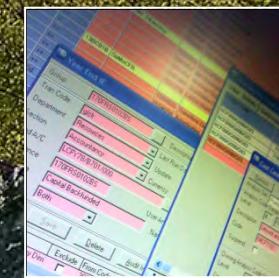


2018/2019 Statement of Accounts

April 2022



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

The lake, Japanese Pavilion and sculptures are among the legacy features situated within around 70 acres of parkland on the site of the 1992 Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale.



Cover Photo: Festival Park, Ebbw Vale.



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Abbreviations and Terms Used

Byrfoddau a Thermau a Ddefnyddir



Abbreviations and Terms Used in the Statement of Accounts

AEF	Aggregate External Finance	GMiRS	Group Movement in Reserves Statement
ALT	Aneurin Leisure Trust	GMP	Guaranteed Minimum Pension
AW	Audit Wales	GTU	Gwent Transport Unit
BS	Balance Sheet	GWICES	Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service
CARE	Career Average Revalued Earnings	HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
CBC	County Borough Council	HMT	Her Majesty's Treasury
CC	City or County Council	HRA	Housing Revenue Account
CCP	Collaborative Change Programme	IAS	International Accounting Standard
CCRCDD	Cardiff City Region City Deal	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
CDS	Credit Default Swap	IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
CIES	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standard
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy	ISB	Individual Schools Budget
CPFA	Chartered Public Finance Accountant	LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee
CPI	Consumer Price Index	LGPS	Local Government Pension Scheme
DRC	Depreciated Replacement Cost	LLP	Limited Liability Partnership
EAS	Education Achievement Service (for South-East Wales)	LMS	Local Management of Schools
EEA	European Economic Area	LOBO	Lender's Option Borrower's Option
EFA	Expenditure and Funding Analysis	MIRS	Movement in Reserves Statement
EFTA	European Free Trade Association	MMI	Municipal Mutual Insurance
EU	European Union	MRICS	Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
EUV	Existing Use Value	MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision
FRS	Financial Reporting Standard	MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
FSS	Funding Strategy Statement	NHS	National Health Service
FTSE	Financial Times Stock Exchange	NNDR	National Non-Domestic Rates
GBS	Group Balance Sheet	NPV	Net Present Value
GCIES	Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	NRW	Natural Resources Wales
GGCJC	Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee	PPE	Property, Plant and Equipment
GJRC	Gwent Joint Records Committee	PWLB	Public Works Loan Board

Abbreviations and Terms Used in the Statement of Accounts

REFCUS	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RPI	Retail Price Index
RSG	Revenue Support Grant
SCR	Standard Contribution Rate
SeRCoP	Service Reporting Code of Practice
SEWSPG	South East Wales Planning Group
SPA	State Pension Age
SRS	Shared Resource Services
STCA	Short-Term (Accumulating) Compensated Absences
STRGL	Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
SVWS Ltd.	Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd
TPS	Teachers Pension Scheme (<i>also:</i> uTPS)
UK GAAP	United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (and/or Practices)
UKGN	United Kingdom Guidance Notes (RICS)
UKVS	United Kingdom Valuation Standards (RICS)
uTPS	Unfunded Teachers Pension Scheme (<i>also:</i> TPS)
VAT	Value Added Tax
WAO	Wales Audit Office
WG	Welsh Government
WRAP	Waste & Resources Action Programme
WTO	World Trade Organisation



Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Narrative Report

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Narrative Report is to offer a guide to the economic context in which the Authority operates, provide an overview of the most significant matters affecting the Accounts, outline the changes in accounting policies applied in preparing the Accounts and explain the Authority's overall financial position.

The financial statements cover the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019 (the Code), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Amounts in these Accounts have been rounded and presented to the nearest thousand Pound (£000), except where disclosure to the nearest Pound is required to aid in presentation and understanding.

2. Background - Impact of Current Economic Climate on the Authority and the Services it Provides

The economic situation remains a major concern to the public sector both in Wales and the UK. The overall Welsh Government (WG) Revenue Settlement for 2018/2019 saw a slight increase for local government of 0.2% compared with 2017/2018, with figures across Wales ranging from +0.9% to -0.5%. The reduction for Blaenau Gwent CBC of -0.5% resulted in a real cash decrease of £0.555m. For 2019/2020, Blaenau Gwent CBC received a cash flat settlement. However, the absence of financial forecasts from Welsh Government for future years makes financial planning, even in the short term, quite challenging. Funding levels are not expected to increase substantially in the short to medium term and consequently current predictions assume the continuation of a cash flat settlement.

Low interest rates continue to result in a lower return on any investments held by the Authority. On a positive note, borrowing costs have remained low and correspondingly low levels of inflation have proved beneficial.

The 2018/2019 settlement posed a continuing challenge for the Authority (following the unprecedented level of savings required in previous years), both in terms of developing a robust and balanced revenue budget (where savings of £3.4m were required whilst also addressing £2.4m of cost pressures with no planned draw from general reserves) and managing its financial affairs during the year with the aim of achieving a relatively sustainable financial position.

Despite the considerable challenges the Authority faced in terms of the WG Financial Settlement, the Council was able to set its budget for 2018/2019 and subsequently for 2019/2020.

3. Background - Significant Events

Prior to the completion of the Accounts, the following significant events occurred that have had an impact on the financial statements themselves or the environment in which the Authority operates:

3.1 Audit of 2016/2017 Statutory Accounts by Audit Wales (AW) (formerly Wales Audit Office (WAO))

Audit Wales received external correspondence towards the planned end of its 2016/2017 audit, relating to the arrangements between the Council and Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. (a wholly owned company of the Council). As the resulting investigation had not been finalised the Council did not receive an audit opinion or certificate of completion in relation to the 2016/2017 audit at that time and therefore it was not possible for Audit Wales to provide an opinion on, or conclude, the Accounts for 2017/2018 and subsequent years.

Audit Wales' investigation has now concluded and the Council has considered the resulting Public Interest Report (PIR). The PIR highlighted a number of weaknesses with regards to the governance arrangements operating between the Council and Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. and in accepting the report the Council is making progress with addressing the recommendations made. The element of the review specifically impacting upon the Statement of Accounts in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 relates to the treatment of employer pension contributions for the Council-nominated Directors on the Company's Board. The Auditor General for Wales considers that these contributions paid by the Council into the Local Government Pension Scheme appear to be contrary to law on the basis that the Council did not have the power to make pension payments on behalf of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd..

The Auditor General has therefore issued qualified opinions on the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 Statement of Accounts. An unqualified opinion has been provided for the 2018/2019 Accounts and the audit of the accounts for all three years is to be certified as completed.

The Council has taken its own legal advice and whilst accepting that there were procedural errors in the way in which employer pension contributions were administered, it considers that these did not have the effect of rendering the payments contrary to law.

3.2 Annual Governance Statement

In the Annual Governance Statement, the Head of Internal Audit has concluded that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's system of internal control during the financial year 2018/2019 operated to a level which gives Reasonable Assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control. In general, positive movement has been evident with no individual findings being of such significance as to cause concern regarding the integrity of the Statement of Accounts.

3.3 Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.

In December 2017, Council made an in-principle decision to transfer the assets and liabilities of Silent Valley Waste Services Limited back to the Council in order that the service would be delivered in-house. A process of commercial, legal and financial due diligence will be undertaken to inform detailed options to be considered by the Executive Committee in due course. In addition, revised governance arrangements were put in place, with the two officer nominations on the board replaced with two Elected Members as the Council Appointed (non-executive) Directors to sit upon the board during the due diligence process.

3.4 European Union Membership

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU). Given that there is currently no conclusion to the Brexit process and consequently no permanent changes to the legal and financial environment in which the Authority operates, there has therefore been no direct material impact on the transactions and balances reported for the 2018/2019 financial year. Further consideration of the potential impact of the vote to leave the EU is included in note 16.4 to this Narrative Report (page 17).

3.5 Aneurin Leisure Trust

The relationship between the Council and the Trust is now in its fourth year of operation, which provides a timely opportunity for a review of the service fee and the Trust's business plan for the next five years. The review of Leisure Services commenced in 2018 and sought to determine the future management options available to the Council for the provision of Leisure Services. On 29 November 2018 Council determined their preference as being Alternative Service Delivery options.

3.6 Material Events After the Reporting Date

There were no material adjusting or non-adjusting post-balance sheet events.

4. Summary of Outturn

In setting the 2018/2019 budget, the Authority agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.2%, identified savings of £3.4m and addressed £2.4m of cost pressures including £0.5m for Social Services, £0.3m for Street Scene Improvements and £0.5m relating to the Foundation Living Wage and employers pension contributions.

Overall, the management accounts have reported an overspend against budget of £0.07m, after the application of earmarked reserves totalling £0.8m. A number of budget pressures were identified during the year, the most significant being within Children's Services which is reporting an overspend of £0.96m against budget due to the high number and cost of placements.

The ongoing cost pressures have been built into the budget for 2019/2020, which has increased pressure on other service areas to deliver savings by reducing expenditure and/or increasing income. The 2019/2020 budget includes a contribution to general reserves.

5. Revenue Expenditure Outturn and Funding

5.1 2018/2019 Outturn

The following table reconciles the net service expenditure reported on a statutory basis in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (page 21) with net outturn as reported to Management during the year. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis on page 43, together with the accompanying notes, provide details of the adjustments that have been made in reconciling between the statutory and management accounts. The table also indicates the Authority's net service expenditure, as reported to management, compared with the budget for the year.

Service Expenditure Compared to Budget	2018/2019					
	CIES Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments £000	Net Outturn - Management Accounts £000	Revised Budget £000	Variance: Adverse/(Favourable) £000
Portfolio/Committee:						
Corporate Services	24,070	(8,063)	(1,427)	14,580	14,777	(197)
Education *	12,302	45,816	(3,043)	55,075	54,859	216
Environment	25,135	13,431	(9,241)	29,325	28,863	462
Regeneration & Economic Development	2,180	892	(1,615)	1,457	1,558	(101)
Social Services	44,712	2,128	(2,916)	43,924	44,147	(223)
Licensing	64	28	(21)	71	71	0
Planning	959	194	(124)	1,029	1,115	(86)
Sub-Total:	109,422	54,426	(18,387)	145,461	145,390	71
Education - School Spending **	41,235	(42,505)	216	(1,054)	0	(1,054)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal ***	(134)	134	0	0	0	0
Total:	150,523	12,055	(18,171)	144,407	145,390	(983)

*: Education refers to centralised education functions and non-school transactions.

**: Education - Schools refers to financial transactions related specifically to school entities.

***: Cardiff Capital Region City Deal refers to the Authority's contributions to revenue and capital costs, as apportioned in accordance with the terms of the joint arrangement.

5.2

Impact of Inflation on Revenue Expenditure

Consumer price inflation during 2018/2019 ranged between 1.8% and 2.7%, remaining above the Bank of England target rate of 2% until January 2019. Current projections for inflation could be unusually volatile in the near term due to shifting expectations about Brexit in financial markets, businesses and households. The Bank of England's May 2019 inflation report projects CPI inflation as being slightly below the 2% target during the first 18 months of the forecast period, rising to above 2% in two years' time and continuing to rise by the end of the three year forecast.

The impact of inflationary pressures on the Authority varies according to specific areas of spend. Much of the Authority's expenditure relates to employee costs. In the economy as a whole, regular pay growth has remained at around 3.5% and this is expected to persist in the near-term, largely due to the tightness in the labour market.

An extended period of wage restraint and below-inflation settlements has given way to increased public sector pay awards, including headline 2% settlements for APT&C staff (with additional weighting for lower grades) and payment of the national living wage. Further employee cost pressures will arise on the expected increase in the Employers contribution rate for the Teachers' Pension Scheme in September 2019. A 1% increase in employee costs equates to £1.025m.

UK short and longer-term interest rates have fallen in recent months and as a result the current market-implied path is for Bank Rate to reach around 1.0% in three years' time. Consequently, the current estimate for additional inflationary pressures resulting from increased interest rates is significantly reduced compared with the previous year.

Overall, increases in prices at which the Authority procures goods and services (in excess of related income from fees and charges or general government grants) will have a detrimental impact on a wide range of service budgets including schools, street lighting, catering and meals on wheels.

5.3

Funding Sources

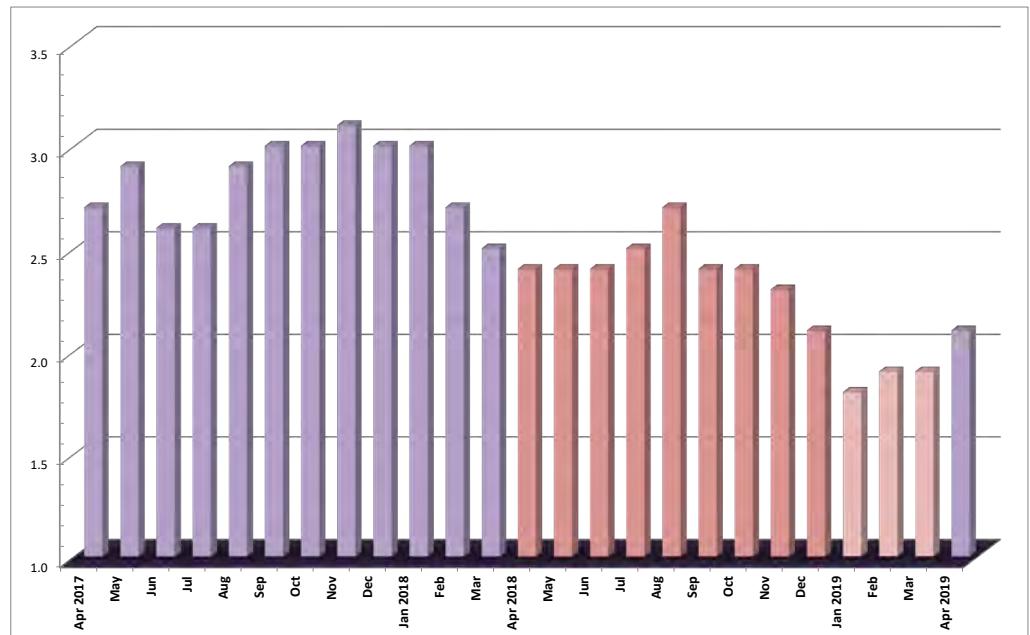
Central Government provides the majority of the Authority's funding, through Revenue Support Grant, Specific Grants and Non-Domestic Rates (68% of funding in 2018/2019). The spending review covering the period to 2019/2020 indicated increases to the Welsh Government budget of less than 0.8% per annum and consequently the level of funding to Welsh local authorities is likely to be similarly constrained.

A 1% reduction in RSG compared to 2017/2018 levels represents a reduction of £0.863m, which equates to 0.37% of the Authority's total funding. In real terms the impact of this reduction is increased by the impact of inflation.

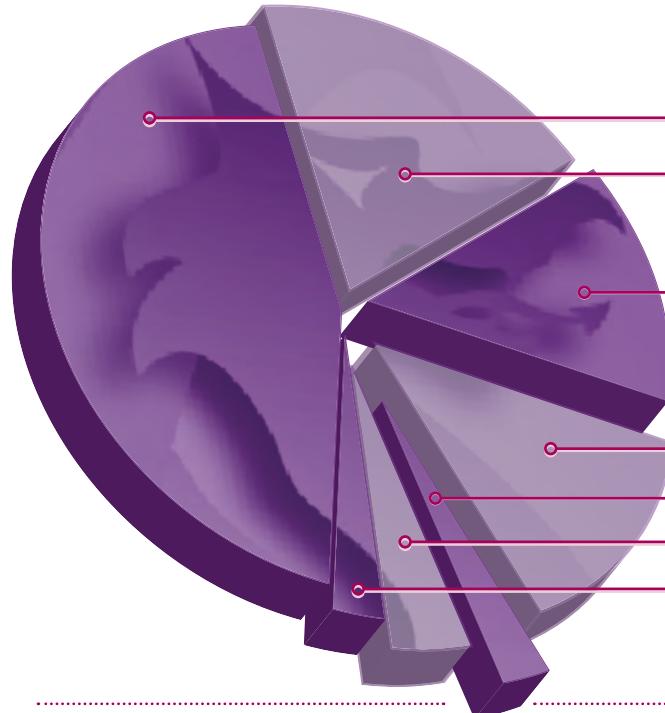
The flow of generally positive economic statistics after the quarter ended 30 June 2018 meant that it came as no surprise that the Monetary Policy Committee decided on 2 August 2018 to make the first increase in Bank Rate above 0.5% since the financial crash, from 0.5% to 0.75%. Whilst interest rates remain low, the level of investment income available to the Authority is curtailed. However, this is offset by the reduced cost to the authority when borrowing. The Bank of England has subsequently indicated that projections of long-term and real interest rates will remain low for some time.

The combination of low interest rates and reduced grant funding create an environment in which there is continued pressure to control costs. For 2018/2019, Aggregate External Financing at Blaenau Gwent reduced by 0.5%, which is lower than the average Welsh Unitary Authority increase of 0.2% (*source: Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement: 2018-19*).

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation: April 2017 - April 2019



For 2018/2019, revenue expenditure and funding can be analysed as follows:



Revenue Expenditure:

Employees: £97.7m

Transfer Payments: £38.1m

Supplies & Services: £29.6m

Other Costs: £30.2m

Capital Financing: £5.6m

Premises: £9.9m

Transport: £5.8m

Total Revenue Expenditure: £216.9m

Transfer Payments are amounts paid for which no goods or services are received in return by the Authority, including Housing Benefits (Rent Allowances and Rebates); Voluntary Sector Grants; Direct payments to Social Services clients; and Mandatory and Discretionary Awards to schoolchildren and students.

Summary	2018/2019
	£000
Total Revenue Expenditure	216,938
Total Revenue Funding	(219,052)
Net Revenue Expenditure	(2,114)
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	1,720
Increase in Council Fund General Reserve	(394)

Revenue Funding:

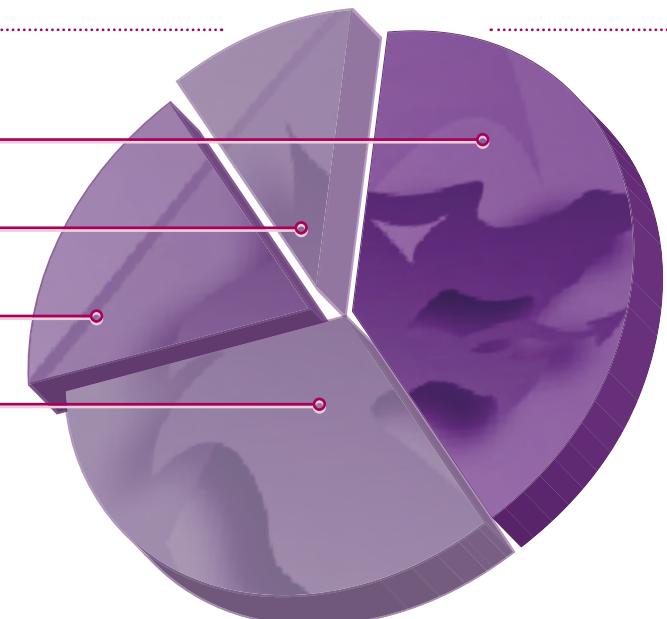
RSG: £87.9m

Non-Domestic Rates: £22.4m

Council Tax: £38.4m

Grants & Other Service Income: £70.3m

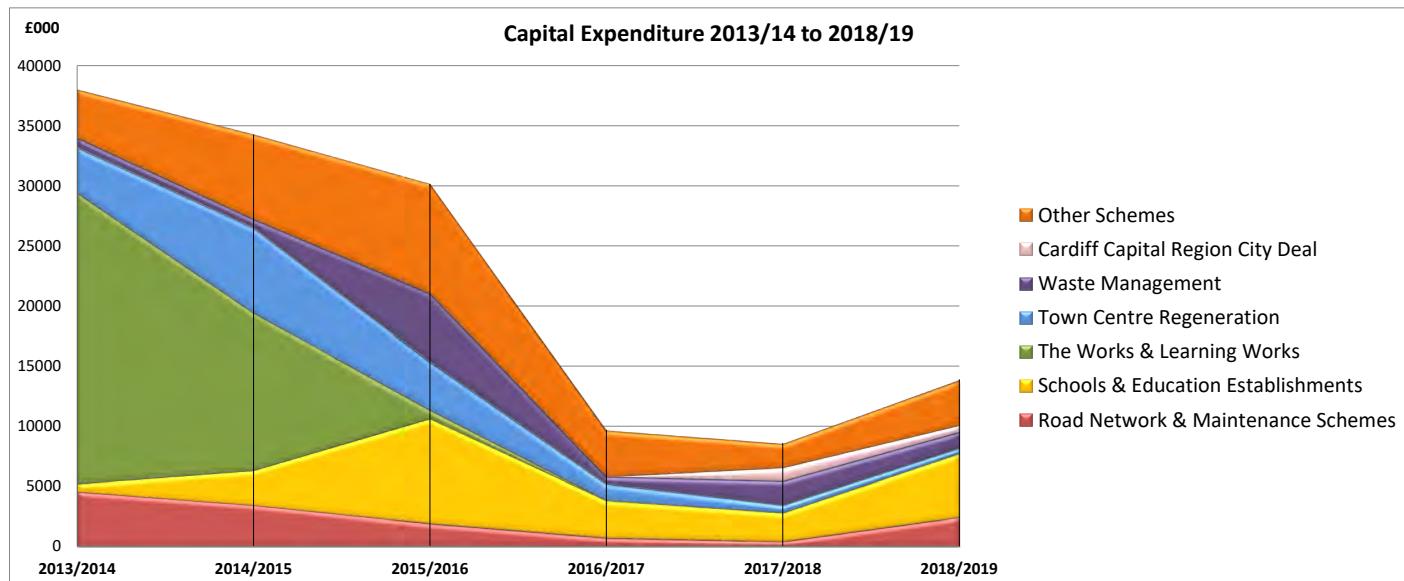
Total Revenue Funding: £219.0m



6. Capital Expenditure Outturn and Funding

Capital Expenditure

In year, total capital expenditure amounted to £13.897m, an increase of £5.308m compared to the previous year, largely due to the increase in expenditure on schools and education establishments, the road network, land reclamation and industrial units, offset by reductions in waste management, leisure schemes and contributions to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.



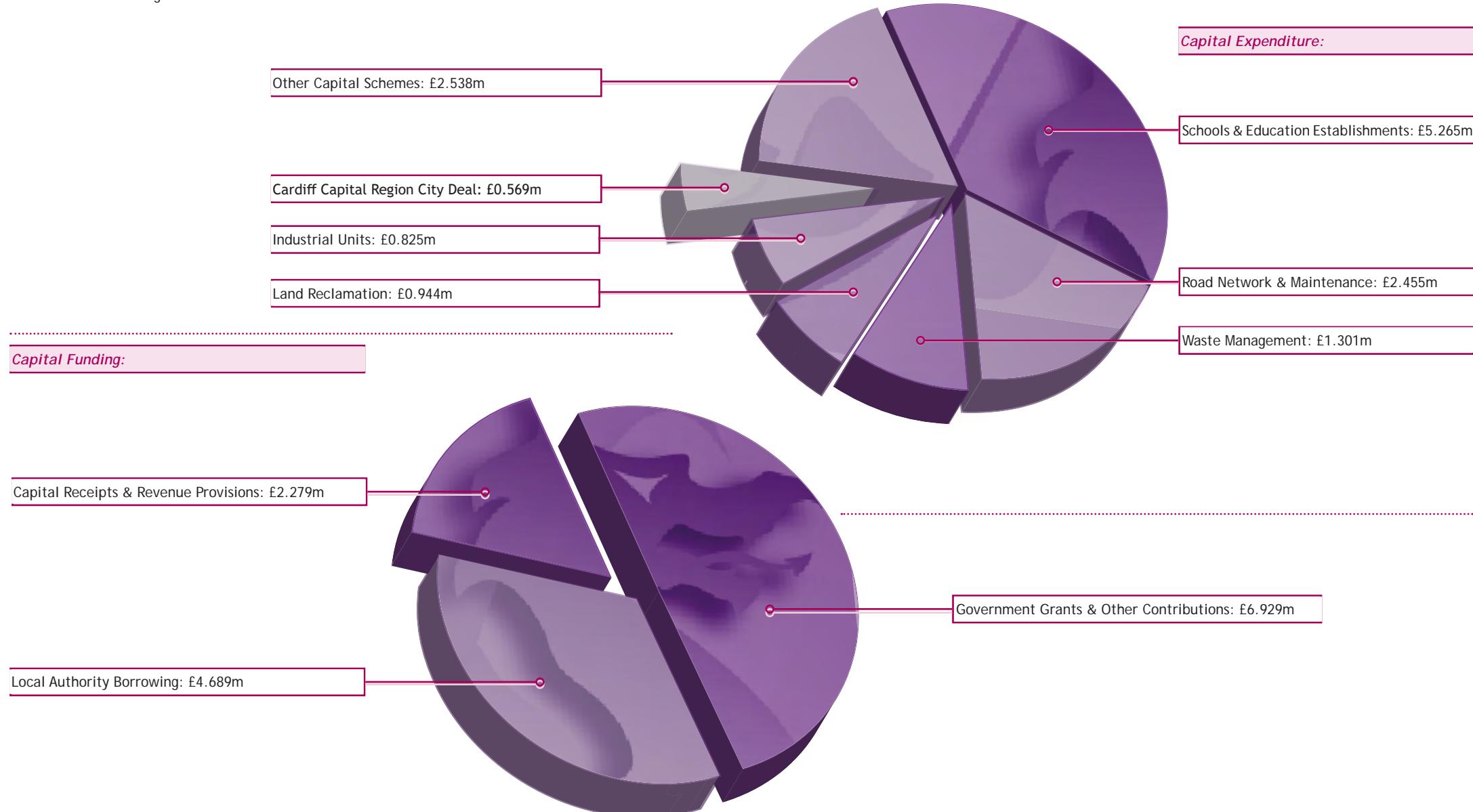
The major items of expenditure, categorised by scheme type, are identified in the table (right).

Further details of capital expenditure are contained in Core Statement notes 24.3 (page 72) and 24.5 (page 74).

Capital Expenditure by Scheme	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Schools & Education Establishments	5,265		2,387	
Road Network & Maintenance Schemes	2,455		436	
Waste Management	1,301		2,003	
Land Reclamation	944		0	
Industrial Units	825		0	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	569		1,118	
Social Services Adults	561		354	
Leisure Schemes	530		809	
Town Centre Regeneration	452		362	
Housing General	413		621	
Regeneration Programme	146		282	
The Works & Learning Works	81		23	
Workplace Transformation	78		52	
Flying Start Schemes	56		77	
Other	221		65	
Total:	13,897		8,589	

Financing of Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure totalling £13.897m was financed by local authority borrowing (£4.689m), grants (£6.929m), capital receipts (£2.235m) and revenue contributions (£0.044m). Capital expenditure and funding are summarised in the charts below.



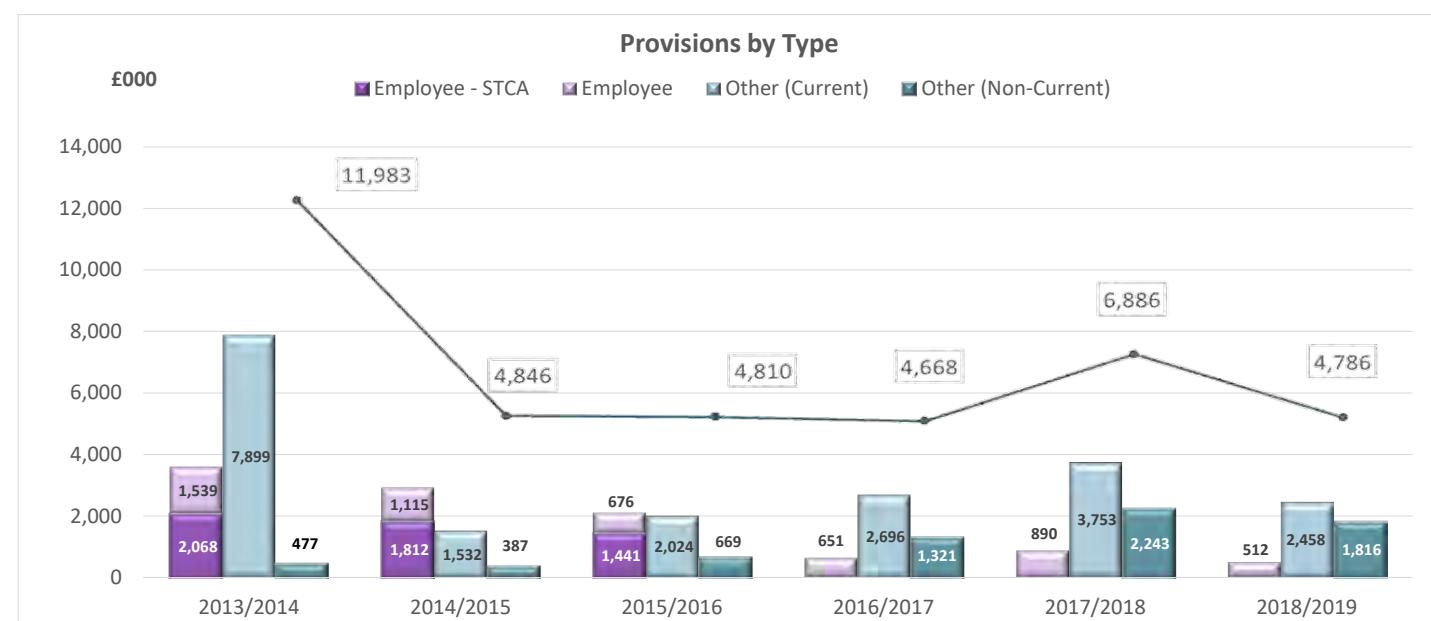
7. Provisions, Reserves, Contingencies and Write Offs

7.1 Provisions

The level of provisions held by the Authority varies each year in relation to the level of liabilities identified. Total provisions held by the Authority at the beginning of the year amounted to £6.886m, decreasing by £2.100m to £4.786m during 2018/2019. This was largely due to the unwinding of the Contaminated Land provision on completion of site clearance works and reduction in the Lease Dilapidation provisions further to the purchase of Cwm Draw Industrial Units and recalculations of amounts required in respect of other leased properties.

All provisions have been assessed to reflect payments made against them during the financial year and have been increased or decreased in line with anticipated outstanding liabilities.

Details of the movements of individual provisions are shown in note 32.2 to the Core Statements (see pages 85-86).



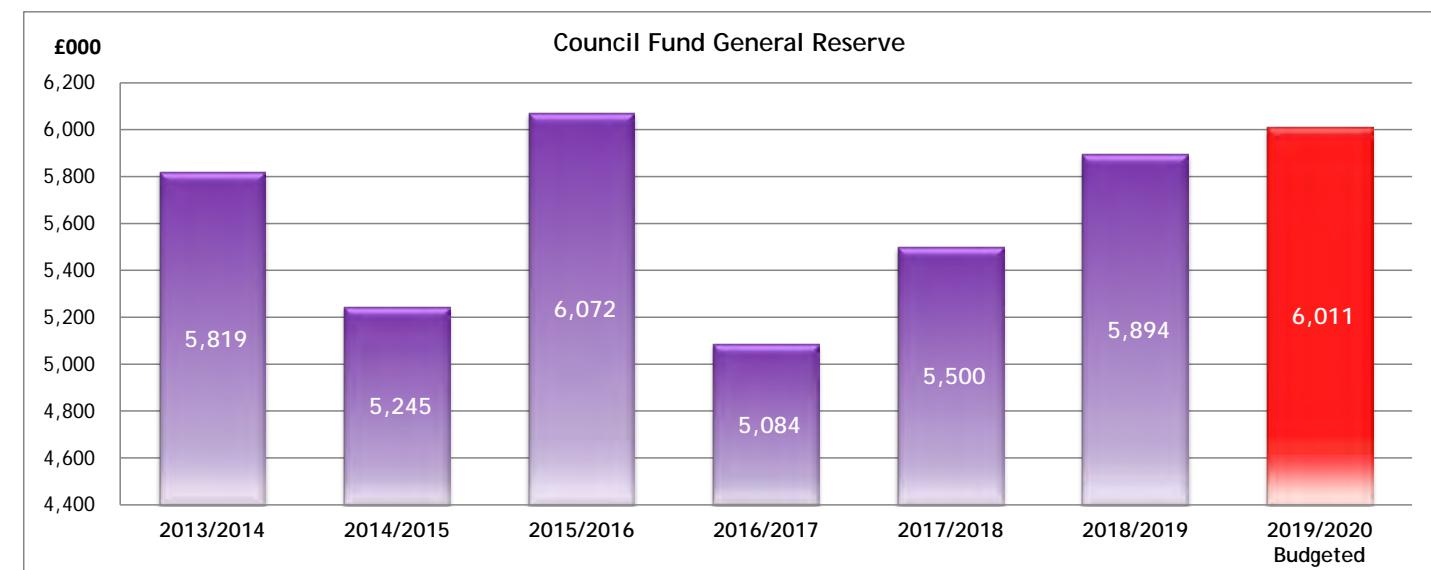
7.2 Reserves

Over the past five years the Council Fund General Reserve has increased by 1.3%, from £5.819m at 31 March 2014 to £5.894m at 31 March 2019.

