitt undertook a review of the movements in the funding level since the valuation in March 2016 and presented the results to the Pension Committee. The Committee together with its advisors are currently reviewing the Funds existing strategy and looking at potential alternative strategies to ascertain if changes to the strategic asset allocation are required.

The Government's investment pooling agenda has meant that the Shropshire Fund has been working extremely hard during the year with eight other Funds in the Midlands region in order to meet the tight deadlines set by Government to pool assets by 1 April 2018.

LGPS Central Ltd has been established to manage investment assets on behalf of nine Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds across the Midlands region. It will be a multi-asset manager, investing approximately £40 billion of assets from 2018 onwards, on behalf of 893,265 LGPS members and 2,441 employers.

LGPS Central Ltd is jointly owned on an equal share basis by eight of those Pension Funds and is seeking to become a Collective Portfolio Management Investment Firm (CPMI) regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The participating pension funds are Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire. West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Pension Fund will also be an investor, but not a shareholder, with its shareholder rights represented by West Midlands.

The key objectives of LGPS Central will be to reduce investment costs, whilst ensuring that risk-adjusted investment returns are improved, to enable access to a wider range of asset classes for the participating pension funds, and to ensure good governance. LGPS Central will manage a wide range of asset classes, employing a mix of internal and external investment management. The company is a private company limited by shares and was incorporated on 13 October 2016 with registered number 10425159 under the Companies Act 2006. The majority of assets under management will be structured in an Authorised Contractual Scheme (ACS), itself regulated by the FCA, in addition to other pooled investments held in alternative structures. The company has been formed to act as an Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM) to allow the participating LGPS administering authorities to pool their respective investments.

On commencement of trading, the company's sole investors will be the partner Funds and the existing assets of those Pension Funds will begin to be transferred to LGPS Central. Responsibility for almost all investment activities, with the exception of strategic asset allocation which will remain with each fund, will transfer from the pension funds to LGPS Central at the same time. In addition to the pooled investment vehicles managed by LGPS Central, the company will also oversee certain legacy investments made before its establishment.

A detailed business case was submitted to Government in July 2016. The Government has reviewed the business case and approval has been received for us to proceed. The governance structure for LGPS Central has been agreed by all partner Funds and appointments for key individuals has commenced. Regular investment pooling meetings continue to be held with representatives from each of the eight LGPS Funds. The Programme Board, which is made up of s151 Officers from each Fund, are updated regularly on the progress made and key developments of the project. Meetings of the Shareholders Forum, which is made up of one elected member from each Fund, have been held during the year to approve key decisions. A Stakeholder away day has been held to keep members up to date and a further meeting is scheduled later on in the year. An FCA application for LGPS Central Ltd is due to be submitted in July 2017 for approval later on in the year in order to meet the April 2018 deadline. Working with our partners to develop and implement LGPS Central will continue to be a major strategic focus for the Fund over the next year.

The Pensions Administration Team have had a busy year completing the Actuarial Valuation which took place as at 31st March 2016. The Valuation meant that it was essential that all member records were up to date so the Scheme Actuary could assess individual employer's contribution rates and funding levels. The data quality supplied by Scheme employers is an integral part of the Valuation process and this was improved by the use of a monthly data transfer through the year.

During 2016/17 there has been a focus on ensuring compliance with Schedule 4 of the Public Service Pensions Act (2013) which states that good internal controls are fundamental to support and evidence that the record keeping requirements of a Scheme are being adhered to. This has been demonstrated by the Fund's project to reconcile records in line with records held by HMRC following the end of contracting out in April 2016. This project is working to the completion date of the 31st December 2018.

PENSION FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

2015/16 £000		2016/17 £000
	Income	
	Contributions	
(45,854)	Employers (Note 7)	(47,049)
(14,235)	Employees (Note 7)	(13,927)
(2,373)	Transfers In from other pension funds (Notes 3, 7)	(2,854)
(62,462)	**Total Income**	**(63,830)**
	Expenditure	
	Benefits Payable	
53,069	Pensions (Note 7)	54,534
9,488	Commutation of pensions and lump sum retirement benefits (Note 7)	9,021
1,074	Lump Sums (Note 7)	1,256
	Payment to & Account of Leavers	
245	Refund of contributions (Note 7)	298
4,259	Transfers to other funds (Notes 3, 7)	6,736
68,135	**Total Expenditure**	**71,845**
5,673	**Net withdrawals from dealings with scheme members**	**8,015**
13,097	**Management Expenses (Note 8)**	**13,717**
	Returns on Investments	
(19,322)	Investment Income (Notes 3, 9, 14)	(23,155)
(12,277)	(Gain)/loss on cash and currency hedging	(10,955)
20	Taxes on Income (Note 10)	97
31,554	Profits and losses on disposal of investments and changes in value of investments (Note 11)	(261,999)
(25)	**Net (increase) / decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year**	**(296,012)**
18,745	**(Surplus) / deficit on the pension fund for the year**	**(274,280)**
1,512,735	**Opening net assets of the scheme**	**1,493,990**
1,493,990	**Closing net assets of the scheme**	**1,768,270**

PENSION FUND NET ASSET STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

31-Mar-16 £0		31-Mar-17 £0	%
	Investment Assets		
213,865	Equities	263,900	15
	Pooled Investment Vehicles (Note 11b)		
162,999	Unitised Investment Vehicles	0	0
1,077,783	Other Managed Funds (Notes 11b)	1,446,606	82
	Cash Deposits		
38,116	Deposits	54,084	3
860	Temporary Investments (Note 26)	2,520	0
1,493,623	**Total Investment Assets**	**1,767,110**	100
	Current Assets		
2,262	Contributions due from Employers (Note 17)	2,233	0
1,835	Other Current Assets (Note 17)	1,697	0
5	Cash Balances (Note 19)	0	0
	Current Liabilities		
(380)	Unpaid Benefits (Note 18)	(218)	0
(3,355)	Other Current Liabilities (Note 18)	(2,453)	0
0	Cash Balances (Note 19)	(99)	0
1,493,990	**Net Assets of the Scheme - Available to Fund Benefits as at 31 March**	**1,768,270**	**100**

The Fund’s financial statements do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed in Note 17.

NOTES TO THE SHROPSHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1. DESCRIPTION OF FUND

The Shropshire County Pension Fund is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme and is administered by Shropshire Council. The Council is the reporting entity for this Pension Fund.

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

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

It is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Shropshire Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Shropshire Council and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies within the county area. Teachers, police officers and firefighters are not included as they come within other national pension schemes. The Fund is overseen by the Shropshire County Pension Fund Committee, which is a committee of Shropshire Council.

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

Organisations participating in the Shropshire County Pension Fund include:

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

There are 164 employers within the Shropshire County Pension Fund including Shropshire Council itself, as detailed below.

Shropshire County Pension Fund	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
Number of employers with active members	127	114
Number of employees in the scheme		
Shropshire Council	7,227	7,605
Other employers	9,290	9,264
Total	**16,517**	**16,869**
Number of pensioners in the scheme		
Shropshire Council	4,920	4,806
Other employers	5,105	4,838

Shropshire County Pension Fund	31 March 2017	31 March 2016
Total	**10,025**	**9,644**
Number of deferred pensioners in the scheme		
Shropshire Council	8,366	7,755
Other employers	8,450	7,919
Total	**16,816**	**15,674**

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2017. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The last valuation was as at 31 March 2016. Currently, employer contribution rates range from 3.3% to 28.0% of pensionable pay.

Prior to 1 April 2014, pension benefits under the LGPS were based on final pensionable pay and length of pensionable service as summarised below:

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service post 31 March 2008
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80 X final pensionable salary	Each year worked is worth 1/60 X final pensionable salary
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3x salary. In addition, part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.	No automatic lump sum. Part of the annual pension can be exchanged for a one-off tax free cash payment. A lump sum of £12 is paid for each £1 of pension given up.

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

There are a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The statement of accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2017. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

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

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund Account – revenue recognition

Contribution income
Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund Actuary in the payroll period to which they relate. Employers deficit funding contributions are accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable under the schedule of contributions set by the scheme actuary or on receipt if earlier than the due date. Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long term financial assets.

Transfers to and from other schemes
Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (see note 7). Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged. Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in transfers in (see note 7). Bulk (group) transfers are included for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

Investment Income
Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is also disclosed in the net assets statement as a current financial asset.

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

Fund account – expense items

Benefits payable
Pensions and lump sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the net assets statement as current liabilities.

Taxation
The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1 (1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from

capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a Fund expense as it arises.

Management expenses
The Code does not require any breakdown of pension fund administrative expenses. However, in the interests of greater transparency, the Fund discloses its pension fund management expenses in accordance with CIPFA's Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016).

All administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the pensions administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Associated management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to this activity and charged as expenses to the Fund.

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

Investment management expenses
All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

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

In addition, the Fund has negotiated with the following managers that an element of their fee will be performance related:-
Majedie Asset Management – UK Equities
Pimco Europe Ltd – Absolute Return Bonds
MFS Investment Management –Global Equities
Blackrock – Hedge Fund
Investec Asset Management – Global Equities
Harris Associates – Global Equities
Performance related fees in 2016/17 £1.060m (2015/16 £2.640m).

Where an investment manager's fee note has not been received by the year-end date, an estimate based upon the market value of their mandate as at the end of the year is used for inclusion in the fund account. In 2016/17, £0.005m of fees is based on such estimates (2015/16 £0.007m).

Net Assets Statement

Financial assets
Financial assets are included in the net assets statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the net assets statement on the day the Fund

becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised in the fund account.

The values of investments as shown in the net assets statement have been determined at fair value in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IFRS13 (see note 14).

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

Cash
Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits and includes amounts held by the Fund's external managers. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

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

Additional voluntary contributions
Shropshire County Pension Fund provides an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the pension fund. Please see note 20 for further information.

4. CRITICAL JUDGMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The net pension fund liability is recalculated every three years by the Fund Actuary. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions which are agreed with the Actuary and have been summarised in note 17.

5. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the year-end date and the amounts reported for the revenues and expenses during the year. Estimates and assumptions are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the net assets statement as at 31 March 2017 for which there is significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as detailed in the following table and also in note 15a:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Private Equity	Private Equity investments are valued at fair value in accordance with International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines 2012. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total private equity investments in the financial statements are £74.3 million. There is a risk that this investment may be under or over-stated in the accounts.
Hedge Funds	The hedge funds are valued at the sum of the fair values provided by the Administrators of the underlying funds plus any adjustments deemed necessary. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total hedge fund value in the financial statements is £100.1 million. There is a risk that these investments may be under/over - stated in the accounts.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. There have been no events between 31 March 2017 and when these accounts were authorised that require any adjustments to be made.

7. ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN REVENUE ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS

The following table provides further analysis of contributions received and benefits paid between the Administering Authority (Shropshire Council), Designated Bodies and Scheme Employers (Unitary, Town and Parish Councils) and Admission Bodies (Private bodies carrying out former Local Government functions or bodies providing a public service on a non-profit making basis).

2016/17	Administering Authority £000	Admission Bodies £000	Designation Bodies/Scheme Employers £000	Total £000
Contribution Received				
Employees	5,137	2,093	6,697	13,927
Employers	18,618	6,632	21,799	47,049
Transfers In	1,525	210	1,119	2,854
Total Income	**25,280**	**8,935**	**29,615**	**63,830**
Payments Made				
Pensions	32,828	6,562	15,144	54,534
Lump Sums	2,916	1,772	4,333	9,021
Death Benefits	652	221	383	1,256
Refunds	108	29	161	298
Transfers Out	3,923	552	2,261	6,736
Total Expenditure	**40,427**	**9,136**	**22,282**	**71,845**

2015/16 comparative figures	Administering Authority £000	Admission Bodies £000	Designation Bodies/Scheme Employers £000	Total £000
Contribution Received				
Employees	5,289	2,234	6,712	14,235
Employers	18,687	6,997	20,170	45,854
Transfers In	1,375	76	922	2,373
Total Income	**25,351**	**9,307**	**27,804**	**62,462**
Payments Made				
Pensions	32,484	6,261	14,324	53,069
Lump Sums	3,928	1,982	3,578	9,488
Death Benefits	405	58	611	1,074
Refunds	80	21	144	245
Transfers Out	351	374	3,534	4,259
Total Expenditure	**37,248**	**8,696**	**22,191**	**68,135**

This table shows a breakdown of the employers contributions above:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Employers normal contributions	30,774	31,199
Employers deficit contributions	12,156	11,333
Employers augmentation contributions	4,119	3,322
	47,049	**45,854**

8. MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

This analysis of the costs of managing the Shropshire County Pension Fund during the period has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA's Accounting for Local Government Pension Scheme Management Expenses (2016).

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Administrative costs	946	817
Investment management expenses	12,021	11,673
Oversight and governance costs	750	607
	13,717	**13,097**

Each external Investment Manager receives a fee for their services based on the market value of the assets they manage on the Funds behalf. Active managers are required to produce a specific target return in excess of their benchmark return and are paid a performance related fee (over and above a basic fee) for reaching required levels of outperformance. The management fees disclosed also include all investment management fees directly incurred by the Fund by pooled fund investments.

The investment management expenses shown below includes £1.060m (2015/16 £2.640m) in respect of performance related fees paid/payable to the Fund's investment managers.

It also includes £0.683m in respect of transaction costs (2015/16 £0.449m).

In addition to these costs, indirect costs are incurred through the bid-offer spread on investment sales and purchases. These are reflected in the cost of investment acquisitions and in the proceeds from the sales of Investments (see note 11A).

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Management Fees	8,516	7,098
Performance Fees	1,060	2,640
Other Fees	1,702	1,435
Transaction Costs	683	449
Custody Fees	60	51
	12,021	**11,673**

The costs incurred by the Council in administering the Fund totalled £0.946m for the year ended 31 March 2017 (2015/16 £0.817m).

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Employee Costs	573	541
IT	175	155
Consultants	67	0
Printing & Postage	55	62
Office Accommodation	22	28
Subscriptions	16	14
Other Costs	38	17
	946	**817**

The costs incurred by the Council in Oversight and Governance totalled £0.750m for the year ended 31 March 2017 (2015/16 £0.607m)

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Investment advice	226	294
Employee costs (pensions investment)	153	138
Actuarial advice	129	5
Responsible engagement overlay	97	48
Professional fees	50	23
External audit	25	27
Performance analysis	25	23
Internal audit	17	17
Legal & Committee	15	15
Other Costs	13	17
	750	**607**

9. INVESTMENT INCOME

The table below analyses the investment income received by the Fund (mostly in the form of dividends) over the last 12 months.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Dividends from equities	(6,943)	(6,508)
Income from pooled investment vehicles	(4,974)	(3,649)
Interest on cash deposits	(14)	(22)
Other	(11,224)	(9,143)
	(23,155)	**(19,322)**

10. TAXES ON INCOME

This table breaks down the taxes on income by asset class.

