



Draft
Statement of
Accounts
2020/21



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Statement of Accounts 2020/21

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Narrative Report

1. Introduction

Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third largest Council in Wales with a population of 241,264 (2019 mid-year estimate), serving an area in the South Wales Valleys covering 424 square kilometres, stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north to the Capital City of Cardiff in the south.

The accounts for 2020/21 have been prepared in accordance with:

- Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

The accounts set out on pages 1 to 147 comply with the above.

2. Impact of Major Events

2.1 Covid-19

The Council's financial and operational performance position throughout 2020/21 reflects the context of operating within a very challenging and unprecedented environment as a result of the on-going impact of Covid-19. This has required the Council, like all local authorities in Wales, to continue to adapt and change the way it provides services, many in partnership with others, to help meet the needs of residents and businesses.

The pandemic has resulted in widespread challenges in the delivery of Council services with significant additional cost and income losses that have, throughout 2020/21, been funded by Welsh Government. Specific financial assistance has been provided to local authorities for additional expenditure incurred as a result of Covid-19 (for example, additional costs incurred in respect of housing / homelessness, free school meal payments, Adult Social Services, staff cover due to absence / shielding and increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and also income loss where there has been a need to temporarily suspend or reduce service provision (for example, leisure centres and the provision of school meals).

On 21st May 2020, Cabinet received a [report](#) detailing the actions the Council had taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic such as supporting vulnerable people, providing infection control support, developing a well-being helpline and counselling service, processing business grants, provision of free school meal support, emergency childcare and transforming the way the Council works with over 3,000 staff working from home. The report also identified the next steps, being:

- Contact Tracing;
- Recovery and Service Planning;
- Decision Making & Democratic Engagement;
- Counting the Cost (now and into the future); and
- Economic Resilience.

Cabinet was updated with the financial implications of Covid-19 for the Council on [25th June](#) where a number of emerging cost pressures were identified, such as:

- Supporting the sustainability of the social care sector;
- Council Tax Collection;
- Ongoing increases in Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants;
- Contractual extension of time claims (capital);
- Waste Management costs as a consequence of increased volume and changing composition of kerbside waste;
- Increasing numbers of Children Looked After;
- Ongoing and longer term PPE requirements;
- Provision of support (e.g. food parcels) to the vulnerable;
- Ongoing cost of cover where staff are “shielding” or have caring responsibilities;
- Enabling and supporting different ways of working, including ICT costs associated with homeworking; and
- External / Grant Funding risks.

The report of the Chief Executive to the Council’s Cabinet on [28th July 2020](#) gave an update on the Covid-19 position in Rhondda Cynon Taf, setting out service recovery plans and the way forward.

In particular, the report set out:

- How the Council has responded to Covid-19 – this included:
 - Staff continuing to provide social care services and support to vulnerable adults, children and families (including homelessness, domestic abuse and substance misuse services);
 - Establishment of multi-agency regional and local command responses to coordinating the critical safeguarding activities of our partner agencies;
 - The Environmental Health, Procurement and the Social Care Commissioning teams working together to provide infection control support and guidance along with Personal Protective Equipment to the care sector;
 - Deployment of staff to a variety of service areas to build resilience e.g. social care; meals on wheels; food distribution centre;
 - Development of a Well Being helpline and Counselling Service for staff;
 - Processing the Covid-19 Business Grant (NDR) Payments, funded by Welsh Government, to help businesses through the pandemic;
 - Making weekly payments to over 9,000 families entitled to free school meals;
 - Setting up emergency childcare provision in school settings for vulnerable children and children of key workers; and
 - Working with contractors to continue to safely deliver major construction projects such as Llys Cadwyn.
- Next Steps – this covered the next few months, as the UK and Welsh Governments sought to phase the release of the lockdown measures, with the Council having 5 key tasks:
 - Contact Tracing - the Council playing a key role in leading on Contact Tracing across Cwm Taf Morgannwg in partnership with the local health board, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil Councils and Public Health Wales;

- Recovery and Service Planning - the Council's Senior Leadership Team preparing recovery plans that consider how the Council can begin to reopen services when the Welsh Government begins to lift the restrictions;
- Decision Making and Democratic Engagement - including making arrangements for virtual committee meetings;
- Counting the Cost (now and into the future) - putting in place arrangements to capture the additional costs to the Council of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, together with loss of income that will be generated from a range of services; and
- Economic Resilience - recognising that more resilience is needed in terms of local supply chains and therefore more manufacturing in the UK. This will require the public sector in Wales to undertake a radical re-evaluation of our supply chains.

With regard to Procurement, at its meeting of [17th June 2021](#), Cabinet was updated with a summary of expenditure that was not on contract but was required in order to facilitate critical and timely support in respect of the Council's corporate responsibilities to both its residents and workforce, in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic risks.

During the financial year, regular Covid-19 updates have been reported to Members as part of full Council meetings. With specific regard to the financial impact of Covid-19, updates have been included within quarterly Performance Reports to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee that have set out actual and projected additional costs and income losses for the year and accompanying Welsh Government Covid-19 funding received. The following table provides details of funding received (including funding received via the Furlough Scheme):

Service Area	Actual Additional Costs / Income Loss Recovered (Quarters 1 - 4)
	£'m
Education & Inclusion Services	(14.720)
Community & Children's Services	(22.890)
Chief Executive	(1.922)
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	(6.156)
Authority Wide	(5.305)
TOTAL	(50.993)

Please note the above table excludes additional costs incurred / projected in respect of Test, Trace and Protect, the funding for which is being made available by Welsh Government. It also excludes spend incurred and funded on Welsh Government schemes for which we acted as an agent.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been a large number of new grants and financial support packages made available by Welsh Government.

Some of these grants are made directly to support local authorities with their additional costs or loss of income because of the pandemic. Others have been to enable local authorities to meet the additional costs related to the pandemic of their commissioned services.

There have also been a number of grants or areas of financial support that local authorities have been asked to administer on the Welsh Government's behalf.

In terms of accounting arrangements, risk based criteria was used to determine whether grants are to be accounted as income and expenditure through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Principal) or through the Balance Sheet (Agent). All administration fees are treated as Principal.

The table below details the main areas of financial support:

Grant Scheme	£m	Accounting treatment
Additional Expenditure and Loss of Income (Hardship Fund)	48.967	Principal
Furlough Scheme*	2.026	Principal
Social Care Bonus Scheme £500	2.807	Agent
Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement	0.167	Agent
Care Home Testing	0.100	Principal
Self Isolation Payments	0.510	Agent
NDR Rate Relief (Retail, Leisure & Hospitality)	15.920	Agent
Business Grants to Support Business During Closure	73.289	Agent
Start Up Grants	0.133	Agent

*Furlough (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) (HMRC)

2.2 The Council's Response to Extreme Weather

A Strategic Flood Risk Management Board for Rhondda Cynon Taf has been established. The Board is chaired by Cllr Andrew Morgan, Leader of the Council and comprises senior representation from the Council, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dŵr Cymru. The Board's work-plan will include the management of investment opportunities and funding applications and the development of a comprehensive integrated emergency response. The first formal meeting of the Board took place on 9th February 2021.