This relative stability is due in part to the management of the reserve in accordance with the Authority's policy of maintaining General Reserves at a target level of 4% of Revenue Outturn Expenditure.

At 31 March 2019, the General Reserve equated to 4.40% of 2018/2019 Revenue Outturn Net Revenue Expenditure, an increase of 0.31% compared with the position at 31 March 2018.

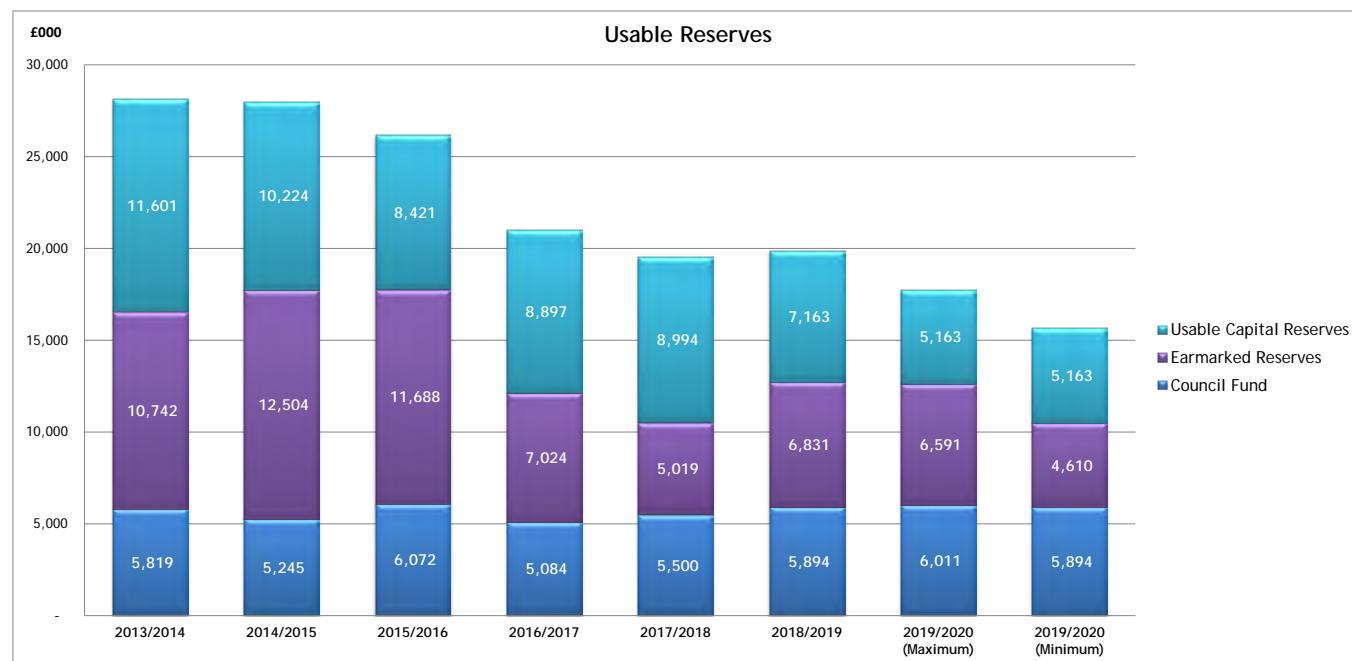
In order to understand the Authority's overall financial position, the level of general reserves needs to be viewed in the context of total usable reserves.



In their Annual Audit Letter to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council regarding the 2017/2018 Accounts, the Wales Audit Office noted that the level of usable revenue reserves as a percentage of gross revenue expenditure was 4.63%. This was the lowest of any Council in Wales and compared unfavourably with the Welsh average of 11.44%. The Authority has accepted the need to maintain an appropriate level of reserves and as a first step towards the replenishment of General Reserves has included a contribution of £0.117m as part of the 2019/2020 budget (subject to the emergence of specific cost pressures during the year).

Aggregate Usable Reserves have reduced from £28.162m in 2013/2014 to £19.888m in 2018/2019. This represents 14.84% of 2018/2019 Net Revenue Outturn Expenditure.

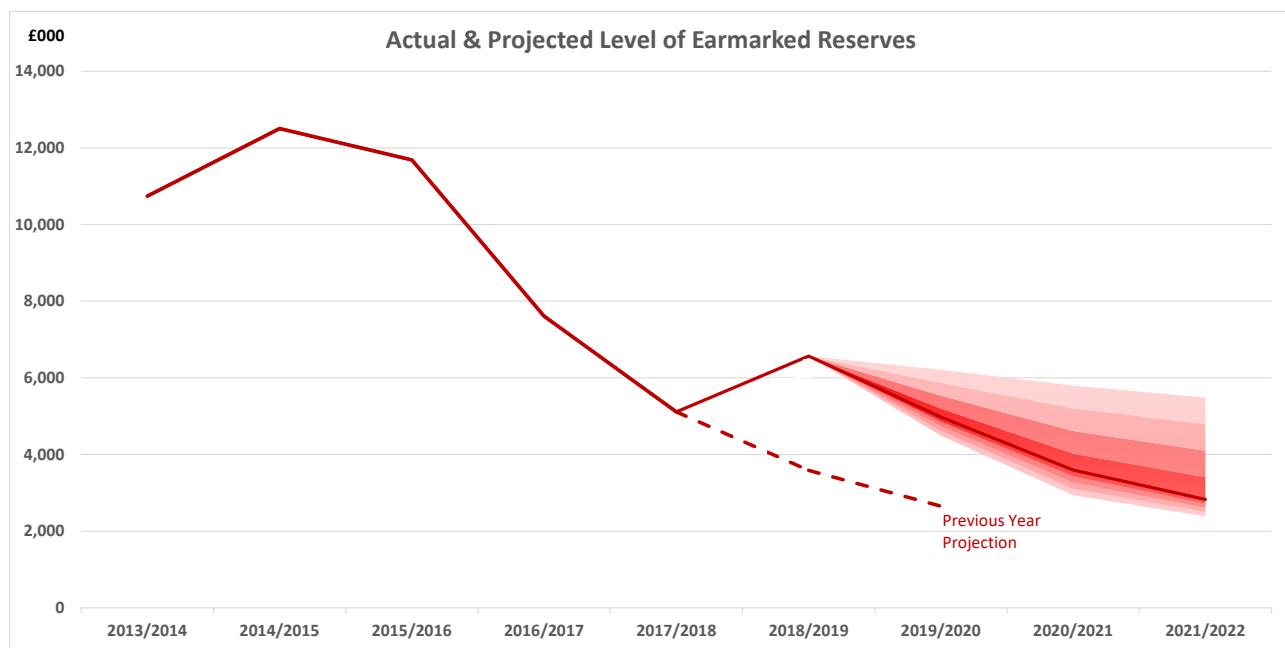
Within this figure, the level of usable capital reserves has declined over that period from £11.601m to £7.163m (-£4.438m, -38.3%) and earmarked revenue reserves have similarly reduced from £10.742m to £6.831m (-£3.911m, -36.4%). This highlights the use of these reserves for their intended purposes and to some extent the impact of reduced levels of funding for the Authority as a consequence of austerity.



For 2018/2019, the 'most likely' projected range for aggregate earmarked reserve balances at year-end was between £3,480m and £3,892m, with actual earmarked reserves of £6,831m at 31 March 2019 being 90.4% higher than the 'most likely' projection. This sharp increase in earmarked reserves was due to the unwinding of £2.100m of provisions (note 7.1), improvements in Schools balances resulting in part from the receipt of higher than anticipated grant funding, and control of in-year spend resulting in an overspend of only £0.07m (note 4).

The net draw on earmarked reserves for 2019/2020 is projected to be in the range of £0.240m to £2.221m. As indicated in the fan chart (right), it is anticipated that the draw from reserves will be towards the higher end of this projected range. The 'most likely' range of projections is a net reduction of between £1,258m and £1,754m. This would result in total earmarked reserves balances at 31 March 2020 in the range of £5,077m and £5,573m.

Use of earmarked reserves and balances to be held are subject to review during the year in accordance with the Authority's risk-assessment based Reserves Management Protocol.



Movements on usable reserves are detailed in note 38 to the Core Statements (pages 104-109). Total usable reserves at the commencement of the year amounted to £19.513m, increasing by £0.375m to £19.888m at 31 March 2019. The most significant net contributions to/from usable reserves were:

Summary Reserves Movements	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(19,513)		Balance at 1 April	(21,736)
Adjustment to Opening Balance	(92)		Adjustment to Opening Balance	35
Revised Balance at 1 April	(19,605)		Revised Balance at 1 April	(21,701)
Significant net contributions (to)/from earmarked reserves:				
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	482		Budget Contingency Fund	125
Corporate Services Portfolio	(138)		Budget Implementation	243
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	(98)		Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	364
Facilities (Capital)	(80)		ICT	122
Future Interest Rate	(106)		ICT Infrastructure (Capital)	44
Infrastructure Portfolio	(154)		Insurance Liabilities	1,222
Insurance Liabilities	(570)		Invest to Save	(516)
Land at Blaenant Road	(136)		LMS	841
Leisure Termination Costs	(165)		Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	(225)
LMS	(763)		Waste Services	248
Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	228			
	(1,500)			2,468
Significant net contributions (to)/from other usable reserves:				
Usable Capital Receipts	1,822		Usable Capital Receipts	40
Other net contributions (to)/from usable reserves	(605)		Other net contributions (to)/from usable reserves	(320)
	1,217			(280)
Balance at 31 March	(19,888)		Balance at 31 March	(19,513)

Impact of Pension Deficit on Reserves

The Authority holds total usable reserves of £19.888m at 31 March 2019 (£19.513m at 31 March 2018). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £325.993m to the Authority's usable reserves would be a deficit of £306.105m (2017/2018: the superannuation deficit of £271.599m exceeded usable reserves by £252.086m).

However, this deficit is dependent on a number of factors such as investment performance and retirement benefits payable. The long-term under-funding of the Local Government Scheme is being addressed over a number of years by staged increases to employer contributions. Consequently, the total liability would not arise in one financial year. The overall financial standing of the Superannuation Fund is regularly reviewed by Actuaries on behalf of the administering Authority (Torfaen CBC).

Further details on Pension balances and transactions can be found in notes 36-37, pages 94-104.

7.3 Contingencies

A number of contingent liabilities are disclosed in relation to issues where an event has taken place that gives the Authority 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 Authority, where it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or where the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. For 2018/2019, disclosures cover:

- The Municipal Mutual Insurance run-off claims and liability under the Scheme of Arrangement;
- Warranties and indemnities to Tai Calon arising from the transfer of housing stock;
- Part 1 compensation claims arising from a range of public works projects;
- Guarantees to the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund in the event that pension liabilities are not settled by Aneurin Leisure Trust and Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited, trading as Chartwells; and
- Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation/Indexation.

No contingent assets have been identified.

It is not possible to place a value on these contingent liabilities, which may or may not crystallize at a point in the future. In the event of these issues and the sums involved becoming more certain, the appropriate accounting treatment will be applied and relevant charges made to the accounting statements.

Further details of contingent liabilities can be found in note 32.3, pages 86-87.

8. Treasury Management Activities

In March 2018, the Authority approved the Treasury Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and MRP Policy Statement for the 2018/2019 financial year. The prime objectives of these policies were firstly to ensure the security of capital and secondly to maximise the liquidity of investments. In doing so, the policies sought to minimise the revenue costs of debt whilst maintaining a prudent level of debt redemption.

Transactions relating to external loan debt during the year were as follows:

Borrowing	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Temporary Loans £000	Other Loans £000	Total £000	Temporary Loans £000	Other Loans £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April	(51,250)	(97,329)	(148,579)	(29,071)	(117,747)	(146,818)
<i>Adjustment to Balance Brought Forward (transfer to agency)</i>	0	0	0	0	1,629	1,629
Loans Raised	(129,500)	(8,448)	(137,948)	(135,579)	0	(135,579)
Loans Repaid	119,100	9,927	129,027	113,400	18,829	132,229
Effective Interest Adjustment	0	(42)	(42)	0	(40)	(40)
Balance at 31 March	(61,650)	(95,892)	(157,542)	(51,250)	(97,329)	(148,579)

Total external loan debt at 31 March 2019 amounted to £157.542m (31 March 2018: £148.579m). A long term loan for £3m was raised towards the end of the financial year to take advantage of favourable long term interest rates. Further opportunities to raise long term loans will be explored in 2019/2020.

Investing Activities

During the year, transactions related to investments were as follows:

Investments	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	2,000	2,000
Investments Made	216,300	141,500
Investments Repaid	(212,300)	(141,500)
Balance at 31 March	6,000	2,000

All borrowing and investing activities have been conducted within the framework set out in the Treasury Strategy. In particular the Authority has adopted a low risk strategy in order to give priority to the security of its investments.

The 2003 Capital Finance Regulations require amounts to be set aside from revenue for the repayment of external loans. This is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and in 2018/2019 the sum of £0.620m (2017/2018: £1.130m) has been set by the Authority based on statutory guidance, as disclosed in note 1.14 (page 37).

Interest on external loan debt of £4.376m has been charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement in 2018/2019 (2017/2018: £3.996m).

9. Pension Assets and Liabilities

The value of pension assets and liabilities disclosed in the accounting statements is:

Pension Assets and Liabilities	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	LGPS	uTPS	Total	LGPS	uTPS	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Assets	378,786	0	378,786	359,245	0	359,245
Liabilities	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)	(593,874)	(36,970)	(630,844)
Net Liabilities	(288,191)	(37,802)	(325,993)	(234,629)	(36,970)	(271,599)

10. Movement in Valuation of Non-Current Assets

During 2018/2019, the net cost or valuation of non-current assets (Property, Plant & Equipment) recorded on the Authority's Balance Sheet showed a net increase of £0.692m, from £263.572m to £264.264m. This movement was the result of additions, disposals, revaluations and, most significantly, depreciation charges and appropriations of £9.386m.

Note 24.1 (pages 67-69) provides further detail of the additions, disposals, appropriations, depreciation and revaluation that comprise the overall net decrease in value during the year.

11. Significant Changes in Accounting Policies

11.1 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, 2018/2019

The 2018/2019 Accounting Code of Practice includes the following new or revised accounting standards:

- IFRS9 *Financial Instruments* - replacing IAS39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, the Standard includes requirements for the recognition and measurement, derecognition and impairment of financial assets and liabilities. The Authority's financial assets have been reviewed and are considered to be outside of the scope of IFRS9 and therefore assets currently carried on the Balance Sheet at amortised cost will continue to be recorded on that basis. The majority of financial assets are also considered to be outside of the scope of the revised requirements for the expected credit loss model of impairment. The 'simplified approach' has been applied to trade receivables (debtors). The implementation of IFRS9 has therefore not had a material impact on the accounting statements.
- IFRS15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* - replaces IAS11 *Construction Contracts* and IAS18 *Revenue* and establishes a single, comprehensive framework for revenue recognition. IFRS15 applies to exchange transactions where a contract exists and therefore the majority of the Authority's income falls outside the scope of the new standard (e.g. taxation revenues and government grants and contributions). No material contracts with service recipients have been identified and therefore the implementation of IFRS 15 has not had a material impact on the accounting statements.
- IAS7 *Statement of Cash Flows*: - the Standard has been amended to provide additional information to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities from financing activities. An additional disclosure has been included in the accounting statements.
- IAS12 *Income Taxes* - amended to include recognition of deferred tax assets for unrealised losses. There has been no impact on the accounting statements resulting from the implementation of this Standard.

12. Main Financial Statements

The Code interprets the requirements of IAS1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* for the local government context and requires the following main financial statements to be included:

12.1 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) (Pages 21-22)

The Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses (STRGL) required by UK GAAP have been combined into one statement that records the full accounting cost of providing services during the financial year.

12.2 The Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS) (Pages 23-24)

Equivalent to the IAS1 Statement of Changes in Equity, this records the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into usable (those that can be used to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves (those that typically arise from timing differences between the identification of liabilities and the funding or settlement of those liabilities, which could be over a long period). Whilst increases in usable reserves represent additional sums that can be utilised in the short term to provide funding for services, increases in unusable reserves represent an increasing burden on future taxpayers. In some cases, e.g. the Unequal Pay Back Pay Account, charges related to unusable reserves may arise within a relatively short period of time (2-3 years).

The MiRS includes adjustments that remove accounting entries made in accordance with proper accounting practice in order that the Council Taxpayer is charged only with amounts required by statute and regulations.

12.3 The Balance Sheet (Page 25)

Derived from the IAS1 requirement for a Statement of Financial Position, the Balance Sheet sets out the assets and liabilities of the Authority, and the usable and unusable reserves and balances that underlie those net assets. Much of the detail is presented within notes to the Balance Sheet, rather than in the Statement itself.

12.4 The Cash Flow Statement (Page 26)

The Cash Flow Statement summarises the cash and cash equivalents arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash inflows and (outflows) as operating, investing and financing activities.

13. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

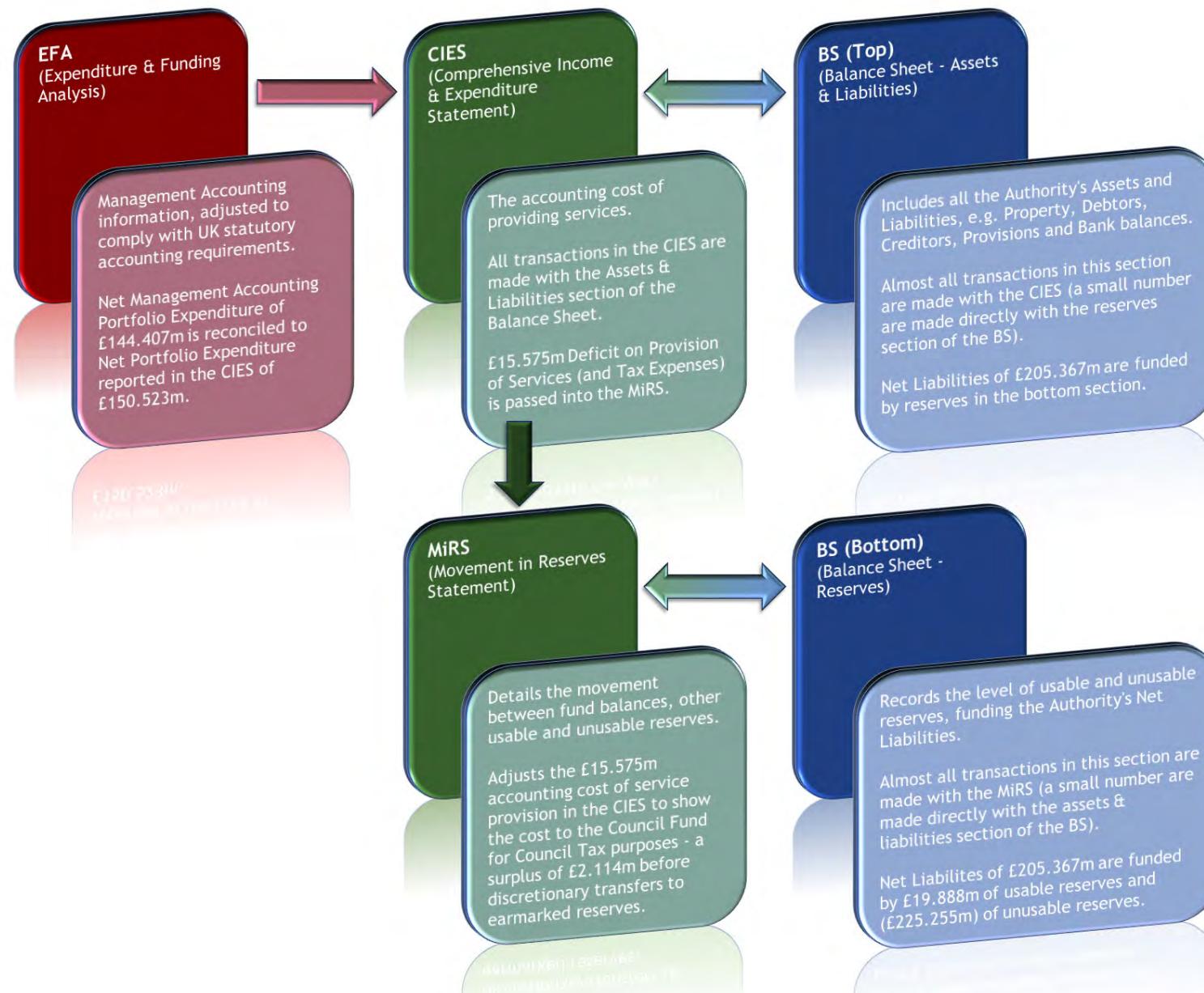
The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to council tax payers how the funding available to the Authority (i.e. government grants, council tax and business rates) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the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

The following table summarises the transactions recorded in the EFA for 2018/2019 - more detail is included in the full EFA on page 43.

Expenditure & Funding Analysis - Summary	2018/2019					2017/2018				
	Management Account Net Expenditure		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments	CIES Net Expenditure	Management Account Net Expenditure		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Funding and Accounting Basis Adjustments	CIES Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	144,407	(146,546)	(2,139)	17,689	15,550	144,999	(142,822)	2,177	25,431	27,608
Tax Expenses			25					0		
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,720					(2,593)		
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(394)					(416)		
Opening council Fund Balance as at 1 April			(5,500)					(5,084)		
Closing Council Fund Balance as at 31 March			(5,894)					(5,500)		

14. Interaction of Main Financial Statements

The following illustration demonstrates the relationships between the main financial statements (CIES, MiRS and Balance Sheet) and also the EFA.



15. Group Accounts

In May 2012, the Authority amended the structure and membership of the Board of Directors of Silent Valley Waste Services Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary, in order to control the activities of the company. As a result of a change in these governance arrangements, the Authority is required to prepare Group Accounting Statements, consolidating the Accounts of the parent (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council) and the subsidiary (Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.).

The Authority's interest in the Education Achievement Service for South-East Wales has not been consolidated in the Group Accounts. Whilst the Authority holds a 20% interest in the company, which would normally trigger the requirements for inclusion as an associate company within group accounts, there are a number of factors that counter-indicate the Authority having significant influence over the EAS, including the level of control exercised by Welsh Government, and therefore the presumption for inclusion has been rebutted.

Group Accounts have been prepared in compliance with the Accounting Policies set out on pages 27-39 and 128-130 and are included in the Statement of Accounts on pages 124-144.

16. Future Developments

16.1 Budget-Setting Process

The Authority, through its design principles, agreed a number of service re-design projects in order to instigate £3.4m of revenue savings for the 2018/2019 financial year. Some of these projects will generate savings over a number of years, but will require substantial resources (both time and money) for implementation. Welsh Government has given no indication of future settlements and therefore the Authority is making savings plans based on a range of assumptions.

16.2 Welfare Reform

Welsh Government successfully introduced a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2013/2014, mitigating the impact on benefit claimants. However, there is a financial risk for all Authorities and at present it is likely that Welsh Government will not be able to sustain this level of mitigation in future. The phased introduction of universal credit in Blaenau Gwent from July 2018 will see an increasing impact on benefit claimants and all support agencies. This will continue until all eligible claimants have migrated to Universal Credit.

16.3 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCRD)

The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the 10 constituent Councils in South East Wales, including Blaenau Gwent, was formally ratified on 1 March 2017. The City Deal offers the opportunity to deliver an investment package of £1.2 billion into the City Region economy between now and 2036. Whilst much of this is already earmarked for certain activities, particularly investment in the South East Wales Metro, there are funds available as part of the £1.2 billion to leverage wider economic benefits. The City Deal has a small number of key targets. Notably, these include the creation of 25,000 new jobs by 2036, leveraging £4 billion of private sector investment and securing economic growth.

All ten Councils agreed the Joint Working Agreement Business Plan in 2018, which provides detail on the key themes or workstreams for future investment activity. The CCRCD Investment Fund comprises two distinct elements:-

- The METRO scheme of £734 million. This will comprise £503m Welsh Government funding provided over the first seven years of the Investment Fund, from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023; £106 million from the European Development Fund, (which is committed and guaranteed following Brexit by both UK and Welsh Government); and £125m from UK Government. This element will be the direct responsibility of Welsh Government.
- The Investment Fund of £495m - comprising the ten Local Authorities' commitment to borrow £120 million over the 20 year period of the Fund, together with £375m from UK Government, for investment in infrastructure, housing, skills and training, innovation, business growth and "Metro plus" transport proposals. This element will be the responsibility of the CCRCD Regional Cabinet. Based on the agreed proportion of total population for the City Deal area, Blaenau Gwent's share of the financial contributions is 4.6%.

16.4 Impact of the Referendum to Leave the European Union

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU). Whilst the outcome of the referendum has no direct material impact on the transactions and balances reported for the 2018/2019 financial year, the decision has the potential to have a significant impact on the Authority across a wide range of areas in future years, including:

European Structural and Other Transnational European Funding Streams:

Blaenau Gwent has received, and continues to receive, funding from various EU structural and other transnational European funding schemes. Following the referendum result, there remains some uncertainty regarding whether this funding will be replaced by sums from Central Government and for what period of time. The Authority will need to consider these issues when determining its future Revenue and Capital budgets.

Pension Scheme Asset and Liability Valuations and Employer Contributions:

The long-term impact on the value of equities, bonds, gilts and other assets held by pension funds remains uncertain, but will be dependent on the interaction of the currency and equity markets and other factors, such as the level of domestic and international growth.

The policy and legal framework affecting various activities, including Energy Efficiency, Waste Collection and Disposal, Trading Standards, Employees, Data Protection, Debt Recovery, State Aid and Public Procurement.

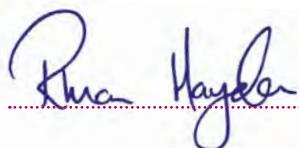
The legal framework regarding these areas is unlikely to change significantly in the short term, as much EU law is implemented by specific national law which will not lapse on leaving the EU. However, at that point in time, it may be possible to amend or repeal this body of legislation. In some cases, for example in respect of State Aid and Public Procurement, this will be limited by the requirements for similar regulations by other bodies to which the UK has or may have membership (e.g. the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), European Economic Area (EEA) or World Trade Organisation (WTO)).

The impact of these issues will need to be considered by the Authority when planning its financial activities, including the preparation of budgets, the medium term financial strategy and statutory accounts.

17. Conclusion

The production of the IFRS-compliant annual Statement of Accounts continues to provide a considerable challenge.

In presenting this Statement of Accounts I am grateful to the Resources Team for their planning, professionalism, and unstinting commitment in order to produce a high quality publication. In addition, collaboration across departments is now more essential than ever in the production of this document and the support and assistance from colleagues in other departments requires recognition and thanks.



R Hayden, CPFA

Chief Officer - Resources

Statement of Responsibilities

Datganiad O Gyfrifoldebau





Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Statement of Responsibilities

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority 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 Authority, that officer is the Chief Officer - Resources.
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Responsibilities of the Chief Officer - Resources

The Chief Officer - Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code). In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Officer - Resources has:

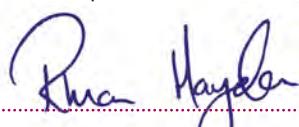
- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- Complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Chief Officer - Resources has also:

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

Certification of Accounts

In my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Group as at 31 March 2019, and of their expenditure and income for the year then ended.



Chief Officer - Resources

14 April 2022

Date

I confirm that these Accounts were approved at the Governance & Audit Committee Meeting on 14 April 2022. Signed on behalf of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council:



Chair of Meeting

14 April 2022

Date



Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Auditor's Report

The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of:

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Group

for the year ended 31 March 2019 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Group financial statements comprise the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Group Balance Sheet and the Group Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Group, as at 31 March 2019 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19.

Basis of Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (the Council) and its group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on Other Requirements

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19;
- The information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the council and the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, including Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Group financial statements, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the council's and group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, the council's head of internal audit and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Blaenau Gwent's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and posting of unusual journals;
- Obtaining an understanding of Blaenau Gwent's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that the Council operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the Council.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, and those charge with governance about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Council;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Blaenau Gwent's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Certificate of completion of audit

My report dated 26 November 2020 contained an audit opinion on the 2018-19 accounts and explained that the audit could not be formally concluded until I had completed ongoing work in relation to concerns raised in correspondence in respect of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.

This work has now been completed and I have issued a Public Interest Report on my findings on 27 January 2022.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Auditor General for Wales.



10 May 2022

Date

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Note: The maintenance and integrity of the Authority's website is the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer; the work carried out by auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.



Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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...the Statement of Accounts comprise the financial statements and the notes to the accounts, including the summary of significant accounting policies...



Blaenau Gwent

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Comprehensive Income and 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. The Authority raises taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this differs from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2018/2019			2017/2018 (Reclassified)			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Continuing Operations								
Corporate Services	52,527	(28,457)	24,070	45,150	(27,933)	17,217	16	55
Education	17,706	(5,404)	12,302	21,627	(5,915)	15,712		
Education - Schools	45,984	(4,749)	41,235	46,409	(4,277)	42,132	29	80
Environment	33,624	(8,489)	25,135	42,432	(9,333)	33,099		
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	62	(196)	(134)	73	(1,161)	(1,088)	42	117
Regeneration & Economic Development	5,519	(3,339)	2,180	5,452	(2,941)	2,511		
Social Services	63,460	(18,748)	44,712	63,593	(18,287)	45,306	11	50
Licensing	197	(133)	64	214	(124)	90		
Planning	1,610	(651)	959	1,618	(350)	1,268		
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	220,689	(70,166)	150,523	226,568	(70,321)	156,247	7	43

* Reclassification of 2017/2018 Expenditure and Income:

Expenditure and Income in 2017/2018 has been reclassified to provide prior year comparative figures relevant to the revised Portfolio structure implemented from May 2018, in which:

- The Financial Management & Strategy and Corporate Services Portfolios were merged together into a Portfolio called 'Corporate Services';
- The Infrastructure, Active Living and Environment Portfolios were merged into a single Portfolio called 'Environment'; and
- The Estates function was moved from the Environment Portfolio to the Regeneration & Economic Development Portfolio.

These structural changes and subsequent reclassification of expenditure and income have no impact on the 'Total Deficit on Continuing Services' for 2017/2018.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Continued)	2018/2019			2017/2018			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	220,689	(70,166)	150,523	226,568	(70,321)	156,247		
Other Operating Expenditure	9,042	(413)	8,629	8,782	(634)	8,148	8, 18, 19	48, 56, 57
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	21,287	(9,902)	11,385	20,235	(9,278)	10,957	9	49
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(154,987)	(154,987)	0	(147,744)	(147,744)	10, 17, 18, 20	49, 56, 58
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	251,018	(235,468)	15,550	255,585	(227,977)	27,608	7	43
Tax Expenses			25			0	42	117
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services <i>less</i> Tax Expenses			15,575			27,608	MiRS	23-24
(Surplus)/Deficit Arising on the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets			(538)			(253)	38	111
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			41,883			(17,182)	37	97
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			41,345			(17,435)	MiRS, 22	23-24, 63
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			56,920			10,173	MiRS	23-24

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into ‘usable reserves’ (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. The *(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services* line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority’s services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This cost is different from the statutory amount required to be charged to the Council Fund for Council Tax setting purposes. The *Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves* line shows the statutory Council Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority. Earmarked Reserves have been disclosed separately in the MiRS to provide users with information regarding the use of these balances in comparison to the use of the Council Fund.