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Withholding tax – Fixed interest securities	0	0
Withholding tax - equities	97	20
Withholding tax - pooled	0	0
	97	**20**

11A. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN INVESTMENTS

Investment type 2016/17	Value as at 1 April £000	Purchases at cost & derivative payments £000	Sale proceeds & derivative receipts £000	Transition £000	Other cash transactions £000	Change in market value £000	Value as at 31 March £000
Equities	213,865	101,680	(121,297)			69.652	263,900
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Unitised Investment Vehicles	162,999		(806)	(158,665)		(3,528)	
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Other Managed Funds	1,077,783	313,156	(298,245)	158,665	(615)	195,863	1,446,607*
Sub total	**1,454,647**	**414,836**	**(420,348)**	**0**	**(615)**	**261,987**	**1,710,507**
Cash deposits – with Managers	38,116				15,956	12	54,084
Temporary Investments	860				1,660		2,520
Total	**1,493,623**	**414,836**	**(420,348)**	**0**	**17,001**	**261,999****	**1,767,111**

* Within the Pooled Investment Vehicles - other managed funds total of £1446.607m are £174.371m of level 3 investments as at 31 March 2017. The value of the level 3 investments were £214.739m as at 1st April 2016 which decreased to £174.371m as

at 31 March 2017. The decrease in value is due to purchases of £18.711m, sales of £68.025m and change in market value of £8.946m.

** The total change in market value for 2016/17 as per the table above is £261.999m. This figure is made of up of profit on sales of £133.785m and also the difference between book cost and market value for the whole Fund which for 2016/17 was £128.214m.

Investment type 2015/16 comparative figures	Value as at 1 April £000	Purchases at cost & derivative payments £000	Sale proceeds & derivative receipts £000	Transition £000	Other cash transactions £000	Change in market value £000	Value as at 31 March £000
Equities	228,604	84,236	(79,570)			(19,405)	213,865
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Unitised Investment Vehicles	159,821	0	0			3,178	162,999
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Other Managed Funds	1,082,132	156,834	(143,357)		(2,460)	(15,366)	1,077,783*
Sub total	**1,470,557**	**241,070**	**(222,927)**	**0**	**(2,460)**	**(31,593)**	**1,454,647**
Cash deposits – with Managers	39,915	8,468	(8,517)		(1,789)	39	38,116
Temporary Investments	3,380				(2,520)		860
Total	**1,513,852**	**249,538**	**(231,444)**	**0**	**(6,769)**	**(31,554)****	**1,493,623**

* Within the Pooled Investment Vehicles - other managed funds total of £1077.783m are £214.739m of level 3 investments as at 31 March 2016. The value of the level 3 investments were £218.741m as at 1st April 2015 which decreased to £214.739m as at 31 March 2016. The decrease in value is due to purchases of £23.896m, sales of £22.247m and change in market value of -£5.651m.
** The total change in market value for 2015/16 as per the table above is -£31.554m. This figure is made of up of profit on sales of £28.599m and also the difference between book cost and market value for the whole Fund which for 2015/16 was -£60.153m.

11B. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (EXCLUDING DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS)

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Fixed Interest Securities		
Overseas		
Public sector quoted	0	0
Total Fixed Interest Securities	**0**	**0**
Equities		
UK		
Quoted	118,440	103,007
Overseas		
Quoted	145,449	110,858
Total Equities	**263,889**	**213,865**
Pooled Funds – additional analysis		
UK		
Index Linked Bonds	0	162,999
Unit Trusts	12,372	11,075
Overseas		

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Unit Trusts	1,139,205	753,072
Hedge Funds	100,106	149,051
Pooled property investments	77,476	77,526
Private Equity	74,266	65,688
Infrastructure	43,192	21,371
Total Pooled Funds	**1,446,617**	**1,240,782**
Total	**1,710,506**	**1,454,647**

12. STOCK LENDING

The Fund participates in a stock lending programme with its Custodian, Northern Trust to lend eligible securities from within its portfolio of stocks to third parties in return for collateral. Collateral is restricted to AAA Sovereign debt (the highest rated collateral available).

Collateralised lending generated income of £0.058m in 2016/17 and this is included within investment income in the Pension Fund Account. At 31 March 2017 £8.803m worth of stock (via the Custodian) was on loan, for which the Fund was in receipt (via the Custodian) of £9.508m worth of collateral representing 108% of stock on loan.

Although stock lending involves the transfer of title of those securities to the borrower, the lender's rights to the normal benefits and corporate actions that would have arisen had the asset not been lent are protected. The lender thus retains an economic interest in the securities transferred. During the period stock is on loan, the voting rights of the loaned stock pass to the borrower.

There are no liabilities associated with the loaned assets.

13. ANALYSIS OF DERIVATIVES

Between November 2007 and September 2013 the Fund passively hedged 50% of all currency exposure to eliminate some of the risks over the longer term involved in holding an increased proportion of overseas investments. In 2013 a decision was made to terminate the contract with Northern Trust who provided this service due to the restructure of the Fund which took place on 30 September 2013.

From September 2013, Legal & General, who manage the global equity passive portfolio, hedge 100% of their foreign currency exposure back to sterling.

14. FAIR VALUE – BASIS OF VALUATION

The basis of the valuation of each class of investment asset is set out below. There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year. All assets have been valued using fair value techniques which represent the highest and best price available at the reporting date.

Description of asset	Valuation hierarchy	Basis of valuation	Observable and unobservable inputs	Key sensitivities affecting the valuations provided
Market quoted investments	Level 1	Published bid market price ruling on the final day of accounting period	Not required	Not required
Quoted bonds	Level 1	Fixed interest securities are valued at a market value based on current yields	Not required	Not required
Pooled investments - overseas unit trusts and property funds	Level 2	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published. Closing single price where single price published	NAV based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Not required
Infrastructure	Level 2	Valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the fund manager	EBITDA multiple, revenue multiple, discount for lack of marketability, control premium	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date by changes in cashflows.
Private Equity	Level 3	Valued based on the Fund's share of the net assets in the fund or limited partnership using the latest financial statements in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital guidelines 2012	EBITDA multiple, revenue multiple, discount for lack of marketability, control premium	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date by changes in cashflows.
Hedge Funds	Level 3	Closing bid price where bid and offer prices are published. Closing single price where single price published	NAV based pricing set on a forward pricing basis	Valuations could be affected by material events occurring between the date of the financial statements provided and the pension fund's own reporting date by changes in cashflows.

Sensitivity of assets valued at level 3
The table below sets out the assets which have been categorised at level 3. The figures have been derived using the valuation methods adopted by each of the relevant investment managers and are assumed to be accurate. The table also sets out the consequential potential impact on the closing value of investments if these valuations were inaccurate, based on an indicative movement of 5% on the value of investments held as at 31 March 2017.

Asset	Assessed valuation range (=/-)	Value as at 31-Mar-17 £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Private Equity	5%	74,266	77,979	70,553
Hedge funds	5%	100,106	105,111	95,101
Total		**174,372**	**183,090**	**165,654**

14a. FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

Asset and liability valuations have been classified into three levels, according to the quality and reliability of information used to determine fair values. Transfers between levels are recognised in the year in which they occur, during 2016/17 however there were no transfers identified.

Level 1:
Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where the fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Products classified as level 1 comprise quoted equities, quoted fixed securities, quoted index linked securities and unit trusts.

Level 2:
Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available; for example, where an instrument is traded in a market that is not considered to be active, or where valuation techniques are used to determine fair value.

Level 3:
Assets and liabilities at level 3 are those where at least one input that could have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation is not based on observable market data. Such instruments would include unquoted equity investments and hedge fund of funds, which are valued using various valuation techniques that require significant judgement in determining appropriate assumptions.

The values of the investment in private equity are based on valuations provided by the general partners to the private equity funds in which Shropshire County Pension Fund has invested.

These valuations are prepared in accordance with the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines, which follow the valuation principles of IFRS and US GAAP. Valuations are undertaken quarterly, however, lag a quarter behind so the valuation in the accounts is as at 30th September 2016. Cash flow adjustments are used to roll forward the valuations to 31 March as appropriate.

The values of the investment in hedge funds are based on the net asset value provided by the fund manager. Assurances over the valuation are gained from the independent audit of the value.

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

Asset type 2016/17	Investment Manager	Investment Type	Market Value £000	Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £000
Equities	Majedie Asset Management	UK Equities	120,148	120,148		
	Harris Associates	Global Equities	143,741	143,741		
Pooled Investment Vehicles	Majedie Asset Management	UK Pooled Fund	12,372	12,372		
	Pimco Europe Ltd	Global Aggregate Bonds	146,028	146,028		
	MFS	Global Equities	154,295	154,295		
	HarbourVest Partners Ltd	Private Equity	74,266			74,266
	Aberdeen Property Investors	Property Unit Trusts	77,476		77,476	
	Blackrock	Hedge Fund	80,627			80,627
	Global Infrastructure Partners	Infrastructure	43,192		43,192	
	Legal & General	Global Equities	341,195	341,195		
	Investec	Global Equities	147,195	147,195		
	Brevan Howard	Hedge Fund	19,479			19,479
	Blackrock	Fixed Interest	137,777	137,777		
	GAM	Absolute Return Bonds	139,878		139,878	
	BMO	LDI	72,826	72,826		
Net Current Assets (incl cash)			57,775	57,775		
Total			**1,768,270**	**1,333,352**	**260,546**	**174,372**

Asset type 2015/16	Investment Manager	Investment Type	Market Value £000	Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £000
Equities	Majedie Asset Management	UK Equities	105,961	105,961		
	Harris Associates	Global Equities	107,897	107,897		
Pooled Investment Vehicles	Legal & General	UK Index Linked Bonds	162,999	162,999		
	Majedie Asset	UK Pooled Fund	11,075	11,075		

Asset type 2015/16	Investment Manager	Investment Type	Market Value £000	Quoted market price Level 1 £000	Using observable inputs Level 2 £000	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3 £000
	Management					
	Pimco Europe Ltd	Global Aggregate Bonds	104,506	104,506		
	MFS	Global Equities	134,460	134,460		
	HarbourVest Partners Ltd	Private Equity	65,688			65,688
	Aberdeen Property Investors	Property Unit Trusts	77,525		77,525	
	Blackrock	Hedge Fund	75,029			75,029
	Global Infrastructure Partners	Infrastructure	21,371		21,371	
	Legal & General	Global Equities	290,816	290,816		
	Investec	Global Equities	123,194	123,194		
	Brevan Howard	Hedge Fund	74,022			74,022
	Blackrock	Fixed Interest	100,096	100,096		
Net Current Assets (incl cash)			39,351	39,351		
Total			**1,493,990**	**1,180,355**	**98,896**	**214,739**

15 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

15A CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial instruments by category and net assets statement heading. No financial instruments were reclassified during the accounting period.

	31 March 2017			31 March 2016		
	Fair value through profit & loss £000	Loans & receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000	Fair value through profit & loss £000	Loans & receivables £000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost £000
Financial Assets						
Equities	263,900	0	0	213,865	0	0
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Unitised Investment Vehicles	0	0	0	162,999	0	0
Pooled Investment Vehicles – Other Managed Funds	1,446,606	0	0	1,077,783	0	0
Cash	0	56,505	0	0	38,981	0
Debtors	0	3,930	0	0	4,097	0
Total Assets	**1,710,506**	**60,435**	**0**	**1,454,647**	**43,078**	**0**
Financial Liabilities						
Creditors	0	0	(2,671)	0	0	(3,735)
Total Liabilities	**0**	**0**	**(2,671)**	**0**	**0**	**(3,735)**
Total	**1,710,506**	**60,435**	**(2,671)**	**1,454,647**	**43,078**	**(3,735)**

15B. NET GAINS AND LOSSES ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Financial Assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	261,999	(31,554)
Loans and receivables	0	0
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	0	0
Financial Liabilities		
Fair value through profit and loss	0	0
Loans and receivables	0	0
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	0	0
	261,999	**(31,554)**

16. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risk and Risk Management
The Fund's primary long term risk is that its assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. promised benefits to pay members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price, currency and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The council manages these investment risks as part of its overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the pension fund committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the council's pensions operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

Market risk
Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the assets mix. The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk. In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Council and its investment advisors undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

The Fund manages these risks in two ways:

1. The exposure of the fund to market risk is monitored through a factor risk analysis, to ensure that risk remains within tolerable levels
2. Specific risk exposure is limited by applying risk-weighted maximum exposures to individual investments.

Other price risk
Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Council to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund investment strategy.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis
Following analysis of historic data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the Fund's investment advisors, it has been determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2016/17 reporting period. The potential price changes disclosed below are broadly consistent with a one-standard deviation movement in the value of the assets. The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the investment advisor's most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Asset Type	Potential market movements (+/-)
UK Equities	19.2%
Global Unconstrained Equities	21.2%
Global Equities (passive)	20.2%
Property	12.7%
Private Equity	27.6%
Hedge Funds	9.3%
Unconstrained bonds	5.2%
Infrastructure	18.6%
LDI	31.4%

Had the market price of the Fund investments increased/decreased in line with the above, the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows.

Asset type	Value as at 31 March 2017	Potential market movement	Value on increase	Value on decrease
2016/17	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Assets including Cash	57,764	0	57,764	57,764
Investment Portfolio Assets				
UK Equities	130,812	25,116	155,928	105,696
Global Equities (unconstrained)	446,950	94,753	541,703	352,197
Global Equities (passive)	341,195	68,921	410,116	272,274
Unconstrained Bonds	423,684	22,032	445,716	401,652
Property	77,476	9,839	87,315	67,637

Asset type 2016/17	Value as at 31 March 2017 £000	Potential market movement £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Private Equity	74,265	20,497	94,762	53,768
Hedge Funds	100,106	9,310	109,416	90,796
Infrastructure	43,192	8,034	51,226	35,158
LDI	72,826	22,867	95,693	49,959
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,768,270**	**281,369**	**2,049,639**	**1,486,901**

Asset type 2015/16	Value as at 31 March 2016 £000	Potential market movement £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
Net Assets including Cash	39,343	0	39,343	39,343
Investment Portfolio Assets				
UK Equities	114,082	12,207	126,289	101,875
Global Equities	659,329	64,614	723,943	594,715
Corporate Bonds	204,602	5,729	210,331	198,873
Property	77,525	1,861	79,386	75,664
Private Equity	65,688	3,022	68,710	62,666
Hedge Funds	149,051	6.856	155,907	142,195
UK Index linked Gilts over 5 years	162,999	15,648	178,647	147,351
Infrastructure	21,371	983	22,354	20,388
Total assets available to pay benefits	**1,493,990**	**110,920**	**1,604,910**	**1,383,070**

Interest rate risk

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund’s interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the Council and its investment advisors in accordance with the Fund’s risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

The Fund’s direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2016 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value.

Asset Type	As at 31 March 2017 £000	As at 31 March 2016 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	51,010	35,656
Cash balances*	(99)	5
Bonds	423,684	367,601
Total change in assets available	**474,595**	**403,262**

*overdrawn cash balance as at 31st March 2017

The Council recognises that interest rates can vary and can affect both income to the Fund and the carrying value of fund assets, both of which affect the value of the net assets available to pay benefits. A 100 basis point (BPS) movement in interest rates is consistent with the level of sensitivity applied as part of the fund's risk management strategy.

The following analysis shows the effect in the year on the net assets available to pay benefits of a +/- 100 BPS change in interest rates assuming all variables, in particular exchange rates, remain constant.