The recommendations of the Cabinet report of [18th December 2020](#), "Review of the Council's response to Storm Dennis" will be monitored by the Council's Cabinet and scrutinised by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The financial implications of the Council responding to extreme weather events are significant. The Council triggered an application to Welsh Government's Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme (EFAS) on 25th February 2020 to provide financial support to part-contribute to the immediate recovery costs at that time. The Council has also experienced extreme weather events during 2020/21 and has claimed from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund. The total costs incurred and claimed are shown in the table below:

Extreme Weather Events	£		
	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Total Cost to Council	2,782,950	8,429,619	11,212,569
Less Welsh Government Support	(717,695)	(8,429,619)	(9,147,314)
Net Cost to Council	2,065,255	0	2,065,255
General Fund Allocation	(1,500,000)	0	(1,500,000)
Balance funded in outturns	565,255	0	565,255

It is estimated that the recovery costs linked to extreme weather events (including Storm Dennis and Storm Christoph), taking into account the need to replace highways infrastructure and drainage systems, will be in excess of £56m. To date we have had confirmation of funding from Welsh Government of £10.9m.

3. Impact of Economic Climate

On the 25th February 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James AM) announced the 2020/21 Local Government Settlement. This included an overall increase in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non-Domestic Rates funding of 4.3%, with an increase for Rhondda Cynon Taf of 4.5%. Council officers and Members continue to take their fiduciary duty extremely seriously and this has been demonstrated by the setting of prudent, equitable and fair budgets. The financial results and position demonstrated in this Statement of Accounts reflect sound financial stewardship.

Given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under, it remains the view of the Director of Finance and Digital Services (Section 151 Officer) that the Council should hold a minimum of £10m as General Fund Balances, (i.e. its working balance). This level is set given the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward. During financial year 2019/20, the reserves were used to support our residents and businesses in the immediate aftermath of Storm Dennis. The Director of Finance and Digital Services is satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Reserves to the minimum level over the period of our Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24

As reported to Council on 21st October 2020, the Council has set out assumptions within its [Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24](#). The Medium Term Financial Plan is the cornerstone of good governance and is an enabler of service delivery and service improvement within the constraints of available resources. The Public Sector has faced a prolonged period of real term reductions in funding levels for a number of years and unprecedented challenges lie ahead for services across local government, not least as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This position is also coupled with increasing demand and costs associated with many services, in particular Social Care Services.

Locally, this Council has demonstrated its ability and willingness to invest in services over a long term period, linked to our priorities as set out in the Council's '[Corporate Plan – 2016 – 2020](#)' and more recently as part of the new Corporate Plan "[Making a Difference - 2020 – 2024](#)", in order to meet the changing needs of

our residents and communities. The significant 'additional' investment already agreed by Members during recent years is providing real improvements across many areas including Schools, Town Centres, Roads and Parks and Play Areas.

Whilst investment through the use of one-off funds has been very positive, the Council recognises that it must still address base budget shortfalls and make difficult decisions to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term.

The Council continues to focus on the budget gap position over the medium term and has successfully implemented a strategy of early identification and delivery of base budget reducing measures in-year. This has enabled the Council to deliver financial savings early and to replenish the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve which has been used proactively as part of the budget strategy for a number of years.

5. The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 "Making a Difference"

For 2020/21 the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 was the key strategic plan, focusing on 3 priorities:

- Ensuring People are independent, healthy and successful;
- Creating Places where people are proud to live, work and play;
- Enabling Prosperity, creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper.

A set of key commitments sits underneath each core priority:

- People:
 - Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life
 - Encouraging all residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing
 - Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs
 - Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do
- Places:
 - Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint
 - Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality
 - Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe
 - Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces

- Prosperity:
 - Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise
 - Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough
 - Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education
 - Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents
 - Helping people into work and better paid employment

The delivery of the above priorities is underpinned within the Corporate Plan through an approach that, amongst other things, focusses on 'Living within our means' and being an 'Efficient and effective Council'.

During 2020/21, the Council's Cabinet received progress updates on the delivery of the three Corporate Plan priorities, these being reported as part of the Council's quarterly performance reporting arrangements and Cabinet confirmed that they were satisfied with the progress made. Following this, the Performance Reports were reported to the Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for review and challenge for quarters 1, 2 and 3. The Council's Quarter 4 Performance Report (year-end) is scheduled to be reported to both Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on the 20th July 2021.

The Council also publishes a Corporate Performance Report each year setting out an assessment of performance across its Corporate Plan priorities for the previous year and priority plans for the year ahead. The 2020/21 [report](#) was approved by Council on 21st October 2020. The publication of the Corporate Performance Report ensures the Council complies with its statutory responsibilities to assess its performance and set out plans for the year ahead in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

To guide the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities, in September 2017, Cabinet agreed that the Council will focus on five workstreams to improve the essential services provided:

- Digitalisation - in line with the Council's Digital Plan approved by Cabinet on 22nd June 2017:
 - Working with residents to improve their digital skills and access to technology to empower more people to interact digitally with the Council; and
 - Enabling more of the Council's workforce to be agile to help further boost productivity and reduce the need for office space.

- Commercialisation - creating the conditions within the Council in terms of capacity and capability to widen opportunities to trade with external organisations.
- Early Intervention and Prevention - investing in preventative services to support the delivery of savings in the medium term.
- Independence - modernising and reshaping services to ensure independence is promoted for vulnerable residents; this includes building extra care facilities and linking into community hub provision.
- Efficient and Effective Organisation - challenging on-going service delivery and driving out further efficiencies through bringing together similar back-office functions, reducing administration costs and also the size of the property portfolio.

In addition to these modernisation changes, the Council has committed to a strategic capital investment programme, a number of which will link in with and complement the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:

- Regeneration Projects;
- Improving school buildings and facilities;
- Improving adult social care provision through a long term programme of creating new Extra Care facilities;
- Improving the condition of both roads and community assets such as parks and playgrounds; and
- A programme of flood alleviation works.

The Council is also a key partner in the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Its purpose is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in this area by strengthening joint working and published its first well-being plan in May 2018.

The Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives are:

- Thriving Communities;
- Healthy People;
- Strong Economy; and
- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation.

The objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan will help the Council and Cwm Taf Public Services Board to contribute to the seven national Well-being goals, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act:

- A globally responsible Wales;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities; and
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

6. Explanation of Core Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts that follow this Narrative Report contains the following Core Financial Statements:

- **Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)** – analyses the movement in usable and unusable reserves.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)** – reflects income and expenditure in accordance with IFRS and is analysed into service areas which reflect the way in which services operate and performance is managed.
- **Balance Sheet** – reflects all assets, liabilities and reserves of the Council as at the end of the financial year.
- **Cash Flow Statement** – analyses the movement in cash and cash equivalents for the year.