Movement in Reserves Statement	2017/2018	Council Fund	Capital Reserves				Total Authority Reserves £000	Note	Page
			Earmarked	Capital Receipts	Capital Grants	Total Usable Reserves £000			
			Council Fund Reserves £000	Reserve £000	Unapplied £000	Reserves £000			
Balance at 31 March 2017			(5,084)	(7,601)	(8,366)	(685)	(21,736)	160,082	138,346
Adjustments to brought forward balances			0	(11)*	0	46*	35	0	35
Revised Balance at 1 April 2017			(5,084)	(7,612)	(8,366)	(639)	(21,701)	160,082	138,381
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			27,608	0	0	0	27,608	(17,435)	10,173
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under statutory provisions			(25,431)	0	40	(29)	(25,420)	25,420	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves			2,177	0	40	(29)	2,188	7,985	10,173
Transfers (to) Council Fund from Earmarked Reserves			(2,593)	2,593	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/Decrease in 2017/2018			(416)	2,593	40	(29)	2,188	7,985	10,173
Balance at 31 March 2018			(5,500)	(5,019)	(8,326)	(668)	(19,513)	168,067	148,554

*: Reserve balances at 1 April 2017 were amended to include £0.011m as the Authority’s share of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal reserves at that date, and also to remove £0.046m balances previously held in respect of Property Improvement Loans that from 2017/2018 have been accounted for on an agency basis.

Movement in Reserves Statement	2018/2019	£000	Earmarked Council Fund	Capital Reserves		Total Usable Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Note	Page
				Capital Receipts	Capital Grants				
				Reserve	Unapplied				
Balance at 31 March 2018		(5,500)	(5,019)	(8,326)	(668)	(19,513)	168,067	148,554	BS 25
Adjustments to brought forward balances*		0	(92)	0	0	(92)	(15)	(107)	
Revised Balance at 1 April 2018		(5,500)	(5,111)	(8,326)	(668)	(19,605)	168,052	148,447	
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		15,575	0	0	0	15,575	41,345	56,920	CIES 22
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under statutory provisions		(17,689)	0	1,822	9	(15,858)	15,858	0	23 64-66
Net (Increase)/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(2,114)	0	1,822	9	(283)	57,203	56,920	
Transfers from Council Fund to Earmarked Reserves		1,720	(1,720)	0	0	0	0	0	38 108-109
(Increase)/Decrease in 2018/2019		(394)	(1,720)	1,822	9	(283)	57,203	56,920	
Balance at 31 March 2019		(5,894)	(6,831)	(6,504)	(659)	(19,888)	225,255	205,367	BS 25

*: Earmarked Reserve balances at 1 April 2018 were amended to reflect adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2017/2018, increasing the Blaenau Gwent share of earmarked reserves by £0.092m and unusable reserves (the capital adjustment account) by £0.015m.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by reserves held, reported in two categories:

- Usable reserves are those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt) and the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves.
- Unusable reserves are those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line '*Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions*' (e.g. the Capital Adjustment Account, Pensions Reserve and Accumulated Absences Account).

Balance Sheet	31 March 2019		31 March 2018		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Property, Plant & Equipment	264,264		263,572		24 ,26, 29	67-74, 76, 79
Heritage Assets	413		413		25	74-75
Non-Current Investments	250		250		27	78
Non-Current Debtors	4,490		4,731		28	79
Sub Total: Long-Term Assets		269,417		268,966		
Assets Held for Sale	880		425		24	70-72
Inventories	461		719			
Current Debtors	16,987		16,049		30	81-83
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,574		7,397		41	116
Sub Total: Current Assets		28,902		24,590		
Current Borrowing	(73,103)		(68,374)		34-35	88-93
Current Creditors	(11,414)		(11,171)		31	83
Current Grants Receipts in Advance	(2,301)		(2,656)		20	58
Current Provisions	(2,970)		(4,643)		32	84-86
Sub Total: Current Liabilities		(89,788)		(86,844)		
Non-Current Borrowing	(84,439)		(80,205)		34-35	88-93
Non-Current Provisions	(1,816)		(2,243)		32	84-86
Other Long-Term Liabilities	(327,643)		(272,818)		33, 37	87, 95-104
Sub Total: Long-Term Liabilities		(413,898)		(355,266)		
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		(205,367)		(148,554)		
Usable Reserves	(19,888)		(19,513)		38.1	104-109
Unusable Reserves	225,255		168,067		38.2	110-113
Total Reserves		205,367		148,554		

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement summarises the cash and cash equivalent transactions of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash inflows and (outflows) as operating, investing and financing activities.

- The amount of net cashflows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided.
- Investing activities represent cashflows relating to the acquisition, disposal and funding via capital grant of resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority's future service delivery, i.e. non-current assets.
- Cashflows arising from financing activities represent the extent to which borrowing and similar charges have increased/decreased during the year and are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital to the Authority.

Cash Flow Statement	2018/2019		2017/2018		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services less tax expenses	(15,575)		(27,608)		CIES	22
Adjustments to the provision of services for non-cash movements	23,776		33,520		39.1	114
Adjustments for items included in the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(6,844)		(4,226)		39.2	114
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows) from Operating Activities	1,357		1,686			
Investing activities	(6,947)		(2,787)		40.1	115
Financing activities	8,767		3,123		40.2	115
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,177		2,022			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	7,397		5,375		BS, 41	25, 116
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	10,574		7,397		BS, 41	25, 116



Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2018/2019 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2019. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2018/2019, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where there is no relevant IFRS or International Accounting Standard (IAS), reference is made to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs); if there is no relevant IPSAS, domestic Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) are applied.

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

1.2 Back Pay Arising from Unequal Pay Claims

The Authority has made a provision for the costs of settling claims for back pay arising from discriminatory payments incurred prior to the implementation of the Authority's equal pay strategy.

Provisions made in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, as amended in 2018, give discretion to local authorities not to charge to revenue a provision for back pay arising from unequal pay claims until cash settlement takes place. The regulations currently apply to liabilities recognised before 1 April 2020. The Authority has exercised its discretion in not charging equal pay claims to revenue accounts until the settlement has occurred. The provision for back pay is therefore balanced by an Equal Pay Back Pay Account created from amounts credited to the Council Fund balance in the year the provision was made or modified. The balance on the Equal Pay Back Pay Account will be debited back to the Council Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement in future financial years as payments are made.

1.3 Employee Benefits

1.3.1 Post Employment Benefits

The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

- The liabilities of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund attributable to the Authority 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 earnings for current employees.
- The assets of Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.

- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, with the default accounting assumptions used by Hymans Robertson being:

Duration Category	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Discount Rate	RPI	CPI	Discount Rate	RPI	CPI
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Short (Less than 17 years)	2.4	3.5	2.5	2.6	3.4	2.4
Medium (between 17 and 23 years)	2.4	3.5	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.4
Long (over 23 years)	2.5	3.4	2.4	2.7	3.3	2.3

Discount rates have been derived for each duration profile at which payments may be due, based on a ‘Hymans Robertson’ corporate bond yield curve, constructed on the basis of the constituents of the iBoxx AA-rated corporate bond index.

Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability

- Actuarial gains and losses - changes in the present value of the defined obligation resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions or the effects of differences between actuarial assumptions and actual events - debited or credited to the Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability line in the CIES.
- Return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in Net Interest on the net defined benefit liability - the sum of any interest, dividends and other income derived from plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses, less any costs of managing plan assets and tax payable by the plan. Interest on plan assets is determined by multiplying the fair value of plan assets by the rate used to discount liabilities - credited to the Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability line in the CIES.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the Council Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations 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 Council Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

1.3.2 Discretionary Benefits

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

1.4 Financial Instruments

Valuation of Assets and Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the net present value (NPV) of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining terms of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- The discount rate used in the NPV calculation is equal to the current rate in relation to the same instrument from a comparable lender. This is the rate applicable in the market on the date of valuation (31 March 2019) for an instrument with the same duration, i.e. equal to the outstanding period from valuation date to maturity. For Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing the new PWLB borrowing rate has been used.
- Interest is calculated using the most common market convention (actual number of days/365).
- For fixed term deposits it is assumed that interest is received on maturity.

Fair value disclosures have not been calculated for short term financial assets including receivables (debtors), or short term financial liabilities including payables (creditors), since the carrying amounts represent a reasonable approximation of fair value.

Premiums/Discounts

1. Where premiums/discounts arising before April 2006 could be attributed to the replacement debt, then they were amortised using an effective interest basis and were included as part of the replacement loan carrying amount as at 31 March 2007. The additional interest resulting from the effective interest method is charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.
2. Where premiums/discounts arising before 1 April 2006 could not be attributed to identifiable loan debt on the closing 2006/2007 Balance Sheet, then they were derecognised by writing off the balance as at 31 March 2007 to the Council Fund/HRA balance and then reversing out through the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account. The premium/discount write down for future years is charged/(credited) to the Movement in Reserves Statement.
3. Where premiums/discounts have arisen after 1 April 2006, then the accounting treatment depends upon whether it can be classified as a modification or an extinguishment. In order to be classified as a modification, then the repayment and replacement must be on the same day and must meet the 10% test. If the modification test cannot be met then it is treated as an extinguishment. All post April 2006 premiums/discounts do not meet the modification test and therefore have been accounted for as extinguishments, with the accounting treatment being the same as for (2) above.

Interest

The interest expense & income disclosed in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement is calculated as follows:

- PWLB debt - on a nominal basis, with the exception of loans where premiums/discounts are included as part of the carrying amount, where interest is calculated using an effective interest basis.
- LOBO debt - on an amortised cost basis using an effective interest basis.
- Market loans - on a nominal basis.
- Temporary Loans & Investments - on a nominal basis.

1.5 Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Authority as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Authority.

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Authority's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired - any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the Council Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

1.6 Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using last known cost.

1.7 Leases

Leases held by the Authority are defined as being finance leases or operating leases in accordance with the requirements of the Code and IAS17.

A Finance Lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessee. The Code does not provide definitive guidance as to the meaning of 'substantially all' and the Authority has therefore exercised judgement in determining the status of each lease according to context.

The following accounting treatment applies to each type of lease:

Finance Lease

Where the Authority is lessee, the asset is recognised in the Authority's Balance Sheet, together with matching liabilities in respect of rentals. The asset is then accounted for in accordance with the capital accounting process:

- Depreciation is charged to the service revenue account over the useful life of the asset (or the lease term of the lease if shorter);
- The principal element of the lease rental writes down the liability;
- The interest element of the lease rental is charged to the revenue account;
- MRP equal to the principal element of the finance lease rental is charged to the revenue account; and
- Adjusting entries are made to ensure that the revenue accounts are only charged with the annual lease rentals.

Where the Authority is lessor, the asset is not on the Authority's Balance Sheet, as substantially all the risks & rewards of ownership have been transferred to the third party. The accounting process is as follows:

- A long term lease debtor is set up for the principal amount outstanding (the net investment in the lease)
- Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve is credited with the total value of the lease asset due.
- Lease income received from the third party is split into principal and interest. The principal element is treated as a capital receipt and will write down the long term lease debtor.
- The interest element is credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement as financing and investment income.
- For leases entered into prior to 31 March 2010, the capital accounting regulations allow mitigating accounting entries that enable the principal element to continue to be treated as revenue income.

Operating Lease

Where the Authority is lessee, operating lease payments are charged to revenue as they become payable. No asset is created in the Authority's Balance Sheet.

Where the Authority is lessor, the asset is recognised in the Authority's Balance Sheet, depreciation is charged to the service revenue account over the useful life of the asset and lease income received from the third party is credited to the revenue account.

Service Concessions and Arrangements Containing Leases

The Authority currently has no such arrangements.

1.8 Fair Value Measurement

The Authority measures some of its non-financial assets such as Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale at fair value at each reporting date in accordance with the measurement requirements of IFRS13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

Surplus assets are defined as Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE) assets that do not provide service potential for the Authority and are therefore not measured for their service potential but for the economic benefits inherent in the assets. They are revalued at fair value at the point of being declared surplus and then in accordance with the usual 5 year rolling programme of revaluations.

Assets Held for Sale are assets where it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use. They are held at the lower of carrying amount (before reclassification) or Fair Value.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset takes place either:

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

The Authority measures the fair value of an asset using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset, 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. In considering alternative higher and best uses for the asset being valued, consideration has been given to value for the asset that may not necessarily be reflected in the existing configuration or use of the asset. In the consideration of alternatives the physical, legal and financial feasibility of that alternative has been taken into account.

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 non-financial assets 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; and
- Level 3 - unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

All valuations for surplus assets and assets held for sale fall into the level 3 category, due to the nature of the valuation technique. The valuation technique maximises the use of relevant observable inputs and minimises the use of unobservable inputs.

Information about the valuation techniques and inputs used in determining the fair value of the Authority's surplus assets are disclosed in the note 24.2 to the Balance Sheet (pages 70-72).

1.9 Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to surplus assets under PPE and valued at fair value in accordance with the fair value measurement requirements of IFRS13 (*see Accounting Policy 1.8*).

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale, but are treated as surplus assets within Property, Plant & Equipment.

The following criteria have to be satisfied in order to classify an asset as held for sale:

- The asset must be available for immediate sale;
- The sale must be highly probable & there must be an active programme to locate a buyer;
- The asset must be marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its fair value; and
- The sale should be anticipated to be completed within one year from the date of classification.

All Assets Held for Sale are included in the Balance Sheet as Current Assets.

1.10 Surplus Non-Current Assets Under PPE

Assets that have been declared surplus that do not meet the criteria above are reclassified as surplus assets under PPE and valued at fair value at the point they are declared surplus. This will be its highest and best use in accordance with the fair value measurement requirements of IFRS13 (*see Accounting Policy 1.8*).

1.11 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 2018/2019 (SeRCoP). 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 Authority's status as a multifunctional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs - the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and impairment losses chargeable on Assets Held for Sale.

These two cost categories are defined in SeRCoP and accounted for within the Corporate Services Portfolios in the Expenditure & Funding Analysis (EFA), as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

The total actual costs of central departments are recharged as central support charges to services on the basis of estimated staff time. Office accommodation charges are pooled and allocated on the basis of floor area. I.T. recharges are made on the basis of hardware and software usage.

The Authority's Management Accounts, included in the EFA, reflect the proper allocation of overhead and support costs to services. Where recharges are made between accounting segments (i.e. Portfolios), these have been removed by adjustment in the EFA and are not included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

1.12 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

1.12.1 Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Only expenditure in excess of £50,000 has been capitalised, with amounts below this threshold being charged directly to revenue. The exceptions to this are highways and health & safety assets that individually fall below this de-minimis level but are capitalised because they are treated as one single item of expenditure in the year and expenditure that has a capital grant approval.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price;
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Authority). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Authority.

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

- Infrastructure assets - depreciated historical cost. Not all roads and infrastructure assets are included in the Balance Sheet as the asset valuation reflects historic expenditure incurred on such assets from a point in time. Any roads provided by private developers that are adopted by the Authority are not individually recognised on the Balance Sheet and are effectively recorded at nil value;
- Community assets and assets under construction - depreciated historical cost;
- All other operational PPE assets - fair value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value - EUV). Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of fair value. Where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value; and
- Surplus Assets under PPE - fair value in accordance with the definitions and measurement requirements in IFRS13.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end; as a minimum, all assets are revalued every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, the accounting treatment is:

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

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

1.12.2 Impairment

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

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

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

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.

1.12.3 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Dwellings and other buildings - straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment - straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset, as advised by a suitably qualified officer; and
- Infrastructure - straight-line allocation over 40 years.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Where qualifying assets have been acquired or disposed of part way through the year, depreciation has been charged on a daily basis.

For buildings, a technical assessment of the useful life of the asset is made by the Authority's Property Services Manager.

For other asset-types, the following standard lives have been used to calculate depreciation amounts:

Asset Type	Standard Life (Years)
Vehicles	5
Equipment [†]	10
I.T. Equipment [†]	5
Infrastructure Assets	40
Street Lighting	40

[†]: In some cases the relevant technical officer may provide a different assessment of the useful life.

1.12.4 Disposals

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. These are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment, or set aside to reduce the Authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against Council Tax, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.12.5 Componentisation

The following policy has been adopted for the componentisation of assets and applied to assets as acquired, enhanced and revalued:

- A material component is defined as one that has a gross replacement cost in excess of 25% or the total gross replacement cost for the asset;
- Where material components have been identified the current carrying amount of that component is reflected as a separate asset and depreciated over the life of that component.

1.13 Heritage Assets

Tangible heritage assets are defined as having historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. Intangible heritage assets are defined as having cultural, environmental, or historical significance.

The Authority has identified two monuments meeting the definition of heritage assets, which have been valued on the basis of annually updated insurance replacement cost. Where significant physical deterioration or damage has occurred to the assets, this has been recognised as an impairment charge. The useful lives of these assets have been assessed as 'indefinite' and therefore no depreciation is charged.

The acquisition of heritage assets is a rare occurrence; in the event a new asset is acquired or identified it will be valued using an appropriate basis (where the expected value is estimated to be significant). Given the nature of heritage assets identified for inclusion in the accounts, disposal is also a rare occurrence. On disposal, proceeds would be accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts as outlined in section 1.12.4.

An Heritage Assets Register is maintained by the Authority which details qualifying assets within the boundaries of the County Borough, including those assets identified as heritage assets for the purposes of the Statement of Accounts.

Both monuments identified as heritage assets are located in areas with free and open public access.

1.14 Minimum Revenue Provision

Local Authorities are normally required each year to set aside some of their revenues as provision for capital expenditure financed by borrowing or credit arrangements. This is referred to as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

The Welsh Government issued regulations for the making of MRP with effect from the 2008/2009 financial year, requiring Local Authorities to make a prudent provision for MRP. Local Authorities are legally obliged to “have regard” to such guidance (i.e. set a prudent MRP). The legislation does not define what constitutes a “prudent provision”, however the MRP guidance issued by the Secretary of State interprets the term and provides some examples.

The MRP for 2018/2019 has been calculated in accordance with the amended MRP policy that was approved by full Council in December 2017, using the following method:

- Supported Borrowing - MRP is calculated on a straight-line basis, at 2% of capital expenditure incurred.
- Unsupported Borrowing - For all debt not in receipt of revenue support from central government, MRP is made on an annuity basis over the life of the asset.
- Finance Leases - the MRP for finance leases is equal to the principal element of the rental payable each year.

As existing Council Taxpayers have been charged in previous years for MRP that has subsequently been reduced as a result of the retrospective policy changes introduced in 2017/2018, the level of MRP made in year has been reduced in order to provide those Taxpayers with the policy benefits arising within a reasonable time-frame. In 2018/2019 MRP has therefore been reduced by £3.2m, with further planned reductions of £3.2m per annum for the financial years 2019/2020 to 2021/2022.

1.15 Tax Income (Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR))

The Authority follows the principles in IPSAS23 *Revenue from Non-Exchange transactions (Taxes and Transfers)* in respect of accounting for tax income collected, except where interpretations or adaptations to fit the public sector are detailed in the Code.

Council Tax

The Authority collects and distributes Council Tax on behalf of Gwent Police and four town or community councils. The precept for each of these bodies is paid in full during the financial year and is not affected by the level of Council Tax actually collected. As payment is made in full, there are no debtor or creditor balances recognised for precepting bodies on the Balance Sheet.

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement recognises the amount due to the Authority for the year. Any surplus or deficit arising on collection is also included in Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

Costs relating to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme are included as expenses paid through the tax system and in accordance with IPSAS 23 are recognised as a service cost and not a reduction of Council Tax income through foregone revenues.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The Authority collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) under an agency arrangement with the Welsh Government. Cash collected from non-domestic ratepayers is not the income of the Authority and is therefore not included in its Accounting Statements. Debtor and creditor balances with taxpayers and the impairment allowance for doubtful debts are not the assets and liabilities of the Authority and are therefore not recognised in the Balance Sheet.

A debtor or creditor is included for cash collected on an agency basis that has been under or overpaid to the Welsh Government at the Balance Sheet date. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes the Authority's contribution due from the NNDR Pool, the cost of collection allowance for the year and accrued amounts billed in pursuit of unpaid NNDR debts.

1.16 Joint Arrangements

Joint Arrangements involve the provision of services by two or more parties that have joint control over the activity, bound by contract. These arrangements can be classed as Joint Ventures or Joint Operations, depending on the status of the arrangement as an entity in its own right, the degree to which the owning parties have control over the entity and the governance arrangements in place.

In assessing the joint arrangements in which Blaenau Gwent participates, it has been concluded in each case that no separate legal entity exists and that the Authority does not have control (as defined by the Accounting Code and IFRS10). Consequently, the accounts of these arrangements have not been consolidated in the group accounting statements and in each case the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account reflects the transactions occurring between the Authority and the joint arrangement.

The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCR) is a joint arrangement classed as a joint operation involving 10 local authority partners in South-East Wales. In accordance with the Code requirements, the Authority has included its share of income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows relating to the arrangement within the single entity accounting statements and disclosures.

1.17 Accounting for Schools

The Accounting Code includes a prescribed treatment for the inclusion of schools in the Statement of Accounts. CIPFA/LASAAC is of the view that local authority maintained schools are capable of being treated as separate entities for control purposes, and that based on the indicators of control identified under the requirements of the Code's adoption of IFRS10 *Consolidated Financial Statements*, the balance of control lies with local authorities. Consequently, schools should be included in group accounts. However, the Code also includes an adaptation to the definition of single entity financial statements to include the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of local authority maintained schools.

All maintained schools in the County Borough are now therefore considered to be entities controlled by the Authority, with the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school recognised in the single entity accounts on the basis outlined below. The Authority has the following types of maintained schools under its control:

- Community
- Voluntary Aided
- Voluntary Controlled
- Foundation

Schools Non-Current Assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet where the Authority directly owns the assets, holds the balance of control of the assets or where the school or the school Governing Body own the assets or have had rights to use the assets transferred to them. Land and buildings used by schools are recognised in accordance with the recognition tests relevant to the arrangements that prevail for the property.

Community schools are owned by the Authority and are, therefore, recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The four Voluntary Aided and Controlled schools within the County Borough are owned by the respective Diocese with no formal rights to use the assets through licence arrangements passed to the school or Governing Bodies. The assets are used under "mere" licences that pass no interest to the school and which are terminable by the trustees at any time without causal action. As a result these schools are not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

Ownership and control of the Foundation school lies with the school or the school's Governing Body and therefore the assets have been recognised on the Balance Sheet with effect from 1 April 2013.

For those maintained schools not controlled by the Authority, any transactions made on their behalf have been included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and related notes under the appropriate Service Code of Practice standard subjective grouping, or exceptionally as third party payments.

1.18 Group Accounts

In addition to the preparation of single entity financial statements, the Authority is required to prepare Group Accounts where it has interests in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, unless those interests are considered not material. The 2014/2015 Code included revisions resulting from the introduction or amendment in May 2011 of five accounting standards (*IFRS10 Consolidated Financial Statements*, *IFRS11 Joint Ventures*, *IFRS12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities*, *IAS27 Separate Financial Statements* and *IAS28 Investments in Associates*) relating to the preparation of group or consolidated accounts. These standards included amendments to the definition of the group boundary that potentially could have impacted on the entities to be consolidated with the Authority in preparing group accounts.

The relevant standards and the CIPFA publication *Accounting for Collaboration in Local Government* have been used to determine the correct treatment of collaborative working arrangements in which the Authority is involved. As a result, the group boundary has been determined as including the Authority and Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary over which it has control through the appointment of the majority of the company's board of directors.

The Authority's interest in the Education Achievement Service for South-East Wales has not been consolidated in the Group Accounts. Whilst the Authority holds a 20% interest in the company, which would normally trigger the requirements for inclusion as an associate company within group accounts, there are a number of factors that counter-indicate the Authority having significant influence over the EAS, including the level of control exercised by Welsh Government, and therefore the presumption for inclusion has been rebutted.

1.19 Determination of Operating Segments

For the purpose of classifying expenditure and income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) and Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA), operating segments disclosed have been aligned with the Authority's Portfolio structure. All Portfolios and Committees have been disclosed, regardless of size in monetary terms, and there has been no aggregation of segments in these Accounts.

2. Impact of changes in Accounting Policies

In preparing the 2018/2019 Accounts, IFRS9 *Financial Instruments* and IFRS15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* have been adopted with effect from 1 April 2018.

IFRS 9 introduced extensive changes to the classification and measurement of financial assets, in addition to a forward looking 'expected loss' model for impairment of financial assets rather than the 'incurred loss' model under IAS 39. The impact on the Authority's Accounts has been minimal, as there has been no requirement to reclassify financial instruments and the expected loss impairment model has applied only to an immaterial level of outstanding debt.

IFRS 15 established a new comprehensive framework for revenue recognition, replacing IAS 18 *Revenue* and IAS 11 *Construction Contracts*. The new framework included changes to the basis for deciding whether revenue is recognised at a point in time or over a period of time and the introduction of a five-step recognition process. However, the impact on adoption has not been material as the Authority has relatively predictable income streams including local taxation revenues and significant transactions involving central and other government bodies (e.g. specific grant funding), both of which fall outside the scope of IFRS15, and has not identified any material contracts with service recipients.

3. Accounting Standards Issued but not yet Adopted

The 2018/2019 Accounting Code of Practice includes the following new or revised accounting standards that have effect from 1 April 2019.

Source	Requirement and Potential Impact
Amendments to IFRS 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	IFRS 9 has been amended to clarify that amortised cost should be used where prepayments are substantially lower than the unpaid principal and interest. The Authority has no financial instruments to which this will apply.
Amendments to IAS 40 <i>Investment Property</i>	This amendment to IAS 40 provides further explanation of the instances in which a property can be reclassified as investment property. The Authority anticipates no significant impact as a result of the implementation of this amendment.
Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle	IFRS 1 has been amended to remove exemptions on first time adoption of IFRS; IAS 28 has been clarified in respect of the treatment of investments in associates or joint ventures. Neither of these has an impact on the Authority.
IFRIC 22 <i>Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration</i>	This clarifies the treatment of payments in a foreign currency made in advance of obtaining or delivering services or goods. The Authority does not have any material transactions within the scope of this amendment.
IFRIC 23 <i>Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatment</i>	This provides additional guidance on income tax treatment in cases where there is uncertainty. The Authority anticipates no significant impact as a result of the implementation of this guidance.

4. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Authority 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:

- i. These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the functions and services provided by the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, although there will be significant financial challenges to be met (see also note 16 to the Narrative Report, pages 16-17).
- ii. The Authority has reviewed all property assets in accordance with the relevant accounting policies and has made appropriate reclassifications for assets that are held for sale.
- iii. All maintained schools in the County Borough are considered to be entities controlled by the Authority, with the income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of each school recognised in the single entity accounts on the basis outlined in the Authority's Accounting Policies (1.17, page 38).
- iv. The Authority has determined that assets used for economic development purposes, e.g. industrial estates, are not held solely for the purpose of income generation or capital appreciation and therefore do not meet the definition of investment properties. These assets have been treated as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet.
- v. The Authority has classified its leases as finance or operating in accordance with IFRS. Finance leases are not precisely defined and therefore an element of judgement has been required in assessing each lease arrangement.
- vi. Capital and revenue grants and contributions continue to be reviewed to determine the existence of any conditions requiring repayment of sums involved to the awarding body, and the extent to which any conditions have been fulfilled. There has been a consequential impact on sums retained on the Balance Sheet and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- vii. Where disclosure notes required by the Accounting Code are insignificant or immaterial in value and their omission has been determined not to have a detrimental impact on the presentation of the financial position or performance of the Authority, these disclosures have not been presented.
- viii. Further to the decision for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the continuation of existing funding streams and future levels of funding for local government. However, a judgement has been taken that there remains insufficient indication that this funding uncertainty will result in reduction of service provision with a consequent impairment of assets held by the Authority.

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 Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Local Government Scheme 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. The Greater Gwent Local Government Pension Scheme has engaged Hymans Robertson LLP as its consulting actuary to provide expert advice concerning the appropriate assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. The fund actuary has advised that a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of £73.233m (<i>see pages 100-101 for further sensitivity analysis</i>). However, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2018/2019, the Authority's actuaries advised that the net pensions liability had increased by £40.090m as a result of remeasurements of pension assets and liabilities. This increase comprised a £11.308m gain on assets (representing the difference between actual and expected asset return for the year) and net increases in liabilities of £51.398m (arising from changes in demographic/financial assumptions and other experience gains (<i>see pages 98-99</i>)).
Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Property, Plant and Equipment assets are revalued on a sufficiently regular basis to ensure their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value. As a minimum, all assets are revalued every five years. In addition, all assets are assessed annually for impairment. The value of the asset portfolio is based upon calculations and estimation techniques following the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance.	The appointed valuers have applied professional judgement and assumptions in determining the value of assets and the extent of any impairment. A 1% variation arising from these judgements and assumptions would result in the over or understatement of the Gross Book Value of Property, Plant and Equipment of £3.241m. These variances could result in the Statement of Accounts being materially mis-stated and, subject to proper capital accounting practice, their adjustment could have an impact on the Balance Sheet, Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and the level of the Authority's Reserves.
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Assets are depreciated based on useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to maintain the required level of expenditure on repairs and maintenance, resulting in uncertainty regarding the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of assets is reduced, depreciation charged to the CIES increases and the carrying amount of assets on the Balance Sheet falls.
Fair Value Estimations	<p>When the fair values of Investment Properties, Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e. Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using the following valuation techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Level 2 inputs, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets at the balance sheet date; • For level 3 inputs, valuations based on a combination of available market data derived from a mixture of transactions on both Council and 3rd party assets which are then analysed to take into account yields, rates per sq. m, build costs etc.. <p>Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible, judgment is required in establishing fair values. These judgments typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. Changes in assumptions used could affect the fair value of the Authority's assets and liabilities.</p>	<p>The Authority uses a combination of available market data derived from a mixture of transactions on both Council and 3rd party assets which are then analysed to take into account yields, rates per sq. m, build costs etc. to measure the fair value of its Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale under IFRS13, depending on which technique it considers most appropriate.</p> <p>The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding rent growth, occupancy levels, floor area repairs backlog, and others. Significant changes in any of the unobservable inputs would result in a significantly lower or higher fair value measurement for these assets.</p>

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Impairment of Debtors	As at 31 March 2019, the Authority has an outstanding debtors balance of £24.364m. In accordance with proper accounting practice, impairment allowances totalling £4.291m have been calculated for the various classifications of debt outstanding. However, these allowances are based on estimates and judgements, including past experience of collecting similar debts, which may not accurately reflect future levels of debt recovery.	An understatement of debtor impairment allowances would result in an overstatement of income recovered that would require adjustment in the Accounting Statements. At 31 March 2019, impairment allowances represent 17.61% of debt outstanding. A 5% understatement in impairment would therefore represent a potential reduction in revenues of £1.218m.

6. Events After the Reporting Period

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by Ms R. Hayden CPFA, Chief Officer - Resources, on 04 April 2022.

Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2019, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Notes

7. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Expenditure & Funding Analysis	2018/2019					2017/2018 Reclassified				
	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments (Note 7.1)	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund (Note 7.2)	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments (Note 7.3)	CIES Net Expenditure	Management Account Net Expenditure	Accounting Code Adjustments (Note 7.1)	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund (Note 7.2)	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments (Note 7.3)	CIES Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Services	14,580	8,063	22,643	1,427	24,070	14,226	1,173	15,399	1,818	17,217
Education	55,075	(45,816)	9,259	3,043	12,302	54,356	(43,085)	11,271	4,441	15,712
Education - School Spending	(1,054)	42,505	41,451	(216)	41,235	(282)	42,300	42,018	114	42,132
Environment	29,325	(13,431)	15,894	9,241	25,135	32,414	(12,904)	19,510	13,589	33,099
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	(134)	(134)	0	(134)	0	30	30	(1,118)	(1,088)
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,457	(892)	565	1,615	2,180	1,453	665	2,118	393	2,511
Social Services	43,924	(2,128)	41,796	2,916	44,712	41,708	482	42,190	3,116	45,306
Licensing	71	(28)	43	21	64	74	2	76	14	90
Planning	1,029	(194)	835	124	959	1,050	92	1,142	126	1,268
Capital Adjustments*	0	(1)	(1)	1	0	0	(21)	(21)	21	0
Pension Adjustments**	0	1,008	1,008	(1,008)	0	0	1,017	1,017	(1,017)	0
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	144,407	(11,048)	133,359	17,164	150,523	144,999	(10,249)	134,750	21,497	156,247
Other Operating Expenditure	0	8,549	8,549	80	8,629	0	8,305	8,305	(157)	8,148
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	0	4,672	4,672	6,713	11,385	0	4,927	4,927	6,030	10,957
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(148,719)	(148,719)	(6,268)	(154,987)	0	(145,805)	(145,805)	(1,939)	(147,744)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	144,407	(146,546)	(2,139)	17,689	15,550	144,999	(142,822)	2,177	25,431	27,608
Tax Expenses			25					0		
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,720					(2,593)		
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(394)					(416)		
Opening Council Fund Balance as at 1 April			(5,500)					(5,084)		
Closing Council Fund Balance as at 31 March			(5,894)					(5,500)		

*: Capital Adjustments includes Deferred Charges and Minimum Revenue Provision.