Assets exposed to interest rate risk	Value as at 31 March £000	Potential movement on 1% change in interest rates £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
As at 31 March 2017				
Cash and cash equivalents	51,010	0,000	51,010	51,010
Cash balances	(99)	0,000	(99)	(99)
Bonds	423,684	4,237	427,921	419,447
Total	**474,595**	**4,237**	**478,832**	**470,358**

Assets exposed to interest rate risk	Value as at 31 March £000	Potential movement on 1% change in interest rates £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
As at 31 March 2016				
Cash and cash equivalents	35,656	0,000	35,656	35,656
Cash balances	5	0,000	5	5
Bonds	367,601	3,676	371,277	363,925
Total	**403,262**	**3,676**	**406,938**	**399,586**

This analysis demonstrates that a 1% increase in interest rates will not affect the interest received on fixed interest assets but will reduce their fair value, and vice versa. Changes in interest rates do not impact on the value of cash/cash equivalent balances but they will affect the interest income received on those balances. Changes to both the fair value of assets and the income received from investments impact on the net assets available to pay benefits.

During 2016/17 the Fund received £0.014m in interest from surplus pension fund revenue cash. This was either invested in call accounts which are classified as a variable rate investment or a fixed term deposit. If interest rates throughout the year had been 1% higher this would have increased the amount of interest earned on these investments by £0.052m. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would therefore imply a negative interest rate and therefore it is assumed no interest would have been received or charged on these investments.

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the currency of the Fund (UK sterling). The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by its investment advisor in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations. The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2017 and as at the previous year end:

Currency exposure – asset type	As at 31 March 2017 £000	As at 31 March 2016 £000
Overseas Equities	419,612	354,361
Overseas Pooled Fixed Interest	8,337	100,096
Overseas Private Equity	74,266	68,239
Overseas Pooled Property	20,583	24,320
Overseas Infrastructure	43,192	22,948
Total change in assets available	**565,990**	**569,964**

Following analysis of historical data the Fund considers the likely volatility associated with foreign exchange rate movements to be 11% (as measured by one standard deviation). An 11% fluctuation in the currency is considered reasonable based on historical movements in the month end exchange rates over a rolling 36 month period assuming all other variables, in particular, interest rates, remain constant. An 11% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Assets exposed to currency risk	Value as at 31 March £000	Potential market movement £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
As at 31 March 2017				
Overseas Equities	419,612	46,157	465,769	373,455
Overseas Fixed Interest	8,337	0,917	9,254	7,420
Overseas Private Equity	74,266	8,169	82,435	66,097
Overseas Pooled Property	20,583	2,264	22,847	18,319
Overseas Infrastructure	43,192	4,751	47,943	38,441
Total change in assets available	**565,990**	**62,258**	**628,248**	**503,732**

Assets exposed to currency risk	Value as at 31 March £000	Potential market movement £000	Value on increase £000	Value on decrease £000
As at 31 March 2016				
Overseas Equities	354,361	21,064	375,425	333,296
Overseas Fixed Interest	100,096	5,950	106,046	94,146
Overseas Private Equity	68,239	4,057	72,296	64,183
Overseas Pooled Property	24,320	1,446	25,766	22,874
Overseas Infrastructure	22,948	1,364	24,312	21,584
Total	**569,964**	**33,881**	**603,845**	**536,083**

Credit Risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market value of investments generally reflects an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk, (the Fund currently does not hold any, but derivatives positions would be an exception here, where risk equates to the net market value of a positive derivative position). However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The investment priorities for the management of the pension fund revenue cash held for day to day transactions are the security of the principal sums it invests. The enhancement of returns is a secondary consideration to the reduction of minimisation of risk. Accordingly, the Administering Authority ensures that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited.

The main criteria for determining the suitability of investment counterparties is outlined in the Administering Authority's creditworthiness policy which the Pension Fund has also adopted and approved as part of the annual Pension Fund Treasury strategy.

The Fund's lending list is reviewed continuously in conjunction with the Administering Authority's treasury advisor. The total permitted investment in any one organisation at any one time varies with the strength of the individual credit rating. The maximum amount is currently limited to £4,000,000. With security of capital being the main priority, lending continues to be restricted to highly credit rated institutions, part nationalised institutions and other Local Authorities. In addition to credit ratings the Administering Authority continually monitors the financial press and removes institutions from its approved lending list immediately if appropriate.

The Council believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and had had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits over the past five financial years. The Fund's cash holding under its treasury management arrangements as at 31st March 2017 was £2,520m (31 March 2016 £0.860m). This was held with the following institutions.

Asset type	Rating	As at 31 March 2017 £000	As at 31 March 2016 £000
Lloyds Bank Fixed Term deposit	A+	520	0
Handelsbanken Instant Access Account	AA	2,000	860
Total		**2,520**	**860**

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due i.e. that cash is not available when required. The Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that the Pension Fund has adequate cash resources to meet its commitments. This will particularly be the case for cash from the cash flow matching mandates from the main investment strategy to meet the pensioner payroll costs and also cash to meet investment commitments.

The Council has immediate access to cash through two instant access accounts which at any one time could have up to £6 million available in total. The Fund also has the ability to access immediate cash held by Northern Trust which as at 31 March 2017 was £8.322m. The Fund does not have access to an overdraft facility.

Officers prepare a daily cash flow forecast to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the investment strategy.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2017 are due within one year.

17. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

In line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2016 and the next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2019.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- To ensure the long term solvency of the Fund, i.e. that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment
- To ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible
- To minimise the long-term cost of the scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return
- To reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where it considers it reasonable to do so
- To use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 22 years and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. For each individual employer, the funding objective, method and assumptions depend on a particular employer's circumstances and different approaches have been adopted where applicable, in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement.

At the 2016 actuarial valuation, the Fund was assessed as 84% funded (76% at the March 2013 valuation). This corresponded to a deficit of £278 million (2013 valuation was £383 million) at that time. Revised contributions set by the 2016 valuation will be introduced in 2017/18 and the common contribution rate (i.e. the average employer contribution rate in respect of future service only) is 14.9% of pensionable pay (14% at the March 2013 valuation).

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service. The principal assumptions were as follows:

Financial assumptions	31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Discount rate	4.55% p.a.	4.95% p.a.
Assumed long term CPI inflation	2.2% p.a.	2.6% p.a.

Salary increases – long term	3.7% p.a.	4.1% p.a.
Salary increases – short term	1% p.a. for 4 years	1% p.a. for 3 years
Pension increases in payment	2.2% p.a	2.6% p.a.

The post retirement mortality tables are the S2PA tables. These base tables are then projected using the CMI 2015 model, allowing for a long-term rate of improvement of 1.5% per year. The assumed life expectancy from age 65 is as follows

Demographic assumptions		31 March 2016	31 March 2013
Current pensioners (at age 65)	Males	22.9	23.7
	Females	26.1	26.0
Future pensioners (assumed current age 45)	Males	25.1	25.9
	Females	28.4	28.8

It is assumed that, on average, 50% of retiring members will take the maximum tax-free cash available at retirement and 50% will take a 3/80ths cash sum (which is the standard for pre April 2008 service).

18. ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS

Provision has been made for debtors known to be outstanding as at 31 March 2017. An analysis of debtors is shown below:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Central Government bodies	147	5
Other Local Authorities	1,615	1,949
Other entities and individuals	2,168	2,143
Total	**3,930**	**4,097**

19. ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS

Provision has also been made for creditors known to be outstanding at 31 March 2017. An analysis of creditors is shown below:

	2016/17 £000	2015/16 £000
Central Government bodies	592	0
Other Local Authorities	189	1,852
Other entities and individuals	1,890	1,883
Total	**2,671**	**3,735**

20. ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Scheme members have the option to make Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC's) to enhance their pension benefits. These contributions are invested with an appropriate provider and used to purchase an annuity at retirement. Contributions are paid directly from scheme members to the AVC provider and are therefore not represented in these accounts in accordance with regulation 4 (1) (b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016.

Contributions are invested in with-profit, unit linked or deposit funds of the scheme member. At present there are around 519 scheme members with AVC policies. These policies are held either by Equitable Life or Prudential.

During 2016/17 contributions to the schemes amounted to £0.577m. The combined value of the AVC funds as at 31 March 2017 was £4.711m.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Shropshire County Pension Fund is administered by Shropshire Council. Consequently there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Pension Fund. Shropshire Council incurred costs of £1.173m (2015/16 £0.977m) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses.

Shropshire Council is also the single largest employer of members of the pension fund and contributed £18.274m (2015/16 £18.523m). All monies owing to the Fund were paid across in the year. The Scheme Administrator of the Shropshire County Pension Fund is also the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance for Shropshire Council.

Several employees of Shropshire Council hold key positions in the financial management of the Shropshire County Pension Fund. The Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance (s151 Officer & Scheme Administrator), the Head of Treasury and Pensions, the Treasury Accountant, the Investment Officer and the Pensions Administration Manager are all active members of the Fund.

Paragraph 3.9.4.3 of the Code exempts local authorities from the key management personnel disclosure requirements of IAS24, on the basis that the disclosure requirements for officer remuneration and members' allowances detailed in section 3.4 of the Code (which are derived from the requirements of Regulation 7(2)-(4)of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and Regulation 7A of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005) satisfy the key management personnel disclosure requirements of paragraph 16 of IAS 24. This applies in equal measure to the accounts of the Shropshire County Pension Fund.

The disclosures required by Regulation 7(2)-(4) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations can be found in the main accounts of Shropshire Council.

Under legislation, introduced in 2003/04, Councillors are entitled to join the scheme and three Members of the Pension Fund Committee are Members of the Fund. These are Thomas Biggins, Malcolm Pate and Andrew B Davies.

Jean Smith, pensioner representative, and Nigel Neat, Unison representative, are also members of the Fund.

Legislation which came into force on 1 April 2014 means the LGPS is only available to councillors and elected mayors of an English County Council or District Council who elected to join before 31 March 2014. From 1 April 2014 access to the LGPS for councillors has been removed. Current members can continue in the LGPS until the end of their individual office.

22. CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

The Fund has a 5% (£88 million) strategic asset allocation to Private Equity. It is necessary to over commit the strategic asset allocation because some private equity investments will mature and be repaid before the committed capital is fully invested.

As at 31 March 2017 £208m has been committed to investment in private equity via a fund of funds manager (HarbourVest Partners). Investment in this asset class will be made as opportunities arise over the next 2-3 years. As at 31 March 2017 the funds Private Equity investments totalled £74.266m.

23. CONTINGENT ASSETS

14 admitted body employers in the Shropshire County Pension Fund hold bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the pension fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default.

24. VALUE ADDED TAX

The Fund is reimbursed VAT by HM Revenue and Customs. The accounts are shown exclusive of VAT.

25. CUSTODY OF INVESTMENTS

Custodial Services are provided to the Fund by Northern Trust. This includes the safekeeping of assets, the collection of income, the exercise of voting rights and the monitoring and execution of corporate actions in conjunction with investment managers. The Custodian also provides independent confirmation of the assets and their value held by the Fund. Securities are held on a segregated basis via a nominee account and are clearly separated from the Custodian’s own assets.

26. FUND AUDITORS

Grant Thornton has completed its audit in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practice Board. The Audit Certificate is published within this report.

27. PENSION FUND BANK ACCOUNT

Since April 2010 all income received for the pension fund has been paid into a separate pension fund bank account. The balance on this account is monitored daily and surplus cash balances invested and as at 31 March 2017 £2.520 million was invested. The cash balance in the Pension Fund account as at the same date was overdrawn £0.099m.

In April 2016 a second bank account was opened for and from 27th April 2016 the Fund had the capacity to make all payments direct from this account including the monthly pensioner payroll. Previous to this date the Fund relied on Shropshire Council to make all payments on behalf of the Fund and the Fund would then reimburse Shropshire Council each month for the total expenditure made. The Fund no longer requires Shropshire Council to make payments on its behalf and therefore the monthly transfer to Shropshire Council is no longer necessary.

28. FUND STRUCTURE UPDATE

During April 2016 the Fund disinvested assets from its L&G index linked bond portfolio and the funds split between BMO, the Funds newly appointed LDI manager and GAM, a new unconstrained bond manager.

At the June 2016 Pensions Committee, members decided that all funds with Brevan Howard, hedge fund manager, should be redeemed. During 2016/17 it has only been possible to redeem 75% of the value of the portfolio with the final amount being redeemed in June 2017. These funds have been invested with Pimco in the absolute bond fund portfolio.

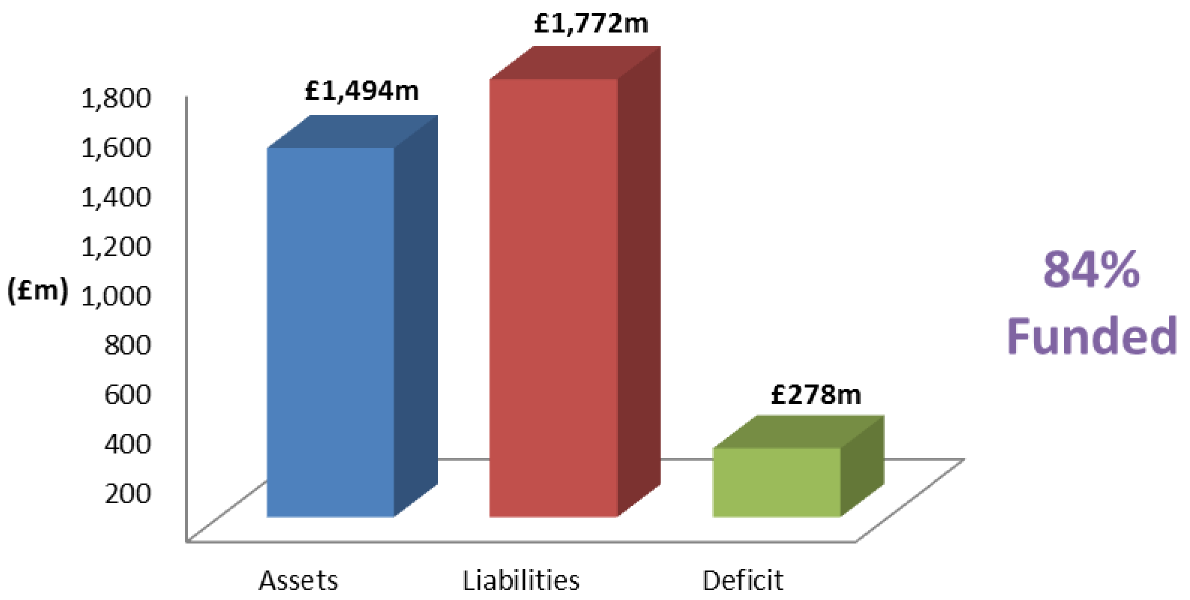
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017
Statement by the Consulting Actuary

This statement has been provided to meet the requirements under Regulation 57(1)(d) of The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

An actuarial valuation of the Shropshire County Pension Fund was carried out as at 31 March 2016 to determine the contribution rates with effect from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020.

On the basis of the assumptions adopted, the Fund's assets of £1,494 million represented 84% of the Fund's past service liabilities of £1,772 million (the "Funding Target") at the valuation date. The deficit at the valuation was therefore £278 million.



The funding objective as set out in the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) is to achieve and then maintain a solvency funding level of 100% of liabilities (the solvency funding target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall (or contribution reductions to refund any surplus). The Secondary rate of the employer's contribution is an adjustment to the Primary rate to arrive at the overall rate the employers are required to pay.