The Annual Governance Statement is included within the Statement of Accounts. This statement details the Council's governance arrangements and reviews its effectiveness.

In the financial statements for 2020/21, two joint committees are consolidated:

- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES); and
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD).

7. Revenue Income and Expenditure 2020/21

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement provides an analysis of the Council's gross revenue expenditure and income in accordance with IFRS.

The broad objectives of [The Council's 2020/2021 Revenue Budget Strategy](#) were to:

- Support the delivery of our key strategic priorities (as set out in the new Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020-2024):
 - People – Are independent, healthy and successful
 - Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play
 - Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper;
- Retain the support of the Wales Audit Office for the approach the Council has adopted to securing strong financial management;
- Continue with the delivery of our key services and protect as many local jobs as possible; and
- Take a responsible approach to the level of Council Tax.

The Council's services are managed and delivered by four groups:

- **Chief Executive** - Providing the authority wide functions of Human Resources; Democratic Services & Communications; Legal Services; the frontline services of Customer Care, Housing Benefit & Council Tax administration; and key

support services of Finance, ICT & Digital Services, Corporate Estates Management and Procurement.

- **Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services** - Providing the frontline services of Highways; Transportation; Strategic Projects; Streetcare (including Waste and Street Cleansing) and Parks Services; together with Regeneration, Housing, Planning Services and Marketing, Events, Tourism & Design.
- **Education & Inclusion Services** - Providing support services to schools; Access and Inclusion; School Admissions and Governance; Attendance and Wellbeing; 21st Century Schools; Asset and Data Management; Catering Services; and school improvement support in partnership with the Central South Consortium.
- **Community & Children's Services** - Providing Adult Services (Community Care Services and Health & Social Care Services); Children's Services; Community Housing Services; Public Health & Protection; Leisure, Countryside & Cultural Services (including Theatres); Visitor Attractions & Heritage; Community Learning Services; Libraries; Welsh Language Services; Youth Engagement & Participation and Employment Programmes.

The following table details each of the service groups' actual net expenditure and budget during 2020/21. Further details were published on the Council's website within the year-end Performance Report for 2020/21.

This represents the net revenue expenditure of the Council in line with the statutory provisions that need to be taken into account when setting local taxes.

The variance against budget contributes to the movement on the Council Fund Balance:

Service Group	Budget	Spend	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	30,644	30,236	(408)
Community & Children's Services	159,852	160,351	499
Education & Inclusion Services	191,845	191,767	(78)
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	55,167	55,510	343
Total	437,508	437,864	356
Authority Wide Budgets	71,239	71,087	(152)
Total	508,747	508,951	204

	£'000
Council Fund Reserves as at 31st March 2020	8,709
Revenue Budget Out-turn (Variance as above)	(204)
Council Fund Reserves as at 31st March 2021	8,505

Expenditure on services amounted to £795m and this can be analysed over the following expenditure categories:

Type of Expenditure	£'m	%
Employees	352	44
Premises	31	4
Transport	18	2
Supplies and Services	101	13
Payments to Third Parties	118	15
Transfer Payments	93	11
Capital Charges	78	10
Other Operating Costs (e.g. Support Services)	4	1
Total Gross Expenditure	795	100

Income during the year totalled £892m and came from the following sources:

Income Analysis	£'m	%
<u>Direct Service Income</u>		
Specific Grants	233	26
Sales, Fees & Charges	24	3
Other Income	32	4
Sub-Total Direct Service Income	289	33
<u>Other Income</u>		
Council Tax	141	16
Non-Domestic Rates	75	8
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	321	36
Capital Grants and Contributions	65	7
Other	1	0
Total Income	892	100

8. Capital Expenditure and Income 2020/21

During the year the Council incurred £102.3m of capital expenditure, as summarised below:

Group	£'000
Chief Executive	2,495
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	73,610
Community & Children's Services	5,223
Education & Inclusion Services	20,992
Total	102,320

The type of capital expenditure incurred during the year is summarised below:

Capital Expenditure	£'000
Tangible Long-Term Assets	90,255
Intangible Long-Term Assets	1,330
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	10,735
Total	102,320

This expenditure was financed as follows:

Capital Financing	£'000
Revenue Funding	14,209
Capital Receipts	515
Borrowing	24,922
Grants	57,767
Third Party Contributions	4,907
Total	102,320

Significant expenditure was incurred on:

- Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale) Development;
- Highways improvements;
- Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link;
- Fleet purchases;
- Tonyrefail School; and
- Hirwaun Primary School.

9. **Summary of Future Capital and Revenue Plans**

The priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 "Making a Difference" need to be underpinned by robust financial management. Forward looking financial and service planning arrangements are critical in ensuring the Council's priorities are affordable and lead the work to become more efficient, transform services and deliver investment priorities.

Capital and revenue budgets are approved annually by full Council. The Capital Programme is approved for a rolling 3-year period and updated annually. Revenue budgets are set annually in line with the Welsh Government settlement announcements.

A summary of the [Capital Programme 2021-2024](#) agreed by Council in March 2021 is as follows:

Group Expenditure	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	1,900	1,625	1,625	5,150
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	48,342	10,356	9,393	68,091
Education & Inclusion Services	24,735	4,217	4,015	32,967
Community & Children's Services	6,336	2,490	990	9,816
Total	81,313	18,688	16,023	116,024

Estimated resources required to fund the future Capital Programme are:

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Supported Borrowing	6,873	6,873	6,873	20,619
Unsupported Borrowing	12,409	37	0	12,446
Capital Grants	19,587	4,254	4,112	27,953
Third Party Contributions	1,141	44	0	1,185
General Fund Capital Resources	13,919	3,976	3,115	21,010
Revenue Contributions	27,384	3,504	1,923	32,811
Total	81,313	18,688	16,023	116,024

As at 31st March 2021, major capital commitments over the next three years (per the Capital Programme 2021-2024) include the following schemes:

Scheme	£'000
School Modernisation	5,184
Vehicles	5,227
Structures	5,590
Valleys Taskforce RCT and Empty Homes	6,000
Modernisation Programme (Adults)	6,083
Highways Improvements	9,004
Transportation Infrastructure	11,986
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	12,200

A summary of the Council's [revenue budget for 2021/22](#) (agreed in March 2021) is outlined below:

Service Area	£'000
Authority Wide	72,575
Individual Schools Budget	163,784
Community & Children's Services	171,372
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	60,955
Chief Executive	26,809
Education & Inclusion Services	32,408
Total	527,903

10. **Borrowing Arrangements and Sources of Funds**

Each year, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code, the Council is required to set limits in relation to borrowing and to set various other prudential and treasury indicators.

The limits set at the start of the financial year were as follows:

The Authorised borrowing limit approved at the start of the year was £538.1m. The Council approved an amendment to this limit (to £532.0m) on 25th November 2020 as a result of changes to lease accounting.

The Council's borrowing totals £335.9m, of which £303.7m is long-term and £32.2m is short-term. This external borrowing is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) £231.9m, £104.0m from market loans and other sources.