**: Pension Adjustments represents corporate amounts for Past Service Cost/Curtailment payments to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

7.1 Code-Compliant Adjustments to Management Accounts

This table shows the adjustments made to the 2018/2019 management accounts to arrive at 'Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund' on an Accounting Code of Practice-compliant basis:

Expenditure and Funding Analysis: Accounting Code Adjustments to Management Accounts	2018/2019							
	Capital Charges (Note 7.1.1) £000	Elimination of Internal Recharges (Note 7.1.2) £000	Pension Liabilities (Note 7.1.3) £000	Precepts & Levies (Note 7.1.4) £000	Provisions (Note 7.1.5) £000	Reserves (Note 7.1.6) £000	Other (Note 7.1.7) £000	Total £000
Corporate Services	(136)	6,486	0	0	71	(222)	1,864	8,063
Education	(2,443)	(41,857)	0	0	(25)	264	(1,755)	(45,816)
Education - School Spending	(39)	40,475	0	0	4	280	1,785	42,505
Environment	(5,683)	(2,678)	0	(3,360)	(416)	85	(1,379)	(13,431)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	0	0	0	0	0	(134)	(134)
Regeneration & Economic Development	(561)	41	0	0	(14)	160	(518)	(892)
Social Services	(174)	(2,284)	0	0	118	63	149	(2,128)
Licensing	0	(16)	0	0	1	0	(13)	(28)
Planning	0	(167)	0	0	5	(32)	0	(194)
Capital Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	(1)
Pension Adjustments	0	0	1,008	0	0	0	0	1,008
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	(9,036)	0	1,008	(3,360)	(256)	598	(2)	(11,048)
Other Operating Expenditure	0	0	0	3,360	0	0	5,189	8,549
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	622	0	(7,406)	0	0	0	11,456	4,672
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	(148,719)	(148,719)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,414)	0	(6,398)	0	(256)	598	(132,076)	(146,546)

This table shows the adjustments made to the 2017/2018 management accounts to arrive at ‘Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund’ on an Accounting Code of Practice-compliant basis:

Expenditure and Funding Analysis: Accounting Code Adjustments to Management Accounts	2017/2018 (Reclassified)							
	Capital Charges (Note 7.1.1) £000	Elimination of Internal Recharges (Note 7.1.2) £000	Pension Liabilities (Note 7.1.3) £000	Precepts & Levies (Note 7.1.4) £000	Provisions (Note 7.1.5) £000	Reserves (Note 7.1.6) £000	Other (Note 7.1.7) £000	Total £000
Corporate Services	(160)	(608)	0	0	92	335	1,514	1,173
Education	(2,723)	(40,952)	0	0	550	(4)	44	(43,085)
Education - School Spending	(52)	41,312	0	0	(13)	970	83	42,300
Environment	(9,996)	(778)	0	(3,339)	1,024	302	(117)	(12,904)
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
Regeneration & Economic Development	(466)	526	0	0	624	38	(57)	665
Social Services	(163)	433	0	0	172	(5)	45	482
Licensing	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Planning	0	67	0	0	16	1	8	92
Capital Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	(21)	(21)
Pension Adjustments	0	0	1,017	0	0	0	0	1,017
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	(13,560)	0	1,017	(3,339)	2,466	1,638	1,529	(10,249)
Other Operating Expenditure	0	0	0	3,339	0	0	4,966	8,305
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	1,130	0	(7,220)	0	0	0	11,017	4,927
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	(145,805)	(145,805)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(12,430)	0	(6,203)	0	2,466	1,638	(128,293)	(142,822)

The following notes provide additional detail for each of the adjustments made to management accounts:

7.1.1 Capital Charges

Capital charges reported to management are on the basis of estimates calculated prior to the commencement of the financial year during the budget-setting process. These are removed and replaced with actual capital charges for depreciation, impairment and leasing. The ‘Capital Adjustments’ line includes the calculated MRP for the year.

7.1.2 Elimination of Internal Recharges

The Accounting Code confirms that the EFA fulfils the Authority’s requirements for segmental analysis in compliance with IFRS 8 *Operating Segments* and also stipulates that transactions between segments are not permitted in the service analysis section of the CIES. Management reports include expenses and revenues arising from recharges for a range of internally provided support services and services reported on a corporate basis (such as Centralised IT and Corporate Landlord functions). These entries are eliminated to avoid the overstatement of segment income and expenditure as reported in the CIES. Transactions relating to specific services provided to Schools have not been eliminated as these are not material in value but would distort the figures reported in relation to Schools Balances and the Council Fund General Reserve in a way that is not considered to be useful to the users of the Accounts.

7.1.3 Pension Liabilities

Current Service Costs included in management reports are on the basis of an estimated level of liabilities, with adjustment to the equivalent cash cost for grant funded schemes. Past Service and Curtailment Costs are also included on an estimate basis. These amounts are adjusted to the actuarially-calculated amounts for inclusion in the statutory accounts.

Accruals for short-term accumulating compensated absences are not included in management accounts; these are added for code-compliance.

7.1.4 Precepts & Levies

Precepts and levies are reported in the Environment Portfolio, but are reclassified as 'Other Operating Expenditure' in the CIES.

7.1.5 Provisions

Amounts are included in management accounts for early termination provision costs, on a case-by-case basis. No other entries relating to provisions are included. Adjustment is made to match the statutory accounts that include provisions on the basis required by IAS37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

7.1.6 Reserves

Management accounts include transfers to or from earmarked reserves as income or expenditure against services. Amounts may also be included for revenue contributions to capital expenditure. These are adjusted to match the treatment in the statutory accounts, where transfers to/from reserves are recorded in the Movement in Reserves Statement and revenue contributions to capital expenditure are included as adjustments under statutory provisions.

7.1.7 Other Adjustments

This includes:

- Reclassification of the Council Tax Surplus on Collection, which is included as a credit against services in the management accounts and within 'Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income' in the CIES;
- Adjustment for Impairment Charges for Debtors, which are not reported to management but included in the statutory accounts on the basis of type and age of debt;
- Inclusion of unhypothecated funding sources, such as Revenue Support Grant, NNDR and Council Tax, which are not included in reports to management;
- Correction of entries in relation to Housing Benefit overpayments and associated impairment; and
- Addition of Blaenau Gwent's share of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal operating income and expenditure.

7.2

Expenditure and Income Charged to the Council Fund

Net Expenditure charged by Portfolios to the Council Fund can be analysed as follows:

Expenditure & Income Charged to Council Fund	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000
External Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	(20,345)	(18,727)
Government Grants	(50,411)	(49,996)
Total Income	(70,756)	(68,723)
Employee Expenses	97,923	95,696
Other Service Expenses	106,192	107,744
Support Service Recharges	0	0
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	0	33
Total Expenditure	204,115	203,473
Net Expenditure	133,359	134,750

7.3 Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis

This table shows the adjustments between the management accounts (restated to an Accounting Code of Practice-compliant basis) and the net expenditure reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Expenditure & Funding Analysis: Adjustments between 'Code-Compliant' Management Accounts and the CIES	2018/2019				2017/2018 (Reclassified)				Total Adjustments £000
	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7.3.1) £000	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note 7.3.2) £000	Other Adjustments (Note 7.3.3) £000	Total Adjustments £000	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Note 7.3.1) £000	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments (Note 7.3.2) £000	Other Adjustments (Note 7.3.3) £000		
Corporate Services	101	1,302	24	1,427	262	1,607	(51)	1,818	
Education	2,798	291	(46)	3,043	3,963	484	(6)	4,441	
Education - School Spending	30	0	(246)	(216)	0	0	114	114	
Environment	7,698	1,553	(10)	9,241	11,946	1,678	(35)	13,589	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	0	0	0	(1,118)	0	0	(1,118)	
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,369	243	3	1,615	134	251	8	393	
Social Services	393	2,524	(1)	2,916	541	2,603	(28)	3,116	
Licensing	0	18	3	21	0	15	(1)	14	
Planning	0	126	(2)	124	0	134	(8)	126	
Capital Adjustments	1	0	0	1	21	0	0	21	
Pension Adjustments	0	(1,008)	0	(1,008)	0	(1,017)	0	(1,017)	
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	12,390	5,049	(275)	17,164	15,749	5,755	(7)	21,497	
Other Operating Expenditure	80	0	0	80	(157)	0	0	(157)	
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	(622)	7,406	(71)	6,713	(1,130)	7,220	(60)	6,030	
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	(6,268)	0	0	(6,268)	(1,939)	0	0	(1,939)	
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	5,580	12,455	(346)	17,689	12,523	12,975	(67)	25,431	

7.3.1 Adjustments for Capital Purposes

This column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the service lines, and for:

- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - reflects the funding of capital expenditure through application of general capital grant.

- 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 were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

7.3.2 Net Change for Pensions Adjustments

This column shows the net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 *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 on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

7.3.3 Other Adjustments

This column includes differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For service lines, the adjustment for short-term accumulating compensated absences.
- For financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the Council Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

8. Other Operating Expenditure

Other operating expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement consists of the following:

Other Operating Expenditure	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
(Gains)/losses on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	489	(413)	76	477	(634)	(157)
Precepts & Levies:						
Gwent Police Authority Precept	4,820	0	4,820	4,607	0	4,607
South Wales Fire Authority Levy	3,251	0	3,251	3,221	0	3,221
Community Council Precepts	372	0	372	359	0	359
Coroners' Courts	82	0	82	89	0	89
National Park Levy	28	0	28	29	0	29
Total	9,042	(413)	8,629	8,782	(634)	8,148

9. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Financing and investment income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement consists of the following:

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Impairment *	(158)	0	(158)	0	0	0
Interest payable and similar charges - Financial Instruments	4,368	0	4,368	3,978	0	3,978
Interest payable and similar charges - Other **	7	0	7	13	0	13
Interest receivable and similar income - Financial Instruments	0	(48)	(48)	0	(15)	(15)
Interest receivable and similar income - Other ***	0	(190)	(190)	0	(239)	(239)
Net Pensions Interest Cost	17,070	(9,664)	7,406	16,244	(9,024)	7,220
Total	21,287	(9,902)	11,385	20,235	(9,278)	10,957

*: Movement in allowances for expected credit losses on financial assets.

**: Interest on finance leases and school balances.

***. Interest on (lessor) finance leases, car loans and contractor bonds.

10. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

This disclosure includes:

- Local taxation income, such as Council Tax receipts;
- Grants and contributions that are not attributable to specific services and are applied as general revenue funding; and
- Capital grants and contributions from a variety of funding bodies to cover expenditure on capital schemes.

Taxation & Non Specific Grant Income	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Taxation & Non-Specific Revenue Grants		
Council Tax Income	(38,369)	(36,826)
Non-Domestic Rates	(22,443)	(22,677)
Revenue Support Grant	(87,908)	(86,302)
Total Taxation and Non-Specific Revenue Grants	(148,720)	(145,805)
Capital grants and contributions	(6,267)	(1,939)
Total	(154,987)	(147,744)

11. Partnership Schemes Under Section 33 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006

11.1 The Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES)

The Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service is an agreement for the provision of an efficient and effective integrated community equipment service to users who are resident in the partner localities. This agreement came into effect on 1 October 2008.

11.2 The Gwent Frailty Programme

The Gwent Frailty Programme is an agreement for the delivery of a range of services to avoid hospital admissions, facilitate early discharge and help individuals remain “happily independent”. The Community Resource Teams provide integrated urgent response, re-ablement and falls services within each locality in line with agreed Locality Annual Commissioning Plans. This agreement came into effect on 4 April 2011.

11.3 The Gwent Care Home Accommodation Functions Pooled Fund

The Gwent Care Home Accommodation Functions Pooled Fund is an agreement for the provision of efficient and effective Care Home functions reflecting locally agreed priorities for older people who are assessed as in need of such care. The arrangement came into effect on 1 April 2018.

The Authority's transactions in relation to these partnership schemes are included in the Social Services Portfolio line of the CIES. Summarised transactions for the financial year ending 31 March 2019 were as follows.

Partnership Schemes:	2018/2019				2017/2018			
	GWICES £000	Gwent Frailty £000	Care Homes £000	Total £000	GWICES £000	Gwent Frailty £000	Care Homes £000	Total £000
Total Expenditure	3,366	16,515	98,596	118,477	3,295	15,484	0	18,779
Funding								
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	(252)	(580)	(7,060)	(7,892)	(272)	(559)	0	(831)
Caerphilly County Borough Council	(462)	(2,340)	(21,136)	(23,938)	(474)	(2,168)	0	(2,642)
Monmouthshire County Borough Council	(378)	(1,387)	(8,993)	(10,758)	(307)	(1,286)	0	(1,593)
Newport City Council	(325)	(1,720)	(16,449)	(18,494)	(348)	(1,637)	0	(1,985)
Torfaen County Borough Council	(636)	(809)	(9,986)	(11,431)	(754)	(783)	0	(1,537)
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	(922)	(9,616)	(34,972)	(45,510)	(759)	(9,034)	0	(9,793)
Other	(391)	0	0	(391)	(381)	0	0	(381)
Total Funding	(3,366)	(16,452)	(98,596)	(118,414)	(3,295)	(15,467)	0	(18,762)
Net In-Year (Under)/Overspend	0	63	0	63	0	17	0	17
Balance Brought Forward	0	(440)	0	(440)	0	(457)	0	(457)
Balance Carried Forward	0	(377)	0	(377)	0	(440)	0	(440)

12. Members' Allowances

The total amount of allowances and expenses paid to Members during the year was £727,893 (2017/2018: £680,590), analysed as follows:

Members' Allowances	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Allowances	724	678
Expenses	4	3
Total:	728	681

13. Officers' Remuneration

13.1 The number of employees whose remuneration, including termination benefits but excluding employer pension contributions, was £60,000 or more, was:

Officers Emoluments	2018/2019					2017/2018					
	Remuneration Band	Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year	Total excluding leavers	Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year	Total excluding leavers
		Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year		Teaching	Other	Total	Left During Year	
£60,000 - £64,999	12	2	14	2	12	11	1	12	0	12	
£65,000 - £69,999	5	4	9	2	7	3	6	9	2	7	
£70,000 - £74,999	3	1	4	1	3	2	2	4	0	4	
£75,000 - £79,999	3	1	4	0	4	3	1	4	1	3	
£80,000 - £84,999	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	
£85,000 - £89,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
£90,000 - £94,999	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
£95,000 - £99,999	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
£105,000 - £109,999	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	24	11	35	7	28	22	10	32	3	29	

Note: Employees that are included in the Senior Officers Remuneration disclosure have been excluded from the above table.

The 2018/2019 total of 35 includes 5 members of staff in the 'Teaching' category and 1 member of staff in the 'Other' category who would not have been included in the note if it were not for one-off severance payments. (The 2017/2018 total of 32 includes 2 members of teaching staff who would not have been included in the note if it were not for one-off severance payments). Further details of termination benefits can be found in notes 14-15 (pages 54-55).

13.2 Remuneration Ratio

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2014 require the disclosure of the ratio of the Chief Executive's remuneration in comparison to the median remuneration of all the Authority's employees. For 2018/2019 this was as follows:

	2018/2019	2017/2018
Ratio of Managing Director pay to median pay of all staff	1:4.66	1:4.81

13.3 Senior Officers' Remuneration

The following table sets out the remuneration in 2018/2019 for senior officers (as defined by statute) whose salary for the year was between £60,000 and £150,000. There were no senior officers whose salary exceeded £150,000.

Post Title	Notes	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Benefits in Kind	Total Remuneration (excluding Pension Contributions)	Employers Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration (including Pension Contributions)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Managing Director		104,398	0	0	0	104,398	23,490	127,888
Corporate Director of Education		99,988	0	0	0	99,988	22,497	122,485
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services		86,322	0	0	0	86,322	19,422	105,744
Corporate Director of Social Services		86,322	0	0	0	86,322	19,422	105,744
Chief Finance Officer (to 29 July 2018)	Note 1	25,336	0	0	0	25,336	55,999	81,335
Chief Officer (Resources) (from 30 July 2018)	Note 1	46,898	0	0	0	46,898	10,552	57,450
Chief Officer (Commercial) (from 07 January 2019)	Note 2	17,138	0	0	0	17,138	3,856	20,994
Head of Organisational Development (to 6 January 2019)	Note 3	51,434	0	0	0	51,434	11,573	63,007
Head of Governance & Partnerships	Note 4	66,900	0	0	0	66,900	15,053	81,953
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance	Note 4	66,900	0	0	0	66,900	15,053	81,953
Total		651,636	0	0	0	651,636	196,917	848,553

Note 1: The Chief Finance Officer post was deleted and the Chief Officer (Resources) post created, as part of Phase 1 of the Authority's Senior Management Restructure.

Note 2: The Chief Officer (Commercial) post was created as part of Phase 1 of the Authority's Senior Management Restructure. The postholder commenced employment with the Authority on 7 January 2019.

Note 3: The Head of Organisational Development reported directly to the Managing Director until the Chief Officer (Commercial) commenced employment in 2019 and is included in this disclosure until that time on that basis.

Note 4: The Head of Governance & Partnerships and Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance report directly to the Managing Director and are included in this disclosure on that basis.

The following table sets out the remuneration in 2017/2018 for senior officers (as defined by statute) whose salary for the year was between £60,000 and £150,000. There were no senior officers whose salary exceeded £150,000.

Post Title	Notes	Salary (including fees & allowances)	Expense Allowances	Compensation for Loss of Office	Benefits in Kind	Total Remuneration (excluding Pension Contributions)	Employers Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration (including Pension Contributions)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Managing Director	Note 1	47,048	0	0	0	47,048	10,115	57,163
Lead Corporate Director/Head of Paid Service; Corporate Director Strategy, Transformation & Culture	Note 2	73,047	0	32,195	0	105,242	277,708	382,950
Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration	Note 3	95,825	0	0	0	95,825	20,602	116,427
Chief Finance Officer	Note 3	88,436	26	0	0	88,462	19,014	107,476
Corporate Director of Social Services		82,706	138	0	0	82,844	17,782	100,626
Corporate Director of Education		98,295	0	0	0	98,295	21,133	119,428
Head of Organisational Development	Note 4	65,588	0	0	0	65,588	14,101	79,689
Head of Policy & Performance	Note 4	65,588	12	0	0	65,600	14,101	79,701
Total		616,533	176	32,195	0	648,904	394,556	1,043,460

Note 1: Commenced 16 October 2017.

Note 2: Lead Corporate Director / Head of Paid Service until 15 October 2017, reverted to his substantive responsibilities as Corporate Director Strategy, Transformation & Culture at that time following the appointment of the Managing Director and subsequently left the Council on 31 December 2017.

Note 3: For each officer (*Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration, Chief Finance Officer*), salary includes £11,195.77 paid to the post-holder on behalf of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. (a company wholly owned by the Council) for acting in the capacity of a director of that Company. The amount paid was recharged to the Company. The Council also paid £2,407.09 of employer pension contributions into the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of each Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd directorship.

The Auditor General for Wales considers that the employer pension contributions paid by the Council into the Local Government Pension Scheme appear to be contrary to law on the basis that the Council did not have the power to make pension payments on behalf of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd..

The Council accepts that there were procedural errors in the way in which employer pension contributions were administered, but it considers that these did not have the effect of rendering the payments contrary to law.

These Directorships ended on 19 March 2018.

Note 4: The Head of Organisational Development and Head of Policy & Performance report to the Managing Director/Head of Paid Service and are included in this disclosure on that basis.

14. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Costs to Authority

The number and value of exit packages agreed by the Authority during the year were as follows:

Exit Package Cost Band	2018/2019				2017/2018			
	Compulsory Redundancies	Other Departures	Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages £000	Compulsory Redundancies	Other Departures	Exit Packages	Total Cost of Exit Packages £000
	Nº	Nº	Nº	£000	Nº	Nº	Nº	£000
£0-£19,999	2	63	65	488	11	43	54	288
£20,000-£39,999	1	18	19	542	1	13	14	402
£40,000-£59,999	0	9	9	425	0	4	4	185
£60,000-£99,999	0	6	6	456	0	2	2	151
£100,000-£299,999	1	1	2	386	0	1	1	283
Total	4	97	101	2,297	12	63	75	1,309

Note: Value bands have been combined in order to ensure that individual exit packages cannot be identified.

Employment contracts may be terminated for a variety of reasons, including redundancy and retirement. On termination, the Authority incurs a range of liabilities including redundancy payments, pension lump sum payments and enhancements (e.g. added years). In 2018/2019, the contracts of 101 employees were terminated, incurring total liabilities of £2.297m (2017/2018: 75 employees, incurring liabilities of £1.309m). These payments can be disaggregated as follows:

Termination Benefits & Exit Packages	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Pay in Lieu of Notice	184	122
Pension Costs	872	487
Redundancy Costs	983	572
Other Payments	258	128
Total	2,297	1,309

Included in the Authority's Early Terminations Provision are sums totalling £0.141m payable to 11 staff that have not been included in the exit packages disclosure, but for which the Authority has a legal or constructive obligation at the balance sheet date. (2017/2018: Early Terminations provision included £0.710m payable to 33 staff). Details of the Early Terminations Provision can be found in notes 32.1-32.2, pages 84-86.

Following the agreement to transfer staff to the charity in 2014, the Authority has exercised its discretion in funding £0.123m of exit packages for 9 staff at Aneurin Leisure Trust. (2017/2018: an exit package of £0.021m for 1 member of staff was funded).

15. Termination Benefits and Exit Packages - Causes

The following were the significant causes of the termination benefits and exit packages:

Termination Benefits	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	No	£000	No	£000
Closure of Facilities / Cessation of Services	11	211	2	9
Early Retirements/Efficiency/Flexible Retirements	14	161	4	334
Financial Efficiency Project	29	921	9	323
School Downsizing Restructuring & Reorganisation - Crossmatching	18	658	28	474
Termination benefits arising for other reasons	29	346	32	169
Total	101	2,297	75	1,309

16. External Audit Fees

The Authority's appointed external auditors for the 2018/2019 financial year were the Wales Audit Office (WAO). The following fees were incurred in relation to external audit and inspection:

External Audit Fees	2018/2019	2017/2018	CIES Service Line
	£000	£000	
Fees payable in respect of:			
External audit services relating to audit of the accounts	191	191	<i>Corporate Services Portfolio</i>
External audit services relating to Local Government Measures	105	105	<i>Corporate Services Portfolio</i>
Certification of grant claims and returns	70	70	<i>Portfolio responsible for the specific grant claim or return</i>
Total Audit Fees	366	366	

17. National Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates are collected by the Authority based on local rateable values multiplied by a uniform rate. The total amount collected, less certain reliefs and deductions, is paid to a central pool (the NNDR pool) managed by the Welsh Government, which in turn pays back to authorities their share of the pool based on a statutory formula. NNDR is accounted for on an agency basis, i.e. Blaenau Gwent as a billing Authority acts as an agent of the Welsh Government in collecting non-domestic rates. Transactions with non-domestic ratepayers are typically not revenue activities of the agent and have therefore been excluded from the accounting statements.

Summary information for the year is as follows:

- The total non-domestic rateable value at 31 March 2019 was £31,852,617 (31 March 2018: £31,793,608).
- The national non-domestic rate multiplier for the year 2018/2019 was 0.514 (2017/2018: 0.499).
- The contribution received from the NNDR pool in 2018/2019 was £22,442,550 (2017/2018: £22,676,854).

18. Council Tax

The Council Tax is a local tax based upon ‘banded’ property values. The Council Tax requirement for the Authority is calculated by taking the budget requirement and dividing by the tax base expressed as a number of equivalent Band D properties. To this amount is added the elements precepted by Gwent Constabulary and Community Councils.

18.1 The following transactions occurred during the financial year related to Council Tax:

Council Tax Transactions	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax Collected	(38,679)		(37,030)	
Less: Impairment of bad & doubtful debts	310		205	
Net Total Proceeds from Council Tax		(38,369)		(36,825)
Less: Gwent Police Authority Precept	4,820		4,607	
Community Council Precepts:				
Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council	113		99	
Brynmawr Town Council	43		43	
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council	78		78	
Tredegar Town Council	138		139	
		5,192		4,966
Council Tax attributable to this Authority:		(33,177)		(31,859)

18.2 Council Tax Base

The Council Tax base is calculated with reference to the number of effective properties (i.e. properties net of specific exemptions, reliefs and discounts) in each of 10 property valuation bands, multiplied by a ratio related to that valuation band. For 2018/2019 the tax base, expressed as equivalent band D properties, has been calculated as follows:

	Band										
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
Properties	61.00	18,564.00	7,818.00	2,531.00	1,583.00	810.00	306.00	55.00	15.00	6.00	31,749.00
Exemptions, Reliefs & Discounts	(5.50)	(2,437.50)	(698.25)	(202.25)	(98.75)	(39.50)	(13.00)	(2.00)	(6.50)	(1.50)	(3,504.75)
Effective Properties	55.50	16,126.50	7,119.75	2,328.75	1,484.25	770.50	293.00	53.00	8.50	4.50	28,244.25
Ratio	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9	-
Band D Equivalents	30.83	10,751.01	5,537.58	2,070.00	1,484.25	941.72	423.22	88.33	17.00	10.50	21,354.44
Impairment											(1,174.49)
Council Tax Base											20,179.95

19. Precepts & Demands

19.1 Precepting Authorities

Details of precepting bodies and amounts are included in note 18.1.

19.2 Levies & Demands by Joint Committees and Other Bodies

A number of services are operated by joint committees or organisations that operate across the boundaries of individual councils, to which this Authority makes a contribution. The following levies and demands have been made of the Authority:

Levies & Demands	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	28	29
Coroners' Courts	77	81
South Wales Fire Authority	3,251	3,221
Total:	3,356	3,331

20. Grants and Contributions

Capital grants and contributions from the following awarding bodies were credited by the Authority to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Capital Grants Credited to Services	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000	Capital Grants Credited to taxation and non-specific grant income	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000
Welsh European Funding Office	0	(18)	Welsh Government	(5,820)	(1,716)
Welsh Government	(413)	(1,839)	Other Grants & Contributions	(446)	(223)
Other Grants & Contributions	(241)	(274)			
Total:	(654)	(2,131)	Total:	(6,266)	(1,939)

Revenue grants and contributions from the following awarding bodies were credited by the Authority to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Revenue Grants Credited to Services	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000
Welsh Government	(21,172)	(20,407)
Department for Work and Pensions	(25,626)	(26,213)
Other Central Government	(662)	(637)
Local Authorities	(2,173)	(1,958)
NHS	(680)	(668)
Other Grants & Contributions	(98)	(113)
Total:	(50,411)	(49,996)

The Authority has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that may require the monies or property to be returned to the provider. The balances at the year-end, analysed by awarding body, are as follows:

Receipts in Advance	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Capital £000	Revenue £000	Total £000	Capital £000	Revenue £000	Total £000
Welsh European Funding Office	(5)	(287)	(292)	(10)	(139)	(149)
Welsh Government	(825)	(977)	(1,802)	(914)	(742)	(1,656)
Other Central Government	(17)	(110)	(127)	(51)	(55)	(106)
Local Authorities	0	(15)	(15)	0	(272)	(272)
NHS	0	(17)	(17)	0	(240)	(240)
Other Grants & Contributions	0	(48)	(48)	0	(233)	(233)
Total	(847)	(1,454)	(2,301)	(975)	(1,681)	(2,656)

21. Related Parties

21.1 Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority and provides the statutory framework within which the Authority operates, the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties. Details of the general and specific grants received in 2018/2019 can be found in note 20 (page 58); details of the amounts owed to or from central government are included in notes 31 (page 83) and 30 (pages 81-83) respectively.

21.2 Members

The following transactions related to elected members took place during the year, with associated balances due to or from the Authority at the year end:

Related Party & Relationship	Transaction Details	Year Ended 31 March 2019				Year Ended 31 March 2018			
		Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
		Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Care & Repair: A number of Members are trustees.	Payments for support for independent living, home adaptations and voluntary sector grants.	293,429	(15,881)	0	(3)	256,913	(13,184)	8,730	(46)
Blaina Community Centre: A Member of the Council is a Director.	Grants, room hire and reimbursement of maintenance costs.	7,234	(434)	160	0	100	(349)	0	(434)
Brynmawr Museum: A Member of the Council is a Director.	Member grants; donation for dignitaries attending Royal Welsh Regiment parade. Ground rent and insurance income.	713	(10)	0	(187)	861	(154)	0	0
Hodge Municipal Services: A Member of the Council is the proprietor.	Maintenance of public toilets in Brynmawr and other supplies.	2,521	0	0	(140)	1,910	(215)	90	0
Jim Davies Civil Engineering Ltd.: A Council Member is the brother-in-law of one of the Directors.	Capital works including retaining wall maintenance and Silent Valley transfer station/overflow extension.	129,977	0	20,000	0	233,653	0	0	0
Total:		433,874	(16,325)	20,160	(330)	493,437	(13,902)	8,820	(480)

The following transactions related to elected members took place during the year, for which there were no associated balances due to or from the Authority at the year end:

Related Party	Related Party Relationship	Year Ended 31 March 2019		Year Ended 31 March 2018		Notes
		Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	
		£	£	£	£	
Blaina Community Institute	A Member of the Council is a Director of this organisation.	8,205	(163)	4,283	0	Payment for room hire (Town Council and Heritage Action Group) and waste transfer income.
Blaina Post Office	A Member of the Council is Post Master of this business.	0	(57)	0	0	Waste transfer.
Glenn Willis Plumbing Ltd.	The Director of the company is the son of a Council Member.	0	0	4,951	0	Disabled facilities grant.
Highfield Properties (Tredegar)	A member of the Council is a Director of the organisation.	15,314	0	10,311	0	Tenants' Rent Allowances.
Hodge Distributions	A Member of the Council is the proprietor of the organisation.	0	(1,149)	0	(1,500)	Rental of an industrial unit.
Sweets &Things	A Member of the Council is the proprietor of the organisation.	0	(46)	0	0	Waste transfer.
Total:		23,519	(1,415)	19,545	(1,500)	

In summary, transactions and balances related to elected members were as follows:

Summary - Related Party Transactions and Balances	Year Ended 31 March 2019				Year Ended 31 March 2018			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Related Parties (with year end balances)	433,874	(16,325)	20,160	(330)	493,437	(13,902)	8,820	(480)
Related Parties (with no year end balances)	23,519	(1,415)	0	0	19,545	(1,500)	0	0
Total:	457,393	(17,740)	20,160	(330)	512,982	(15,402)	8,820	(480)

21.3 Silent Valley Waste Services Limited

The Authority is the sole shareholder of the waste disposal company Silent Valley Waste Services Limited (SVWS Ltd.). Two of the Authority's Elected Members are non-executive directors of the company, having assumed responsibility on 19 March 2018. These Members are each receiving a 'senior salary' allowance, as the responsibility involved has been assessed to be of an equivalent level to a committee/scrutiny Chair. The Authority's former Chief Executive was a director for the full year. As at 31 March 2019, the Authority effectively holds 67% of the board membership. The following related party transactions took place with SVWS Ltd. during the year:

Related Party Transactions	Year Ended 31 March 2019				Year Ended 31 March 2018			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.:								
Collection of waste; management of civic amenity sites; haulage charges:								
Payments relating to current year	747,575	-	65,970	-	759,481	-	69,880	-
Payments relating to previous year	69,782	-	-	-	66,811	-	-	-
Vehicle purchase:	-	-	-	-	111,242	-	-	-
Reimbursement of payments made to directors of SVWS Ltd.:								
Payments to Chief Finance Officer	-	(591)	-	-	-	(10,605)	-	(591)
Payments to Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration	-	(591)	-	-	-	(10,605)	-	(591)
Payments in respect of Nominated Representatives	-	(19,801)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leachate	-	-	-	(130,000)	-	(130,000)	-	-
Damage to loading bay	-	(504)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Works carried out at Silent Valley Waste Transfer Station	-	-	-	-	-	(11,000)	-	-
Total (Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.):	817,357	(21,487)	65,970	(130,000)	937,534	(162,210)	69,880	(1,182)

21.4 Education Achievement Service for South East Wales

The five local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen have formed an Education Achievement Service (EAS) which is designed to raise education standards in South East Wales. The EAS is a separate legal entity, established as a company limited by guarantee, which is wholly owned by the five local authorities and operates on a not for profit basis. There is no lead authority, each being represented equally with a 20% interest and possessing equal voting rights. Services are commissioned from the EAS on behalf of the five local authorities. The Collaboration Agreement initially commenced in September 2013 for an agreed four-year period, with a continuation Business Plan for 2018-2021 having been agreed by each Local Authority Director of Education/Chief Education Officer, the Joint Executive Group and the Company Board.

The company board comprises the Director of the EAS and Elected Member representatives from the participating authorities.