The FSS sets out the process for determining the recovery plan in respect of each employer. At this actuarial valuation the average deficit recovery period is 22 years, and the total initial recovery payment (the "Secondary rate") for 2017/18 is approximately £14.4 million (this allows for some employers to phase in any increases or prepay in April 2017). For most employers, the Secondary rate will increase at 3.7% per annum. Other employers have opted to pay a higher non-increasing contribution over the recovery period. With the agreement of the Administering Authority employers may also opt to pay some of their employer contributions early (after suitably agreed reductions), with either all three years being paid in April 2017 or payment being made in the April of the year in question.

Further details regarding the results of the valuation are contained in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated 31 March 2017.

In practice, each individual employer's position is assessed separately and the contributions required are set out in the report. In addition to the certified contribution rates, payments to cover additional liabilities arising from early retirements (other than ill-health retirements) will be made to the Fund by the employers.

The funding plan adopted in assessing the contributions for each individual employer is in accordance with the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS). Any different approaches adopted, e.g. with regard to the implementation of contribution increases and deficit recovery periods, are as determined through the FSS consultation process.

The valuation was carried out using the projected unit actuarial method and the main actuarial assumptions used for assessing the Funding Target and the Primary rate of contribution were as follows:

	For past service liabilities (Funding Target)	**For future service liabilities (Primary rate of contribution)**
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	4.55% per annum	4.95% per annum
Rate of pay increases (long term)*	3.7% per annum	3.7% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension)	2.2% per annum	2.2% per annum

* allowance was also made for short-term public sector pay restraint over a 4 year period.

The assets were assessed at market value.

The next triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2019. Based on the results of this valuation, the contribution rates payable by the individual employers will be revised with effect from 1 April 2020.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits for the Purposes of IAS 26

IAS 26 requires the present value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits to be disclosed, and for this purpose the actuarial assumptions and methodology used should be based on IAS 19 rather than the assumptions and methodology used for funding purposes.

To assess the value of the benefits on this basis, we have used the following financial assumptions as at 31 March 2017 (the 31 March 2016 assumptions are included for comparison):

	31 March 2016	31 March 2017
Rate of return on investments (discount rate)	3.6% per annum	2.5% per annum
Rate of pay increases*	3.5% per annum	3.8% per annum
Rate of increases in pensions in payment (in excess of Guaranteed Minimum Pension)	2.0% per annum	2.3% per annum

* includes a corresponding allowance to that made in the latest formal actuarial valuation for short-term public sector pay restraint.

The demographic assumptions are the same as those used for funding purposes. Full details of these assumptions are set out in the formal report on the actuarial valuation dated March 2017.

During the year, corporate bond yields fell, resulting in a lower discount rate being used for IAS 26 purposes at the year end than at the beginning of the year (2.5% p.a. versus 3.6% p.a.). The expected long-term rate of CPI inflation increased during the year, from 2.0% p.a. to 2.3%. Both of these factors combined served to significantly increase the liabilities over the year. The pay increase assumption at the year end has also changed to allow for short-term public sector pay restraint which serves to reduce the liabilities.

The value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits for the purposes of IAS 26 as at 31 March 2016 was estimated as £2,144 million. Interest over the year increased the liabilities by c£77 million, and there was a further increase in liabilities of £448 million made up of "actuarial losses" (mostly changes in the actuarial assumptions used, primarily the discount rate and assumed rate of future CPI as referred to above). The value of new benefits earned during the year was cancelled out by benefits actually paid.

The net effect of all the above is that the estimated total value of the Fund's promised retirement benefits as at 31 March 2017 is therefore £2,669 million.

John Livesey
Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Mercer Limited
May 2017

TO BE UPDATED FOLLOWING AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

We have audited the pension fund financial statements of Shropshire Council (the "Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the "Act"). The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Act and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance's Responsibilities, the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the pension fund financial statements in accordance with applicable law, the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the "Code of Practice") and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the pension fund financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the pension fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance; and the overall presentation of the pension fund financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Authority's Statement of Accounts and the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited pension fund financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on the pension fund financial statements

In our opinion:

· the pension fund financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2017 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund’s assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the fund year; and

· the pension fund financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and applicable law.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the other information published together with the audited pension fund financial statements in the Authority's Statement of Accounts and the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the audited pension fund financial statements.

John Gregory

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

The Colmore Building

20 Colmore Circus

Birmingham

B4 6AT

xx September 2017

Section 8

Housing Revenue Account

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

HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2015/16		2016/17	
£		£	£
	Expenditure		
4,332,865	Repairs & Maintenance	4,989,750	
3,617,899	Supervision and Management	3,384,030	
140,092	Rents, rates taxes and other charges	95,232	
4,400,340	Depreciation - Dwellings	3,377,320	
40,030	- Other	171,460	
2,977,643	Impairment, revaluation losses and (reversals of impairment or revalutaion losses)	(2,048,323)	
0	Exceptional costs relating to revaluation gain on Housing Dwellings (note 7)	(28,229,723)	
16,500	Debt Management Costs	28,420	
63,000	Provision for Bad or Doubtful Debts	50,000	
15,588,369	**Total Expenditure**		**(18,181,834)**
	Income		
(17,963,955)	Dwelling Rents	(17,771,888)	
(174,096)	Non Dwelling Rents	(154,262)	
(7,619)	Other Income	(19,486)	
(324,869)	Charges for Services and Facilities	(449,820)	
(314,510)	Contributions towards expenditure	(208,310)	
(18,785,049)	**Total Income**		**(18,603,766)**
(3,196,680)	**Net Cost of HRA Services included in the Comprehensive I&E Statement**		**(36,785,600)**
193,757	HRA Share of Corporate & Democratic Core		175,890
(3,002,923)	**Net Cost of HRA Services**		**(36,609,710)**
(489,886)	(Gain) or loss on sale of HRA Assets		(537,080)
2,993,944	Interest payable and similar charges		2,993,361
(42,995)	Interest and Investment Income		(58,572)
45,045	Income & Expenditure in relation to investment properties & change in fair values		(33,681)
(496,815)	**(Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA Services**		**(34,245,682)**

MOVEMENT ON THE HRA STATEMENT

2015/16 £		2016/17 £
(3,075,150)	**Balance on the HRA at the end of the previous year**	**(5,823,223)**
(496,815)	**(Surplus)/Deficit for the year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement**	**(34,245,682)**
(2,251,257)	Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statute	31,037,685
(2,748,073)	**Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to or from reserves**	**(3,207,997)**
0	Transfers to or (from) Reserves	0
(2,748,073)	**(Increase) or Decrease in year on the HRA**	**(3,207,997)**
(5,823,223)	**Balance on the HRA at the end of the current year**	**(9,031,220)**

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1. HOUSING STOCK

		2016/17	2015/16
Total Number of Dwellings at 31 March :			
Houses and Bungalows		3,246	3,244
Flats		866	869
		4,112	**4,113**
Change in Stock			
Stock at 1 April		4,113	4,135
Less:	Sales – Right to Buy	(28)	(31)
	Sales – Other	0	0
	Disposal/restructuring	0	0
	Acquisition – full ownership	27	6
	Acquisition – shared ownership	0	3
		4,112	**4,113**

2. RENT ARREARS

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Due from Current Tenants	105,090	103,600
Due from Former Tenants	128,576	102,131
Total Rent Arrears as at 31 March	**233,666**	**205,731**
Pre-Payments	(322,469)	(310,860)
Net Arrears	**(88,803)**	**(105,130)**

As at 31 March 2017, the total provision set aside for HRA related bad debts is £391k.

3. BALANCE SHEET VALUE OF ASSETS

	Council Dwellings	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	Investment Properties	Current Assets Held for Sale	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation								
At 1 April 2016	158,153,455	760,000	0	1,840,973	160,754,428	245,000	23,750	161,023,178
Additions	4,877,932	0	156,963	203,454	5,238,348	0	0	5,238,348
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(40,000)	20,000	0	0	(20,000)	0	0	(20,000)
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	26,900,725	0	0	0	26,900,725	14,250	0	26,914,975
Derecognition - disposals	(1,275,170)	0	0	0	(1,275,170)	0	(23,750)	(1,298,920)
Derecognition - other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(363,770)	0	0	0	(363,770)	0	363,770	0
Other movements in cost or valuation	1,834,978	0	530	(1,835,508)	0	0	0	0
As at 31 March 2017	**190,088,150**	**780,000**	**157,493**	**208,919**	**191,234,562**	**259,250**	**363,770**	**191,857,581**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment								
At 1 April 2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Charge	(3,522,070)	(10,960)	(15,750)	0	(3,548,780)	0	0	(3,548,780)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	144,750	10,960	0	0	155,710	0	0	155,710
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,377,320	0	0	0	3,377,320	0	0	3,377,320
Impairment losses/(reversals) recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derecognition - other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Other movements in depreciation and impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31 March 2017	**0**	**0**	**(15,750)**	**0**	**(15,750)**	**0**	**0**	**(15,750)**
Net Book Value								
As at 31 March 2017	**190,088,150**	**780,000**	**141,743**	**208,919**	**191,218,812**	**259,250**	**363,770**	**191,841,831**
As at 31 March 2016	**158,153,455**	**760,000**	**0**	**1,840,973**	**160,754,428**	**245,000**	**23,750**	**161,023,178**

There is a difference of £303.257m between the tenanted valuation and the District Valuer's Vacant Possession Value of £459.480m at 1 April 2016.

The Vacant Possession Value is an estimate of the total sum that would be received if all of the assets were sold on the open market. The tenanted value declared on the balance sheet is less in recognition of the fact that the properties are occupied by tenants on secure rent less than would be obtainable on the open market.

The difference represents the economic cost of the Government providing council housing at less than market rents.

4. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FINANCING

Capital expenditure in the year on Council Housing Stock and Infrastructure was financed as follows.

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Usable Capital Receipts	1,047,958	1,355,034
Revenue Contributions utilised in year	0	0
Major Repairs Allowance	3,982,080	3,273,194
Government Supported borrowing	0	0
Government Grants and Contributions	208,310	314,510
Total Capital Expenditure on Housing Stock	**5,238,348**	**4,942,737**

5. CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Capital receipts from the disposal of Housing Revenue Account Assets are shown below. 75% of Capital Receipts arising from Right to Buy disposals are subject to National Pooling arrangements payable to CLG.

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Sale of Council Houses under Right to Buy (RTB)	1,792,996	1,709,750
Other Land & Buildings	0	1,157,644
Total Capital Receipts from HRA Asset Disposals	1,792,996	2,867,394
Less Capital Receipts subject to Pooling requirement	(590,547)	(600,488)
Net Capital Receipts from HRA Asset Disposals	**1,202,449**	**2,266,906**

6. HOUSING REPAIRS ACCOUNT

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance Brought Forward 1 April	25,000	25,000
Expenditure on Capital	0	0
Balance Carried Forward 31 March	**25,000**	**25,000**

7. EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

The Government has agreed a change in the way that Social Housing is valued. The Beacon Factor which determines the basis for valuing dwellings, includes an adjustment factor which measures the difference between private open market rented and socially rented property at a regional level. Since 2010 the adjustment factor for Shropshire (West Midlands region) has been 34%, however the new directions now state that the adjustment factor should be 40%. The effect of this change is a revaluation gain within the Council Dwellings figure which is chargeable to the Housing Revenue Account. This equates to £28,229,723 and has been shown as an exceptional item on the face of the account.

Section 9

Collection Fund

COLLECTION FUND

The Collection Fund is a statutory account showing the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection of council tax and non-domestic rates from taxpayers and the distribution to local authorities and Central Government.

COLLECTION FUND

2015/16 Total £000		2016/17 Council Tax £000	2016/17 NDR £000	2016/17 Total £000
	Income:			
(158,061)	Income from Council Tax (showing the net amount receivable, net of benefits, discounts for prompt payments and transitional relief)	(166,675)	0	(166,675)
(47)	Income from Specific Grants	(52)	0	(52)
	Transfers from General Fund			
2	- Transitional relief	4	0	4
(75,520)	Income collectable from business ratepayers		(78,552)	(78,552)
(337)	Transitional Protection Payments		26	26
(233,962)	**TOTAL INCOME**	**(166,723)**	**(78,526)**	**(245,249)**
	Expenditure:			
	Precepts			
164,753	- Shropshire Council and Parish and Town Councils	133,728	38,747	172,475
19,039	- West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	19,892	0	19,892
10,244	- Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	9,867	791	10,658
39,965	- Central Government	0	39,537	39,537
	Charges to Collection Fund			
463	- costs of collection	0	463	463
	Bad and doubtful debts			
(399)	- write offs	(111)	(238)	(349)
1,166	- provisions	711	340	1,051
	Appeals rates			
(2,258)	- write offs	0	(2,326)	(2,326)
3,852	- provisions	0	(217)	(217)
	Contributions			
3,155	- Towards previous year’s estimated Collection Fund surplus	3,664	(15,764)	(12,100)
239,980	**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**	**167,751**	**61,333**	**229,084**
6,018	**Deficit/(Surplus) for the Year**	**1,028**	**(17,193)**	**(16,165)**
2,996	Balance brought forward	(3,346)	12,360	9,014
9,014	**Balance carried forward**	**(2,318)**	**(4,833)**	**(7,151)**

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. COUNCIL TAX BASE

The council tax base consists of the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band adjusted to reflect discounts and other variations. The total tax base is calculated by converting each band to its band D equivalent and providing for losses and variations during the year of collection. The tax base for 2016/17 was as follows:-

Council Tax Band	Net Dwellings	Ratio	Band D Equivalents
A1	23.40	5/9	13.00
A	15,863.07	6/9	10,575.38
B	27,011.36	7/9	21,008.84
C	24,267.65	8/9	21,571.24
D	17,934.38	9/9	17,934.38
E	13,674.95	11/9	16,713.83
F	7,390.89	13/9	10,675.73
G	4,103.31	15/9	6,838.85
H	262.30	18/9	524.60
			105,855.85
Adjustment for MoD Properties (654.28 Band D Equivalents) and Collection Rate (98.5%)			(943.37)
			104,912.48

2. NON-DOMESTIC RATES (BUSINESS RATES)

Shropshire Council is the billing authority for NDR and retains 49% share of the total collected and distributes the remaining balance to Central Government (50%) and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority (1%).

At 31 March 2017, the total non-domestic rateable value for all business premises in Shropshire was £203,726,415. The multiplier set by Government to calculate rate bills in 2016/17 was 48.4p for small businesses and 49.7p for all other businesses.

Section 10
Glossary

GLOSSARY

Accountable Body	An accountable body receives external funding and is responsible for the financial management of these funds, therefore the accountable body must ensure that robust accounting and performance management arrangements are in place with regard to the distribution and spending of these funds.
Accounting Concepts	The basis on which an organisation's financial statements are based to ensure that those statements 'present fairly' the financial position and transactions of that organisation. Accounting concepts include 'materiality', 'accruals', 'going concern' and 'primacy of legislative requirements'.
Accounting Policies	The principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an organisation that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements.
Accumulated Absences Account	The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.
Accruals	The accruals accounting concept requires the non-cash effect of transactions to be included in the financial statement for the year in which they occur, not in the period in which the cash is paid or received.
Actuarial Basis	The estimation technique applied when estimating the liabilities to be recognised for defined benefit pension schemes in the financial statements of an organisation.
Actuarial Gain	This may arise on defined benefit pension scheme liabilities and assets. A gain represents a positive difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were lower than estimated).
Actuarial Loss	These may arise on defined benefit pension scheme liabilities and assets. A loss represents a negative difference between the actuarial assumptions and actual experience (e.g. liabilities during the period were higher than estimated).