The Council is required to prepare a Treasury Management Strategy and a Capital Strategy for the forthcoming year, and these were approved by full Council on 18th March 2020 for the 2020/21 financial year. The Council's Treasury Management Practices allow the Council to raise funds from a variety of sources, including the PWLB and the money market. The Section 151 Officer is authorised to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from approved sources within the overall borrowing limits set by Council.

11. Pensions Assets and Liabilities

As a result of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 "Employee Benefits", local authorities are required to account for pensions liabilities in respect of the cost of decisions made up to the Balance Sheet date. Please refer to notes 14.4 and 32.0 to the Core Financial Statements for further details. The effect of IAS 19 upon the reserves of the Council is as follows:

	£'000
Net Assets excluding Pensions Reserve	934,173
Net Assets as per Balance Sheet	225,475

12. Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)

On 15th March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund. This investment comprises £734m on a Metro scheme and £495m for investment in infrastructure, housing, skills and training, innovation, business growth and "Metro plus" transport proposals. On 25th February 2021, Rhondda Cynon Taf Cabinet received a report [The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Five Years On](#). This report provides an update on the progress made by the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet in respect of the agreed commitments set out in the CCRCD. Some of the major investments in the last five years are:

- Compound Semi Conductor Foundry;
- Metro Plus Schemes, for example Porth Interchange;
- Metro Central, redevelopment of Cardiff Central Station; and
- Housing Investment Fund.

For 2020/21 the Joint Committee accounts of CCRCD (which includes the subsidiary company CSC Foundry Ltd) have been consolidated into the Council's accounts based upon the population figures as specified in the Joint Working Agreement approved by Council on 25th January 2017.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure one of its Officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that Officer is the Director of Finance & Digital Services.
- To manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- Approve the Statement of Accounts.

I confirm that these accounts were approved by Council.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Presiding Officer

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale
Tonypany
CF40 2XX

The Director of Finance & Digital Services' Responsibilities

The Director is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Director has:


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

The Director has also throughout the financial year:

- Maintained proper accounting records that were kept up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Certificate of the Director of Finance & Digital Services on the Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for 2020/21

I certify that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as at 31st March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year.

Signature:  Date: 02/07/21

Barrie Davies

Director of Finance & Digital Services

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

The Pavilions

Cambrian Park

Clydach Vale

Tonypandy

CF40 2XX

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into “usable reserves” (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and “unusable reserves”. The Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line shows the economic cost of providing the Council’s services on an International Financial Reporting Standards basis, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the Council Fund Balance for Council Tax setting. 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 Council.

Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Notes:	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5			14.0	
Balance at 1st April 2019	10,498	63,707	41,867	3,007	3,343	16,966	391	139,779	56,267	196,046
Movement in reserves during 2019/20:										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(24,333)	0	255	0	0	0	0	(24,078)	27,764	3,686
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:										
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:										
Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&ES:										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	11,343	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,343	(11,343)	0
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	59,139	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,139	(59,139)	0
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,593	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,593	(1,593)	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	20,297	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,297	(20,297)	0
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	22	0	0	0	2,131	0	0	2,153	(2,153)	(0)
Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&ES:										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(12,191)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(12,191)	12,191	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(17,839)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(17,839)	17,839	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(71,194)	0	0	0	0	71,194	0	0	0	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(63,226)	0	(63,226)	63,226	0
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(3,724)	0	0	(3,724)	3,724	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(86)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(86)	86	0
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	72,590	0	307	0	0	0	0	72,897	(72,897)	0
<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>										

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(40,610)	0	(80)	0	0	0	0	(40,690)	40,690	0
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:										
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis	1,189	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,190	(1,190)	0
Other adjustments include:										
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(80)	0	483	0	(1,593)	7,968	0	6,778	(3,092)	3,686
Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves	(1,709)	5,909	(3,322)	(623)	0	0	(255)	0	0	0
Increase or (decrease) in the year	(1,789)	5,909	(2,839)	(623)	(1,593)	7,968	(255)	6,778	(3,092)	3,686
Balance at 31st March 2020	8,709	69,616	39,028	2,384	1,750	24,934	136	146,557	53,175	199,732

Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021

	Council Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves: Capital, Treasury & Insurance	Earmarked Reserves: Other Revenue Related	Delegated Schools Reserve	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Account	MGCC Insurance Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Notes:	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.5			14.0	
Balance at 1st April 2020	8,709	69,616	39,028	2,384	1,750	24,934	136	146,557	53,175	199,732
Movement in reserves during 2020/21:										
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	34,811	0	(118)	0	0	0	0	34,693	(8,950)	25,743
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding under regulations:										
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:										
Reversal of items debited/credited to CI&ES:										
Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets	28,566	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,566	(28,566)	0
Revaluation losses on property, plant & equipment	36,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	36,900	(36,900)	0
Movement in the fair value of Investment Properties	215	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	(215)	0
Capital Grants and Contributions applied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,675	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,675	(1,675)	0
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	10,735	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,735	(10,735)	0

Continued Overleaf...

Amounts of long-term assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	(358)	0	0	0	358	0	0	0	0	0
Insertion of items not debited/ credited to CI&ES:										
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(13,561)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13,561)	13,561	0
Capital expenditure charged against the Council Fund Balances	(14,209)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(14,209)	14,209	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:										
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to CI&ES	(70,103)	0	(706)	0	0	70,103	0	(706)	706	0
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account	0	0	0	0	0	(62,674)	0	(62,674)	62,674	0
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:										
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the CI&ES	0	0	0	0	1,512	0	0	1,512	(1,512)	0
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	(515)	0	0	(515)	515	0
Transfer from Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	0	0	0	0	849	0	0	849	(849)	0
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:										
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CI&ES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(88)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(88)	88	0
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:										
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	72,460	0	295	0	0	0	0	72,755	(72,755)	0
Continued Overleaf...										

Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(35,120)	0	(52)	0	0	0	0	(35,172)	35,172	0
Adjustment involving the Accumulated Absences Account:										
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis	123	0	7	0	0	0	0	130	(130)	0
Other adjustments include:										
Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation of long-term asset revaluation gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	52,046	0	(574)	0	2,204	7,429	0	61,105	(35,362)	25,743
Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves	(52,250)	7,213	35,337	9,651	0	0	49	0	0	0
Increase or (decrease) in the year	(204)	7,213	34,763	9,651	2,204	7,429	49	61,105	(35,362)	25,743
Balance at 31st March 2021	8,505	76,829	73,791	12,035	3,954	32,363	185	207,662	17,813	225,475

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CI&ES)

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. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations, this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021