In 2018/2019, net contributions of £0.319m were due to the EAS (2017/2018: £0.382m). The total summarised transactions of the Service were as follows:

Education Achievement Service	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Expenditure	6,922	7,589
Income	(6,941)	(7,484)
Net Expenditure	(19)	105

21.5 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal is a joint arrangement involving the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the 10 constituent Councils in South East Wales, including Blaenau Gwent. The Authority's share of assets, liabilities, reserves, income, expenditure and cashflows relating to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Group have been included as a joint arrangement in the single entity accounting statements and disclosures. Related party transactions between the Authority and the City Deal are as follows:

Related Party Transactions	Year Ended 31 March 2019				Year Ended 31 March 2018			
	Transactions		Balances		Transactions		Balances	
	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority	Amounts Paid by Authority	Amounts Received by Authority	Amounts Owed By Authority	Amounts Owed To Authority
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:								
Partner contribution to support the work of the Joint Cabinet	46,132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions towards Capital Expenditure	568,613	-	-	-	1,118,438	-	-	-
Reimbursement of Seconded Post	-	-	-	(25,264)	-	-	-	-
Total (Cardiff Capital Region City Deal):	614,745	0	0	(25,264)	1,118,438	0	0	0

Movements in Reserves Notes

22. Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure

The following unrealised gains or losses and pension remeasurement gains or losses arose during the year:

Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
(Surplus)/Deficit arising on the revaluation of non-current assets	(538)	(253)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability	41,883	(17,182)
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	41,345	(17,435)

23. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Statutory Provisions

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. These adjustments include transactions relating to depreciation and impairment, pensions provision, employee accruals, unequal pay and capital grants. The following transactions were made in 2018/2019:

	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions						
Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:						
Capital grants & contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	3,001	0	(3,001)	1,689	0	(1,689)
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	413	(413)	0	634	(634)	0
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards funding of prudential borrowing schemes	(56)	56	0	(54)	54	0
Total: Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:	3,358	(357)	(3,001)	2,269	(580)	(1,689)

	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions				
Transactions involving Unusable Reserves:				
Adjustments to/from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	71	(71)	60	(60)
Adjustments to/from the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(25,964)	25,964	(25,486)	25,486
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	13,508	(13,508)	12,511	(12,511)

	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions				
Transactions involving Unusable Reserves (<i>Continued</i>):				
Adjustments to/from Capital Adjustment Account:				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(11,299)	11,299	(11,666)	11,666
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant & Equipment	(55)	55	(4,775)	4,775
Capital grants & contributions applied	3,919	(3,919)	2,382	(2,382)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,678)	1,678	(1,386)	1,386
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain on disposal to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(489)	489	(477)	477
Items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	620	(620)	1,130	(1,130)
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund	44	(44)	0	0
Adjustment to/from the Accumulated Absences Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	276	(276)	7	(7)
Total: Transactions between Funds & Unusable Reserves:	(21,047)	21,047	(27,700)	27,700

Note: Additional transactions occur between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve. These are detailed in note 38.2 on pages 110-111.

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions	2018/2019				2017/2018		
	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	
Adjustments to/from the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:							
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	(133)	0	133	(132)	0	132	
Items involving Usable Capital Reserves:							
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	3,010	(3,010)	0	1,660	(1,660)	
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	2,312	0	(2,312)	752	0	(752)	
Total: Other Capital Reserve Transactions:	2,179	3,010	(5,189)	620	1,660	(2,280)	

Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Statutory Provisions	2018/2019				2017/2018			
	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000	Council Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Total: Transactions between Funds & Usable Reserves:	3,358	(357)	(3,001)	0	2,269	(580)	(1,689)	0
Total: Transactions involving Unusable Reserves:	(21,047)	0	0	21,047	(27,700)	0	0	27,700
Total: Other Capital Reserve Transactions:	0	2,179	3,010	(5,189)	0	620	1,660	(2,280)
Total Adjustments:	(17,689)	1,822	9	15,858	(25,431)	40	(29)	25,420

Balance Sheet Notes

24. Property Plant & Equipment

24.1 Carrying Amount of Non-Current Assets

The gross carrying amount and accumulated depreciation relating to Property, Plant and Equipment was:

Property, Plant & Equipment	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Gross Carrying Amount	324,067	314,435
Accumulated Depreciation	(59,803)	(50,863)
Net Book Value	264,264	263,572

Details of the transactions relating to the carrying amounts and depreciation of non-current assets are set out on pages 68-69, with the net book value detailed below.

Property, Plant & Equipment	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
							£000
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2019	148,134	4,873	95,466	108	4,303	11,380	264,264
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2018	151,701	4,765	96,587	109	4,500	5,910	263,572
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	160,706	4,668	99,226	128	4,872	3,452	273,052

Movements in 2018/2019:

Property, Plant & Equipment							Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2018	163,310	13,268	127,306	120	4,521	5,910	314,435
Appropriations	684	0	94	0	10	(788)	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(356)	0	0	0	(295)	0	(651)
Additions	713	1,508	2,026	0	0	935	5,182
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	325	0	0	0	57	0	382
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(396)	0	0	0	38	0	(358)
Capital expenditure written off	(1,783)	(125)	(3)	0	0	0	(1,911)
Derecognition - disposals	(126)	(154)	0	0	0	0	(280)
Other movements in cost or valuation *	1,787	128	30	0	0	5,323	7,268
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2019	164,158	14,625	129,453	120	4,331	11,380	324,067

Property, Plant & Equipment: Depreciation & Impairment							Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2018	(11,609)	(8,503)	(30,719)	(11)	(21)	0	(50,863)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(4,707)	(1,403)	(3,268)	(1)	(7)	0	(9,386)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	155	0	0	0	0	0	155
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	104	0	0	0	0	0	104
Derecognition - disposals	33	154	0	0	0	0	187
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2019	(16,024)	(9,752)	(33,987)	(12)	(28)	0	(59,803)

Movements in 2017/2018:

Property, Plant & Equipment	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2017	168,062	12,449	126,849	138	4,886	3,452	315,836
Appropriations	(176)	20	176	(20)	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(387)	0	0	0	(5)	0	(392)
Additions	177	1,356	281	0	0	1,445	3,259
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	261	0	0	1	0	0	262
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(4,799)	0	0	1	(360)	0	(5,158)
Capital expenditure written off	(2,469)	(144)	(43)	0	0	0	(2,656)
Derecognition - disposals	0	(557)	0	0	0	0	(557)
Other movements in cost or valuation **	2,641	144	43	0	0	1,013	3,841
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2018	163,310	13,268	127,306	120	4,521	5,910	314,435
<hr/>							
Property, Plant & Equipment: Depreciation & Impairment	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2017	(7,356)	(7,781)	(27,623)	(10)	(14)	0	(42,784)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(4,687)	(1,279)	(3,096)	(1)	(7)	0	(9,070)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	51	0	0	0	0	0	51
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	383	0	0	0	0	0	383
Derecognition - disposals	0	557	0	0	0	0	557
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2018	(11,609)	(8,503)	(30,719)	(11)	(21)	0	(50,863)

Notes * & **: Amounts included in 'Other movements in cost or valuation' relates to capital expenditure incurred during the year, £5.36 million of which has been added to the asset base and £1.91 million of which has been written off as there has been no increase to the asset value in 2018/2019(*); £1.18 million of which has been added to the asset base and £2.66 million of which has been written off as no increase to the asset value resulted in 2017/2018(**).

24.2 Fair Value Measurement of Surplus and Assets Held for Sale

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Authority's surplus assets and assets held for sale and information about the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Recurring fair value measurements:	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Assets		Total £000	Assets		Total £000
	Surplus Assets £000	Held for Sale £000		Surplus Assets £000	Held for Sale £000	
Using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	4,303	380	4,683	4,500	125	4,625
Fair Value	4,303	380	4,683	4,500	125	4,625

Transfers between Levels of the Fair Value Hierarchy

There were no transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy during the year.

Valuation Techniques used to Determine Level 3 Fair Values for Surplus Assets

Significant Unobservable Inputs - Level 3

A combination of available market data derived from a mixture of transactions on both Authority-owned and third party assets is analysed to take into account yields, rates per square metre, build costs, etc. in order to measure the fair value of its Surplus Assets and Assets Held for Sale under IFRS13 *Fair Value Measurement*, depending on which technique is considered most appropriate.

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year.

Highest and Best Use

In estimating the fair value of the Authority's surplus assets, the highest and best use of some of the assets is their current use. However for some assets, in considering alternative highest and best uses for the asset being valued, consideration has been given to value for the asset that may not necessarily be reflected in the existing configuration or use of the asset. In the consideration of alternatives the physical, legal and financial feasibility of that alternative has been taken into account.

Valuation Process

The Authority employs in house registered valuers, being the Head of Estates and Strategic Asset Management, P.J. Miles BSc. (Hons), MRICS, who in agreement with the Chief Finance Officer identifies the most appropriate valuation techniques to determine fair value.

All valuations are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Authority's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the Chief Finance Officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements (using Significant Unobservable Inputs) Categorised with Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy

Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements (using Significant Unobservable Inputs) Categorised with Level 3 of the Fair Value Hierarchy	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Assets		Total £000	Assets		Total £000
	Surplus Assets £000	Held for Sale £000		Surplus Assets £000	Held for Sale £000	
	4,500	125	4,625	4,872	510	5,382
Balance at 1 April:						
Appropriations (to)/from Property, Plant & Equipment Operational Assets	10	356	366	0	87	87
Appropriations (to)/from Assets Held for Sale	(295)	0	(295)	(5)	0	(5)
Appropriations (to)/from Surplus Assets	0	295	295	0	5	5
Total Gains for the period included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	110	0	110	40	0	40
Total Losses for the period included in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services resulting from changes in the fair value	(15)	0	(15)	(400)	0	(400)
Total Gains/(Losses) for the period included in the Revaluation Reserve resulting from changes in the fair value	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	(396)	(396)	0	(477)	(477)
In-Year Depreciation	(7)	0	(7)	(7)	0	(7)
Balance at 31 March:	4,303	380	4,683	4,500	125	4,625

Reconciliation of Assets measured at Fair Value to the Balance Sheet

The carrying value of a number of assets held for sale is lower than (or equal to) the fair value of those assets. These have therefore been included on the Balance Sheet at carrying amount in accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Code of Practice and consequently are not included in the disclosures for assets held at fair value. The following table reconciles those assets held at fair value with those carried on the Balance Sheet:

Reconciliation of Assets measured at Fair Value	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Assets		Surplus Assets £000	Assets		Surplus Assets £000
	Held for Sale £000	Total £000		Held for Sale £000	Total £000	
Assets measured at Fair Value	4,303	380	4,683	4,500	125	4,625
Assets measured at carrying amount	0	500	500	0	300	300
Assets carried on Balance Sheet	4,303	880	5,183	4,500	425	4,925

24.3 Capital Commitments

Within the Authority's 2018/2019 capital programme, £6.399m relates to schemes that were contractually committed as at 31 March 2019 (£9.045m contractually committed as at 31 March 2018):

Capital Commitments	Commitment Value 2018/2019	Estimated Timescale for Completion No of Years	Commitment Value 2017/2018	Estimated Timescale for Completion No of Years
	£000		£000	
21st Century Schools - Six Bells Project	2,739	1	7,111	2
Box Works	959	1	0	0
Highways Improvement Works	841	1	127	1
RE:FIT Wales (Energy Efficiency Projects)	442	1	0	0
Schools IT Infrastructure	374	1	0	0
Collaborative Change Programme	256	1	522	1
CCTV Upgrade	146	1	0	0
21st Century - Class Size Grant	139	1	0	0
Flying Start Projects	100	1	26	1
Other*	403	1	1,259	1
Total	6,399		9,045	

Other: Includes outstanding retentions on infrastructure & regeneration projects and various other scheme commitments, including leisure centre demolitions, development of Lime Avenue and 21st Century School projects.*

24.4 Revaluations

The Authority has adopted a rolling programme of revaluations to ensure that all assets are revalued at intervals of not more than 5 years. In 2018/2019, the range of assets were revalued by the Authority's Head of Estates and Strategic Asset Management, P.J. Miles BSc. (Hons), MRICS.

Valuations were carried out using the bases outlined in the Accounting Policies (pages 33-34), in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and resulted in a net increase in value to the Authority's non-current assets of £1.509 million.

All items of Property, Plant and Equipment that are operational and provide service potential to the Authority are measured for their service potential either at Existing Use Value (EUV) or Depreciated replacement Cost (DRC). These measurement bases are described in the Code as Current Value. Current Value is to be interpreted as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use. This requirement is met by providing a valuation on the basis of EUV in accordance with UKVS 1.3 or by adopting the DRC approach in accordance with UKVS 1.15 and UKGN 2 of the "Red Book".

Property, Plant and Equipment that does not provide service potential for the Authority (that is those assets classified as surplus assets) are not measured for their service potential but for the economic benefits inherent in the assets. Therefore the current value measurement base for these assets is at Fair Value in accordance with the definitions and measurement requirements in IFRS13.

All assets subject to revaluation during 2018/2019, along with an asset from each different class of asset, have been assessed for material components. The revaluations of those components, where considered to be material, are included in the figures below.

The effective date of revaluation is 30 November 2018. The Authority does not consider the difference in valuations between this date and 31 March 2019 to be material.

The following statement shows the total gross value of assets during each financial year which were re-valued using historical cost and current valuation methods, or against which expenditure was incurred. This provides an indication of the progress of the Authority's 5-year rolling programme for the revaluation of fixed assets.

Non-Current Asset Valuations	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	31 March	
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Current Value:						
Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Land & Buildings	31,683	22,185	33,492	108,642	129,062	325,064
Community Assets	0	30	0	32	0	62
	31,683	22,215	33,492	108,674	129,062	325,126
Historic Cost:						
Vehicles Plant & Equipment	86	0	112	80	0	278
	86	0	112	80	0	278
Total cost or valuation:	31,769	22,215	33,604	108,754	129,062	325,404

24.5 Capital Expenditure and Financing

Of the £13.897m capital investment made in 2018/2019, £9.208m was financed in-year through the application of capital receipts and government grants. The remaining £4.689m capital financing requirement has been funded through borrowing, as indicated below:

Capital Expenditure & Financing	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Investment: Property, Plant & Equipment	11,650		7,203	
REFCUS	2,247		1,386	
	13,897		8,589	
Sources of Finance:				
Revenue Provision	(44)		0	
Capital Receipts	(2,235)		(678)	
Government Grants & Other Contributions	(6,929)		(4,042)	
	(9,208)		(4,720)	
Increase in capital financing requirement:	4,689		3,869	
Explanation of in-year movements:				
Borrowing Supported by Government Financial Assistance		1,975		1,988
Borrowing Unsupported by Government Financial Assistance		2,714		1,881
Total Borrowing:	4,689		3,869	

25. Heritage Assets

The Authority owns the following heritage assets, classed as Monuments, preserved principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture:

Heritage Assets (On Balance Sheet)	Estimated Cost/Valuation £000	Description
The Guardian, Six Bells	259	'Guardian' is the largest mining memorial in Wales and commemorates the 1960 Six Bells mining disaster in which 45 men and boys lost their lives in an underground gas and coal dust explosion. The memorial is a 12.6 meter high statue of a miner, constructed from over 20,000 individual slices of 10mm thick steel and stands on a 7.4 meter high sandstone plinth.
Ebbw Vale War Memorial	154	Unveiled September 24th 1924 by Sir Frederick Mills. Listed as an unusually elaborate war memorial, in a prominent setting.
Total Value:	413	

These monuments have been valued on an insurance replacement cost basis and are not depreciated as their useful life is deemed to be indefinite. There were no movements in the carrying amounts of these assets during 2018/2019 or 2017/2018.

The following assets meet the definition of ‘heritage assets’, but have not been included on the Authority’s Balance Sheet:

Heritage Assets (Not Reported on Balance Sheet)	Description	Valuation
Aneurin Bevan Stones	This monument commemorates Aneurin Bevan, born in Tredegar in 1897 and elected M.P. for the area in 1929. The central monolith represents Aneurin Bevan himself, whilst three satellite stones represents his constituents in Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Rhymney.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Civic Regalia	Comprising the Mayoral Chain, Mayoress Chain and Civic Mace.	The Authority has an insurance valuation for this asset, which is lower than the £50,000 deminimis threshold for adding assets to the balance sheet.
Clydach Coal Level	A pair of well preserved and dated coal levels with a tramroad connection to the Clydach Railroad.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Ebbw Vale Furnace Bank (aka 45 Yard)	Listed as an extremely scarce survival of a vast furnace bank, begun in the late 18th century, preserved largely intact. In size, only the furnace bank at Cyfarthfa may be a larger contemporary survival nationally and internationally.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Gorsedd Stones, Ebbw Vale	Originally erected at Ebbw Vale Park in June 1957 for the National Eisteddfod of 1958, the stone circle was later moved to its present location opposite the Civic Centre.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Llandafal Colliery Ventilation Furnace	This ventilation furnace probably dates from mining developments in the 1840s or 1850s. Listed as an early air furnace colliery chimney, the only one of this typical form known to survive in South Wales.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Marine Colliery Pumping Engine	A steam pumping engine built by Hathorn Davey of Leeds in 1893 and formerly used at Marine Colliery. Regarded as of national importance as a rare colliery pumping engine surviving intact from the late 19th century.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Sirhowy Ironworks	The impressive remains at Sirhowy Ironworks is the only 18th century ironworking complex still visible in the County Borough.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Sirhowy Ironworks Boundary Stone	Dated 1818 and erected as boundary stone for Sirhowy Ironworks. Listed as a rare survival of an early 19th century industrial boundary stone with unusual history.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.
Ty Mawr, Nantyglo House	Only the foundations remain of the Ty Mawr mansion house built by the Bailey family in 1816, close to the Roundhouse Towers in Nantyglo.	No cost or valuation information is available for this asset and the cost of obtaining a valuation is likely to be prohibitive compared to the value.

A number of other assets, including the Ebbw Vale Works General Offices, St. Illtyd's Church, Llanhilleth Miners' Institute and Newtown Bridge, are regarded as being operational in nature and have therefore not been included as heritage assets, but are included within appropriate Balance Sheet asset classifications.

26. Leases

26.1 Authority as Lessee - Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of assets under finance leases, the net value of which total £0.341m (2017/2018: £0.373m). The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet. The Authority is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the non-current liability for the asset acquired by the Authority and finance costs that will be payable by the Authority in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments required over a period of not more than 5 years total £0.260m (2017/2018: £0.328m).

26.2 Authority as Lessee - Operating Leases

The Authority has acquired various vehicles and equipment by entering into operating leases, with typical lives of 5 years. The minimum lease payments at 31 March 2019 due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

Operating Lease Minimum Payments	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	65	226	52	226
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	98	880	90	887
Later than 5 years	0	1,098	0	1,316
Total Minimum Lease Payments	163	2,204	142	2,429

Charges to service revenue accounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases totalled £0.295m (2017/2018: £0.405m).

No balances are held on the Balance Sheet in relation to Operating Leases.

26.3 Authority as Lessor - Finance Leases

The Authority has 2 finance lease arrangements as a lessor:

- In 2011/2012, the Authority entered into a 50 year arrangement to lease part of the General Offices building in Ebbw Vale to the Gwent Joint Records Committee hosted by Torfaen CBC, for housing of the Gwent County Archives facility.
- On 1 October 2014, the Authority entered into a 6 year lease arrangement for sports equipment with Aneurin Leisure Trust.

The Authority has a gross investment in the lease, made up of the minimum lease payments expected to be received over the remaining lease term.

Finance Lease Debtor	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Current	78	59	77	56
Non-Current	0	4,085	78	4,144
Unguaranteed Residual Value of Property	0	(566)	0	(566)
Total	78	3,578	155	3,634

The gross investment in the leases in relation to these assets is made up as follows:

Finance Leases - Lessor	Gross Investment in Lease			
	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	78	59	77	56
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	268	78	255
Later than 5 years	0	3,251	0	3,323
Total	78	3,578	155	3,634

The gross investment in the lease and the minimum lease payments will be received over the following periods:

Finance Leases - Lessor	Minimum Lease Payments			
	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings	Vehicles, plant & equipment	Other land & buildings
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	80	269	80	269
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	1,074	80	1,074
Later than 5 years	0	7,344	0	7,612
Total	80	8,687	160	8,955

26.4 Authority as Lessor - Operating Leases

The Authority leases out land and buildings under operating leases. The minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are £3.061m (2017/2018: £2.911m).

Operating Lease Minimum Payments Receivable	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	Other land & buildings	Other land & buildings
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	540	506
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,696	1,593
Later than 5 years	825	812
Total Minimum Lease Payments Receivable	3,061	2,911

27. Non-Current Investments

Non-current investments consist of the Authority's 100% shareholding in Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. The value of this shareholding included in the Authority's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019 was £0.250m (31 March 2018: £0.250m).

27.1 Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. (SVWS)

The Authority is the owner of the Local Authority waste disposal company - Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.. The Authority is the sole shareholder, providing £250,000 share capital of 1,000 ordinary shares and 249,000 redeemable shares of £1 each. The latter are redeemable at the sole option of the Authority. The company was established in 1994 in accordance with Part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

In 2011 the Environment Agency (Wales) issued a closure notice for the landfill site at Cwm, Ebbw Vale. On 22 August 2011 the site stopped accepting waste to landfill. Silent Valley Waste Service Ltd. continues to manage the Waste Transfer Station and the associated bulking and transportation of the Authority's waste at this facility, the Authority's Civic Amenity Site and the operations at the Leachate Lagoon.

At 31 March 2019, the company had three registered directors, two of whom are Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent CBC, appointed with effect from 19 March 2018.

One of the stated purposes of a board restructure in 2012 was for the Authority to take control of activities at Silent Valley Waste Services, and consequently the Authority is required to prepare Group Accounting statements. These have been included on pages 124-144, based on the company's 2018/2019 accounts as approved by the board on 29 May 2019.

The Company's Accounts and further information can be obtained from:

D. Waggett, Beechwood House, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP23 6PZ.

28. Non-Current Debtors

Non-current debtors in the balance sheet consist of the following:

Non-Current Debtors	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Non-Current Debtors	Gross Debtors	Impairment	Prepayments	Total Net Non-Current Debtors
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Local Authorities	4,085	0	0	4,085	4,145	0	29	4,174
Other Entities & Individuals	442	(37)	0	405	852	(295)	0	557
Total	4,527	(37)	0	4,490	4,997	(295)	29	4,731

Impairment of Non-Current Debtors

Non-current debtor balances have been reduced to reflect sums that have not been written off but are considered to be potentially irrecoverable. Impairment allowance accounts have been established for the following debtors.

Impairment of Non-Current Debtors	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Gross Debtor	Net Debtor	Gross Debtor	Net Debtor		
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Dangerous Structures	0	0	0	163	(163)	0
Land & Property Charges	51	(37)	14	163	(132)	31
Total	51	(37)	14	326	(295)	31

29. Consolidation of Schools in Single Entity Accounts

The income, expenditure, assets, liabilities, reserves and cash flows of schools are accounted for in accordance with the prescribed treatment in the Accounting Code of Practice as set out in the Authority's accounting policies (see policy 1.17, page 38). The value of school assets included in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

Value of School Assets	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Land & Buildings	73,326	0	2,608	75,934	74,410	0	3,130	77,540

The valuation of school non-current assets decreased by £1.606m during 2018/2019, largely due to asset depreciation.

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

Analysis of School by Type	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total
Primary Schools	15	4	0	19	15	4	0	19
Middle Schools	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Secondary Schools	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
Special Schools	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Total	20	4	1	25	20	4	1	25

For those maintained schools not controlled by the Authority, any transactions made on their behalf have been included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and related notes under the appropriate Portfolio, or exceptionally as third party payments.

During the year, transactions in relation to school entities resulted in the following surpluses or deficits:

School Transactions - In-Year (Surplus)/Deficit	2018/2019				2017/2018			
	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total	Community Schools	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools	Foundation Schools	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Primary Schools	(227)	(201)	0	(428)	(254)	(69)	0	(323)
Middle Schools	(86)	0	0	(86)	975	0	0	975
Secondary Schools	(19)	0	(76)	(95)	(362)	0	129	(233)
Special Schools	(165)	0	0	(165)	(116)	0	0	(116)
Total In-Year (Surplus)/Deficit	(497)	(201)	(76)	(774)	243	(69)	129	303

The following balances were held by schools at the end of the financial year:

School Balances	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000	Community Schools £000	Voluntary Controlled & Aided Schools £000	Foundation Schools £000	Total £000
	(948)	(336)	0	(1,284)	(721)	(135)	0	(856)
Primary Schools	761	0	0	761	847	0	0	847
Middle Schools	(303)	0	18	(285)	(284)	0	94	(190)
Secondary Schools	(246)	0	0	(246)	(81)	0	0	(81)
Total	(736)	(336)	18	(1,054)	(239)	(135)	94	(280)

30. Current Debtors

Amounts owing to the Authority, net of impairment, were as follows:

Current Debtors	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Current Debtors £000	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Current Debtors £000
	5,473	0	0	5,473	6,348	(1)	0	6,347
Welsh Government	1,099	0	0	1,099	1,524	0	0	1,524
Other Central Government	2,379	(1)	32	2,410	1,321	(64)	250	1,507
Local Authorities	929	(5)	0	924	127	(6)	0	121
NHS	4,546	(1,867)	0	2,679	4,259	(1,814)	0	2,445
Council Tax Arrears	4,481	(2,295)	1,372	3,558	3,835	(1,925)	1,274	3,184
Other Entities and Individuals	930	(86)	0	844	926	(116)	111	921
Total	19,837	(4,254)	1,404	16,987	18,340	(3,926)	1,635	16,049

Impairment of Current Debtors

Current debtor balances have been reduced to account for sums that have not been written off but are potentially irrecoverable. For those debtors falling within the scope of IFRS9, the ‘Simplified Approach’ has been applied under which impairment losses are automatically based on lifetime expected credit losses.

The Authority has also established impairment allowances for debtors falling outside of the scope of IFRS9, notably council tax arrears and housing benefit overpayments.

Impairment of Current Debtors	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Gross		Net	Gross		Net
	Debtor	Impairment	Debtor	Debtor	Impairment	Debtor
£000						
<i>Impairment of Debtors within the scope of IFRS 9:</i>						
Land & Property Charges	312	(227)	85	320	(258)	62
Trade Debtors	919	(86)	833	702	(116)	586
Debtors related to Sales, Fees & Charges	490	(322)	168	455	(320)	135
<i>Impairment of Debtors outside of the scope of IFRS 9:</i>						
Council Tax	4,546	(1,867)	2,679	4,259	(1,814)	2,445
Housing Benefits	1,715	(1,688)	27	1,580	(1,281)	299
Public Sector Bodies	2,281	(4)	2,277	999	(70)	929
Other Debtors	17	(60)	(43)	48	(67)	(19)
Total	10,280	(4,254)	6,026	8,363	(3,926)	4,437

Basis of Impairment of Current Debtors outside of the scope of IFRS9:

Council Tax

All Council Tax debts are considered to have fallen due by the 31 March in the financial year to which they relate. In determining whether these debts should be impaired, the Authority has taken into account any known specific circumstance in relation to individual debtors that would have a bearing on the ability or potential for settlement of the debt, e.g. bankruptcy, insolvency or absconding. In these specific cases, the debt is considered as unlikely to be recovered at that point in time and is impaired at 100% of the amount outstanding. For all other cases, the age of the debt is used to determine the level of impairment, ranging from 5% for those amounts less than 1 year overdue to 100% for amounts over 5 years overdue.

Housing Benefits

Overpayment of Housing Benefits recorded within the Housing Benefit System are impaired on the basis of past recovery history. Overpayment debtors recorded in the Sundry Debtor System are impaired according to the age of the debt.

Public Sector Bodies

Where identified, debtors in relation to other public sector bodies are not impaired on the assumption that recovery will be made in full. Exceptionally, impairment is provided in cases where specific information indicates that the debt may not be fully settled.

Other Debtors

Other Debtors are impaired on the basis of the age of the debt outstanding.

Impairment of Debtors Outside of the Scope of IFRS9	31 March 2019						31 March 2018						
	Council Tax	Housing Benefit	Public Sector Bodies	Other Debtors	Total Debtors	Outside Scope	Impairment	Council Tax	Housing Benefit	Public Sector Bodies	Other Debtors	Total Debtors	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<i>Category of debtor:</i>													
General Arrears < 1 year old	1,908	3	2,283	8	4,202	(105)	1,771	28	308	0	2,107	(93)	
General Arrears > 1 year <5 years old	1,618	24	5	4	1,651	(866)	1,451	3	690	34	2,178	(838)	
General Arrears > 5 years old	426	4	(7)	5	428	(441)	484	3	1	14	502	(508)	
Recovered Through Housing Benefits	0	1,684	0	0	1,684	(1,670)	0	1,546	0	0	1,546	(1,277)	
Absconders	445	0	0	0	445	(445)	423	0	0	0	423	(423)	
Bankruptcy/Liquidation/Insolvency	43	0	0	0	43	(43)	10	0	0	0	10	(10)	
Other	49	0	0	0	49	(49)	83	0	0	0	83	(83)	
Arrears not impaired	57	0	0	0	57	0	37	0	0	0	37	0	
Total	4,546	1,715	2,281	17	8,559	(3,619)	4,259	1,580	999	48	6,886	(3,232)	

31. Current Creditors

Amounts owed by the Authority were as follows:

Current Creditors	31 March 2019			31 March 2018			
	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors	Creditors	Receipts in Advance	Total Current Creditors	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Welsh Government	(226)	0	(226)	(216)	0	(216)	
Other Central Government	(810)	0	(810)	(745)	0	(745)	
Local Authorities	(1,335)	(3)	(1,338)	(1,001)	(75)	(1,076)	
NHS	(407)	0	(407)	(49)	0	(49)	
Capital Creditors	(226)	0	(226)	(184)	0	(184)	
Council Tax Credits	(835)	0	(835)	(847)	0	(847)	
Other Entities and Individuals	(5,946)	(225)	(6,171)	(5,806)	(340)	(6,146)	
Trade	(1,401)	0	(1,401)	(1,907)	(1)	(1,908)	
Total	(11,186)	(228)	(11,414)	(10,755)	(416)	(11,171)	

32. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

32.1 Provisions - Purpose

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The purpose of each provision, categorised as 'Employee-related' or 'Other', is as follows:

Employee-Related Provisions:

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Back Pay	To provide for outstanding amounts estimated in relation to back pay claims and associated tax and pension liabilities.	Inherently uncertain; from 2019/2020.	The sum included in the provision for back pay represents a reasonable estimate of the possible financial impact of the liability arising from these claims. There are diverging legal views and uncertainty regarding the need to recognise a provision in respect of pension contributions on equal pay settlements. The Authority has decided to include pension contributions, but future legal opinion may change this position.
Early Terminations	To provide for known sums in relation to early terminations where these had been approved prior to the end of the financial year.	Redundancy payments expected to be settled in 2019/2020.	The provision for early terminations comprises the known value of redundancy payments occurring after 31 March 2019 for which a legal or constructive obligation existed at that date. This obligation may have been through approval of the individual redundancies or through a decision that has a material impact on the structure or functions of the Authority. It is assumed that all employees included within the provision will have left during the next financial year.

Other Provisions:

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Carbon Reduction Commitment	To provide for purchase of allowances arising from in year production of carbon emissions.	To be utilised in 2019/2020.	Provision is based on relevant utility readings for 2018/2019, some of which have been estimated.
Contaminated Land	To provide for the costs in relation to a possession order and also the clearance of waste and remediation of the site.	Utilised in 2018/2019.	This provision has now been unwound as the site has now been fully cleared. Total cost for clearance of the site was £1.076m, funded by capital receipts.
Insurance	To provide for known insurance liabilities, including sums relating to the Municipal Mutual Insurance Scheme of Arrangement originally established in 1994 under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985 (now section 899 of the Companies Act 2006).	To be utilised from 2019/2020 on settlement of claims.	The amount and timing of settlement of insurance claims are inherently uncertain. It has been assumed that the timing and value of the settlement of future claims will be similar to known claims history. There is not expected to be any significant reimbursement by the Authority's insurers, if any. In November 2012 the Directors and Board of Municipal Mutual Insurance agreed to the irrevocable triggering of the Scheme of Arrangement in order to avoid insolvent liquidation. As a result, the Authority has included £0.011m in the Insurance Provision, set at 25% of total outstanding claims. In addition, £0.038m has been included in respect of MMI claims for the former Gwent County Council.