Adjusted Capital Financing Requirement	The value of the Capital Financing Requirement after it has been adjusted by the value of Adjustment A.
Adjustment A	The difference between the Council's Credit Ceiling and Capital Financing Requirement to ensure that the impact of the Prudential Code (effective from 1 April 2004) is neutral on the Council's revenue budget. Once calculated the figure is fixed.
Appropriation	The transfer of sums to and from reserves, provisions and balances.
Assets	These are economic resources that can include anything tangible or intangible that is capable of being owned or controlled to produce value and that is held to have positive economic value.
Associated Company	An organisation in which the Council has a participating interest and over which it can exercise significant influence without support from other participants in that organisation (e.g. other board members etc.). The exercise of significant influence occurs when one organisation is actively involved and is influential in the direction of another organisation through its participation in policy decisions including decisions on strategic issues. A holding of 20% or more of the voting rights of an organisation is generally recognised as being a significant influence.
Balances	Amounts set aside to meet future expenditure but not set aside for a specific purpose.
Balance Sheet	The financial statement that reports the financial position of an organisation at a point in time, for Shropshire Council this is the 31st March. It shows the balances and reserves at the Council's disposal, long term liabilities and the fixed and net current assets employed in its operations, together with summarised information on the non-current assets held.
Below the Line Items	Items that are notionally allocated to services to arrive at the "Net Cost of Service". Below the line items include depreciation and IAS19 pension costs.

Bonds	Investment in certificates of debts issued by a Government or company. These certificates represent loans which are repayable at a future date with interest.
Borrowing	Loans from the Public Works Loans Board and the money markets which finance the capital programme of the Council.
Budget	The financial plan reflecting the Council's policies and priorities over a period of time i.e. what the Council is going to spend to provide services. This is the end product of a budget strategy.
Budget Strategy	A plan of how the Council is going to meet its policies and priorities, taking account of the resources available to the Council. This will include proposals for efficiency savings and possibly service changes and/or cuts, which may free resources to spend on other policies and priorities.
Cabinet	The group of members (local councillors) that provide the executive function of the Council within the policy parameters set by Council. This group of members is able to exercise considerable control over the Council. Its decision- making powers are set out in the Council's Constitution.
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 provision. The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure on items that have a life of more than one year, such as buildings, land, major equipment.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	This sum represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. It is calculated by summing all items on the balance sheet that relate to capital expenditure, e.g. non-current assets, financing leases, Government grants deferred etc. The CFR will be different to the actual borrowing of the Council as actual borrowing will relate to both capital and revenue activities and it is not possible to separate these sums. This figure is then used to calculate the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision.
Capital Grants Unapplied	The Capital Grants Unapplied Account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.
Capital Receipts	The proceeds from the sale of non-current assets such as land and buildings. These sums can be used to finance new capital expenditure.
Capital Receipts Reserve	The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year end.
Capitalised Expenditure	Represents expenditure on assets. This expenditure is reflected in the value of assets that are reported in the Balance Sheet and will result in increased depreciation costs to the Income and Expenditure Account.
Cash Equivalents	Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.
Cash Flow Statement	The financial statement that summarises the Council's inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

GLOSSARY

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (Code)	A publication produced by CIPFA that provides comprehensive guidance on the content of a Council's Statement of Accounts.
Collection Fund	A separate statutory fund which records Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collected, together with payments to precepting authorities (e.g. Police Authorities, Fire Authorities etc.), NDR distribution to Central Government and the billing Council's own General Fund.
Collection Fund Adjustment Account	The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates 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.
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	This is fundamental to the understanding of a Council's activities. It brings together all of the functions of the Council and summarises all of the resources that the Council has generated, consumed or set aside in providing services during the year. As such, it is intended to show the true financial position of the Council, before allowing for the concessions provided by statute to raise Council Tax according to different rules and for the ability to divert particular expenditure to be met from capital resources.
Constitution	The document that sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that the Council is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.
Contingent Liability	Potential costs that the Council may incur in the future because of something that happened in the past.
Corporate Bonds	Investments in certificates of debt issued by a company. These certificates represent loans which are repayable at a future date with interest.
Council	The Council comprises all of the democratically elected Councillors who represent the various electoral divisions.

GLOSSARY

Council Tax	A local taxation that is levied on dwellings within the local Council area. The actual level of taxation is based on the capital value of the property, which is split into 8 bands from A to H, and the number of people living in the dwelling.
Council Tax Base	To set the Council Tax for each property a Council has to first of all calculate the council tax base. This is a figure that is expressed as the total of band D equivalent properties. The total amount to be raised from Council Tax is divided by this figure to determine the level of tax for a band D property. The level of tax for the other bands of property are calculated by applying a predetermined ratio to the band D figure.
Council Tax Precept	The amount of income due to the Council in respect of the total Council Tax collected.
Credit	A credit represents income to an account.
Credit Ceiling	A term from the old Local Authority capital expenditure system, the credit ceiling represented the Council's total debt outstanding after taking account of sums set aside to repay borrowing.
Creditors	Represents the amount that the Council owes other parties.
Debit	A debit represents expenditure against an account.
Debt Charges	This represents the interest payable on outstanding debt.
Debtors	Represents the amounts owed to the Council.
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	A specific grant paid to Local Authorities to fund the cost of running its schools.
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts.
Deficit	Arises when expenditure exceeds income or when expenditure exceeds available budget.

Depreciation	The accounting term used to describe the charge made representing the cost of using tangible non-current assets The depreciation charge for the year will represent the amount of economic benefits consumed in the period, e.g. due to wear and tear over time.
Direct Revenue Financing	The cost of capital projects that is charged against revenue budgets.
Equities	Ordinary shares in UK and overseas companies traded on a stock exchange. Shareholders have an interest in the profits of the company and are entitled to vote at shareholder's meetings.
Estimation Techniques	The methods adopted by an organisation to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes in reserves.
Exceptional Item	Material Items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.
Finance Lease	A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset, together with a return for the cost of finance.
Financial Instruments	Financial instruments are formally defined in the Code as contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. The definition is a wide one, it covers the treasury management activity of the Council, including the borrowing and lending of money and the making of investments. However, it also extends to include such things as receivables and payables and financial guarantees.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefitting from gains per statutory provisions. The Council uses the Account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax.
Fixed Interest Securities	Investments in mainly Government but also company stocks, which guarantee a fixed rate of interest. The securities represent loans which are repayable at a future date but which can be traded on a recognised stock exchange before the repayment date.
Futures	A contract made to purchase or sell an asset at an agreed price on a specified future date.
General Fund Balance	The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of a Council are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Council are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. The General Fund Balance is the reserve held by the Council for general purposes, i.e. against which there are no specific commitments. That said it is prudent and sensible for these sums to be treated as a contingency to protect the Council's financial standing should there be any financial issues in the year.
Going Concern	The going concern accounting concept assumes that the organisation will not significantly curtail the scale of its operation in the foreseeable future.
Group Accounts	Where a Council has an interest in another organisation (e.g. a subsidiary organisation) group accounts have to be produced. These accounts report the financial position of the Council and all organisations in which it has an interest.
Hedge Funds	An investment fund that uses sophisticated investment strategies to profit from opportunities on financial markets around the world. These strategies include borrowing money to make investment, borrowing shares in order to sell them and profiting from company mergers.

Heritage Assets	These are tangible assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained by the Council principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.
Housing Revenue Account	The Housing Revenue Account reflects the statutory obligation to maintain a revenue account for the local authority council housing provision in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This account includes the revenue costs of providing, maintaining and managing Council dwellings are charged. These costs are financed by tenants’ rents and government housing subsidy.
Impairment	Impairment of an asset is caused either by a consumption of economic benefits e.g. physical damage (e.g. fire at a school) or a deterioration in the quality of the service provided by the asset (e.g. a library closing and becoming a storage facility), or by a general fall in prices of that particular asset or type of asset.
Index Linked Securities	Investments in Government stock that guarantee a rate of interest linked to the rate of inflation. These securities represent loans to Government which can be traded on recognised stock exchanges.
Inflow	This represents cash coming into the Council.
International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)	International Financial Reporting Standards are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) to develop a single set of financial reporting standards for general purpose financial statements.
Investments	An asset which is purchased with a view to making money by providing income, capital appreciation or both.
Joint Venture	An organisation in which the Council is involved where decisions require the consent of all participants.
LDI	Liability driven investment (LDI) strategies aim to enable pension funds to reduce risk and improve funding levels by reducing volatility over time. Because the value of future pension payments is directly linked to inflation, interest rates and the longevity of Fund members, Funds have sought investments linked to such factors.

Leases	A method of funding expenditure by payment over a defined period of time. An operating lease is similar to renting, the ownership of the asset remains with the lessor and the transaction does not fall within the capital control system. Finance leases are more akin to borrowing and do fall within the capital system.
Liabilities	An obligation to transfer economic benefits. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year.
Liquid Resources	These are resources that the Council can easily access and use, e.g. cash or investments of less than 365 days.
Major Repairs Reserve	The Council is required to maintain the Major Repairs Reserve, which controls an element of the capital resources limited to being used on capital expenditure on HRA assets or the financing of historical capital expenditure by the HRA. The balance shows the capital resources that have yet to be applied at the year end.
Managed Funds	A type of investment where a number of investors pool their money into a fund which is then invested by a fund manager.
Materiality	Materiality is an expression of the relative significance or importance of a particular matter in the context of the financial statements as a whole. A matter is material if its omission would reasonably influence the reader of the accounts. Materiality has both quantitative and qualitative aspects.
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	A plan detailing projected expenditure and available resources over a period of more than one year. The Council's MTFP covers three years.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	A minimum amount, set by law, which the Council must charge to the income and expenditure account, for debt redemption or for the discharge of other credit liabilities (e.g. finance lease).
Movement in Reserves Statement	This provides a reconciliation showing how the balance of resources generated/consumed in the year links in with statutory requirements for raising Council Tax.

Non Domestic Rates (NDR)	Taxation that is levied on business properties. This is collected by billing authorities and then distributed to preceptors and Central Government.
Net Book Value	The amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet. It represents historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for Depreciation or Impairment.
Net Expenditure	The actual cost of a service to an organisation after taking account of all income charged for services provided.
Net Cost of Service	The actual cost of a service to an organisation after taking account of all income charged for services provided. The net cost of service includes the cost of depreciation relating to non-current assets.
Non-Current Assets	Tangible assets that yield benefits to the Council for a period of more than one year, examples include land, buildings and vehicles.
Operating Lease	A lease where the asset concerned is returned to the lessor at the end of the period of the lease.
Outflow	This represents cash going out of the Council.
Outturn	Actual expenditure within a particular year. In the Explanatory Foreword this expenditure is stated before taking into account Depreciation and other Below the Line Items.
Pension 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. Statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

GLOSSARY

Post Balance Sheet Event	Those events both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Responsible Financial Officer.
Precept	The amount levied by the various joint authorities (e.g. police and fire authorities) which is collected by the council on their behalf. A body which can set a precept is called a preceptor.
Primacy of Legislation	The accounting concept primacy of legislation applies when accounting principles and legislative requirements are in conflict, in such an instance the latter shall apply.
Prior Period Adjustments	These are material adjustments relating to prior year accounts that are reported in subsequent years and arise from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors.
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	A Government initiative that enables, through the provision of financial support, Authorities to carry out capital projects through partnership with the private sector.
PFI Credits	The financial support provided to Local Authorities to part fund PFI capital projects.
Provisions	Provisions represent sums set aside to meet specific future expenses which are likely or certain to be incurred, as a result of past events, where a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.
Prudence	This accounting concept requires that revenue is not anticipated until realisation can be assessed with reasonable certainty. Provision is made for all known liabilities whether the amount is certain or can only be estimated in light of the information available.
Prudential Borrowing	The amount of borrowing undertaken by the Council to fund capital expenditure, in line with affordable levels calculated under the Prudential Code.

Prudential Code	The Government removed the extensive capital controls on borrowing and credit arrangements from 2004/05 and replaced them with a Prudential Code under which each Council determines its own affordable level of borrowing. The Prudential Code requires authorities to set specific prudential indicators e.g. affordable borrowing limit on an annual basis.
Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	A Government agency providing long and short term loans to local authorities at interest rates only slightly higher than those at which Government itself can borrow.
Public Sector Bonds	Investments in certificates of debt issued by Government. These represent loans to Governments which are tradable on recognised stock exchanges.
Revaluation Reserve	The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost, used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or disposed of and the gains are realised. The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 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.
Revenue Expenditure	Expenditure on the day to day running costs of the Council, such as salaries, wages, utility costs, repairs and maintenance.
Revenue Expenditure Funded By Capital Under Statute	Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions and does not result in the creation of non-current assets.
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	An amount of money that Central Government makes available to Local Authorities to provide the services that it is responsible for delivering.
Reserves	Sums are set aside in reserves for specific future purposes rather than to fund past events.

Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP)	Provides guidance to local authorities on financial reporting to stakeholders. It establishes 'proper practice' with regard to consistent financial reporting, which allows direct comparisons to be made with the financial information published by other local authorities.
Soft Loan	This is a loan which is provided with a below-market rate of interest.
Specific Grant	A grant awarded to a Council for a specific purpose or service that cannot be spent on anything else.
Subsidiary	An organisation that is under the control of the Council (e.g. where the Council controls the majority of voting rights, etc.)
Surplus	Arises when income exceeds expenditure or when expenditure is less than available budget.
Trading Service/Organisation	A service run in a commercial style and environment, providing services that are mainly funded from fees and charges levied on customers.
Treasury Strategy	A plan outlining the Council's approach to treasury management activities. This includes setting borrowing and investment limits to be followed for the following year.
Unit Trusts	A pooled Fund in which small investors can buy and sell units. The pooled Fund then purchases investments, the returns on which are passed on to the unit holders. It enables a broader spread of investments than investors could achieve individually.
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Represents the resources held by the Council that have arisen from the sale of non-current assets that are yet to be spent on other capital projects.
Usable Reserves	Reserves that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation, all other reserves retained on the balance sheet cannot.
Variation	The difference between budgeted expenditure and actual outturn, also referred to as an over or under spend.

Virement	The transfer of resources between two budgets, such transfers are governed by financial rules contained within the Constitution.

Statement of Accounts

2016 – 2017

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Shropshire Council
Annual Governance Statement
2016/17

Good Governance in the Public Sector comprises the arrangements (political, economic, social, environmental, administrative, legal, etc.) in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for all interested parties are defined and achieved. In delivering good governance, both the Council, and individuals working for and with the Council, aim to achieve the Council's objectives while acting in the public interest at all times.