2019/20					2020/21		
Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp		Note:	Gross Exp	Gross Income	Net Exp
£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000	£'000	£'000
128,546	(27,405)	101,141	Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services		109,676	(24,785)	84,891
34,885	(9,588)	25,297	Chief Executive		65,526	(10,109)	55,417
267,717	(55,736)	211,981	Education & Inclusion Services		257,439	(56,989)	200,450
247,613	(83,057)	164,556	Community & Children's Services		262,473	(81,609)	180,864
100,185	(72,546)	27,639	Authority Wide Budgets		98,130	(113,705)	(15,575)
1,711	(1,945)	(234)	Joint Committees		1,308	(1,758)	(450)
780,657	(250,277)	530,380	Cost of Services		794,552	(288,955)	505,597
			Other Operating Expenditure				
21,852	0	21,852	Precepts	28.3	23,230	0	23,230
11,949	0	11,949	Levies	28.3	12,406	0	12,406
22	0	22	(Gains) or Losses on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		0	(358)	(358)
			Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
11,505	0	11,505	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	7.2	11,397	0	11,397
13,657	0	13,657	Net Interest on Net Defined Liability	32.2	14,579	0	14,579
0	(652)	(652)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income	7.2	0	(597)	(597)
		0	Income, Expenditure and Changes in the Fair Value of Investment Properties		1,310	(324)	986
			Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income				
0	(135,930)	(135,930)	Council Tax Income	26.0	0	(140,915)	(140,915)
0	(76,383)	(76,383)	NDR Distribution	25.0	0	(74,592)	(74,592)
0	(293,404)	(293,404)	Non-Ringfenced Government Grants		0	(321,312)	(321,312)
0	(58,951)	(58,951)	Capital Grants and Contributions		0	(64,987)	(64,987)
86	0	86	Corporation Tax - Joint Committees		0	(127)	(127)
839,728	(815,597)	24,131	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		857,474	(892,167)	(34,693)
13,344	(57,950)	(44,606)	(Surplus) or Deficit on Revaluation of Property, Plant & Equipment Assets		14,468	(18,999)	(4,531)
16,789	0	16,789	Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability		13,481	0	13,481
30,133	(57,950)	(27,817)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		27,949	(18,999)	8,950
869,861	(873,547)	(3,686)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		885,423	(911,166)	(25,743)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council at the financial year end. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example, the Revaluation Reserve) and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement section 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

31/03/20				31/03/21	
£'000			Note:	£'000	£'000
	Long-Term Assets	Property, Plant & Equipment:	6.0		
697,963		Other Land & Buildings		709,205	
451,333		Infrastructure		497,215	
8,262		Vehicles, Plant & Equipment		11,987	
4,850		Community Assets		5,074	
40,526		Assets Under Construction		1,983	
145		Heritage Assets		145	
3,805		Investment Properties		8,164	
3,548		Long-Term Intangible Assets		3,204	
4,250		Long-Term Investments	7.1	6,615	
3,017		Investment in Subsidiaries		3,035	
4,939		Long-Term Debtors		4,919	
1,222,638		TOTAL LONG-TERM ASSETS			1,251,546
	Current Assets	Short-Term Investments	7.1	23,479	
35,405		Assets Held for Sale		705	
623		Inventories		2,681	
717		Short-Term Debtors	8.0	123,020	
83,479		Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	14,533	
10,181		TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS			164,418
130,405					
	Current Liabilities	Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.0	(20,932)	
(14,905)		Short-Term Borrowing	7.1	(32,176)	
(60,776)		Short-Term Donated Assets Account		(1,515)	
0		Short-Term Provisions	11.0	(1,636)	
(1,749)		Short-Term Creditors	10.0	(111,146)	
(93,593)		TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES			(167,405)
(171,023)					
	Long-Term Liabilities	Long-Term Creditors		(6,770)	
(7,019)		Long-Term Provisions	11.0	(3,580)	
(2,649)		Long-Term Borrowing	7.1	(303,324)	
(314,278)		Other Long-Term Liabilities	12.0	(709,287)	
(658,219)		Long-Term Donated Assets Account		(123)	
(123)		TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES			(1,023,084)
(982,288)					
199,732	NET ASSETS				225,475

Continued Overleaf...

8,709	Usable Reserves	Council Fund Balance	13.1	8,505	
		Earmarked Reserves:	13.2		
69,616		Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	76,829	
39,028		Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	73,791	
2,384		Delegated Schools Reserve	13.3	12,035	
1,750		Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.4	3,954	
24,934		Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.5	32,363	
136		MGCC Insurance Reserve		185	
146,557			TOTAL USABLE RESERVES		
209,318	Unusable Reserves	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	207,440	
1,272		Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		423	
511,372		Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	529,843	
(5,487)		Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,399)	
(657,634)		Pensions Reserve	14.4	(708,698)	
(5,666)		Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(5,796)	
53,175		TOTAL UNUSABLE RESERVES			17,813
199,732		TOTAL RESERVES			225,475

Cash Flow Statement

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

Cash Flow Statement 2020/21

2019/20			2020/21	
£'000		Note:	£'000	£'000
24,131	Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(34,693)	
(115,595)	Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	15.0	(96,422)	
61,082	Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities	16.0	67,703	
(30,382)	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities			(63,412)
73,629	Investing Activities	18.0	25,667	
(41,697)	Financing Activities	19.0	39,420	65,087
1,550	Net Increase or Decrease in Cash or Cash Equivalents			1,675
3,174	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	9.0		4,724
4,724	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	9.0		6,399

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis brings together the Council's performance reported on the basis of expenditure measured under proper accounting practices with statutorily defined charges to the Council Fund.

Proper accounting practices measure the resources that have been generated and consumed in the year including such things as the use of property (depreciation) and the value of pension benefits earned by the employees. Statutory provisions determine how much of the Council's expenditure needs to be met from council tax each year.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis;

- shows for each of the Council's services a comparison of the net resources applied and the net charge against council tax, and
- provides an opportunity to explain significant differences between the two.

This analysis promotes accountability and stewardship by providing a direct link with the annual decision making process of the Council and its budget i.e. the Council Fund. It follows the performance framework of the Council.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020

	2019/20		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	56,936	44,205	101,141
Chief Executive	25,614	(317)	25,297
Education & Inclusion Services	179,135	32,846	211,981
Community & Children's Services	153,543	11,013	164,556
Authority Wide Budgets	68,530	(40,891)	27,639
Joint Committees	0	(234)	(234)
Cost of Services	483,758	46,622	530,380
Other Income and Expenditure	(481,969)	(24,280)	(506,249)
(Surplus) or Deficit	1,789	22,342	24,131
Opening Council Fund at 31 st March 2019	(10,498)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	1,789		
Closing Council Fund at 31st March 2020	(8,709)		

Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021

	2020/21		
	Income and Expenditure Chargeable to the Council Fund	Adjustments Between Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure for the Equivalent Amounts for CI&ES
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	55,510	29,381	84,891
Chief Executive	30,236	25,181	55,417
Education & Inclusion Services	191,767	8,683	200,450
Community & Children's Services	160,351	20,513	180,864
Authority Wide Budgets	71,087	(86,662)	(15,575)
Joint Committees	0	(450)	(450)
Cost of Services	508,951	(3,354)	505,597
Other Income and Expenditure	(508,747)	(31,543)	(540,290)
(Surplus) or Deficit	204	(34,897)	(34,693)
Opening Council Fund at 31 st March 2020	(8,709)		
Less (Surplus) Deficit on Council Fund in Year	204		
Closing Council Fund at 31st March 2021	(8,505)		

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1.0 Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

The accounts of the Council have been prepared on an accrual of income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This ensures activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place not when cash payments are made or received.