Other Provisions (Continued):

Provision	Purpose	Timescale for Utilisation	Uncertainties, Assumptions and Potential Reimbursement
Lease Dilapidation	To provide for works to leased assets (Anvil Court, Abertillery & Ebbw Vale Multi-Storey Car Park) to return the assets to their condition as at the inception of the respective lease agreements.	The lease for Ebbw Vale Multi-Storey Car Park is for 99 years, ending in 2070. The Anvil Court lease is for 20 years, ending in 2026. The Authority has purchased the industrial units at Cwm Draw.	Sums provided are for estimated costs to restore leased assets to original condition. No allowance has been made for improvement works undertaken that may be retained by the lessor.
Part 1 Land Compensation Claims	To provide for claims under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to depreciation of the value of an interest in land by physical factors caused by the use of public works.	There is uncertainty with regards to the timescale for agreement.	The sum provided is an estimate based on total proposed settlements, but is subject to change. Additional claims could become payable in respect of a number of other public works in the County Borough. It is assumed that all settlements will be as offered and no reimbursements will be expected.
Waste Services - Penalties	To provide for any known or potential financial penalties arising from a failure to meet the statutory recycling recovery targets.	Utilised and unwound in 2018/2019.	Penalties for 2017/2018 were waived by Welsh Government and it has been assumed that the recycling target will be met for 2018/2019.
Waun y Pound Unit 1	To provide for repairs to Waun y Pound Unit 1 arising from damages to loading bay on 26 November 2016.	To be utilised in 2019/2020.	Outstanding Legal fees relating to the claim are still to be resolved with the owners.

32.2

Provisions - Movements

Movements in employee-related and other provisions during 2018/2019 were as follows:

Provision Movements			Net	Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	Movements 2017/2018 £000	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Unused			Additional Provisions made in 2018/2019 £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000												
							Amounts Used in 2018/2019 £000	Amounts Reversed in 2018/2019 £000	Unwinding of Discount in 2018/2019 £000														
							2018/2019 £000	2018/2019 £000	2018/2019 £000														
Current Provisions																							
Employee Provisions:																							
Back Pay	(146)	0	(146)				0	0	0	0	(146)												
Early Terminations	(505)	(239)	(744)				682	62	0	(366)	(366)												
Total Current Employee Provisions:	(651)	(239)	(890)				682	62	0	(366)	(512)												

Provision Movements			Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	Net Movements 2017/2018 £000	Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Unused				Additional Provisions made in 2018/2019 £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000
	Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	Movements 2017/2018 £000				Used in 2018/2019 £000	Amounts Reversed in 2018/2019 £000	Unwinding of Discount in 2018/2019 £000			
Other Provisions (Current):											
Carbon Reduction Commitment	(171)	(4)	(175)		150	25	0	(138)	(138)		
Contaminated Land	(1,111)	0	(1,111)		0	1,111	0	0	0		
Insurance	(834)	(525)	(1,359)		2	0	0	(597)	(1,954)		
Lease Dilapidation - Industrial Units	0	(543)	(543)		0	543	0	0	0		
Part 1 Land Compensation Claims	(379)	21	(358)		1	0	0	0	(357)		
Waste Services - Penalties	0	(198)	(198)		78	120	0	0	0		
Waun Y Pound Unit 1	(201)	192	(9)		0	0	0	0	(9)		
Total Other Current Provisions:	(2,696)	(1,057)	(3,753)		231	1,799	0	(735)	(2,458)		
Total Current Provisions:	(3,347)	(1,296)	(4,643)		913	1,861	0	(1,101)	(2,970)		
Other Provisions (Non-Current):											
Insurance	(571)	(655)	(1,226)		300	0	0	(807)	(1,733)		
Lease Dilapidation - Anvil Court	(250)	(161)	(411)		2	409	0	(69)	(69)		
Lease Dilapidation - Ebbw Vale Multi Storey Car Park	(500)	(106)	(606)		8	598	0	(14)	(14)		
Total Non-Current Provisions:	(1,321)	(922)	(2,243)		310	1,007	0	(890)	(1,816)		
Total Provisions:	(4,668)	(2,218)	(6,886)		1,223	2,868	0	(1,991)	(4,786)		

32.3 Contingent Liabilities

- Under the terms of the Municipal Mutual Insurance Scheme of Arrangement, the Authority is responsible for the payment of a percentage towards future claims, potentially for many years due to the inherent long-tail nature of the insured risks.
- As part of the legal agreements associated with the transfer of the Authority's Housing Stock to Tai Calon, a number of warranties and indemnities have been provided for a period of 32 years from the transfer date (July 2010), covering areas including environmental, asbestos and redevelopment issues. The limit to claims made against these warranties is £15,000 for each property (uprated annually by RPI), with the exception of warranties for environmental pollution and asbestos, where the limits are £125m (environmental pollution and asbestos - works indemnity) and without limit (asbestos - personal injury and death). Claims are subject to an excess level below which the Authority is not liable to reimburse Tai Calon, these being £5,000 generally and £4.7625m for Asbestos works. Potential liabilities that could arise in respect of environmental pollution have been mitigated by means of insurance policies, providing aggregate cover of £30m. At this stage, there have been no definite claims associated with the warranties provided and it is not possible to determine the extent and value of claims that may arise in the future.
- The Authority has received a number of Part 1 claims arising under the 1973 Land Compensation Act in relation to a number of public works projects. While it is not yet possible to determine the final number and value of these claims in compliance with the Act and the full extent to which settlement will be made, a provision has been included for those claims where offers have been made.

- On creation of Aneurin Leisure Trust in October 2014, pension assets and liabilities assessed on an actuarial basis were transferred from Blaenau Gwent CBC, such that the Trust's pension obligations were deemed to be fully funded. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure Trust was not transferred, but was retained by Blaenau Gwent CBC. The Trust is therefore only responsible for any increase in liabilities (on an actuarial valuation basis) occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. In addition, the Authority agreed to act as guarantor of last resort in order that the Leisure Trust could enter the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund as an admitted body and has therefore agreed to underwrite any costs arising in the event that the admitted body defaults on any or all of its payments in relation to its pension obligations.
- With effect from 1 October 2018, the Authority entered into an agreement with Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited, trading as Chartwells, for the provision of catering services at Glyncroft Primary School. In order to continue the pension rights of the staff transferred under a TUPE arrangement, it was agreed that Chartwells would be designated an admitted body in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund. The Authority has agreed to provide a guarantee to the administering body (Torfaen CBC) underwriting any scheme liabilities unpaid (in whole or part) by the admitted body in the event of insolvency, winding up, liquidation, default in payment or termination of the admission agreement.
- In 2018, the High Court ruled that UK defined benefit pension schemes must compensate members for differences attributable to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs). The 'interim' solution implemented by the Government involved the LGPS fund paying for both initial pension and all increases for members reaching State Pension Age (SPA) between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2021, with a stated preferred long term option of converting GMP to scheme benefit (subject to further consultation). This proposed long-term solution will lead to an increase in pension fund liabilities as a result of the scheme paying full GMP increases for all members with a SPA after 2016. Effectively this passes the cost from the State to LGPS funds (and therefore employers). There has been no indication of additional funding to cover this extra cost. As at 31 March 2019, the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund actuary has not supplied figures in relation to this increased liability/cost, but has indicated that a typical fund could see an increase in liabilities of 0.5% (approximately £3.335m for Blaenau Gwent, if typical).

33. Other Long-Term Liabilities

The Authority holds the following balances as long-term liabilities.

Other Long-Term Liabilities	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Non-Current Creditor	(1,433)	(934)
Deferred Liabilities	(217)	(285)
Net Pensions Liability	(325,993)	(271,599)
Total	(327,643)	(272,818)

- Long-Term Liabilities for Cardiff Capital Region City Deal represent the Authority's share of HMT grant received by the joint arrangement but not yet utilised, in addition to an apportionment of the costs recognised to date by the joint arrangement in relation to the deferred purchase of property by the Compound Semi-Conductor project.
- Deferred Liabilities represent amounts outstanding for finance leases in relation to vehicles, plant and equipment leased by the Authority.
- The Net Pensions Liability represents the amount by which pension liabilities attributable to the Authority exceed pension assets held in order to settle current and future obligations.

34. Financial Instruments

Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value has been assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that take place over the remaining term of the instruments as at the balance sheet date.

Fair values are shown in the table below, split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 - fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, e.g. bond prices
- Level 2 - fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, e.g. interest rates or yields for similar instruments
- Level 3 - fair value is determined using unobservable inputs, e.g. non-market data such as cash flow forecasts or estimated creditworthiness

Financial Liabilities	Fair Value Level	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Public Works Loan Board	2	(72,081)	(91,778)	(71,281)	(90,512)
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	2	(4,044)	(6,149)	(4,044)	(6,034)
Market Loans	2	(19,000)	(19,264)	(21,500)	(21,775)
Temporary Loans	n/a	(61,649)	(61,803)	(51,249)	(51,311)
Other Loans	n/a	(768)	(768)	(505)	(505)
Total		(157,542)	(179,762)	(148,579)	(170,137)

Fair value disclosures have not been calculated for short term financial assets, including receivables (debtors) and temporary investments, as the carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value.

The fair value is more than the carrying amount because the Authority's portfolio of loans includes a number of fixed rate loans, namely PWLB annuity and Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO), where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. The commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount the Authority would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of loans.

Fair value disclosures have not been calculated for short term financial liabilities, including payables (creditors), as the carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value.

Financial Instrument Balances

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

Financial Instruments	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Non-Current £000	Current £000	Total £000	Non-Current £000	Current £000	Total £000
Financial Liabilities						
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(84,439)	(73,103)	(157,542)	(80,205)	(68,374)	(148,579)
Total Borrowings	(84,439)	(73,103)	(157,542)	(80,205)	(68,374)	(148,579)
Financial Assets						
Available for Sale - Unquoted equity investment at cost	250	0	250	250	0	250
Total Investments	250	0	250	250	0	250

Note: Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.:

Where a reliable fair value cannot be established for an unquoted equity instrument then the investment should be measured at cost. In order to calculate a fair value for the investment in Silent Valley Waste Services, all future dividends receivable would need to be discounted to the value as at the Balance Sheet date. The time period for which such dividends would be receivable is undeterminable and therefore the asset has been measured at cost.

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (note 9, page 49) in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

Financial Instrument Gains/Losses	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables £000	Total 2018/2019 £000	Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets: Loans & Receivables £000	Total 2017/2018 £000
	2018/2019			2017/2018		
Interest payable and similar charges:						
Interest expense	4,368	0	4,368	3,978	0	3,978
Interest and investment income:						
Interest income	0	(48)	(48)	0	(15)	(15)
Net (gain)/loss for the year:	4,368	(48)	4,320	3,978	(15)	3,963

Soft Loans

Car loans are classified as soft loans and should be included in the Balance Sheet at fair value. However, car loans have been included at their carrying amount, as the difference between the fair value and carrying amount is considered to be immaterial. As at 31 March 2019, 117 car loans were outstanding with a total value of £0.591m (31 March 2018: 119 loans with a value of £0.675m).

35. Disclosure of Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

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

Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Authority'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 are defined through a legal framework set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations and are managed by the Authority's Accountancy Division. These require compliance with the CIPFA Prudential Code of Practice, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and investment guidance issued under the Local Government Act 2003. Overall, these procedures require the Authority 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 within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
- by approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with government guidance; and
- by approving annually in advance Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the following three years limiting:
 - the Authority's overall borrowing;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable rates;
 - its maximum and minimum exposures to the maturity structure of its debt; and
 - its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.

The above are required to be reported and approved at or before the Authority's annual Council Tax setting meeting or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual Treasury Management Strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Authority's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as is a mid-year update.

The annual Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and MRP Policy statement, which incorporates the Prudential Indicators, was approved by Council on 22 March 2018 and is available on the Authority's website:

- [http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8034.pdf](http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8034.pdf)
- [http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8035.pdf](http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8035.pdf)
- [http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary Meeting of the Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8036.pdf](http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/Data/Ordinary%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Council/201803221030/Agenda/att8036.pdf)

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch and Moody's Credit Rating Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. Additional selection criteria are also applied after this initial criteria is applied by using Credit Default Swap (CDS) spread data and credit rating alerts.

The full Investment Strategy for 2018/2019 was approved by Council on 22 March 2018.

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments.

However, all investments held by the Authority during the period are considered to be of low risk. No breaches of the Authority's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period and the Authority does not expect any losses from non-performance of any of its counterparties in relation to deposits.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures outlined above (*the setting and approval of Prudential Indicators and the approval of the Treasury and Investment Strategy reports*), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system. This seeks to ensure that cash is available when needed.

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

The source analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Financial Instruments	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	£000	%	£000	%
Source of Loan				
Public Works Loan Board	(72,700)	45.98	(71,942)	48.22
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	(4,000)	2.53	(4,000)	2.68
Market Loans	(19,000)	12.02	(21,500)	14.41
Temporary Loans	(61,649)	38.99	(51,249)	34.35
Other Loans	(768)	0.48	(505)	0.34
Total:	(158,117)	100.00	(149,196)	100.00

The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

Maturity of Loan	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	£000	%	£000	%
Maturing in less than 1 year	(73,103)	46.23	(61,874)	41.47
Maturing in 1-2 years	(8,802)	5.57	(10,756)	7.21
Maturing in 2-5 years	(13,538)	8.56	(14,418)	9.66
Maturing in 5-10 years	(21,998)	13.91	(24,539)	16.45
Maturing in more than 10 years	(40,676)	25.73	(37,609)	25.21
Total:	(158,117)	100.00	(149,196)	100.00

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

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

- Borrowings at variable rates - the interest expense charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of the liabilities will fall.
- Investments at variable rates - the interest income credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement will rise.
- Investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall.

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

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Treasury Management Strategy sets an upper limit on variable rate exposures at 30% of its net outstanding sums. During periods of falling interest rates, long term fixed rate borrowings will be postponed and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term funding will be considered, where economic circumstances make it favourable to do so. The risk of loss is partly ameliorated by the fact that the debt financing element of the Standard Spending Assessment, which determines the amount of Revenue Support Grant receivable for non-current debt financing costs, is based on Authorities' average borrowing costs for existing debt and statistical forecasts of future interest rates for in-year debt. Hence a proportion of any higher costs arising on non-current debt from increased interest rates would be met from the Revenue Support Grant in future years.

In setting the annual revenue budget, the Authority takes a prudent view when assessing interest rate exposure, so as to mitigate as far as possible any adverse implications upon the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

Of the Authority's non-current debt, 95% is currently at fixed rates; only the LOBO is considered to be variable, although the chances of repayment being demanded are relatively small. The effect of a 1% increase in interest rates would therefore only affect the interest receivable and payable on its current investments and borrowings, and on the LOBO.

If interest rates had been 1% higher, with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would have been:

Interest Rate Risk	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Increase in interest payable on current variable rate borrowings	667	448
Increase in interest receivable on current variable rate investments	(51)	(30)
Increase in interest payable on non-current variable rate borrowings	40	40
Net impact upon Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	656	458

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would have been as above but with the movements being reversed.

Price Risk

The Authority does not invest in equity shares but does have a 100% shareholding to the value of £250,000 in Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.. As the shareholding is unquoted the Authority is not exposed to losses arising from movements in the prices in the shares. The £250,000 shares are classified as unquoted investments at cost.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Authority has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and therefore has no exposure to losses arising from movements in exchange rates.

36. Post-Employment Benefits - Defined Contribution Plans (Teachers)

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is an unfunded scheme, in which pension benefit payments from the scheme are funded by current employee and employer contributions. The difference between these contributions and scheme expenditure are financed by the Exchequer. As an indication of the scale of the fund and the sums involved, the net cash requirement was £3.392bn and total net scheme liabilities amounted to £361.7bn for the last available year of account (2017/2018).

Employer contributions are set by the Secretary of State, on the advice of the fund actuary. Following the recommendations of Lord Hutton on public sector pensions, a valuation as at 31 March 2012 has been undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department in line with the revised valuation directions determined by Her Majesty's Treasury. As a result of this valuation, the standard contribution rate (SCR) was assessed at 20.4% and the supplementary contribution rate (which funds the accumulated shortfall of liabilities within a period of up to 15 years) was set at 5.6% (a total contribution rate of 26.0%). Consequently, the employers rate has been increased from 14.1% of employees pensionable pay to 16.4%, effective from 1 September 2015, with employees contributing an average 9.5%. The actuarial valuation based on scheme data for the period ending 31 March 2016 has been progressing and was expected to be implemented in 2019, with subsequent valuations to be undertaken on a four-yearly basis. However, following the Court of Appeal ruling against the government in respect of changes to the judges and firefighters pension schemes, the actuarial valuation has been suspended.

The Authority is liable for other entities' obligations only to the extent that any deficit arising on the Teachers' Pension Scheme that is being recovered through the supplementary contribution element of the Employer Contribution rate may not have resulted from employees or former employees of the Authority.

The Authority is not required to include entries in its Balance Sheet relating to assets and liabilities for the Teachers' Pensions Scheme, as the liability for payment of these pensions rests ultimately with the Department for Education.

Teachers employed by the Authority are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (a defined benefit scheme) administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions. The Authority contributes towards the costs of retirement benefits by making contributions based on a percentage of employees' pensionable salaries.

The TPS is a multi-employer scheme which, for the last year for which Accounts were available (2017/2018), comprised 10,177 contributing employers that administered over 1.25 million active/deferred members and made payments to 717,037 pensioners. Given the complexities involved in administering pension arrangements for this volume of employees, it is not possible to disaggregate the scheme liabilities for each employer. Consequently, there is insufficient information available to account for the TPS as a defined benefit plan and as a result it has been accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2018/2019, the Authority paid employers contributions of £3.188 million to Capita Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' pension costs, representing 16.5% of teachers' pensionable pay (2017/2018: £3.183 million, representing 16.5%). At 31 March 2019, £0.263 million remained payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme relating to employers contributions arising in the March payroll (31 March 2018: £0.268m).

The total employers contributions to be made by the Authority to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year to 31 March 2020, assuming the employers contribution rate rises to 23.6% from September 2019, is estimated at £4.003m.

The Authority made total contributions (employees and employers) to the TPS amounting to £5.039m in 2018/2019, which would have represented approximately 0.08% of the total contributions receivable by the TPS in the last year of account (2017/2018).

The Authority is responsible for the costs of any additional benefits awarded upon early retirement that fall outside of the terms of the Teachers' Scheme. These costs are accounted for on a defined benefit basis and are detailed in note 37.

37. Post-Employment Benefits - Defined Benefit Plans

Retirement benefits are offered to the Authority's employees which, although not actually payable until employees retire, represent a commitment by the Authority that needs to be disclosed in the Accounts in the financial period in which the entitlement to benefits arises (i.e. when earned by employees through service provided).

The Authority participates in two formal schemes, the Local Government Pension Scheme (the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund), which is administered by Torfaen CBC, and the Teachers' Pensions Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education. Although technically a defined benefit scheme, the Teachers' Pensions Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme (note 36).

With effect from 1 April 2014, the Local Government Scheme is a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, in which the Authority and employees make contributions calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities arising with investment assets. The contribution rate is determined by the Fund's Actuary based on triennial valuations, the last completed review being 31 March 2016.

Pension benefits under the LGPS are summarised below:

	Service pre 1 April 2008	Service between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2014	Service after 31 March 2014
Pension	Each year worked is worth 1/80th of final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/60th of final pensionable salary.	Each year worked is worth 1/49th of career average revalued earnings.
Lump Sum	Automatic lump sum of 3x annual pension. 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.	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.

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

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

As administering authority, Torfaen County Borough Council is responsible for interpreting all pension laws, keeping accurate records, calculating and paying benefits, and providing information to employees, employers and other relevant bodies. Torfaen County Borough Council has established within its Constitution a Pensions Committee to discharge its duties as administering authority of the Fund. The Council has also established a Pension Fund Management Group to provide wider stakeholder representation and communication in matters relating to the Fund. As required by the Public Services Pension Act 2013 and LGPS (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015, a Pension Fund Board has been established to assist the Scheme manager with securing compliance with regulations, legislation and the Pension Regulator's Codes of Practice relating to administration and governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Fund's primary long term risk is that its assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e. its promised benefits payable to members). Investment risk management across the Fund is therefore aimed to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund whilst maximising the opportunity for gains across the whole portfolio. Within its investment strategy the Fund aims to manage this primary overall risk by:-

- asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (asset price risk, interest rate risk and currency risk);
- managing credit risk via appropriate selection, diversification and monitoring of its counterparties; and
- managing liquidity risk by ensuring there are sufficient liquid funds to meet member benefit commitments as they fall due.

To meet the requirements of the Regulations, the Administering Authority's long term funding objective is for the Fund to achieve and then maintain sufficient assets to cover 100% of projected accrued liabilities (the "funding target") assessed on an ongoing basis including allowance for projected final pay. The funding objective as set out in the FSS (Funding Strategy Statement) is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of liabilities (the Funding Target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the actuarial valuation (31 March 2016), a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. The maximum deficit recovery period has been set as 20 years.

The 2016 Actuarial Valuation reported the level of total fund assets compared to liabilities (the funding level) as 72% (2013 Valuation: 71%). As a result, employer contribution levels have been calculated for implementation from 1 April 2016 that will, subject to future revaluations, eliminate this deficit by 2036. Scheme changes implemented under the Public Pensions Service Act 2013, including calculating pension and other benefits on the basis of career average re-valued earnings, will also need to be considered in meeting the future funding objectives.

As an indication of the level of the Authority's participation in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund compared with other participating entities, Blaenau Gwent contributed 11.6% of the total employee and employer contributions receivable by the Fund as disclosed in the most recently available annual accounts (2018/2019).

More detailed information regarding the nature of benefits provided, regulatory framework, governance arrangements, investment principles, funding strategy, actuarial valuation and pension fund performance can be obtained from the Assistant Chief Executive (Resources), Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB, or from the Greater Gwent Pensions Fund website:

<https://www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk>

Discretionary Benefits

The Authority is responsible for all discretionary pension payments relating to added years awarded, together with related increases for both Local Government Scheme employees and teachers. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made but for which there are no investment assets built up to meet these pensions liabilities. Cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they fall due. For Local Government Scheme employees, liabilities are discharged within 1 year of awarding the discretionary payments; for Teachers' Scheme employees the liability is not discharged until the employee is deceased.

Accounting Treatment of Defined Benefit Transactions

The cost of retirement benefits are recognised in the 'Net Cost of Services' section of the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement when those benefits are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are actually paid as pensions. However, legislation requires that the pensions charge that falls for payment by Council Taxpayers is equal to the amounts payable for the year of account. Consequently adjustments are made in the Movement in Reserves Statement (Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under statutory provisions) to ensure that the notional cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the accounts and replaced with the amounts paid.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year:

Pension Scheme Transactions - Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Cost of Services:						
Current Service Costs	18,066	0	18,066	17,768	0	17,768
Past Service Costs and Curtailments	270	0	270	287	0	287
Administration Expenses	222	0	222	211	0	211
Total Service Cost:	18,558	0	18,558	18,266	0	18,266
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Interest on plan assets	(9,664)	0	(9,664)	(9,024)	0	(9,024)
Interest on defined benefit liabilities	16,133	937	17,070	15,261	983	16,244
Net Interest:	6,469	937	7,406	6,237	983	7,220
Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services:	25,027	937	25,964	24,503	983	25,486
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Liability, comprising:						
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in Net Interest)	(11,308)	0	(11,308)	(4,588)	0	(4,588)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	51,354	1,447	52,801	(11,490)	(448)	(11,938)
Experience (Gains)/Losses on defined benefit liabilities	44	346	390	(235)	(421)	(656)
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure:	40,090	1,793	41,883	(16,313)	(869)	(17,182)
Total Charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	65,117	2,730	67,847	8,190	114	8,304

At 31 March 2019, £0.927m remained payable to the LGPS relating to contributions arising in the March payroll (31 March 2018: £0.922m). This amount has been excluded from the Pensions Asset in the Balance Sheet.

The following transactions have been made in the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Pension Scheme Transactions - Movement in Reserves Statement	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Reversal of net charges for post employment benefits included in <i>'Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services'</i>	(25,027)	(937)	(25,964)	(24,503)	(983)	(25,486)
Actual Amount Charged Against Council Tax for Pensions in year:						
Employers' Contributions Payable to Scheme	11,610	0	11,610	10,632	0	10,632
Retirement Benefits Payable to Pensioners	0	1,898	1,898	0	1,879	1,879
Total amounts charged against Council Tax:	11,610	1,898	13,508	10,632	1,879	12,511
Net adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis for pension transactions:	(13,417)	961	(12,456)	(13,871)	896	(12,975)

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-Employment Benefits

Transactions in respect of the fair value of pension scheme assets are as follows:

Reconciliation of the Movements in Fair Value of Scheme Assets	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000	Local Government Pension Scheme £000	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 April:	359,245	0	359,245	347,737	0	347,737
Employer Contributions	11,555	1,898	13,453	10,353	1,879	12,232
Member Contributions	2,831	0	2,831	2,703	0	2,703
Benefits Paid	(15,817)	(1,898)	(17,715)	(15,160)	(1,879)	(17,039)
Interest on Plan Assets	9,664	0	9,664	9,024	0	9,024
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Return on Plan Assets (excluding amounts included in Interest)	11,308	0	11,308	4,588	0	4,588
Balance at 31 March:	378,786	0	378,786	359,245	0	359,245

Transactions in respect of the present value of pension scheme liabilities are as follows:

Reconciliation of the Movements in Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April:	(593,874)	(36,970)	(630,844)	(584,529)	(38,735)	(623,264)
Current Service Cost	(18,066)	0	(18,066)	(17,768)	0	(17,768)
Past Service Cost and Curtailments	(270)	0	(270)	(287)	0	(287)
Administration Expenses	(222)	0	(222)	(211)	0	(211)
Interest Cost	(16,133)	(937)	(17,070)	(15,261)	(983)	(16,244)
Member Contributions	(2,831)	0	(2,831)	(2,703)	0	(2,703)
Benefits Paid	15,817	1,898	17,715	15,160	1,879	17,039
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Experience Gains/(Losses)	(44)	(346)	(390)	235	421	656
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	(51,354)	(1,447)	(52,801)	11,490	448	11,938
Balance at 31 March:	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)	(593,874)	(36,970)	(630,844)

The net liability arising from defined benefit scheme obligations can be analysed as follows:

Pension Assets & Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	378,786	0	378,786	359,245	0	359,245
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	(666,977)	(37,802)	(704,779)	(593,874)	(36,970)	(630,844)
Net Liability:	(288,191)	(37,802)	(325,993)	(234,629)	(36,970)	(271,599)

There are no assets to cover the discretionary benefits awarded to Teachers (Unfunded Teachers' Discretionary Pensions).

Assets held by the Local Government Pension Scheme can be categorised as follows:

Local Government Pension Scheme Asset Categorisation	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total		Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Quoted Prices not in Active Markets	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	£000	%
Quoted Equity Securities:	55,945	0	55,945	14.77	67,211	0	67,211	18.71
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts:								
Equities	0	216,245	216,245	57.09	0	207,052	207,052	57.64
Bonds	0	65,812	65,812	17.37	0	58,249	58,249	16.21
Other	0	28,703	28,703	7.58	0	15,125	15,125	4.21
Real Estate:	UK Property Funds	0	10,243	2.70	0	8,675	8,675	2.41
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	0	1,838	1,838	0.49	0	2,933	2,933	0.82
Total:	55,945	322,841	378,786	100.00	67,211	292,034	359,245	100.00

The Authority holds no investments in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Scheme and does not occupy or otherwise utilise assets held by the Scheme.

Sensitivity Analysis

The impact of changes in the key actuarial assumptions has been calculated as follows:

Sensitivity Analysis: Impact of Change in Assumptions	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Increase in Employer Liabilities		Increase in Employer Liabilities	
	£000	%	£000	%
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	73,233	10.39	62,215	9.86
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	12,315	1.75	10,955	1.74
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	59,550	8.45	50,268	7.97
1 year increase in Member Life Expectancy	21,143	3.00	18,925	3.00

The impact of these changes on assets and liabilities at year end would be as follows:

Sensitivity Analysis	31 March 2019					31 March 2018				
	Base	Discount Rate:	Salary Increase:	Pension Increase:	Life Expectancy:	Base	Discount Rate:	Salary Increase:	Pension Increase:	Life Expectancy:
		-0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+1 Year		-0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+0.5% p.a.	+1 Year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	(704,779)	(778,012)	(717,094)	(764,329)	(725,922)	(630,844)	(693,059)	(641,799)	(681,112)	(649,769)
Assets	378,786	378,786	378,786	378,786	378,786	359,245	359,245	359,245	359,245	359,245
Net Deficit	(325,993)	(399,226)	(338,308)	(385,543)	(347,136)	(271,599)	(333,814)	(282,554)	(321,867)	(290,524)

The sensitivity analysis figures provided by the Actuary are approximate only. It has been assumed that there have been no changes in accounting policies, Scheme benefits, the age/sex/service profile of employees, levels of pay and contributions made. The Actuary has also indicated that the impact of an increase in member life expectancy would be in the range of 3-5%, subject to varying factors. These figures should not therefore be construed as providing accurate outturn figures for future accounting periods.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on financial and demographic assumptions. Hymans Robertson LLP are the appointed actuary for the Greater Gwent Local Government Pension Scheme, and have calculated attributable assets and liabilities (including those for Unfunded Teachers' Discretionary Pensions) using the following principal assumptions:

Principal Assumptions	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Financial Assumptions:		
Rate of Increase in Salaries	2.9%	2.8%
Rate of Increase in Pensions	2.5%	2.4%
Discount Rate	2.4%	2.7%
Mortality Assumptions:		
Current Pensioners:	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.
Future Pensioners:	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.	CMI 2013 model assuming the current rate of improvements has peaked and will converge to a long term rate of 1.25%p.a.

Principal Assumptions (Continued)	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Life Expectancy:		
Longevity of current pensioners aged 65:		
Males	21.5	21.5
Females	23.6	23.9
Longevity of future pensioners aged 65 in 20 years' time:		
Males	23.9	23.6
Females	26.1	26.1

The actuarial assumptions used in the calculation of year end Balance Sheet liabilities are based on the assumptions used in the last full valuation, other than those identified above. Liabilities for Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Benefits are calculated on the same basis as the Local Government Scheme, except for those above.

The date of the last full actuarial valuation was 31 March 2016.

Impact on future cash flows

Entries are included in the Balance Sheet for this Authority's share of assets and liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Liabilities relating to Unfunded Teachers' Discretionary Pensions are also included. Disclosed liabilities show the underlying commitment that the Authority has in the long term to pay retirement benefits.

The scheme is financed by contributions paid by the employees, their employers and earnings from the investment of the Fund's money. The type of investment is decided by legislation and not by the local authorities. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS Regulations 2013. Contributions are additionally made by Fund employers which are set by the Fund's triennial actuarial valuations. The last such formal valuation was at 31 March 2016.

In terms of funding via investment earnings, the Fund's assets are invested in accordance with its investment strategy, which is set out within the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. Investment management policy, principles and arrangements are detailed within its Statement of Investment Principles.

To meet the requirements of the Regulations the Administering Authority's long term funding objective is for the Fund to achieve and then maintain sufficient assets to cover 100% of projected accrued liabilities (the "funding target") assessed on an ongoing basis including allowance for projected final pay. The funding objective as set out in the FSS (Funding Strategy Statement) is to achieve and maintain a funding level of 100% of liabilities (the Funding Target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the actuarial valuation (31 March 2016), a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which requires additional contributions to correct the shortfall. The maximum deficit recovery period has been set as 20 years.

The 2016 Actuarial Valuation reported the level of total fund assets compared to liabilities (the funding level) as 72% (2013 Valuation: 71%). As a result, employer contribution levels have been calculated for implementation from 1 April 2016 that will, subject to future revaluations, eliminate this deficit by 2036.

The Authority holds total usable reserves of £19.888m at 31 March 2019 (£19.513m at 31 March 2018). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £325.993m to the Authority's usable reserves would be a deficit of £306.105m (2017/2018: the superannuation deficit of £271.599m exceeded usable reserves by £252.086m).

However, this deficit is dependent on a number of factors such as investment performance and retirement benefits payable. The long-term under-funding of the Local Government Scheme is currently being addressed over a number of years by staged increases to employer contributions. Consequently, the total liability would not arise in one financial year. The overall financial standing of the Superannuation Fund is regularly reviewed by Actuaries on behalf of the administering Authority (Torfaen CBC).

The total contributions expected to be made by the Authority to the Local Government Pension Scheme in the year to 31 March 2020 are estimated by the Fund Actuary as £10.457m.