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance, located in the Constitution, summarises the Council's good governance principles A – G and details the actions and behaviours required to demonstrate good governance. It is based on seven core principles:-

A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law;
B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits;
D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
E. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it;
F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management; and
G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

Senior managers have provided assurances as to the application of these principles throughout the 2016/17 financial year. In so doing, demonstrating that the Council is doing the right things, in the right way for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open and accountable manner. These arrangements consist of all the systems, processes, culture and values which direct and control the way the Council works and through which it accounts to, engages with, and leads the communities. Annex A demonstrates the overall Assurance Framework.

This statement explains how the Council has complied with the Code and meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This is supported by a governance audit which provides a good level of assurance.

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
Members and officers recognise the importance of compliance with the Constitution, specifically Financial and Contract Rules; Procurement Regulations, Scheme of Delegation and Codes of Conduct. All of which are reviewed and updated regularly. Officers also comply with their professional organisations' codes of conduct in delivering services (E.g. HCPC[1], PSIAS[2], Faculty of Public Health), against which assessments are conducted to confirm compliance and identify any improvements required. Adult Social Care (ASC) receive regular focused audits which monitor their compliance with the law e.g. Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty; Safeguards, Care Act and the Mental Health Act. Officers lead by example, both directly with their teams and in undertaking their duties across the Council. Areas of concern are identified, reported through appropriate channels and

[1] Registered body for qualified social workers
[2] Public Sector Internal Audit Standards

managed effectively using the Council's defined processes.

Integrity, open involvement and honest communication surround changes in services demonstrated in both Planning and Digital Transformation Services. Both Adult and Children's Social Care have a dedicated Principal Social Worker whose role is to raise the quality of ethical social work practice and ensure values and integrity of social work are improved. Civil Enforcement Officers use video badges when undertaking parking enforcement, which ensures a high level of integrity is maintained by them whilst protecting the public, the service and the Council.

Equality impact needs assessments are completed when changing operating models, policies and/or contracting with other parties, examples include: consultations on policies and strategies for the Local Plan partial review and changes to the Registrars Service. The Council has also continued to work with schools and faith leaders to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Schools have developed and shared resources and a fruit tree is planted at each participating school as a lasting focus. Fruit trees have been chosen due to their relevance to the Jewish faith.

Recruitment policies and processes ensure that the Council is fully compliant with employment law and that no discrimination exists. Staff are well supported and receive training and developmental opportunities.

Senior officers meet regularly with members to ensure that they understand and can undertake their respective roles effectively and legally and members work closely with officers in this regard.

Members and officers are advised on and promote accurate reporting, and the importance of data quality, rules and standards. Feedback from service users is received as part of this process and acted upon. Decisions are documented transparently.

Statutory responsibilities across the Council are discharged openly and proactively, examples include having key statutory officers in place (Monitoring, Section 151 Officer and the Head of Paid Service, Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Services, Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)). Examples of statutory responsibilities delivered include, Special Educational Needs; Education Access; Early Years and place planning; sufficiency and admissions; Freedom of Information (FOI) and Elections; Coroner and Registrars' Services.

Internal Audit produces a risk based plan each year, working closely with directors and heads of service to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained or areas of concern highlighted and acted upon. While the internal control environment appears to be weaker than in previous years, this is known to the Council and continues to be reviewed and considered.

The Council has a zero tolerance to fraud and corruption and this was recently tested with senior management on a number of levels. Concerns are identified and acted upon in a timely manner, which can lead to investigations with outcomes managed appropriately and learning points and improvements implemented where necessary. There is a high level of success in criminal legal proceedings, licensing and parking appeals, which provides external judiciary/tribunal assurance that the decision making within the Council is robust.

The Council undertakes a self-assessment of its fraud risks, in order to identify and understand them. It acknowledges issues and puts in place plans which demonstrate that action is being taken and outcomes are visible. It is transparent about this process and reports to senior management and to those charged with governance. Guidance on 'Speaking up about Wrongdoing' which incorporates whistle blowing is distributed to staff, members and

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
contractors. Any irregularities identified will be investigated by Internal Audit or the appropriate officers within services. Audit Committee are responsible for the monitoring and overview of the "Speaking up about Wrongdoing Policy" and receive an annual report.

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
Openness and transparency, as one would expect with a large public body, is demonstrated throughout. All service areas feed into transparent reporting processes, both internally through officer and director groups, and publicly through Council committee meetings. This is further supported by compliance to the Transparency and Freedom of Information agenda, managed in large parts by services and, although sometimes delayed, the Council is compliant with the legislation and steps to improve timeliness have been introduced. Key decisions are reported, and trialled where necessary, through the senior team and then to Members via Party Leads, Groups, Cabinet and Director meetings. Examples include: Cabinet and Council reports, policy approvals, and minutes of meetings (FGAT[3], Cabinet and Directors Team). Openness and transparency is displayed in our commissioning, procurement and contract activity including early market engagement exercises and our full feedback process for unsuccessful bidders. Examples are our work with local partnerships; looking to put in place the right model for the new Highways contract; and our broad partnership arrangements around Tern Hill (Economic Growth) and the Flax Mill. Comprehensive consultation and stakeholder engagement is demonstrated across all service areas. Our Engagement Framework can be utilised by stakeholders to promote a consistent approach and standards. The Big Conversation included the direct involvement of stakeholders in the activity and action planning workshops. Other examples include; the transfer of local services to Town and Parish councils and other community organisations; design and shaping of Leisure Facilities, Libraries and the transfer to community organisations, Bus Strategy, Commercial Services, the development of a new Economic Growth Strategy and Highways Asset Management Strategy. Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board is a key engagement partner for Children's Services underpinned by a number of the subgroups, and contributes to board activity including multi-agency case file audits, sharing performance data and undertaking Section 11[4] audits and engaging with the Board's wider activities to promote effective stakeholder engagement. Adult Social Care utilises a number of communication and engagement channels: Shropshire Choices Information Portal; Community Hubs; Let's Talk Local; First Point of Contact; Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board; Shropshire Accident and Emergency Delivery Board and Learning Shropshire Choices dashboard and complaints. Shropshire's Adult Social Care Making It Real Board includes a variety of individuals who are recipients of Adult Social Care services and who, through their direct experiences, are able to influence social care strategic planning for Shropshire. The Board's major responsibility is to ensure that co-production with people who use services and their carers is a reality and central to future developments. The Board reviews developments and performance and holds the Council to account. The Council engages positively and always sets out to work in a collaborative open

[3] Finance Governance and Assurance Team

[4] Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

partnership approach with a number of strategic partners including Central Government departments (Cities and Local Growth Unit, Homes and Communities Agency, Broadband Delivery UK), the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and neighbouring local authorities. It is also a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The Council has a proactive Business Board which it services and engages with on key initiatives and policies, this has led to the development of the new Economic Growth Strategy and helped to launch and promote the Shropshire Growth Hub (part of the wider Marches Growth Hub). The management of One Public Estate is underway with other public sector partners. A multi-agency high cost placement-funding panel with Children's Services, Education Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been established to manage high cost placements efficiently.

Many of our services are delivered in partnership with other organisations such as the Fire Service, STaR[5] Housing, West Mercia Energy, Shropshire County Pension Fund, town and parish councils and voluntary bodies and trusts. Discussions on the Northern Gateway Partnership (now renamed as the Constellation Partnership) have taken place although not as frequently as had been hoped. Shropshire has subsequently made contact with colleagues in Cheshire East (lead authority) to reinforce our commitment to the work and discussions continue throughout 2017/18. Contact with other adjacent authorities has resulted in shared best practice on social capital, developing resilient communities and exploring the impacts and opportunities following the Brexit decision. Development of Local Growth Fund (LGF) Bids has seen three deals finalised with two Shropshire specific bids put forward by the LEP Board – the Flax Mill and Oswestry Innovation Park. The Flax Mill was successful in securing LGF monies of over two million pounds and has helped secure the wider funding package from the Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure Phase 2 of the works which will start in June 2017.

An application was submitted for Local Transport Majors funding for updating the Outline Business Case for the Oxon Link Road on 27th July 2016. This was successful in November 2016 with £1m[6] pounds awarded to develop the full business case which will be submitted to the Department for Transport by December 2017.

The Council works with the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly including continuing to recognise and promote the Compact[7]. Furthermore, a partnership with Citizens Advice provides fair access to consumers for civil advice, which would otherwise not be available to them.

Regular sound engagement between Public Health, CCG and Adult Social Care for the future provision of services is in place. This includes the agreement of Continuing Health Care funding on a case by case basis through to service redesign and commissioning through the Better Care Fund (BCF), the Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) and the Strategic Transformation Plan in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The TCP plan is under development between the four partners (Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Council local authorities and Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire CCGs) although ensuring clarity on the funding available from the National Health Service and the subsequent financial risk to the partnership remains priority activity for the Board. The BCF is under continual review with CCG colleagues and proposals for the disinvestment of services by the CCG included in the BCF have been challenged by Adult Social Care. Commissioning activity between Public Health, the CCG and Adult Social Care is becoming more aligned and currently joint posts are being considered at a number of levels across both organisations.

Three Exemplar projects co-ordinated by the Health and Wellbeing Board, Diabetes

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[5] Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing

[6] m=million

[7] The Shropshire Compact is an agreement that sets out the "rules of engagement" for how Shropshire Council and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) should work together for the benefit of the people they serve.

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Prevention; All Age Carers Strategy and Mental Health continue as planned with good stakeholder consultation and engagement, increased availability of information and improved access to services.

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Development of the Council's Corporate Plan and Strategic Action Plans ensures views across outcomes and actions for the longer, medium and shorter terms. The Commercial Strategy approved by Council at the beginning of March 2017 sets out clear visions, objectives and outcomes which include financial, economic, social and environmental issues. Similarly, the Economic Growth Strategy supported by the Commercial Strategy, the key objective of which is to support and drive increased economic productivity, will in turn support financially and socially driven outcomes and maximise environmental benefits.

The Council's Financial Strategy sets out to resource the Corporate and Service plans. Service outcomes are linked directly to the long term sustainability of the Council. All documents within the service provide a direct or in-direct flow from the Council's Corporate Plan and the strategic objectives. The Financial Strategy sets out the short and long term implications for service delivery across the Council. Certain elements of developmental work have been put on hold while the financial position of the Council is reviewed and whilst further information is awaited from central government as to how, for example, fair funding will operate. At this time, a short term budget plan enables a balanced budget to be set for the next two years, providing the time and space to develop a more sustainable approach within the parameters of improved information flow from central government. The Sustainable Business Plan developed in late 2015 remains, however, a valid interpretation of the implications for the Council of the current funding formula and sets an approach to deliver a balanced budget, albeit at the expense of the majority of services currently being delivered.

The Council has a funding gap in all financial years going forwards. In 2017/18 this gap is £16m, growing to £24m in 2018/19. Short-term funding has been applied to bring the budget into balance over these two years, although this does not address the underlying and growing gap between spend and resources. In 2018/19 the funding gap is modelled to have increased to £37m and while some one-off funding is expected to be available, a gap is expected to remain in the order of £21m, growing to £44m in 2019/20.

Further details are located in report 86: Council agenda, February 2017: Financial Strategy 2017/18 – 2018/20: http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=125&MId=3222&Ver=4

The financial priorities for the Council are focussed on establishing a sustainable approach to closing the funding gap, in the time afforded by the current short-term budget plan. The Commercial and Economic Growth Strategies, supported by the Digital Transformation Plan will form a substantial part of the long-term plan. Over the timescale available, further work to establish the impact of Fair Funding on Shropshire Council will be undertaken as far as this is possible. Beyond this, the option remains to withdraw funding for services, and this will be factored into our approach over the planning period as necessary.

A number of other key strategic documents have been reviewed this year to help identify and improve targeted outcomes, these include an Apprenticeship Provider Framework supporting the apprenticeship levy; strategies for Workforce, ICT, Communications, Health and Wellbeing; a Health Strategic Needs Assessment and Service plans for Regulatory Services further reflected in team operational plans.

Outcomes and outputs are defined and managed through robust project management and contract governance in all service areas as illustrated by the Waste Contract Project Liaison

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
Group, the Digital Transformation Programme and the Leadership Board for Shropshire Highways Alliance. The Commissioning Assurance and Performance Board has also been introduced. The Board is made up of the Council's Directors Team and meets every four weeks having the following main objectives: • Monitoring the overall delivery of significant commissioning activity; • Ensuring that appropriate contract management and good governance are in place in relation to the management of the significant contracts (based on risk and cost), including arms-length arrangements and new delivery models; • Advising Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council as appropriate on commissioning activity, including relevant portfolio holders; • Approving new commissioning activity; • Reviewing lessons learned and taking appropriate actions as required. The Council and its partners have a shared Social Value Framework and Social Value Charter. It promotes and embeds social value through research and by organising and delivering awareness raising and development events. Social Value has been embedded within commissioned services as illustrated by the contracts with Mouchel, Veolia and Serco. Highways officers and colleagues from Mouchel have been involved with Bishop's Castle Community College and the promotion of STEM[8] subjects to year 10 and 11 students. In addition the project facilitated work placements for five students from the college in July 2016. At the locality level, the focus is strongly on economic, social and environmental benefits, for example; work in the market towns to support businesses and appropriate development; the work of the Planning Policy team and involvement in supporting neighbourhood and community-led plans; and the Connecting Shropshire roll out which has clear economic and social benefits in terms of reducing isolation. Through the Council's project work and planning service, environmental initiatives are supported and planning through the design and delivery of new homes, businesses and communities. School effectiveness and pupil performance is central to sustaining social and economic benefits. School performance monitoring procedures provides the basis for challenge and support to secure and sustain good and outstanding provision and outcomes for pupils from early years through to primary and secondary schools to post 16 provision – preparing them for the next phase of their lives. Adult Social Care is primarily concerned with the social benefits of improving the well-being of those it provides support to, including carers, but such services will also assist Shropshire economically and environmentally in areas such as sustained supported employment, training and enabling resilient communities to develop. ASC allocates its limited resources fairly in accordance with a statutory eligibility criteria by utilising a number of mechanisms including: brokerage, robust systems connecting users and providers in the care market; contract management, (robust quality assurance processes to ensure support is appropriate and proportionate to promote independence); focus on quantitative and quality performance; and Shropshire Choices Information Portal Public Factsheets. In addition to statutory performance data submitted for the safeguarding adult return, local performance measures are being developed to monitor activity and provide qualitative information on safeguarding risks. Opportunity Risk Management is used to help decide how the Commissioning Support Unit prioritises and provides support across Council projects. The Council remains committed through, for example, its Asset Management Strategy and One Public Estate programme, to reducing the carbon footprint of its buildings and those used

[8] Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
by others. Public Health is focussed on short term evidence based cost reducing interventions. The preventive programme continues and is included within the county's NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan and in particular with the neighbourhood component of the plan.