Revenue from the sale of goods or services is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of goods, or provides the services to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where the Balance Sheet date falls between supplies receipt and consumption, where significant, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows determined by the contract. Statutory adjustments relating to interest are reflected in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Capital transactions are also recorded on an accrual basis, as prescribed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

1.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are sums of money available for immediate use by the Council. Such items are deemed to be cash balances held in the Council's bank accounts (less unpresented cheques), any overdrawn bank balance and petty cash balances.

Short-term investments are not deemed to be cash and cash equivalents as these are not readily available without incurring penalties.

1.3 Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible item of expenditure that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the organisation's control.

Such contingent liabilities are not reflected in Provisions in the Balance Sheet as it may not be probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Material contingent liabilities are disclosed in Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

1.4 **Employee Benefits**

All costs relating to employee benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Termination Benefits

These are amounts payable by the Council as a result of a decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. Such costs are charged on an accruals basis to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

When terminations involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the Council Fund to be charged with the amount payable by the Council. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional entries for pension enhancements and replace them with amounts paid and payable.

Pensions

The Council participates in two separate pension schemes that meet the needs of employees in particular services:

Teachers - This is an unfunded scheme administered by Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department of Education. Contribution rates are set on the basis of a notional fund. Whilst this is a Defined Benefit Scheme, Teachers' Pensions is unable to identify the Council's share of the underlying assets and liabilities and accordingly, the Council has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a Defined Contribution Scheme.

Other employees - Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC administer a fund on behalf of employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, under which contribution rates are set by the Fund's actuary based on triennial actuarial valuations. Under the regulations, contribution rates are set in order to lead to full funding of the overall liability of the Fund over time. The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a Defined Benefit Scheme.

- The liabilities of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.1% in 2020/21 (2.3% in 2019/20).
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

Quoted Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Unitised Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Property	–	Market Value

- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed as follows:
 - Current Service Cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked plus administration expenses.
 - Past Service Cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years debited to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Interest Cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Expected Return On Assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their financial, demographic or experience assumptions – debited or credited to the Pensions Reserve.
 - Contributions Paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the Council Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with 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.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council is able to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any such liabilities arising are accrued in the year of decision to make the award.

Accumulated Absence

The Council accrues for staff holidays earned but not taken at each year-end. The Welsh Government has issued regulations to mitigate the impact of this charge upon Councils. This Council has taken advantage of the regulations and charged the additional costs to the Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account in Unusable Reserves.

1.5 Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the reporting period are those both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Two types of events can be identified;

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events that shall be recognised in the financial statements);
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events that are not reflected in accounting statements but, where material, disclosure is made in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

1.6 Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments consist of Financial Liabilities and Financial Assets.

Financial Liabilities

Financial Liabilities are carried at amortised cost. Annual charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where a loan has a single rate of interest over its term, it results in the amount presented in the Balance Sheet being the outstanding principal repayable, and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable in the loan agreement. Where loans have a rate that is lower in the initial years, the effective interest rate charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement “smooths” the interest rate differential. The difference between the effective interest rate charge and actual interest paid is adjusted in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

For most borrowings, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable and the interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains (discounts) and losses (premiums) on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited/debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase/early settlement is deemed to be a modification of existing instruments, the discounts/premiums are incorporated into the value of the instrument and written down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the loan via an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums or discounts have been applied to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the Council Fund Balance to be spread over future years equal to the life of the replaced or replacement loan.

Financial Assets

Financial Assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through profit or loss; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cashflows. Financial assets are therefore classified at amortised cost.

Loans and Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost. Interest Receivable and Similar Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective interest rate for the instrument. This means that the value in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal plus any accrued income, and the income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is based upon the rate quoted in the loan agreement.

Interest that is due but unpaid at year-end is categorised in the Balance Sheet as a current asset or liability. This is the case even if the financial asset or liability it relates to is a long-term instrument.

There needs to be a calculation for an "expected credit loss" on financial assets held at amortised costs, either on a 12 month or lifetime basis. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cashflows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Where risk has significantly increased since an asset was originally recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12 month expected losses.

1.7 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are those Long-Term Assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable by the access to future economic benefits that are controlled by the Council through custody or legal rights.

Software and Licences are capitalised at cost and are amortised over their economic lives, which are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and revised if necessary.

An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Any losses 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 reflected in the Other Operating Expenditure section 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 effect upon Council Fund Balances and are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.8 Leases

Whether a lease is finance or operating depends upon the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form.

Leases are reviewed at inception and classed as finance or operating by reviewing arrangements such as:

- Transfer of ownership at the end of lease contract.
- Option to purchase asset at a price lower than fair value.
- Lease term is for a major part of the economic life of the asset.
- Present value of minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of leased asset.
- Leased assets are of a specialised nature and only the lessee can use them without major modifications.

Leases of land and buildings are considered separately for the purpose of lease classification.

Finance Leases

A finance lease is one which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the lessee.

Where the Council is lessee, an asset and liability is recognised at lease inception. The asset is subsequently depreciated and revalued as though it were the legal property of the Council. The liability reduces as lease payments are made.

Where the Council is lessor, the lease payment receivable is recognised as a repayment of principal with the interest element of the payment being recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. No asset is recognised.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is deemed to be any lease other than a Finance Lease.

Where the Council is lessee, lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received.

Where the Council is lessor, the income should be recognised on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received. Other Land & Buildings leased out under an operating lease will be subject to depreciation in the same manner as other assets within the same category.

1.9 **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. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most tangible assets with a finite useful life, excluding non-depreciable land. Asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

1.9.1 **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 Council, and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The Council operates a £10k de-minimis policy for recognising such expenditure as capital. Expenditure on assets not owned by the Council, but where continuing benefit is received, is also capitalised on an accruals basis. Although capitalised, this expenditure is amortised in the year it is incurred.

The Council operates a de-minimis policy for recording assets in the asset register. De-minimis levels are in place as follows:

Asset Type	£'000
Land & Buildings	20
Vehicles	10
Plant & Equipment	10
Infrastructure	20
Community Assets	Nil

1.9.2 **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.
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs.

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 Council). 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 Council.

Tangible Long-Term assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA and in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Property, Plant and Equipment

assets are generally valued on the basis of existing use value (EUV) which is deemed to be "current value". Specialist items (e.g. schools) are valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis (DRC). This method of valuation calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life. This cost calculation is known as Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV). Investment properties are valued on a fair value basis. Infrastructure assets are included at historic cost, and adjusted to reflect depreciation. Adopted roads, built by private developers, are deemed to have zero historical cost to the Council and therefore are not recognised in the Statement of Accounts.