In the event that a contributing fund member became unable to pay contributions or make good future deficits, the level of Pension Scheme assets would be lower than expected and this would have a negative impact on the Funding Level. At that time, the Administering Authority (Torfaen) would seek to recover any debt outstanding from the employer. This type of risk can be mitigated by the use of guarantees and/or covenants. However, if an employer defaults on payment and these sums cannot be recovered, the shortfall would then become the responsibility of any guarantor or all other employers in the Fund. This could increase the level of employer contribution rates required to recover the overall Fund deficit.

Potential Liabilities Arising From The McCloud/Sargeant Ruling

When the LGPS benefit structure was reformed in 2014, transitional protections were applied to certain older members close to normal retirement age. The benefits accrued from 1 April 2014 by these members are subject to an ‘underpin’ which means that they cannot be lower than what they would have received under the previous benefit structure. The underpin ensures that these members do not lose out from the introduction of the new scheme, by effectively giving them the better of the benefits from the old and new schemes.

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling (“McCloud/Sargeant”) that similar transitional protections in the Judges’ and Firefighters’ Pension Schemes were unlawful on the grounds of age discrimination. The implications of the ruling are expected to apply to the LGPS (and other public service schemes) as well. The UK Government requested leave to appeal to the Supreme Court but this was denied at the end of June 2019.

LGPS benefits accrued from 2014 may therefore need to be enhanced so that all members, regardless of age, will benefit from the underpin. Alternatively, restitution may be achieved in a different way, for example by paying compensation. In either case, the clear expectation is that many more members would see an enhanced benefit rather than just those currently subject to these protections. There will therefore be a retrospective increase to members’ benefits, which in turn will give rise to a past service cost for the Fund employers.

Quantifying the impact of the judgement at this stage is very difficult because it will depend on the compensation awarded, members’ future salary increases, length of service and retirement age, and whether (and when) members withdraw from active service. Salary increases in particular can vary significantly from year to year and from member to member depending on factors such as budget restraint, job performance and career progression. The Government Actuary’s Department (GAD) has estimated that the impact for the LGPS as a whole could be to increase active member liabilities by 3.2%, based on a given set of actuarial assumptions. A full description of the data, methodology and assumptions underlying these estimates is given in GAD’s paper, dated 10 June 2019.

The Fund’s actuary has adjusted GAD’s estimate to better reflect the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund’s local assumptions, particularly salary increases and withdrawal rates. The revised estimate as it applies to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is that total liabilities (i.e. the increase in active members’ liabilities expressed in terms of the employer’s total membership) could be 0.30% higher as at 31 March 2019, an increase of approximately £1,958k.

These numbers are high level estimates based on scheme level calculations and depend on several key assumptions.

The impact on employers’ funding arrangements will likely be dampened by the funding arrangements they have in place. However, if the judgement is upheld then there will be unavoidable upward pressure on contributions in future years.

Contingent Liabilities (see also note 32.3, page 87)

Aneurin Leisure Trust

On creation of Aneurin Leisure Trust in October 2014, pension assets and liabilities assessed on an actuarial basis were transferred from Blaenau Gwent CBC, such that the Trust's pension obligations were deemed to be fully funded. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure Trust was not transferred, but was retained by Blaenau Gwent CBC. The Trust is therefore only responsible for any increase in liabilities (on an actuarial valuation basis) occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. In addition, the Authority agreed to act as guarantor of last resort in order that the Leisure Trust could enter the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund as an admitted body and has therefore agreed to underwrite any costs arising in the event that the admitted body defaults on any or all of its payments in relation to its pension obligations.

However, in the Statement of Accounts the transferred pension assets and liabilities have been accounted for in accordance with the requirements of IAS19 *Employee Benefits*, the assumptions for which differ from those used in the actuarial valuation approach on which the funding position at inception of the Trust was based. Consequently, those elements of the settlement figures disclosed in 2014/2015 that related to Aneurin Leisure Trust did not reflect a fully funded position, but indicated the transfer of a net liability of up to £2.7m. Nevertheless, the Authority is still liable for the sums relating to the accrued net deficit on transfer and these amounts will be properly reflected in its accounts over time as they fall due in compliance with IAS19.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation/Indexation

In 2018, the High Court ruled that UK defined benefit pension schemes must compensate members for differences attributable to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) (*Lloyds Banking Group Pensions Trustees Limited v Lloyds Bank PLC and Others*). Guaranteed Minimum Pension represents the minimum pension an occupational pension scheme must provide a scheme member as an alternative to the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). GMP accrued in the LGPS between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. Responsibility for paying annual pension increases on different tranches of benefit is divided between the LGPS fund and the State (via the State Pension), depending on when the member was in employment and when they reached State Pension Age (SPA). The Government implemented an 'interim' solution for members reaching SPA between 6 April 2016 and 5 December 2018, which involved the LGPS fund paying for everything i.e. both initial pension and all increases. Following consultation, this arrangement was extended to 5 April 2021, with a stated preferred long term option of converting GMP to scheme benefit (subject to further consultation).

The Government's preferred long-term solution will lead to an increase in pension fund liabilities as a result of the scheme paying full GMP increases for all members with a SPA after 2016. Effectively this passes the cost from the State to LGPS funds (and therefore employers). There has been no indication of additional funding to cover this extra cost.

It is expected that this increase in liabilities will be accounted for as a 'past service cost'. Further to discussions between pension fund actuaries and the National Audit Office, it has been assumed that a 'trigger event' is yet to occur in the LGPS and therefore the default approach has been to ignore any GMP impact in the 2018/2019 accounts.

38. Reserves

38.1 Usable Reserves

Fund balances and usable reserves are held by the Authority for the following purposes:

Fund Balances:

Council Fund General Reserve	The cumulative amount available to meet the future costs of Council services.
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Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves:

Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	To provide initial assistance in meeting new and emerging budget pressures and to establish an invest to save fund to provide one-off funding for initiatives that will generate financial and efficiency savings in the medium to long term.
Budget Implementation	To provide the investment required to deliver business transformation projects over 2018/2019.
Building Control Fees	To hold surpluses generated for future re-investment to improve the quality and performance of the Building Control Service.
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)	The Authority's apportioned share of surpluses or deficits arising on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal joint arrangement.
Corporate Services Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Corporate Services Portfolio, including: Additional future costs of elections; supply of training/ skills to Business Support Staff; funding the Digital Inclusion project; implementation of payroll system functionality; holding deposits & bonds; meeting taxation liabilities and to fund the Authority's contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureau.
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	To fund specific identified salary, pension strain and redundancy costs arising from the Authority's service transformation and downsizing projects, on a short-term (transitional) basis.
Economy Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Economy Portfolio, including: To utilise income generated from town centre commercial bookings; review of the Authority's asset management systems and maintenance of retaining walls across the County Borough.
Education Portfolio	To provide for costs falling within the Education Portfolio, including: the provision of home to school transport for pupils and licenses and supply cover across the region in relation to Person Centred Practice.
Environment Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Environment Portfolio including: maintaining a stable transport oncost rate; future costs associated with preparing assets for community asset transfer; future planned repairs and maintenance of Aneurin Leisure Trust buildings; and specialist legal and financial advice in relation to Silent Valley.
Future Interest Rate	To provide protection against cost pressures arising from forecast rises in interest rates on the replacement of maturing debt and new borrowings to fund capital expenditure.
ICT	To meet the anticipated increase in capacity required for ICT in relation to staffing resources, licenses, equipment and training required to future-proof the service.
ICT for Elected Members	To enable elected members to access information & communication technology.
Implementation Delay Reserve	To fund any budget shortfalls arising from a delay in implementation of savings projects.
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	To fund cost pressures relating to school expenditure including insurance and school reorganisation.
Infrastructure Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Infrastructure Portfolio including: costs associated with clearing the highways network in adverse winter weather.

Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves (Continued):

Insurance Liabilities	To protect against liabilities incurred but not settled. Such liabilities include insurance claims where an excess remains to be borne by the Authority and claims where no insurance cover exists.
Land & Property Charges (Social Services)	To mitigate the impact of establishing Land & Property charge debtors for adult residential care, the actual income for which will not be received until indeterminate points in the future.
Leisure Termination Costs	To provide financial support for early termination costs to Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) to allow the organisation to downsize and deliver efficiency savings for 2019/2020.
LMS Balances	The aggregate amount of balances held by individual schools.
Local / Strategic Development Plan	To fund the review of the Local Development Plan.
Members Local Grants	To hold unallocated grant monies prior to distribution by Members.
Prudential Borrowing	To fund prudential borrowing costs related to highways infrastructure assets, with the aim of reducing future highways related insurance claims.
Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	To hold earmarked sums relating to a range of revenue grants and contributions received for which no accounting liability exists (i.e. do not have to be repaid), until applied to match specific service expenditure.
Social Services Portfolio	To provide for a variety of specific costs falling to the Social Services Portfolio including: funding for building improvements at Beaufort Road and a Community Connector post.
Specialist Commercial Advice (Aneurin Leisure Trust Review)	To consider the current and future options for the provision and delivery of Leisure Services and to commission external consultants to support key elements of the review including legal, VAT and commercial elements.
Strategic Business Reviews	To fund external support to strategic business reviews over a two year period.
Superannuation	To fund specific liabilities arising in respect of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund falling outside of the normal contributions made by the Authority, including potential costs arising from guarantees provided to allow admission of entities to the Fund (e.g. Aneurin Leisure Trust).
Technology Park Feasibility Study	The purpose of the study is to examine the feasibility of establishing a High Tech Business Park and Test facility focussed on the automotive and wider mobility/low carbon economic sectors. The study will provide information for a subsequent business plan to develop the project.
Waste Services	To fund any potential financial penalties arising from a failure to meet the statutory recycling recovery target in 2018/2019 and future years.

Usable Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes:

Deminimis Capital Works	Receipts from minor land-related transactions to be utilised to fund associated land disposal fees that cannot be capitalised or off-set by regulation.
Facilities	To fund renovations in relation to the schools programme of works and other buildings.
Energy Centre	Provision for future repairs and maintenance of equipment in the Energy Centre.
IT Infrastructure	To fund capital expenditure in relation to the upgrade of IT infrastructure to support workplace transformation.
Land at Blaenant Road	To fund any potential liabilities associated with Land at Blaenant Road.
WRAP Regional Vehicles	To fund the future replacement of Regional Vehicles.

Capital Accounting Reserves:

Capital Grants Unapplied	Representing the balance of capital grants received (or receivable) for which grant conditions have been met but which have yet to be applied to match relevant capital expenditure.
Usable Capital Receipts	The proceeds of fixed asset sales available to meet future capital investment.

Movements on fund balances and reserves were as follows:

Fund Balances	Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	Transfers		Balance at 31 March 2018 £000	Transfers		Transfers	
		to Fund Balances £000	from Fund Balances £000		to Fund Balances £000	from Fund Balances £000	to Fund Balances £000	from Fund Balances £000
		Adjustments	31 March 2019 £000		Adjustments	31 March 2019 £000	Adjustments	31 March 2019 £000
Council Fund	(5,084)	(416)	0	(5,500)	0	(394)	0	(5,894)
Total: Fund Balances	(5,084)	(416)	0	(5,500)	0	(394)	0	(5,894)

Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Transfers		Transfers		Adjustments £000	Transfers		Transfers	
	Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	to Reserves £000	from Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2018 £000		to Reserves £000	from Reserves £000	to Reserves £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	(162)	(737)	346	(553)	0	(260)	742	(71)	
Budget Implementation	(329)	0	243	(86)	0	0	86	0	
Building Control Fees	(236)	(9)	91	(154)	0	(41)	112	(83)	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	(11)	0	30	19	(92)*	(114)	0	(187)	
Corporate Services Portfolio	(325)	0	120	(205)	70**	(191)	53	(273)	
Downsizing, Redundancy & Transitional Costs	(483)	0	364	(119)	0	(341)	243	(217)	
Economy Portfolio	(3)	(1)	2	(2)	(70)**	0	59	(13)	
Education Portfolio	(31)	(70)	30	(71)	0	0	63	(8)	
Environment Portfolio	(46)	(102)	22	(126)	0	(25)	85	(66)	
Future Interest Rate	0	0	0	0	0	(106)	0	(106)	
I.C.T	(353)	(20)	142	(231)	0	(41)	0	(272)	
I.C.T for Elected Members	(20)	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	
Implementation Delay Reserve	(116)	0	116	0	0	0	0	0	
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	(204)	0	7	(197)	0	0	11	(186)	
Infrastructure Portfolio	(16)	(46)	16	(46)	0	(200)	46	(200)	
Insurance Liabilities	(1,574)	(1,302)	2,524	(352)	0	(770)	200	(922)	
Land & Property Charges (Social Services)	(140)	0	46	(94)	0	(65)	60	(99)	
Leisure Termination Costs	0	0	0	0	0	(200)	35	(165)	
LMS Balances	(1,088)	(445)	1,286	(247)	0	(1,008)	245	(1,010)	
Local / Strategic Development Plan	(106)	(19)	0	(125)	0	(67)	0	(192)	
Members Local Grants	(22)	(15)	0	(37)	0	0	3	(34)	
Prudential Borrowing	(200)	(200)	200	(200)	0	(200)	200	(200)	
Revenue Grants & Contributions Unapplied	(925)	(347)	122	(1,150)	0	(233)	461	(922)	
Social Services Portfolio	0	(32)	0	(32)	0	0	32	0	
Specialist Commercial Advice (ALT Review)	0	0	0	0	0	(110)	45	(65)	
Strategic Business Reviews	0	0	0	0	0	(250)	0	(250)	
Superannuation	(501)	0	0	(501)	0	(75)	75	(501)	
Technology Park Feasibility Study	0	0	0	0	0	(80)	0	(80)	
Waste Services	(442)	0	248	(194)	0	0	74	(120)	
Total: Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(7,333)	(3,345)	5,975	(4,703)	(92)	(4,377)	2,930	(6,242)	

*: Adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Accounts for 2017/2018 resulted in an increase in the Blaenau Gwent share of earmarked reserves of £0.092m.

**: In May 2018, responsibility for specific functions passed from the Corporate Services Portfolio to the Economy Portfolio requiring a transfer of the retaining walls & stock condition surveys earmarked reserve balances.

Usable Revenue Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2018	Adjustments	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2019
	1 April 2017	to Reserves	from Reserves			to Reserves	from Reserves	
	£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	
Deminimis Capital Works	(84)	(12)	23	(73)	0	(38)	23	(88)
Facilities	0	(42)	0	(42)	0	(80)	0	(122)
Energy Centre	0	(50)	0	(50)	0	(6)	0	(56)
IT Infrastructure	(195)	0	44	(151)	0	(10)	26	(135)
Land at Blaenant Road	0	0	0	0	0	(136)	0	(136)
WRAP Regional Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	(52)	0	(52)
Total: Usable Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes	(279)	(104)	67	(316)	0	(322)	49	(589)
Usable Capital Reserves	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2018	Adjustments	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2019
	1 April 2017	to Reserves	from Reserves			to Reserves	from Reserves	
	£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	
Capital Grants Unapplied	(639)	(1,688)	1,659	(668)	0	(3,001)	3,010	(659)
Usable Capital Receipts	(8,366)	(765)	805	(8,326)	0	(546)	2,368	(6,504)
Total: Usable Capital Reserves	(9,005)	(2,453)	2,464	(8,994)	0	(3,547)	5,378	(7,163)
Summary: Usable Reserves	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2018	Adjustments	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2019
	1 April 2017	to Funds &	from Funds &			to Funds &	from Funds &	
	£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	
Fund Balances	(5,084)	(416)	0	(5,500)	0	(394)	0	(5,894)
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	(7,333)	(3,345)	5,975	(4,703)	(92)	(4,377)	2,930	(6,242)
Revenue Reserves Earmarked for Capital Purposes	(279)	(104)	67	(316)	0	(322)	49	(589)
Capital Reserves	(9,005)	(2,453)	2,464	(8,994)	0	(3,547)	5,378	(7,163)
Total: Usable Reserves	(21,701)	(6,318)	8,506	(19,513)	(92)	(8,640)	8,357	(19,888)

38.2 Unusable Reserves

38.2.1 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to an historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The Account contains 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 Adjustment Account	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(88,068)		(99,957)
Adjustments to Opening Balance		(15)*		0
Revised Balance at 1 April		(88,083)		(99,957)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	11,299		11,666	
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant & Equipment	55		4,775	
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	1,678		1,386	
Non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal	489		477	
Capital grants and contributions applied to capital financing	(3,919)		(2,382)	
Sub-Total: Capital Adjustment Transactions included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:		9,602		15,922
Items not debited or credited to the CIES:				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund	(620)		(1,130)	
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund	(44)		0	
		(664)		(1,130)
Capital financing applied in the year:				
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(2,312)		(752)	
Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(3,010)		(1,660)	
		(5,322)		(2,412)
Sub-Total: Capital Adjustment Transactions included in the Movement in Reserves Statement:		3,616		12,380
Adjusting Amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve:				
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	(504)		(436)	
Non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal	(209)		(55)	
		(713)		(491)
Balance at 31 March		(85,180)		(88,068)

*: Reserve balances at 1 April 2018 were amended to reflect adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2017/2018, increasing the Blaenau Gwent share of unusable reserves by £0.015m.

38.2.2 Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment.

Revaluation Reserve	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		(15,853)		(16,091)
Upward revaluation of assets	(636)		(326)	
Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	253		124	
Depreciation - write back revaluation reserve	(155)		(51)	
Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(538)		(253)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	504		436	
Accumulated gains on assets sold or scrapped	209		55	
Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		713		491
Balance at 31 March		(15,678)		(15,853)

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

38.2.3 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 benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April		3,849		3,909
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the Council Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(71)		(60)	
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(71)		(60)
Balance at 31 March		3,778		3,849

38.2.4 Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve

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

Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000
Balance at 1 April	(4,356)	(4,488)
Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	133	132
Balance at 31 March	(4,223)	(4,356)

38.2.5 Pensions Reserve

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

Pensions Reserve	2018/2019 £000	2017/2018 £000
Balance at 1 April	270,641	274,848
Remeasurement of pensions assets & liabilities	41,883	(17,182)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	25,964	25,486
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(13,508)	(12,511)
Balance at 31 March	324,980	270,641

38.2.6 Unequal Pay Back Pay Account

The Unequal Pay Back Pay Account compensates for the differences between the rate at which the Authority provides for the potential costs of back pay settlements in relation to Equal Pay cases and the ability under statutory provisions to defer the impact on the Council Fund Balance until such time as cash might be paid out to claimants. There were no transactions in this account during 2018/2019 (2017/2018: £0) and the balance on the account remains at £0.146m.

38.2.7 Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the Council 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 Council Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from this Account. In 2018/2019, £1.708m of accruals for the preceding year were settled or cancelled and £1.432m was accrued at 31 March 2019 (2017/2018: £1.715m of accruals for the preceding year were settled or cancelled and £1.708m was accrued at year end).

38.2.8 Summary of Unusable Reserves

The Authority holds the following reserve balances that are classed as unusable:

Unusable Reserves	01 April 2017 £000	Net transfers (to)/ from Reserves £000	31 March 2018 £000	Adjustments £000	Net transfers (to)/ from Reserves £000	31 March 2019 £000
Capital Adjustment Account	(99,957)	11,889	(88,068)	(15)*	2,903	(85,180)
Revaluation Reserve	(16,091)	238	(15,853)	0*	175	(15,678)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	3,909	(60)	3,849	0	(71)	3,778
Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve	(4,488)	132	(4,356)	0	133	(4,223)
Pensions Reserve	274,848	(4,207)	270,641	0	54,339	324,980
Unequal Pay Back Pay Account	146	0	146	0	0	146
Accumulated Absences Account	1,715	(7)	1,708	0	(276)	1,432
Total Unusable Reserves:	160,082	7,985	168,067	(15)	57,203	225,255

*: Changes in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Accounts for 2017/2018 resulted in an increase in the Capital Adjustment Account balance at 1 April 2018 of £0.015m.

Cash Flow Notes

39. Reconciliation of the Deficit on the Provision of Services to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

The following tables provide details of the adjustments made between the deficit on provision of services to arrive at a figure for operating activities cashflows.

39.1 Non-Cash Movements

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Non-Cash Movements	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Depreciation & Impairment	11,354		16,441	
REFCUS (deferred charges)	1,678		1,386	
Effective interest adjustment	42		40	
Net IAS19 charges made for Retirement Benefits	25,964		25,486	
IAS19 Employers Contributions Paid to Pension Fund	(13,508)		(12,511)	
	25,530		30,842	
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	(2,100)		2,218	
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	258		138	
(Increase)/Decrease in Revenue Debtors	107		(416)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Revenue Creditors	(19)		738	
Total	23,776		33,520	

39.2 Investing or Financing Activities Included in the Deficit on Provision of Services

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Investing & Financing Activities	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of fixed assets	76		(156)	
Capital Grants credited to CIES	(6,920)		(4,070)	
Total	(6,844)		(4,226)	

40. Analysis of the Amounts of Major Classes of Gross Cash Receipts and Gross Cash Payments

40.1 Investing Activities

The cash flows for investing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Investing Activities	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(13,510)			(9,322)		
	(13,510)			(9,322)		
Cash Inflows						
Sale of Non-Current Assets	413			634		
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	6,150			5,901		
	6,563			6,535		
Total		(6,947)			(2,787)	

40.2 Financing Activities

The cash flows for financing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Financing Activities	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Repayments of Amounts Borrowed	(129,027)			(132,308)		
Capital Element of Finance Lease Rental Payments	(154)			(256)		
	(129,181)			(132,564)		
Cash Inflows						
New Loans Raised	8,448			0		
New Short-Term Loans	129,500			135,579		
Long-Term Investments Repaid	0			108		
	137,948			135,687		
Total		8,767			3,123	

40.3 Financing Activities

Movement in liabilities arising from financing activities are as follows:

Cash Flow - Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Opening Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	148,864			145,625		
Cash inflows relating to borrowing and investments	137,948			135,687		
Repayments of Amounts Borrowed	(129,027)			(132,308)		
Capital Element of Finance Lease Rental Payments	(154)			(256)		
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	8,767			3,123		
Adjustments for Non-Cash and Other Financing Activities						
Effective Interest Adjustment	42			40		
Finance Lease Additions	86			105		
City Deal Loan Repayment	0			79		
Former Gwent County Council Debt	0			(108)		
	128			116		
Closing Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	157,759			148,864		

41. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Held by the Authority	47		45	
Bank Accounts	4,527		5,352	
Short Term Investments	6,000		2,000	
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	10,574		7,397	

Other Notes

42. Joint Arrangements - Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCRCD)

On 1 March 2017, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the 10 constituent Councils in South East Wales, including Blaenau Gwent, was formally ratified. The City Deal offers the opportunity to deliver an investment package of £1.2 billion into the City Region economy between now and 2036. Whilst much of this is already earmarked for certain activities, particularly investment in the South East Wales Metro, there are funds available as part of the £1.2 billion to leverage wider economic benefits. The City Deal has a number of key targets. Notably, these include the creation of 25,000 new jobs by 2036, leveraging £4 billion of private sector investment and securing economic growth.

In the final quarter of 2017/2018, all ten Councils agreed the Joint Working Agreement Business Plan, which provides detail on the key themes or workstreams for future investment activity. In addition, the re-scheduling of finance was agreed for the first significant investment (the Compound Semi-Conductor project).

The CCRCRCD Investment Fund comprises two distinct elements:-

- The METRO scheme of £734 million. This will comprise £503m Welsh Government funding provided over the first seven years of the Investment Fund, from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023; £106 million from the European Development Fund, (which is committed and guaranteed following Brexit by both UK and Welsh Government); and £125m from UK Government. This element will be the direct responsibility of Welsh Government.
- The Investment Fund of £495m - comprising the ten Local Authorities' commitment to borrow £120 million over the 20 year period of the Fund, together with £375m from UK Government, for investment in infrastructure, housing, skills and training, innovation, business growth and "Metro plus" transport proposals. This element will be the responsibility of the CCRCRCD Regional Cabinet. Based on the agreed proportion of total population for the City Deal area, Blaenau Gwent's share of the financial contributions is 4.6%.

The CCRCRCD Joint Working Agreement Business Plan provides indicative Wider investment Fund expenditure totalling £495m over a 20 year period, with profiled expenditure between 2018/2019 to 2020/2021 (prior to the Gateway Review) of £65.7m. This profile is based on currently approved projects and assumptions around potential future revenue and capital projects and is subject to amendment as business plans are approved and funding applied.

Of the £120m Local Authority funding commitment to the Wider Investment Fund, Blaenau Gwent's share is £5.544m. This will be paid by the Authority over a period of up to 20 years, subject to the requirement to fund schemes as and when they are approved. Prior to the Gateway Review in 2021, Blaenau Gwent's estimated capital contributions are £1.285m, and this amount has been included in the Capital Programme. Over that same period, estimated revenue costs falling to the Authority total £0.139m.

The Authority's share of assets, liabilities, reserves, income, expenditure and cashflows relating to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Group have been included as a joint arrangement in the single entity accounting statements and disclosures. Summary accounting statements for the CCRCRCD Group are as follows:

42.1 CCRCRCD - Summary Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	CCRCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000	CCRCRCD Group £000	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment £000
Cost of Services				
Operating Expenditure	1,340	62	1,584	73
Operating Income	(4,251)	(197)	(929)	(43)
Net Cost of Services	(2,911)	(135)	655	30
Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure	(113)	(5)	(17)	(1)
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	(12,308)	(568)	(24,207)	(1,118)
Tax Expenses	551	25	0	0
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(14,781)	(683)	(23,569)	(1,089)

42.2 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - Summary Group Movement in Reserves Statement

Summary CCRCD Group Movement in Reserves Statement	CCRCRCD Group			Blaenau Gwent Apportionment		
	Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000	Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2017	(228)	0	(228)	(10)	0	(10)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(23,569)	0	(23,569)	(1,089)	0	(1,089)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis	24,207	(24,207)	0	1,118	(1,118)	0
Net(Increase)/Decrease	638	(24,207)	(23,569)	29	(1,118)	(1,089)
Balance at 31 March 2018	410	(24,207)	(23,797)	19	(1,118)	(1,099)
Balance at 1 April 2018	410	(24,207)	(23,797)	19	(1,118)	(1,099)
Adjustment to Opening Balance	(1,958)	(333)	(2,291)	(91)	(16)	(107)
Revised Balance at 1 April 2018	(1,548)	(24,540)	(26,088)	(72)	(1,134)	(1,206)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(14,781)	0	(14,781)	(683)	0	(683)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis	12,308	(12,308)	0	569	(569)	0
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves	(46)	0	(46)	(2)	0	(2)
Net(Increase)/Decrease	(2,519)	(12,308)	(14,827)	(116)	(569)	(685)
Balance at 31 March 2019	(4,067)	(36,848)	(40,915)	(188)	(1,703)	(1,891)

42.3 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - Summary Group Balance Sheet

Summary CCRCD Group Balance Sheet	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	CCRCRD Group	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment	CCRCRD Group	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Non-Current Assets	35,224	1,627	20,183	932
Current Assets	38,742	1,790	26,773	1,237
Current Liabilities	(2,041)	(94)	(2,955)	(137)
Non-Current Liabilities	(31,010)	(1,432)	(20,204)	(933)
Total Net Assets	40,915	1,891	23,797	1,099
Usable Reserve	(4,067)	(188)	410	19
Unusable Reserve	(36,848)	(1,703)	(24,207)	(1,118)
Total Reserves	(40,915)	(1,891)	(23,797)	(1,099)

42.4 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - Summary Group Cash Flow Statement

Summary CCRCD Group Cash Flow Statement	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	CCRCRD Group	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment	CCRCRD Group	Blaenau Gwent Apportionment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services	(14,781)	(683)	(23,569)	(1,089)
Adjustments to the provision of Services for non-cash movements	14,109	651	26,043	1,203
Net Cash Inflows/(Outflows) from Operating Activities	(672)	(32)	2,474	114
Investing Activities	14,836	685	41,854	1,934
Financing Activities	(22,308)	(1,030)	(68,886)	(3,182)
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(8,144)	(377)	(24,558)	(1,134)
Cash and Cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(24,942)	(1,152)	(384)	(18)
Adjustment to Cash and Cash equivalents opening balance	(263)	(12)	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(33,349)	(1,541)	(24,942)	(1,152)

43. Joint Arrangements - Other

The Authority participates in a number of joint arrangements as a means of delivering services in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. In assessing the joint arrangements in which Blaenau Gwent participates, it has been concluded in each case that no separate legal entity exists and that the Authority does not have control (as defined by the Accounting Code and IFRS10). Consequently, the accounts of these arrangements have not been consolidated in the group accounting statements. In each case, the relevant service line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account reflects the following transactions occurring between the Authority and the joint arrangement:

Joint Arrangements	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee	0	(378)	(378)	0	(132)	(132)
Gwent Joint Records Committee	143	0	143	143	0	143
Gwent Transport Unit	1,162	0	1,162	1,206	0	1,206
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total	1,306	(378)	928	1,350	(132)	1,218

43.1 Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee (GGCJC)

The Cremation Joint Committee provides cremation services to the residents of the Greater Gwent area through a facility based at Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran. Further details of the arrangement can be obtained from the lead Authority for the joint committee, Newport City Council. In 2018/2019, the Cremation Joint Committee agreed to return £1.4m of accumulated surpluses to constituent authorities. Blaenau Gwent's portion of this surplus amounted to £0.246m.

43.2 Gwent Joint Records Committee (GJRC)

The Gwent Record Office provides the statutory archive service for 5 Local Authorities in the Greater Gwent area. It was founded as the Monmouthshire Record Office in 1938 and moved to Cwmbran in the 1970s. In 2010 a new Gwent Archives Joint Agreement was signed providing for the joint service for the next quarter century and for the construction of a new facility at the General Offices site in Ebbw Vale. This facility opened to the public in October 2011. Further details of the joint arrangement can be obtained from the lead Authority, Torfaen CBC.

43.3 Gwent Transport Unit (GTU)

The GTU is responsible for passenger transport co-ordination in Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen. The principal activities are procurement and monitoring of local bus services; provision of timetables, transport guides and leaflets; and administration of the concessionary fares scheme. Blaenau Gwent CBC was the lead Authority for the GTU, with responsibility transferring to Torfaen CBC on 1 May 2016.

The majority of transactions administered by the unit are associated with concessionary fares, bus subsidies, local transport services grant and 'section 106', the costs of which are allocated based on direct spend relative to the use of each service within the relevant local authority area. Administration costs of the joint arrangement are apportioned between the two Authorities, with Blaenau Gwent being charged 49.54% of these costs. The share of balances apportioned to Blaenau Gwent CBC for the GTU is also 49.54%.

43.4 South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG)

The South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) produces regional planning guidance for South East Wales in partnership with 10 other local planning authorities in the region, and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

The financial arrangements for the group are provided by the participating authorities on a rota basis - for 2018/2019, Blaenau Gwent was the host Authority, overseeing the following transactions:

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(41)	(36)
Balance transferred to Blaenau Gwent	0	0
Receipts (Member Subscriptions)	(5)	(5)
Payments	4	0
Balance at 31 March	(42)	(41)

44. Charitable Trusts

The Authority acts as trustee for the following charitable trusts:

- Bedwellty House and Park
- Cwm, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Recreation Grounds.

Bedwellty Park is a 26 acre historic park and landscape. It has 6 listed structures within its grounds including a Grade II listed ironmaster's dwelling. The site has been the subject of a £5 million restoration project and is now a public open access space available for events such as weddings, art exhibitions and displays.

Cwm, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar recreation grounds are open access outdoor spaces used for sporting activities such as rugby, football, cricket and walking.

The summarised transactions for these charitable trusts are as follows:

Summary Statement of Financial Activities	2018/2019					2017/2018				
	Bedwellty House & Park	Cwm Recreation Ground	Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground	Tredegar Recreation Ground	Total	Bedwellty House & Park	Cwm Recreation Ground	Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground	Tredegar Recreation Ground	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income										
Donations & Legacies	(104)	(7)	(47)	(13)	(171)	(104)	(7)	(47)	(12)	(170)
Other	0	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	(3)	0	(3)
Total Income	(104)	(7)	(49)	(13)	(173)	(104)	(7)	(50)	(12)	(173)
Expenditure										
Charitable Activities	117	7	49	13	186	117	7	50	12	186
Other	104	0	0	0	104	104	0	0	0	104
Total Resources Expended	221	7	49	13	290	221	7	50	12	290
Net Expenditure	117	0	0	0	117	117	0	0	0	117
Transfers between funds	(117)	0	0	0	(117)	(117)	0	0	0	(117)
Net Movement in Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Property, Plant and Equipment assets held by the charitable trusts are as follows:

Charitable Trusts - Property, Plant & Equipment	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Book Value £000	Accumulated Depreciation £000	Net Book Value £000	Gross Book Value £000	Accumulated Depreciation £000	Net Book Value £000
Bedwellty House and Park	5,571	(569)	5,002	5,571	(452)	5,119
Cwm Recreation Ground	15	(15)	0	15	(15)	0
Ebbw Vale Recreation Ground	298	(54)	244	298	(41)	257
Tredegar Recreation Ground	86	(50)	36	86	(44)	42
Total	5,970	(688)	5,282	5,970	(552)	5,418

The Authority also acts as sole trustee for 30 education trust funds, the main purpose of which is the provision of prizes to pupils based on examination success. At year-end, balances held were as follows:

Education Trust Funds	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Cash	56	56
Balance at 31 March	56	56



...the Statement of Group Accounts comprise the group financial statements and notes, including the summary of significant group accounting policies...