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
All decisions are taken correctly either through delegating to officers or by Cabinet or Council. Reports are considered by Legal Services before decisions are made to make sure they present the information required for members to make a reasoned decision. This year saw the introduction of Strategic Action Plans led by directors and a standard approach to Service Plans with a refresh of the Corporate Performance Management Framework including milestones from the Strategic Action Plans. All service areas produce performance and budgetary information for planning purposes and act on the implications of this information. Where inadequate performance is detected, it is acted upon quickly. All new developments are considered, formally or informally, by Risk Management staff and Finance Business Partners before reaching decision points. Budget Consultation is undertaken annually, and consultation with members through party groups and leaders as requested. The Financial Strategy identifies the short-term and longer-term approaches to managing the budget and considers the options for delivering a self-sufficient council in the future, aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan. Implications for delivery of services and/or increases in resources are reported throughout the Council and understood and acted upon. Services do not overspend without appropriate action being taken and where this is not possible, appropriate justification provided. Budget structures map service structures where necessary, ensuring appropriate alignment with Council priorities. The Capital Investment Board has been created and is chaired by the s151 Officer[9] to oversee significant future investment programmes aligned to Council priorities and key strategic objectives (income generation, reduction in costs, and achievement of social value). Human Resources (HR) have provided a Wellbeing Plan and Health interventions for the workforce; moved to an e-learning platform to support staff development; completed a Whistleblowing annual report to Audit Committee demonstrating openness in following up concerns raised; and have an updated HR Service and Business Plan. In Place and Enterprise the development of the new Highways Asset Management Strategy, led to the Council attaining a level three rating which will ensure the maximum capital funding from the DfT[10]; Development of a service redesign for Waste Recycling saw the collection of cardboard and food waste collected at the kerbside result in an extra 160 tonnes of dry recycling collected in Shrewsbury in January 2017 compared to 2016; the use of thorough and robust tender processes, evaluation criteria and assessment ensures that intended outcomes are achieved and optimised; National Accreditation for the Archives Service has been attained which will drive up standards and lead to better outcomes for customers; Connecting Shropshire, the commercial deployment of superfast broadband, demonstrates the need for

[9] An officer appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires every local authority to appoint a suitably qualified officer responsible for the proper administration of its affairs.
[10] Department for Transport

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
public intervention to reach the targets set for superfast broadband speeds for premises, by both the Council and Central Government; a partial review of the Local Plan has been instigated to ensure that the Council has a sustainable and defendable scheme for the future. This is critical to ensuring the delivery of sustainable economic growth for housing, employment and infrastructure; delivery of business growth support and grant programmes to support business start-up and expansion interventions are carried out by the service through the growth hub, European funding programmes and participation in partner support programmes such as the Birmingham Growth Programme. These are all output focused and driven, and the impacts of the interventions are quantified and closely monitored and reported. More generally there are clearly identified outcomes, business cases and performance measures within commissioning and re-commissioning activity to ensure optimal results. There is a business case methodology set out in the Commercial Strategy and adopted by the Capital Investment Board. This involves a rigorous analysis of a variety of options, indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and including the risks associated with those options. Thereby ensuring best value is achieved and a sustainable income stream maintained. The year saw development of a new suite of accessible measures and information for staff and managers in Adult Social Care. Improvements delivered included; an asset based strengths approach to adult social work practice evidenced through assessment/support planning; accountability across the Adult Social Care leadership team to ensure a high standard quality of DoLS[11] authorisations; multi-disciplinary meetings to determine approach; monthly supervision; evidence based practice; business planning and involvement with the Business Redesign Team to ensure teams within the service are delivering effective, value for money services that work to deliver outcomes in line with priorities identified in the service and Corporate Plan; and performance and budget monitoring including RAG[12] ratings to ensure that, where required, corrective action is taken. Work is ongoing to bring overspend on discharge from hospitals under control. The implementation of a centralised brokerage facility, the use of block contracts, a controlled maximum hourly rate and changes to the Integrated Care Services (ICS) team providing more scrutiny of discharge decisions is controlling expenditure on hospital discharge. Using additional BCF funding that has been made available, additional social worker posts are being used to increase the speed of individual reviews following discharge, thus improving 'flow' out of the hospital. The risk of increased costs due to the disinvestment and reduction by the CCG in re-enablement and discharge to access beds that have previously been purchased to facilitate hospital discharge, is being managed across the sector, within the Accident and Emergency Development Board and its subgroups. In Children's Social Care a business case for additional capacity to deliver accessible management information and business intelligence was delivered. The school performance monitoring policy and procedures ensure that risks presented by schools are identified, categorised accurately and appropriate challenge, support and intervention is provided through either Local Authority or external services, including through the issuing of pre-warning notices to under-performing schools and the establishment (where necessary) of interim executive boards to replace governors. The Education Access Service monitors school attendance and appropriate action is taken to address absence and exclusions. Diminishing funding presents risk to sustaining effective arrangements for monitoring, challenging, supporting and intervention in schools by the Education Improvement Service (EIS) and the Education Access Service (EAS). This increases the risk of a reduced proportion of good and outstanding schools.

[11] Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

[12] The RAG system is a popular project management method of rating for issues of status reports, based on Red, Amber (yellow), and Green colours used in a traffic light rating system

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

Children's Services work to actions identified within the Corporate Plan which link to outcomes in their Business Plans. Officers' individual actions plans are in place for specific activities where interventions are identified to improve outcomes for the service, e.g. case file audit action plan, and a supervision audit action plan. Work Plans are in place across a number of teams/roles across Children's Services which are subject to improvement i.e. Independent Reviewing Unit, Leaving Care and Joint Adoption Service.

The Early Help Partnership Strategy has a clear set of agreed outcome measures. Every family open to 'Early Help' who needs a multi-agency response has an Early Help Assessment and family plan which sets out what interventions will be made available to meet the child's identified outcomes.

The Communications service is currently developing a strategy that complements the overall strategic direction of Shropshire Council, as defined in the Corporate Plan. An ICT Strategy and improved management control action plans are in place, all of which demonstrate activities to support the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Governance framework.

Investment has been made in the establishment and delivery of a digital transformation programme which aims to redesign how services are delivered and operated. Through the programme, interaction with the Council and access to its services will become easier and more cost effective for Shropshire residents. The project looks to replace our current social care, financial, HR/payroll and supporting systems with the very latest solutions providing opportunities for change in business processes, and long-term opportunities for clients and providers to work in a more digital way with the Council. As the IT landscape continues to change, this project will continue to develop and be reviewed until such a time that all systems and dependencies have been documented and plans for re-instating them defined.

In addition, key roles in IT have been and continue to be identified and recruited to, examples include investment in a new security analyst to help manage cybersecurity. There has been increased involvement of Council staff, rather than consultants in the programme, and regular meetings between the CEO and Senior Responsible Officers held to reinforce responsibilities and monitor progress. Potential problems are considered and addressed as they are identified through our risk and service management processes.

An investment in IT staff is underway including Information Technology Information Library (ITIL) foundation training. For Shropshire Council, the ITIL framework offers an effective change management process and an improved incident reporting system; with an overarching culture of constant service improvement. All will deliver a greater level of control across the IT department using best practice frameworks.

This work is complimented by a project to ensure the Council's incident management system (LANDESK) works appropriately for the organisation. LANDESK will provide the Council with a tried and tested system for recording and managing incidents and issues with our IT infrastructure, it also has a change management system.

In addition to, and as part of the digital transformation programme, IT solutions and systems continue to have improved controls embedded within them to ensure business continuity in the event of a disaster. Increased testing and documenting has been implemented, the Disaster Recovery/ Business Continuity Programme Board has been reinstated and meets regularly and positive results have resulted in this ongoing project. In addition, the Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery project has continued to develop a robust service delivery plan and individual business areas have been consulted, with localised plans developed to support the IT service in prioritising work in the event of an incident.

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

Health interventions are based on standards set by Public Health England; NICE[13] and the Environment Agency. Public Health has an intelligence led, risk based approach to service activity. Operational team plans are in place with priorities and targets set using a risk, harm and vulnerability 'test'. Key performance indicators are included in team plans.

Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

Officers and members understand their respective roles, these are set out in job descriptions, the Constitution, Part 8 Delegations, Contract and Finance Rules. These responsibilities and accountabilities are understood and reviewed on a regular basis. In addition all members continue to receive training throughout their four year term and performance appraisals are being reintroduced for all officers.

A Workforce Development Strategy is in place to support the Corporate Plan. Portfolio Holder roles are clearly established and reporting through senior management and members identifies accountability. Section 151 update meetings and governance meetings with the Head of Human Resources, Monitoring Officer, s151 Officer and Head of Audit are established and undertaken regularly to consider governance and political issues as necessary. Budget Consultation is undertaken annually, although levels of participation are to be reviewed for future consideration.

The following examples demonstrate tools in place to support the clarity of officer roles and the development opportunities provided to them; team and service plans; budget monitoring, risk management reporting through to Cabinet, Audit and Scrutiny Committees; appraisal documentation; minutes of meetings; Leadership Development Programme; Learning Pool[14]; relaunched performance management process; renewed focus on sickness absence; lunch and learn sessions; CPD[15] programmes; regular reporting to Health, Safety and Welfare group; knowledge sharing systems; team meetings and one to ones; improved strategies (IT, Commercial, Communications, etc.); and mentoring and sounding boards for the support and development of staff. The health of our workforce is key and sessions providing health checks, exercise and wellbeing advice have been made available to all.

A Leadership programme has been launched, A full programme has been agreed, two events have taken place and there is a full diary of events scheduled over the next twelve months. Seven further well-being sessions have been held and 38 people have attended Healthy Heart monitoring sessions. Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic hospital has been identified as preferred provider for fast track physiotherapy. A full calendar of events scheduled around national awareness weeks and local events has been published with events taking place at least monthly over the period.

More specific examples of development include: NEC[16] contract training across the Highways team and wider training and development across the Property Services management team, which has resulted in an increase in contracts won; National accreditation programme for Highways Inspectors as part of the new Code of Practice for Highways; and officers undertaking recognised management qualifications (MBA);

The development of team action plans across services has improved the focus of resources to address capacity issues. There are examples of cross team working that are being actively

[13] National Institute For Health and Clinical Excellence
[14] E learning package
[15] Continuing professional development
[16] New engineering contract

Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

implemented because capacity requirements have been identified as a whole service, for example shared project support functions; improved CPD opportunities, membership of professional organisations and participation in networks (regional and national) which has resulted in learning from best practice elsewhere. Examples include part of the Planning Service redesign and managing key business relationships; review of and action taken around Adult Social Care contract monitoring and management requirements and the identification of further capacity requirements and plans to fill the same; review of operations and introduction of e-tendering system, contract register and reference system together with the introduction of Porge[17], all for increased efficiency and capacity; collaborative procurement activity with other local authorities; and review of priorities and outcomes for the Commissioning Support Unit linking through to the delivery of the Service Plan and therefore Corporate Plan.

Restructures of services to fit future business needs have occurred in Highways, Strategic Planning, Adult Social Care and Children's Services, designed to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Children's Services have focused on providing social workers and managers with the right tools to deliver highly effective services, including evidence based model of assessment which involves each worker receiving five days specialist training, with specific training for managers. The service provides good feedback on enquiries, recognised in a bespoke Peer Review in December 2016; it has a robust training programme, which equips social workers to deliver outstanding services, a good AYSE[18] programme in place which evaluates well and provides our newly qualified social workers with the support and development they need in their first year of practice. Children's Services has an increased number of team managers and therefore management oversight on cases to ensure they are progressed in a timely manner and the Peer Review in December 2016 reported that leadership runs through the veins of the organisation and is blossoming.

The new Adult Social Care management structure focuses resources in the areas where they are most needed. This follows benchmarking exercises and incorporates; monthly supervisions; performance appraisals linked to development plans; leadership programmes including leadership qualifications for front line managers; service manager weekly meetings with Head of Adult Social Care; skills matrix across the whole Adult Social Care workforce; joint working, partnerships, i.e. SPIC[19], joint training with Telford and Wrekin Council; and leading regional workforce development work for ADASS[20]

Public Health has an established CPD Programme in conjunction with Chester University and extensive training across service areas including: serving statutory notices, Health and Safety notices and legalities, and Food Safety notices and legalities. In addition, there have been successful external audits of both the Food Standards and Pest Control Service.

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Services pro-actively input into the annual audit programme, strategic and operational risk reviews. Risks are also identified and managed in service and team plans. There is promotion of the Opportunity Risk Management Strategy across the Council and, through its application, a positive approach to managing risk is delivered when focusing on achieving the required outcomes and objectives. Operational risks are reviewed and updated regularly by services to monitor outstanding actions and identify new risks and strategic risks are managed and

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[17] Electronic expenditure, contractor and market analysis tool
[18] Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
[19] Shropshire Partners in Care
[20] Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

reported through to members and directors on a regular and appropriate basis.

More specifically there is a risk matrix operated by the Contracts team in relation to Adult Social Care contractors. Risks are identified with investments in commercial activity and a thorough evaluation of opportunity, risk and impact is undertaken when managing and disposing of assets and bringing forward new commercial models and partnerships.

Risk assessment and management is central to almost all areas of Learning and Skills. Procedures for monitoring school performance, provision for special educational needs, and access to education all identify the challenge, support and intervention necessary to secure improvement. Biannual school performance monitoring (involving all relevant services) identifies all local authority maintained schools as presenting either low, medium or high risk; Self-evaluation and improvement plans confirm focus on priorities for improvement and regular updates are provided for the portfolio holder for CYPS[21].

Public Health holds the lead role for emergency planning and works with external agencies and Council officers to anticipate potential risks, however as these link to issues such as inclement weather, flooding and major accidents they are unpredictable by their very nature.

All financial decisions are reported through to Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny Committee in an appropriate and transparent basis and challenge welcomed from members and officers. All budgets, actuals and variances are reported regularly with supporting information trails. The Financial Strategy identifies a short term budget plan and a long-term aspirational plan linked to the Corporate Plan for a self-sustaining Council. A full risk assessment is undertaken in support of this. Final Accounts are produced on time and in-line with best practice and have an unqualified audit opinion. Based on the work performed by the External Auditor to address the significant risks, they concluded that; 'the Council had proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources'.

Processes and procedures are in place to ensure management information is available to enable effective decision making across the Council. Key staff are placed on organisational working groups and Finance Business Partners are important members of directorate management teams, guiding and informing decision making. Control totals and reconciliations are a standard approach to working and information is not released until the integrity of data can be assured. There have been examples in 2016/17 where information has had to be revised after release (for example Council Tax Resolution to Council February 2017). Whilst this demonstrates a potential shortfall in checking mechanisms to meet deadlines, it provides assurance that balance checks are undertaken and corrected information reported transparently. Authorisers once identified are inducted and supported in the use of the internal system for payments. Forecasting of projected spend and income is thorough and budget holders understand the risks that need to be managed in their own budget areas. In addition a number of services hold regular one to ones and performance appraisals for staff to ensure their delivery meets individual, team, service and corporate objectives, for example within the Planning, Finance Governance and Assurance Service and Adult Social Care.

The benefit of robust financial information was demonstrated in respect of a challenge on the use of Penalty Charge Notice and Licensing income. Financial tools used to set discretionary fees and charges at effective cost recovery levels and to respond to a recent legal case outcome to charge fees in two parts were sufficiently robust to defend corporate complaints, threat of judicial review and external challenge to the Council's accounts.

Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding on a case by case basis using a jointly agreed risk tool is nearer to resolution with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Adult Social Care.

[21] Children and Young People Services

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

The outstanding debt owed to the Council from the CCG in relation to CHC has been resolved, and further work towards developing joint commissioning arrangements is now being progressed.