Where assets are not in use but do not meet the criteria for Assets Held for Sale, then they are classed as Surplus Assets within the Property, Plant and Equipment and Other Land and Building categories. Surplus Assets are valued at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received between willing market participants. The highest and best use of the asset needs to be considered. Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of these assets are categorised as the following hierarchy levels:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Council can access at the measurement date.

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability. For example, market conditions; recent sale prices.

Level 3 – unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

Fair value measurement differentiates between measurements that are recurring i.e. at the end of each period, for example surplus assets and those that are non-recurring measured on particular circumstances, for example assets held for sale.

In the accounts there are approximately 176 Surplus Assets with a recurring fair value of £4.5m. Most of the assets are valued at level 2 inputs, with the exception of one asset which has been valued at £800k using level 3 inputs. For this asset an adjustment has been made to the level 2 inputs to take into account the condition of the asset.

Community assets are valued on an historic cost basis. These have no determinable useful life and are assets that the Council intend to hold in perpetuity. Examples of community assets are parks and memorials.

Assets under Construction are valued at historic cost until they become operational. When they are brought into use they are revalued on the relevant basis.

Heritage Assets are recognised as such if they are material non-operational assets that are held purely for cultural or knowledge gaining purposes. These assets are recognised at cost or market value, are reviewed for impairment but not depreciated.

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. 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, they are accounted for as follows:

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

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

1.9.3 Impairment

Assets are assessed throughout the year 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 as follows:

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

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

1.9.4 Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis on most property, plant and equipment. All asset lives have been identified on an individual basis.

Exceptions are made for:

- Heritage Assets.
- Assets without a determinable finite useful life such as freehold land.
- Assets that are not yet available for use i.e. assets under construction and assets held for sale.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment 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.

Depreciation is calculated in the year of acquisition and not in the year of disposal.

1.9.5 Disposals and 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. These assets are measured at the lower of the value they had when it was agreed they would be sold and fair value less costs to sell.

The valuation in the balance sheet can be split as follows:

	£'000
Fair value	705
Carrying value	0
Total value in Balance Sheet	705

The non-recurring fair value is measured using level 2 in the input hierarchy (refer to note 1.9.2 for explanation of levels). 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 long-term assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale (adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations), and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale. The criteria for recognising assets as being held for sale are:

- Available for immediate sale in present condition.
- Sale highly probable.
- Actively marketed.
- Sale completion expected within 12 months.

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 section in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). 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 £10k are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are required to be credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Usable Capital Receipts 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 long-term 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.

1.10 Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the Council Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year. To ensure this is not a charge against the Council Fund Balance, the expenditure is funded via an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for long-term assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council.

1.11 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

This is expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a Long-Term Asset. It is charged as expenditure to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council funds such expenditure from capital resources, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Council Fund Balance from the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of Council Tax.

1.12 Government Grants and Other Contributions

Government grants and other contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure shall be accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when there is reasonable assurance that;

- the conditions for their receipt have been/will be complied with; and
- the grant or contribution will be received.

Monies advanced where there is no reasonable assurance of the above two criteria are held as creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Revenue grants are credited to the relevant service and capital grants are credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where a revenue grant has been recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet used to fund expenditure, it is set aside as an Earmarked Reserve.

Where a capital grant has been recognised as income but not yet used to finance capital expenditure, it is credited to Capital Grants Unapplied via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Subsequently, when the funds are used, the grant is transferred from Capital Grant Unapplied Account to Capital Adjustment Account.

Where a claim has yet to be signed off by Audit Wales, Balance Sheet values in relation to grants are included on an unaudited draft claim basis.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been a large number of new grants and financial support packages made available by Welsh Government.

In terms of accounting arrangements, risk based criteria was used to determine whether grants are to be accounted as income and expenditure through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Principal) or through the Balance Sheet (Agent). All administration fees are treated as Principal. Please refer to the Narrative Report for more details on Covid-19.

1.13 Charges to Revenue for Long-Term Assets

Services are debited with the following items to record the cost of holding Long-Term Assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of Intangible Assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. Therefore, these charges to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are reversed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.14 Minimum Revenue Provision/Provision for the Repayment of Debt

The Local Government Act 2003 requires each local authority to set aside a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for debt redemption. In accordance with the Local Authorities

(Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 the Council's accounting treatment is as follows:

Supported Borrowing: The MRP on supported borrowing is written off on a straight line basis over 40 years, linked (broadly) to the lives of the Council's assets.

Unsupported Borrowing: MRP is charged to the Council Fund Balance as follows:

- Charge in equal instalments (or to match the benefits derived) over the life of the asset created (asset life must be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction);
- Annuity method;
- Charge in accordance with the depreciation of the asset; or
- An alternative appropriate method permitted by the guidance.

Finance Leases: In accordance with MRP guidance issued by the Welsh Government, MRP for finance leases, represents the principal element of repayments made by the Council (refer to Lease policies).

1.15 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council 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.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year. Where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

1.16 Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council has interests in companies and other entities which are required to be included in the financial statements.

Amgen Cymru Ltd. and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. meet the criteria of subsidiaries and are represented within Long-Term Assets in the Balance Sheet of the financial statements.

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. meets the criteria of an associated company.

Due to materiality, Group financial statements have not been produced. The accounts for Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. will be available separately once audited.

The Council participates in various Joint Committee arrangements. In line with materiality considerations, only two of these Joint Committees, Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD), have been included within the Council's financial statements. The consolidation has been done on a line-by-line basis, calculated using a reasonable apportionment methodology.

Based on materiality individually or collectively, the following Joint Committees have not been consolidated into the Council's financial statements:

- Glamorgan Archives
- Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC)
- Coychurch Crematorium
- Llwydcoed Crematorium

1.17 Inventories

Stock items are held on the balance sheet at latest price within Inventories if received but not used by the end of the financial year. Donated stock is valued at equivalent product latest price in the balance sheet with a corresponding credit held in a Donated Stock account and disclosed within Short-Term Donated Assets Account in the Balance Sheet. The value of stock in the balance sheet includes items which are held and distributed by the Council to both Council establishments and other external organisations and individuals.

2.0 Accounting Standards Issued, Not Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted.

IFRS 16 Leases was due to be implemented during 2020/21. However, CIPFA/ LASAAC have agreed to defer the implementation until the 2022/23 financial year, this aligns with the governments Financial Reporting Advisory Board proposals.

The 2021/22 Code introduces changes arising from the accounting guidance in relation to:

- Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations;
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform; Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 19 and IFRS 7; and
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2 Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16.

These amendments should not materially affect this Council.

The Code requires implementation after 1st April 2021, there is therefore no impact on the 2020/21 statement of accounts.

3.0 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the Accounting Policies set out in note 1.0, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions and those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

3.1 Grants and Contribution Conditions

Judgements are made in terms of conditions attached to both capital and revenue grants. Grants are recognised as income when received/receivable. Unless there are assumptions that conditions of the grant are breached, a return obligation is not recognised. As a result, capital grants received, with no expected return obligation are reflected in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account until they are used to fund the Capital Programme. Similarly, revenue grants received with no expected return obligation that are to be used to fund future years' expenditure are reflected in Earmarked Reserves in the Balance Sheet.