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Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (GCIES) 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.

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	2018/2019			2017/2018 (Reclassified)			Note:	Page:
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		
Continuing Operations								
Corporate Services	52,527	(28,436)	24,091	45,150	(27,910)	17,240	G6	133
Education	17,706	(5,404)	12,302	21,627	(5,915)	15,712		
Education - Schools	45,984	(4,749)	41,235	46,409	(4,277)	42,132		
Environment	32,807	(8,358)	24,449	41,492	(9,189)	32,303		
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	62	(196)	(134)	73	(1,161)	(1,088)		
Regeneration & Economic Development	5,519	(3,339)	2,180	5,452	(2,941)	2,511		
Social Services	63,460	(18,748)	44,712	63,593	(18,287)	45,306		
Licensing	197	(133)	64	214	(124)	90		
Planning	1,610	(651)	959	1,618	(350)	1,268		
Silent Valley	1,213	(131)	1,082	1,101	16	1,117	G6	133
Total Deficit on Continuing Services	221,085	(70,145)	150,940	226,729	(70,138)	156,591	G3	131
Other Operating Expenditure	9,042	(497)	8,545	8,782	(728)	8,054	G4	132
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	21,293	(9,938)	11,355	20,242	(9,314)	10,928	G5	132
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(154,987)	(154,987)	0	(147,744)	(147,744)		
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	251,420	(235,567)	15,853	255,753	(227,924)	27,829	G3	131
Tax Expenses			25			0	42	117
Group (Surplus)/Deficit			15,878			27,829	G3	131
(Surplus)/Deficit Arising on the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets			(538)			(253)	G14.2	140
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability			41,968			(17,218)		
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			41,430			(17,471)	G7	133
Total Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			57,308			10,358	GMiRS	125

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

The Group Movement in Reserves Statement (GMiRS) shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Group.

Group Movement in Reserves Statement	2018/2019			2017/2018			Note	Page
	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Group Reserves £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Group Reserves £000		
Opening balance at 1 April	147,935	(2,116)	145,819	137,991	(2,565)	135,426		
Adjustments to brought forward balances	(107)*	0	(107)	35**	0	35		
Revised balance at 1 April	147,828	(2,116)	145,712	138,026	(2,565)	135,461		
Total Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	56,920	388	57,308	10,173	185	10,358	GCIES	124
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts	306	(306)	0	(264)	264	0	G8	134
(Increase)/Decrease in year	57,226	82	57,308	9,909	449	10,358		
Balance at 31 March	205,054	(2,034)	203,020	147,935	(2,116)	145,819	GBS, G15	126, 142

*: Reserve balances at 1 April 2018 were amended to reflect adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2017/2018 (increasing the Blaenau Gwent share by £0.107m).

**: Reserve balances at 1 April 2017 were amended to include £0.011m as the Authority's share of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal reserves at that date, and also to remove £0.046m balances previously held in respect of Property Improvement Loans that from 2018/2019 have been accounted for on an agency basis.

Group Balance Sheet

The Group Balance Sheet (GBS) shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Group. The net assets of the Group (assets less liabilities) are matched by reserves held, reported in two categories:

- Usable reserves are those reserves that the Group may use to provide services, subject to any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt) and the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves.
- Unusable reserves are those that the Group is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Group Movement in Reserves Statement line '*Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations*' (e.g. the Capital Adjustment Account, Pensions Reserve and Accumulated Absences Account).

Group Balance Sheet	31 March 2019		31 March 2018		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Property, Plant & Equipment	264,409		263,750		G9	134-136
Heritage Assets	413		413			
Non-Current Debtors	4,490		4,731			
Sub Total: Long Term Assets		269,312		268,894		
Assets Held for Sale	880		425			
Inventories	461		719			
Current Debtors	16,976		16,158		G10	137
Cash and Cash Equivalents	15,650		12,823		G18	144
Sub Total: Current Assets		33,967		30,125		
Current Borrowing	(73,103)		(68,374)			
Current Creditors	(11,507)		(11,287)		G11	137
Current Grants Receipts in Advance	(2,301)		(2,656)			
Current Provisions	(3,140)		(4,813)		G12	138
Sub Total: Current Liabilities		(90,051)		(87,130)		
Non-Current Borrowing	(84,439)		(80,205)			
Non-Current Provisions	(3,853)		(4,472)		G12	138
Other Long-Term Liabilities	(327,956)		(273,031)		G13-G14	139-142
Sub Total: Long-Term Liabilities		(416,248)		(357,708)		
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		(203,020)		(145,819)		
Usable Reserves	(22,235)		(22,248)		G15	142
Unusable Reserves	225,255		168,067		G15	142
Total Reserves		203,020		145,819		

Group Cash Flow Statement

The Group Cash Flow Statement summarises the cash and cash equivalent transactions of the Group during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Group generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash inflows and (outflows) as operating, investing and financing activities.

- The amount of net cashflows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Group are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided.
- Investing activities represent cashflows relating to the acquisition, disposal and funding via capital grant of resources which are intended to contribute to the Group's future service delivery, i.e. non-current assets.
- Cashflows arising from financing activities represent the extent to which borrowing and similar charges have increased/decreased during the year and are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital to the Group.

Group Cash Flow Statement	2018/2019		2017/2018		Note:	Page:
	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services <i>less</i> tax expenses	(15,878)		(27,829)		GCIES	124
Adjustments to the provision of services for non-cash movements	23,706		33,448		G16.1	143
Adjustments for items included in the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(6,844)		(4,255)		G16.2	143
Interest received	36		0			
Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities		1,020		1,364		
Investing activities		(6,960)		(2,832)	G17	144
Financing activities		8,767		3,123	40.2	115
Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,827		1,655		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		12,823		11,168	GBS, G18	126, 144
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		15,650		12,823	GBS, G18	126, 144



Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council

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Notes to the Group Accounts

G1. Group Accounting Policies

G1.1 General Principles

The Group Accounts summarise the transactions of the Authority and its Subsidiaries for the 2018/2019 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2019. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices as required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/2019 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2018/2019, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where there is no relevant IFRS or International Accounting Standard (IAS), reference is made to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs); if there is no relevant IPSAS, domestic Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) are applied.

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

In preparing a set of Accounts for the Blaenau Gwent Group, it has been necessary to align the Accounting Policies adopted by the two constituent entities. The Group Policies are largely the same as those used in preparing the Accounts for the Parent Authority, as recorded on pages 27-39. However, where Policies differ, the Group Policy is included in this section.

G1.2 Intra Group Transactions and Balances

To the extent that balances and transactions have been identified and agreed between Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. and Blaenau Gwent CBC, these have been eliminated as part of the consolidation process. As total transactions between the parties amount to £0.751m (2017/2018: £0.759m) and are therefore not considered to be material, any differences between identified and actual sums are therefore also not material.

G1.3 Acquisitions and Discontinued Operations

The principal activities of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. are waste management, disposal and ancillary services such as recycling and waste collection.

All operations were classified as continuing in 2018/2019 and there were no acquisitions or discontinuations of service (or transfers under machinery of government arrangements) during the financial year.

G1.4 Employee Benefits

G1.4.1 Benefits Payable During Employment

The annual leave entitlement year for staff at SVWS Ltd. ends on 31 March with limited opportunity to carry forward unused balances. No staff carried forward leave at the end of 2018/2019 and consequently no short term compensated absences accrual has been calculated.

G1.4.2 Post Employment Benefits

Employees of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. are members of the following pension schemes:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, as an admitted body, administered by Torfaen County Borough Council; and
- Silent Valley Defined Contribution Scheme.

Both schemes provide benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees work for the company.

The required accounting treatments are as follows:

The Local Government Pension Scheme

As required for a defined benefit scheme, the employers pension costs that are charged to the Group's accounts are equal to the actuarially-calculated liabilities arising as a result of the service effected by employees. Additional costs arising for discretionary benefits paid to staff on retirement have also been accounted for on a liability basis, with the full amount of any such payments being recorded in service accounts in the year of occurrence.

Silent Valley Defined Contribution Scheme

In a defined contribution scheme, the employer has no obligation beyond payment of the agreed contributions. Therefore, the net cost of services in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the amount of contributions payable for the year of account. Prepayments or accruals are recorded in the Group Balance Sheet if required.

Further details of the transactions undertaken and required disclosures for the Local Government Pension Scheme, Teachers Pension Scheme and Silent Valley Defined Contribution Scheme can be found in the notes to the Group Accounts.

G1.5 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

G1.5.1 Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Only expenditure in excess of £50,000 has been capitalised by the Parent Authority, with amounts below this threshold being charged directly to revenue. The exceptions to this are highways and health & safety assets that individually fall below this de-minimis level but are capitalised because they are treated as one single item of expenditure in the year and expenditure that has a capital grant approval.

G1.5.2 Measurement

Tangible Non-Current Assets attributable to the Subsidiary are recorded in the accounts on the basis of depreciated historic cost.

G1.5.3 Depreciation

For assets held by Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd., the following standard lives are used in calculating depreciation:

- Leasehold land and buildings - 10 - 15 years; and
- Plant and Machinery - 5 - 13 years.

These standard lives are not significantly different from those used by the Parent Authority, and any differences in calculated depreciation sums are not expected to be material. Consequently, a completely uniform set of standard lives has not been introduced for Group Accounting purposes and no adjustments have been made to depreciation amounts in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Group Balance Sheet or Group Cash Flow.

G1.6 Aftercare and Capping Provisions

Provision for the cost of aftercare and site capping was made by establishing a consumption factor which aimed to write off the estimated future costs over the anticipated useful life of the site.

G2. Notes to the Group Financial Statements

These notes should be read in conjunction with the notes to the Authority's Core Financial Statements. Notes have been included to the Group Financial Statements where:

- specifically required by the Accounting Code of Practice;
- a note to the single entity statements has been amended by the consolidation of the subsidiary undertaking; or
- the note relates solely to the activities of the subsidiary and has not been included in the Accounts of the Local Authority.

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Notes

G3. Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis

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

Group Expenditure & Funding Analysis	2018/2019					2017/2018 (Reclassified)					Group CIES Net Expenditure £000
	Management Account Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund £000	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments £000	Group CIES Net Expenditure £000	Management Account Net Expenditure £000	Accounting Code Adjustments £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund £000	Funding & Accounting Basis Adjustments £000		
Corporate Services	14,601	8,063	22,664	1,427	24,091	14,249	1,173	15,422	1,818	17,240	
Education	55,075	(45,816)	9,259	3,043	12,302	54,356	(43,085)	11,271	4,441	15,712	
Education - Schools	(1,054)	42,505	41,451	(216)	41,235	(282)	42,300	42,018	114	42,132	
Environment	28,639	(13,431)	15,208	9,241	24,449	31,618	(12,904)	18,714	13,589	32,303	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	0	(134)	(134)	0	(134)	0	30	30	(1,118)	(1,088)	
Regeneration & Economic Development	1,457	(892)	565	1,615	2,180	1,453	665	2,118	393	2,511	
Social Services	43,924	(2,128)	41,796	2,916	44,712	41,708	482	42,190	3,116	45,306	
Licensing	71	(28)	43	21	64	74	2	76	14	90	
Planning	1,029	(194)	835	124	959	1,050	92	1,142	126	1,268	
Capital Adjustments	0	(1)	(1)	1	0	0	(21)	(21)	21	0	
Pension Adjustments	0	1,008	1,008	(1,008)	0	0	1,017	1,017	(1,017)	0	
Silent Valley	1,082	0	1,082	0	1,082	1,117	0	1,117	0	1,117	
Net Expenditure on Continuing Operations	144,824	(11,048)	133,776	17,164	150,940	145,343	(10,249)	135,094	21,497	156,591	
Other Operating Expenditure	(84)	8,549	8,465	80	8,545	(94)	8,305	8,211	(157)	8,054	
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	(30)	4,672	4,642	6,713	11,355	(29)	4,927	4,898	6,030	10,928	
Taxation & Non-Specific Grant Income	0	(148,719)	(148,719)	(6,268)	(154,987)	0	(145,805)	(145,805)	(1,939)	(147,744)	
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	144,710	(146,546)	(1,836)	17,689	15,853	145,220	(142,822)	2,398	25,431	27,829	
Tax expenses	25	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	
Group (Surplus)/Deficit	144,735	(146,546)	(1,811)	17,689	15,878	145,220	(142,822)	2,398	25,431	27,829	
Transfers to/(from) earmarked reserves			1,723					(3,078)			
(Increase)/Decrease in year			(88)					(680)			
Opening Group Balances as at 1 April			(6,119)					(5,439)			
Closing Group Balances as at 31 March			(6,207)					(6,119)			

G4. Other Operating Expenditure

Other Operating Expenditure in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement consists of the following:

Other Operating Expenditure	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Parent:						
(Gains)/losses on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	489	(413)	76	477	(634)	(157)
Precepts & Levies	8,553	0	8,553	8,305	0	8,305
Subsidiary:						
Income from energy generation	0	(84)	(84)	0	(94)	(94)
Total	9,042	(497)	8,545	8,782	(728)	8,054

G5. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Financing and investment income and expenditure in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement consists of the following:

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Impairment *	(158)	0	(158)	0	0	0
Interest payable and similar charges - Financial Instruments	4,368	0	4,368	3,978	0	3,978
Interest payable and similar charges - Other **	7	0	7	13	0	13
Interest receivable and similar income - Financial Instruments	0	(48)	(48)	0	(15)	(15)
Interest receivable and similar income - Other ***	0	(226)	(226)	0	(275)	(275)
Net Pensions Interest	17,076	(9,664)	7,412	16,251	(9,024)	7,227
Total	21,293	(9,938)	11,355	20,242	(9,314)	10,928

*: Movement in allowances for expected credit losses on financial assets.

**: Interest on finance leases and school balances.

***: Interest on (lessor) finance leases, bank charges, car loans and contractor bonds.

G6. External Audit Fees

The Group incurred the following fees relating to External Audit and inspection:

External Audit Fees	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Fees payable in respect of:		
External audit services - Final Accounts	191	191
Silent Valley external audit services - Final Accounts	10	10
External audit services - Local Government Measures	105	105
Certification of grant claims and returns	70	70
Total Audit Fees	376	376

External Audit services for Blaenau Gwent CBC are provided by the Wales Audit Office; for Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. by Baldwins Audit Services Limited.

Group Movements in Reserves Notes

G7. Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

The following unrealised gains or losses and actuarial gains or losses arose during the year:

Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
(Surplus)/Deficit arising on the revaluation of Non-Current Assets	(538)	(253)
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pension liability	41,968	(17,218)
Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	41,430	(17,471)

G8. Adjustments between Parent and Group Movement in Reserves Statements

In preparing the Group Movement in Reserves Statement, the following adjustments were made for intra-group transactions:

Adjustments between Single Entity and Group Movement in Reserves Statements	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000	Total Authority Reserves £000	Authority's share of Reserves of Subsidiary £000
			£000	£000
Adjustments between Group Accounts and Authority Accounts:				
Expenditure	(751)	751	(870)	870
Income	22	(22)	163	(163)
Debtors & Creditors	64	(64)	(67)	67
Retained Profits	(373)	373	(570)	570
Accumulating Dividend	725	(725)	725	(725)
Less cumulative adjustments brought forward	619	(619)	355	(355)
Total intra-group adjustments	306	(306)	(264)	264

Group Balance Sheet Notes

G9. Property Plant & Equipment

The gross carrying amount and accumulated depreciation relating to Property, Plant and Equipment was:

Property, Plant & Equipment	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Gross Carrying Amount	325,164	315,526
Accumulated Depreciation	(60,755)	(51,776)
Net Book Value	264,409	263,750

Movements in 2018/2019:

Property, Plant & Equipment Movements	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2018	163,960	13,709	127,306	120	4,521	5,910	315,526
Appropriations	684	0	94	0	10	(788)	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(356)	0	0	0	(295)	0	(651)
Additions	713	1,514	2,026	0	0	935	5,188
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	325	0	0	0	57	0	382
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(396)	0	0	0	38	0	(358)
Capital expenditure written off	(1,783)	(125)	(3)	0	0	0	(1,911)
Derecognition - disposals	(126)	(154)	0	0	0	0	(280)
Other movements in cost or valuation *	1,787	128	30	0	0	5,323	7,268
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2019	164,808	15,072	129,453	120	4,331	11,380	325,164
Property, Plant & Equipment Depreciation & Impairment	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2018	(12,211)	(8,814)	(30,719)	(11)	(21)	0	(51,776)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(4,707)	(1,396)	(3,268)	(1)	(7)	0	(9,379)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	155	0	0	0	0	0	155
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	104	0	0	0	0	0	104
Derecognition - disposals	24	117	0	0	0	0	141
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2019	(16,635)	(10,093)	(33,987)	(12)	(28)	0	(60,755)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2019	148,173	4,979	95,466	108	4,303	11,380	264,409
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2018	151,749	4,895	96,587	109	4,500	5,910	263,750
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2017	160,768	4,708	99,226	128	4,872	3,452	273,154

Movements in 2017/2018:

Property, Plant & Equipment Movements	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Cost or Valuation as at 1 April 2017	168,712	12,780	126,849	138	4,886	3,452	316,817
Appropriations	(176)	20	176	(20)	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from held for sale	(387)	0	0	0	(5)	0	(392)
Additions	177	1,466	281	0	0	1,445	3,369
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	261	0	0	1	0	0	262
Revaluation increases/(decreases) recognised in the Provision of Services	(4,799)	0	0	1	(360)	0	(5,158)
Capital expenditure written off	(2,469)	(144)	(43)	0	0	0	(2,656)
Derecognition - disposals	0	(557)	0	0	0	0	(557)
Other movements in cost or valuation **	2,641	144	43	0	0	1,013	3,841
Cost or Valuation as at 31 March 2018	163,960	13,709	127,306	120	4,521	5,910	315,526
Property, Plant & Equipment Depreciation & Impairment	Operational Assets						Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
	Other Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure Assets £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 1 April 2017	(7,944)	(8,072)	(27,623)	(10)	(14)	0	(43,663)
Depreciation Charge & Appropriations	(4,687)	(1,279)	(3,096)	(1)	(7)	0	(9,070)
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	51	0	0	0	0	0	51
Depreciation written out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	383	0	0	0	0	0	383
Derecognition - disposals	(14)	537	0	0	0	0	523
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment as at 31 March 2018	(12,211)	(8,814)	(30,719)	(11)	(21)	0	(51,776)

Notes * & **: Amounts included in 'Other movements in cost or valuation' relates to capital expenditure incurred during the year, £5.36 million of which has been added to the asset base and £1.91 million of which has been written off as there has been no increase to the asset value in 2018/2019(*); £1.18 million of which has been added to the asset base and £2.66 million of which has been written off as no increase to the asset value resulted in 2017/2018(**).

G10. Current Debtors

Amounts owing to the Group were as follows:

Current Debtors	31 March 2019				31 March 2018			
	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Current Debtors £000	Gross Debtors £000	Impairment £000	Prepayments £000	Total Net Current Debtors £000
Welsh Government	5,473	0	0	5,473	6,348	(1)	0	6,347
Other Central Government	1,099	0	0	1,099	1,524	0	0	1,524
Local Authorities	2,379	(1)	32	2,410	1,321	(64)	250	1,507
NHS	929	(5)	0	924	127	(6)	0	121
Council Tax Arrears	4,546	(1,867)	0	2,679	4,259	(1,814)	0	2,445
Other Entities & Individuals	4,449	(2,295)	1,372	3,526	3,931	(1,925)	1,274	3,280
Trade	951	(86)	0	865	939	(116)	111	934
Total Current Debtors:	19,826	(4,254)	1,404	16,976	18,449	(3,926)	1,635	16,158

G11. Current Creditors

Amounts owed by the Group were as follows:

Current Creditors	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Creditors £000	Receipts in Advance £000	Total Current Creditors £000	Creditors £000	Receipts in Advance £000	Total Current Creditors £000
Welsh Government	(226)	0	(226)	(216)	0	(216)
Other Central Government	(810)	0	(810)	(745)	0	(745)
Local Authorities	(1,335)	(3)	(1,338)	(1,001)	(75)	(1,076)
NHS	(407)	0	(407)	(49)	0	(49)
Capital Creditors	(226)	0	(226)	(184)	0	(184)
Council Tax Credits	(835)	0	(835)	(847)	0	(847)
Other Entities and Individuals	(6,021)	(225)	(6,246)	(5,911)	(340)	(6,251)
Trade	(1,419)	0	(1,419)	(1,918)	(1)	(1,919)
Total Current Creditors:	(11,279)	(228)	(11,507)	(10,871)	(416)	(11,287)

G12. Provisions

Details of the purposes of the Authority's provisions can be found in notes 32.1-32.2, pages 84-86. Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. hold a provision for Aftercare to provide for estimated costs of maintaining the landfill site after capping works have been completed. The timescale for utilisation of the provision is over a period of 60 years following closure of the site. Due to the timescales involved there are inherent uncertainties regarding the level and value of aftercare works required. Movements in the Group provisions during 2018/2019 were as follows:

Provision Movements	Net		Balance at 1 April 2018 £000	Unused		Additional Provisions made in 2018/2019 £000	Balance at 31 March 2019 £000	
	Balance at 1 April 2017 £000	Movements 2017/2018 £000		Used in 2018/2019 £000	Reversed in 2018/2019 £000			
					Unwinding of Discount in 2018/2019 £000			
Current Provisions								
Employee Provisions:								
Parent's Employee Provisions	(651)	(239)	(890)	682	62	0	(366)	(512)
Other Provisions:								
Parent's Other Provisions	(2,696)	(1,057)	(3,753)	231	1,799	0	(735)	(2,458)
Silent Valley Aftercare	(170)	0	(170)	192	0	0	(192)	(170)
	(3,517)	(1,296)	(4,813)	1,105	1,861	0	(1,293)	(3,140)
Non-Current Provisions								
Parent's Provisions	(1,321)	(922)	(2,243)	310	1,007	0	(890)	(1,816)
Silent Valley Aftercare	(2,433)	204	(2,229)	0	192	0	0	(2,037)
	(3,754)	(718)	(4,472)	310	1,199	0	(890)	(3,853)
Total Provisions:	(7,271)	(2,014)	(9,285)	1,415	3,060	0	(2,183)	(6,993)

G13. Other Long-Term Liabilities

The Group holds the following balances as long-term liabilities:

Other Long-Term Liabilities	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
	£000	£000
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Non-Current Creditor	(1,433)	(934)
Deferred Liabilities	(217)	(285)
Net Pensions Liability	(326,306)	(271,812)
Total	(327,956)	(273,031)

G14. Post-Employment Benefits

Retirement benefits are offered to the Group's employees which, although not actually payable until employees retire, represent a commitment by the Group that needs to be disclosed in the Accounts in the financial period in which the entitlement to benefits arises (i.e. when earned by employees through service provided).

The Group participates in three formal schemes: an independently administered defined contribution scheme for employees of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd., the Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions and the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Torfaen CBC. A number of employees of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, of which the company is an admitted body.

G14.1 Defined Contribution Schemes

Silent Valley

A defined contribution scheme was established by the Company in November 1995. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds. Employer contributions to this fund are at a rate of between 6% and 12% of members' pensionable earnings.

In 2018/2019, the total defined contribution scheme charge to the Group CIES was £0.071m (2017/2018: £0.065m). There were no outstanding contributions to the scheme at 31 March 2019 or 31 March 2018.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Teachers employed by Blaenau Gwent CBC are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions.

Further details of this Scheme and the Authority's contributions can be found in the notes to the Single Entity Core Statements (notes 36 & 37, pages 94-104)

G14.2 Defined Benefit Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is a funded defined benefit Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, in which the Group and employees make contributions calculated at a level intended to balance pension liabilities arising with investment assets. The contribution rate is determined by the Fund's Actuary based on triennial valuations, the last review being 31 March 2016.

Further information can be found in the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund's Annual Report which is available upon request from the Chief Financial Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB.

The cost of retirement benefits are recognised in the 'Net Cost of Services' section of the Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement when those benefits are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are actually paid as pensions.

The following pension scheme transactions have been made in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year:

Group Pension Scheme Transactions	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government	Teachers' Unfunded	Total £000	Local Government	Teachers' Unfunded	Total £000
	Pension Scheme	Discretionary Pensions		Pension Scheme	Discretionary Pensions	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:						
Cost of Services:						
Current Service Costs	18,109	0	18,109	17,811	0	17,811
Other Service Costs	492	0	492	498	0	498
Total Service Cost:	18,601	0	18,601	18,309	0	18,309
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Interest on Plan Assets	(9,658)	0	(9,658)	(9,017)	0	(9,017)
Interest on Defined Benefit Liabilities	16,133	937	17,070	15,261	983	16,244
Net Interest:	6,475	937	7,412	6,244	983	7,227
Total Charged to the Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services:	25,076	937	26,013	24,553	983	25,536
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in Net Interest)	(11,308)	0	(11,308)	(4,588)	0	(4,588)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	51,354	1,447	52,801	(11,490)	(448)	(11,938)
Experience (Gains)/Losses on defined benefit liabilities	129	346	475	(281)	(421)	(702)
Total remeasurement recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	40,175	1,793	41,968	(16,359)	(869)	(17,228)
Total Charged to the Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement:	65,251	2,730	67,981	8,194	114	8,308

No adjusting entries are made in relation to the Silent Valley Waste Services Pension Scheme transactions and consequently there are no changes to the relevant entries made in the Parent Movement in Reserves Statement.

Transactions in respect of the fair value of pension scheme assets and present value of scheme liabilities are as follows:

Pension Scheme Assets	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	Local Government	Teachers' Unfunded	Total	Local Government	Teachers' Unfunded	Total
	Pension Scheme	Pensions	£000	Pension Scheme	Pensions	£000
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April:	360,666	0	360,666	349,097	0	349,097
Employer Contributions	11,589	1,898	13,487	10,386	1,879	12,265
Member Contributions	2,838	0	2,838	2,710	0	2,710
Benefits Paid	(15,847)	(1,898)	(17,745)	(15,189)	(1,879)	(17,068)
Interest on Plan Assets	9,702	0	9,702	9,059	0	9,059
Remeasurement Gains/(Losses):						
Return on Plan Assets (excluding amounts included in Interest)	11,355	0	11,355	4,603	0	4,603
Balance at 31 March:	380,303	0	380,303	360,666	0	360,666
Reconciliation of the Movements in Present Value of Scheme Liabilities						
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April:	(595,508)	(36,970)	(632,478)	(586,131)	(38,735)	(624,866)
Current Service Cost	(18,109)	0	(18,109)	(17,811)	0	(17,811)
Past Service Cost and Curtailments	(270)	0	(270)	(287)	0	(287)
Administration Expenses	(222)	0	(222)	(211)	0	(211)
Interest Cost	(16,177)	(937)	(17,114)	(15,303)	(983)	(16,286)
Member Contributions	(2,838)	0	(2,838)	(2,710)	0	(2,710)
Benefits Paid	15,847	1,898	17,745	15,189	1,879	17,068
Experience Gains/(Losses)	(44)	(346)	(390)	235	421	656
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) arising from changes in financial assumptions	(51,486)	(1,447)	(52,933)	11,521	448	11,969
Balance at 31 March:	(668,807)	(37,802)	(706,609)	(595,508)	(36,970)	(632,478)

The Group's net liability arising from defined benefit scheme obligations can be analysed as follows:

Pension Assets & Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet	31 March 2019			31 March 2018		
	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total	Local Government Pension Scheme	Teachers' Unfunded Discretionary Pensions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair Value of Scheme Assets	380,303	0	380,303	360,666	0	360,666
Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	(668,807)	(37,802)	(706,609)	(595,508)	(36,970)	(632,478)
Net Liability:	(288,504)	(37,802)	(326,306)	(234,842)	(36,970)	(271,812)

Entries are included in the Group Balance Sheet for the Group's share of assets and liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Liabilities relating to Unfunded Teachers' Discretionary Pensions are also included. Disclosed liabilities show the underlying commitment that the Group has in the long term to pay retirement benefits.

The Group holds total usable reserves of £22.235m at 31 March 2019 (£22.248m at 31 March 2018). The effect of applying the net superannuation fund deficit of £326.306m to the Group's usable reserves would be a deficit of £304.071m (2017/2018: the superannuation deficit of £271.812m exceeded usable reserves by £249.564m).

However, this deficit is dependent on a number of factors such as investment performance and retirement benefits payable. The long-term under-funding of the Local Government Pension Scheme is being addressed over a number of years by staged increases to employer contributions. Consequently, the liability would not arise in total in one financial year. The overall financial standing of the Superannuation Fund is regularly reviewed by Actuaries on behalf of the administering Authority (Torfaen CBC).

G15. Reserves

Details of the Authority's Reserves can be found in note 38, pages 104-113.

The Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. Profit & Loss Reserve represents the balance of accumulated profit made on trading activities. The transactions and balances on this reserve in the Group Accounts have been adjusted to remove the profit element relating to the Parent. Movements on the Group Reserves were as follows:

Summary: Group Reserves	Net Transfers			Net Transfers		
	1 April 2017 £000	2017/2018 £000	31 March 2018 £000	Adjustments £000	2018/2019 £000	31 March 2019 £000
Council Fund	(5,439)	(680)	(6,119)	0	(88)	(6,207)
Silent Valley Profit & Loss Reserve	(2,565)	449	(2,116)	0	82	(2,034)
Parent's Usable Earmarked Reserves	(16,617)	2,604	(14,013)	(92)*	111	(13,994)
	(24,621)	2,373	(22,248)	(92)	105	(22,235)
Parent's Unusable Reserves	160,082	7,985	168,067	(15)*	57,203	225,255
Total: Reserves	135,461	10,358	145,819	(107)	57,308	203,020

*: Adjustments in the audited Cardiff Capital Region City Deal accounts for 2017/2018 resulted in an increase in the Blaenau Gwent share of earmarked reserves of £0.092m, and unusable reserves of £0.015m.

Group Cash Flow Notes

G16. Reconciliation of the Deficit on the Provision of Services to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

The following tables provide details of the adjustments made between the deficit on provision of services to arrive at a figure for operating activities cashflows.

G16.1 Non-Cash Movements

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Non-Cash Movements	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Depreciation & Impairment	11,400		16,475	
REFCUS (deferred charges)	1,678		1,386	
Effective interest adjustment	42		40	
Net IAS19 charges made for Retirement Benefits	25,964		25,486	
IAS19 Employers Contributions Paid to Pension Fund	(13,499)		(12,511)	
	25,585		30,876	
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	(2,353)		2,140	
(Increase) / Decrease in Inventories	258		138	
(Increase) / Decrease in Revenue Debtors	197		(367)	
Increase / (Decrease) in Revenue Creditors	19		661	
Total	23,706		33,448	

G16.2 Investing or Financing Activities included in the Deficit on Provision of Services

Cash Flow - Adjustments for Investing & Financing Activities	2018/2019		2017/2018	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of fixed assets	76		(185)	
Capital Grants credited to CIES	(6,920)		(4,070)	
Total	(6,844)		(4,255)	

G17. Analysis of the Amounts of Major Classes of Gross Cash Receipts and Gross Cash Payments

Investing Activities

The cash flows for investing activities consist of the following:

Cash Flow - Investing Activities	2018/2019			2017/2018		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash Outflows						
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(13,523)			(9,432)		
	(13,523)			(9,432)		
Cash Inflows						
Sale of Non-Current Assets	413			663		
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	6,150			5,937		
	6,563			6,600		
Total		(6,960)			(2,832)	

G18. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of group cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2018/2019	2017/2018
	£000	£000
Cash Held by the Authority	47	45
Bank Accounts	9,603	10,778
Short-term investments	6,000	2,000
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	15,650	12,823

Other Group Notes

G19. Deferred Taxation

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. has a legally enforceable right to do so. There were no deferred tax movements in the year. There has been no deferred tax asset recognised in respect of losses available for carrying forward which would be available to set against future trading profits, chargeable to corporation tax. There is an unrecognised deferred tax asset of £0.238m (2017/2018: £0.204m) in respect of losses for the year.



Blaenau Gwent
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