Quarterly Corporate Performance Reporting using the Performance Portal is delivered, making information more accessible to members, officers and the public. Key information is data quality checked, for example by applying the Data Quality Toolkits for Adults and Children's Social Care, and the checking carried out on statutory return data. Services manage their performance through a number of methods: quarterly Quality and Performance meetings with team managers and service managers to review feedback from case file audits, complaints, service user feedback and performance data and the use of dashboards. Quality and performance is a standing agenda item on team meeting agendas and exceptions are escalated up through management structures.

Children's Service Peer Review in December 2016 reported that the Team Manager and Director of Children's Services Matrix were effective and were linked to strategic intent and desired improvements. The service is awaiting an imminent Ofsted inspection.

Officers undertake data management and security on-line training and complete risk assessments for the use, storage and disposal of personal data. In addition, Information Asset Owners complete annual Information Governance Assurance Statements.

Data is held in a number of systems by different teams. It is stored on secure drives and databases that are protected in accordance with approved policies, for example, Evolutive CRM system which is designated to agreed users, and the Community Infrastructure Levy database.

Internal Audit sets a balanced and risk assessed programme each year identifying the key areas for review and the need for assurance. Areas not subject to review are identified to enable senior management to gather their own assurance as necessary. Audit Committee undertakes a regular self-assessment, challenged by officers and External Audit, and undertakes regular training sessions based on the identification of areas for improvement and key risks and fundamental knowledge-based needs. Over the year service managers have been required to attend Audit Committee to provide assurance not otherwise attained.

On the basis of the work undertaken and management responses received; the Head of Audit has qualified her overall opinion on the Council's internal control environment. This is based primarily on the continuing numbers of the internal audit assurances provided on the IT infrastructure and a number of application systems. These risks are already known to directors and members and are reflected in the strategic risk register. The IT infrastructure on which Council applications operate continues to present a clear risk to service continuity. This has now been the case for several years, and although it is acknowledged that significant resource and prioritisation has been applied to manage this risk and managers have reported improvements, it was also accepted that it may take several years for the necessary improvements to be implemented and sufficiently embedded to attain appropriate assurance levels. The issues currently identified are sufficient to warrant qualifying the annual audit opinion to the extent that management must continue to prioritise implementation of plans to address the matters raised. Whilst identifying these control weaknesses and highlighting them to management, it should be said, there has been no evidence of significant IT business failure or other error that could result in a material misstatement in the Council's accounts and reliance can still be placed upon it for that purpose.

The Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny have conducted a Peer Review of Overview and Scrutiny in the Council making a number key recommendations which the Council are considering how to progress in 2017/18. Induction and development for

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

members will start with Overview and Scrutiny Sessions delivered in conjunction with INLOGOV[22] at the University of Birmingham.

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

As a public body the Council has a high level of transparency in its activities and reporting and complies with the relevant legislation.

Specific elements introduced this year to improve on this are the Commissioning and Assurance Board which will receive updates and outcome reports on commissioning and contracted activities; and a number of task and finish reviews including Planning and Youth Activities that have led to service improvements. A new Performance Portal has been introduced to support improved benchmarking activity for the Council by using CFO Insights[23] via Grant Thornton; and a Council wide contract register and reference system.

In the past twelve months Planning Services has been subject to two audits, an internal independent service review and scrutiny through a member led task and finish group process. This has resulted in a redesign which is now being implemented and a set of performance measures that are financial (value of planning fees earned), quantitative (determination of planning applications within a set timeframe) and qualitative (Supplementary Planning Documents complete).

Transparency is also demonstrated through the consultations and engagements that have taken place in the past year, particularly the Local Plan partial review consultation, Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy, previous consultation on the economic growth service review and the most recent consultation on the budget; draft Economic Growth Strategy; consultation on plans to commission new service providers and dispose of public assets. Both complaints and compliments are received and followed through and any learning absorbed.

Information is reported and shared through various routes including Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Full Council and with partners via the Local Enterprise Partnership and Management Committee. Briefings are held regularly with portfolio holders and engagement of ward members on local matters. An update on the Economic Growth Service's activities is provided at each Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee, a public meeting.

Data reports are produced to comply with transparency requirements including contracts awarded and procurement information on a monthly basis. Unsuccessful bidders for contracts are provided with full detailed and timely feedback.

Reports are written and communicated to the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate. The Council's communication team work with officers and members to ensure key messages are conveyed in plain English and appropriate formats which do not discriminate against any member of society.

Existing and new strategies, plans and performance outcomes are discussed at Scrutiny committees allowing opportunity for challenge and change as appropriate. Reports from Children's Services have focused on school performance, elective home education, special educational needs and gaps between the performance of specific groups of pupils (such as those who are disadvantaged) and their peers.

All service areas are subject to internal audit review with a number of key systems falling

[22] Institute of Local Government Studies

[23] An online analysis tool that gives instant access around the financial performance, socio-economic context and service outcomes for every council in England, Scotland and Wales.

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
automatically under annual review given their status. Information is regularly and consistently reported or communicated to the Council, senior management and to members, and also to all staffing levels as budget holders, operational risk owners, authorising officers and system administrators. Ongoing review of the service over the year has identified areas for improvement, for example simplification of message and improvements in style. The transparency agenda and FOI is managed through various teams and, although there are often competing priorities leading to delays in provision of information, it is only delay and not lack of transparency. Improvements have been made towards the end of 2016/17 which will be prioritised for 2017/18. Internal Audit recommendations are considered by the senior team on a regular basis for good housekeeping and to identify additional learning. Finance received two external peer challenges in the year: Internal Audit were reviewed by CIPFA against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and were found to comply, and the Local Government Association reported on a Finance Health Check which was conducted in 2015/16, which provided assurance as to the approaches taken and an improvement plan which has been delivered against. In their Audit Findings for the year ended 31 March 2016, the External Auditor provided an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and an unqualified Value for Money (VFM) conclusion. Human Resources has identified a need to sample compliance application of HR policies and in 2017/18 aim to reinstate such checks to try to support and improve levels of assurance in the Council. It is hoped that the results of such checks will enable the service to target interventions and improve levels of assurance through better communication. Adult Social Care have a high level of transparency in decision making and involving service users in the process which has been demonstrated throughout this statement. The service is often challenged and held to account for the decisions made which are supported by employing a variety of techniques: performance reporting and dashboards; financial modelling with development of the Adult Social Care Growth Model which includes costs, client numbers with services, tracks and analyses different categories of clients, including pathway and progress through the system; New Operating Model (NOM); liaison meetings with CQC[24] held jointly with Telford and Wrekin Council and Healthwatch[25]; National Development Team (NDTI); Independent Safeguarding Boards and peer challenges. Chelmaren Children's home has been judged to be outstanding for the fourth time in a row, with the inspectors concluding that it; "provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the home contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help, protection and care." Public Health regularly presents to the scrutiny committees, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the CCG Committees regarding its activities. The service also provides reports to Strategic Licensing Committee and to Cabinet when appropriate e.g. the Public Space Prohibition Order (PSPO) report for the centre of Shrewsbury, to deal with issues of street drinking, anti-social behaviour etc..

[24] The Care Quality Commission is an executive non-departmental public body of the Department of Health established to regulate and inspect health and social care services in England

[25] Health watch England is the consumer champion for health and social care

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Leader	**CEO/ Head of the Paid Service**

Significant governance issues

The main challenges facing the Council appear below and are set in the context of delivering services to acceptable standards whilst achieving the budget savings required in 2017/18 and the overall funding gap of £80m as identified as part of the Corporate Plan and Financial Strategy. To ensure this is delivered and strategic risks managed, the Council will strive to achieve the following outcomes:

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
1.	Services review, identify and deliver efficiency savings, financial assumptions become more refined and budget plans are in place to deliver services within the resources available.	High	Inability to ensure income exceeds expenditure for the years 18/19, 19/20 and beyond in order for services to be delivered.	Financial strategy and sustainable business model to be refined. Re review of Adult Services Financial Model Digital Transformation Programme (DTP), Economic Growth (EG), Commerciality (C) to be progressed as key strategies for SC. With assurance level considered, Financial Strategy will be updated as appropriate then review remaining gap for savings proposals. Link to resources for longer term view (covered below). Specific Actions: Review resources and spend projections to identify structural funding gap from 2019/20 and beyond (target to 2022/23). Review DTP, EG and C to deliver robust projections of their impact. Remaining funding gap will be identified and profiled (target to 2022/23) and impact on services assessed (savings proposals) Alternative arrangements for using one-off	James Walton	February 2018

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
				resources will be explored. Financial Strategy will reflect options, or agreed approach by February 2018.		
2.	The workforce requirements are met by a sustainable source of people resources, flexible enough to reflect the changing needs of the Council.	High	Inadequate retention and recruitment of experienced and qualified staff results in insufficient capacity and experience to sustain the Council's outcomes.	Further roll out of Management Development Programme to Service Managers. Response to review of current Market Supplements Policy to be developed. Commissioning/Commercial Skills Training to be rolled out. Leadership Development Programme rolled out. Apprenticeship Levy implemented. Recruitment campaign for back filling and to build capacity to deliver digital transformation. Gender Pay Reporting	Michele Leith	March 2018
3.	Staff are healthy and happy in the workforce and therefore perform to a high standard.	High	Increases in work related stress impacts the ability to deliver council outcomes.	Targeted Wellbeing Sessions and counselling to be arranged. Continuation of the development of the 'one stop shop' for workplace wellbeing on the staff intranet. Reinforcement of staff reward schemes, cycle to work, fast track to physiotherapy. Proposals for policy change (sickness	Michele Leith	March 2018

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
				absence). Performance reviews introduced for all staff.		
4.	Adults are safeguarded to the highest standards.	Medium	Failure to safeguard adults with care and support needs including adhering to legislation in relation to Deprivation of Liberties (DoLs).	Complete ICT Care System replacement process. Options appraisal for reducing/removing backlogs in relation to DoLs. Review of Mental Capacity Act/DoLs and safeguarding functions with the aim to create capacity at operational team manager level.	Andy Begley	March 2018
5.	Children are safeguarded to the highest standards	Medium	Failure to safeguard vulnerable children and meet the requirements of Ofsted.	Working closer with the risk and insurance team with serious case reviews and claims management. Focused work in relation to the SSCB and how we most efficiently support the key boards, Children's Safeguarding Board, Adult Safeguarding Board, Children's Trust, Health and Well-Being Board Locate, record and archive historic social service records. Agree proposals with statutory partners (CCG and Police) for formation of appropriate board (existing Children's Safeguarding Board)	Karen Bradshaw	March 2018
6.	Improved business processes with embedded controls	Low	Failure to implement a Digital Transformation	A review of the document will be undertaken in the autumn. An action plan will be linked to the strategy to ensure business as usual	Michele Leith	Autumn 2017

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
	providing enhanced access to customers, better service delivery to clients and business continuity in the event of a disaster.		Programme to provide ICT solutions to support business applications, will impact the strategic direction of travel.	activity is aligned to the digital transformation programme Testing of backup arrangements are ongoing. We plan to do a total fail over test to Nuneaton later this year. Delivery of the next stage of the digital transformation programme. ICT Health Check ongoing delivery of identified actions. Further business continuity work with suppliers to seek improved solutions. Further recruitment to key posts to add resilience to Infrastructure, Security and Service Desk teams and to release resources to undertake other tasks. Specialist IT staff to support the ICT Digital Transformation Programme with further backfilling and recruitment at lower levels. Consideration given to elements of the data centre becoming cloud based. Review and improvement of the Intranet as a communications tool. Creation of a media suite to inform and support training and awareness in IT systems. Information Technology Information Library		Autumn 2017 All the following - March 2018

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
				(ITIL) foundation training rolled out to key staff and ITIL framework adopted.		
7.	Increased pressures on social and health services are known and managed in the most effect way within budget provisions.	Medium	Failure of the Strategic Transformation Partnership to deliver transformation and integration of Health and Social Care and the subsequent impact on managing demand and cost across the economy.	Adult Social Care and Public Health are working with NHS to reduce demand through a greater focus on prevention. Delivery of a joint action plan with Shropshire CCG to develop a shared vision for primary and community services. Lobbying continues for the Council to receive a fair funding settlement to reflect the needs of a rural population. Seeking the benefits of Better Care Fund Opportunities Complete joint commissioning recruitment.	Rod Thomson/ Andy Begley	March 2018
8.	A clear long term budget is identified allowing for certainty in the delivery of future services.	High	Lack of clarity from Central Government on the future funding levels and increased uncertainty re: local resources, which inhibits the ability to calculate future budgets (incorporating funding methodology).	Digital Transformation Programme, Economic Growth and Commerciality to be progressed as key strategies for SC. This approach will identify potential resources and long-term viability of these resources. Would also link to Council Tax and Business Rate generation to provide an overview of funding levels under the Council's control. Estimate of impact of Fair Funding Review and 100% Business Rate Retention will become clearer and will be able to review impact as details become available – no timescale from government due to General Election.	James Walton	March 2018

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
				Specific Actions: See (1) above.		
9.	Contracts are well managed and maximum impact is obtained.	Low	Inconsistency within contract management and monitoring results in failure to support our outcomes.	Develop structure and training for directors and officers for effective contract management and monitoring. Review of current contracts and grants from across the Council (costs, measures and monitoring arrangements). Maintain interim arrangements to ensure that there is a functional and comprehensive Contracts Database. Ensure a consistent and effective approach to the development of measures for inclusion in contracts and contract performance management. Ensure that data and intelligence requirements are identified and set out in contracts. Running of new contract reference request system, promotion and education after implementation.	George Candler	December 2017 All the following - March 2018
10.	Strategies deliver outcomes that support the overall direction of the Council	Low	Failure to deliver key strategies (i.e. Commercial and Economic Growth) prevents the Council from meeting the	Ensure Strategic Programme Board and the Investment Board (considering economic and commercial investment propositions) consider key decisions prior to being taken to Cabinet for approval. Work through and report on key actions of	George Candler	June 2017

	Targeted outcome	Risk Target	Strategic Risk	Activity	Lead Officer	Completion date
			corporate outcomes	the Commercial and Economic Growth Strategy's action plans.		

Annex A

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK 2016/17

Key documents/functions/ process guidelines

- **Local code of corporate governance**
- **Corporate plan and financial strategy**
- **Council constitution**
- **Opportunity risk management strategy**
- **Commissioning strategy**
- **HR policies, procedures and codes of conduct**
- **Anti-fraud and corruption and whistleblowing (Speaking up about wrong doing) policies**

Annual Governance Statement

Signed by the Leader of the Council and the CEO to accompany the Statement of Accounts

Council and Directorate policies, plans and risk registers

Draft Annual Governance Statement
Senior management with responsibility for drafting AGS after evaluating assurances and supporting evidence and identifying areas for improvement

IA to evaluate the effectiveness of the risk management, control and governance processes

(Required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015)

Provision of ongoing assurance on adequacy and effectiveness of controls over key risks

Policy and performance boards	**External inspections** **(e.g. Ofsted, Care Quality Commission)**	**Financial control assurance** (Section 151 Officer)	**Legal and regulatory assurance** (Monitoring Officer)	**Members' assurance**	**Internal Audit**	**External Audit**	**Risk management and performance management**

Key to levels of assurance
First line of defence
Second line of defence
Third line of defence