3.2 Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools

The Code confirms that the accounting treatment of local authority maintained schools in England and Wales depends on the balance of control. For voluntary aided schools any long-term assets that are not owned by the Council but by another legal body, such as the Diocese, are not to be shown on the Balance Sheet.

The Balance Sheet includes land at St Margaret's Catholic School and playing fields at both St John Baptist Church in Wales High School and Cardinal Newman Comprehensive School, as ownership lies with the Council. When reviewing the existing criteria, the Council does not consider it has any voluntary controlled schools.

4.0 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

This Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because assets and liabilities cannot always be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2021 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

4.1 Pensions Asset and Liability (including GMP equalisation and indexation, McCloud/Sargeant Judgement and Cost Management process)

Estimation of the net asset/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. AON is engaged to provide the Council with advice about the assumptions to be applied.

The effects on the net pensions asset/liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, however, the assumptions interact in complex ways.

GMP equalisation and indexation

The disclosures allow for full CPI inflation pension increases to be paid on Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) for those reaching State Pension Age on or after 6th April 2016. This is an approximate method of recognising the cost of the Government's commitment to compensate public service scheme members from the removal of the Additional Pension element of the State Pension from this date, and for the outcome of the Lloyds judgement which found GMPs to be illegally sex discriminatory. Government is consulting on its approach to compensating affected members. Whilst the final remedy arising from that consultation may be different than that reflected in the accounts, the actuary expects the outcome will include an extension of full indexation for many members yet to be compensated therefore the approach is deemed to be a reasonable estimate.

In October 2020 a second ruling in the Lloyds bank case clarified that compensation would be required for members who transferred benefits out since May 1990. Government has not yet acknowledged a liability in public service schemes nor indicated an approach in rectifying this. Therefore, no allowance for potential liabilities relating to the second Lloyds ruling is included in the accounts.

Goodwin Ruling

In June 2020 an Employment Tribunal ruled in relation to the Teacher's Pension Scheme, that provisions for survivor's benefits of a female member in an opposite sex marriage are less favourable than for a female in a same sex marriage or civil partnership, and that treatment amounts to direct discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. The chief secretary to the Treasury announced in a ministerial statement on 20th July 2020 that he believed that changes would be required to other public service pension schemes with similar arrangements. As these changes are yet to be reflected in the LGPS regulations and also on the basis of materiality, allowance has not been made in the calculations.

McCloud / Sargeant Judgement

The Court of Appeal found that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when firefighters' and judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. This has implications for other public sector schemes that were reformed around the same time (including the LGPS) and could potentially lead to members deemed to be discriminated against being compensated. The Supreme Court denied the Government's application for permission to appeal this judgement on 27th June 2019. The matter was referred to Employment Tribunals for remedy hearings and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) undertook a consultation on the remedy. MHCLG has not yet published its consultation response. The method used by AON to value the McCloud remedy and therefore disclosed within the Statement of Accounts is closely aligned to that proposed in the consultation.

Cost Management Process

Legislation requires HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) to undertake periodic valuations to monitor the cost of the LGPS to ensure it remains sustainable and affordable. This is referred to as the “Cost Management Process”. HM Treasury and the Scheme Advisory Board had paused their reviews following the McCloud judgement in the Court of Appeal. These have now been unpaused and HMT Directions are expected during 2021 allowing reviews to proceed. It is unlikely the outcome of those reviews will be known in 2021 and no changes in benefits or contributions are expected until 2024. No allowance for the impact of the cost management process has been made in the calculations.

4.2 Insurance Provision

The Council makes provision for all claims received (but not yet paid) according to the “reserve” value attached to that claim. The reserve value represents the most likely value to settle the claim, not taking into account probability of settlement. Reserve values are provided by the Council’s in-house insurance team, claims handlers and loss adjusters depending on the claim type and estimated value of the claim. Motor and property claims are provided for at 100% of the reserve value. Liability claims are provided for at a percentage based on the length of time a claim remains unresolved. This reflects that not all claims received are paid. Some are successfully repudiated. Refer to note 11.0 for further details.

The risks attached to misstatement are that existing claims will change in value (increase or decrease) or be successfully repudiated. An earmarked reserve is established to meet the additional costs relating to the impact of these potential changes in estimates. The earmarked reserve also funds claims or incidents that have occurred but claims are yet to be received. Refer to note 13.2 for further details.

4.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

External valuers undertake formal valuations within a maximum of a 5-year rolling programme to ensure that assets in the Balance Sheet are represented at “current value”. Valuations are undertaken in accordance with guidance issued by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Within the computation of the current value valuation, assumptions are made upon the useful lives of assets which could be subject to change in future years.

5.0 Events After the Reporting Period

The draft, unaudited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Director of Finance & Digital Services, as Chief Finance Officer, on 2nd July 2021. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31st March 2021, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of this information.

6.0 Property, Plant and Equipment**6.1 Movements on Balances****Movements in 2019/20:**

	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
At 1 st April 2019	714,959	628,529	37,582	5,698	70,918	1,457,686
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	5,555	5,555
Additions	52,240	26,710	7,852	574	11,796	99,172
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	26,903	0	0	0	0	26,903
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(59,152)	0	0	(26)	0	(59,178)
Derecognition – Disposals	(2,069)	0	(3,231)	0	0	(5,300)
Derecognition – Other	0	0	(3,340)	0	0	(3,340)
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	877	0	0	0	0	877
Other Reclassifications	47,743	0	0	0	(47,743)	0
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2020	781,501	655,239	38,863	6,246	40,526	1,522,375

Continued Overleaf...

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment						
At 1 st April 2019	(111,872)	(189,418)	(30,475)	(848)	0	(332,613)
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Charge	(15,922)	(12,338)	(3,257)	0	0	(31,517)
Depreciation Written Out of the Revaluation Reserve	15,095	0	0	0	0	15,095
Depreciation Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	4,721	0	0	0	0	4,721
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	2,623	0	0	0	0	2,623
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	21,484	(2,150)	(3,340)	(548)	0	15,446
Derecognition – Disposals	422	0	3,131	0	0	3,553
Derecognition – Other	0	0	3,340	0	0	3,340
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	(89)	0	0	0	0	(89)
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2020	(83,538)	(203,906)	(30,601)	(1,396)	0	(319,441)

Net Book Value:

At 31st March 2020	697,963	451,333	8,262	4,850	40,526	1,202,934
At 31st March 2019	603,087	439,111	7,107	4,850	76,473	1,130,628

Movements in 2020/21:

	Other Land & Buildings	Infrastructure	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant and Equipment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation						
At 1 st April 2020	775,932	655,238	38,863	6,246	40,526	1,516,805
Joint Committees Opening Balance	5,569	0	0	0	0	5,569
Additions	33,967	44,858	9,608	224	1,983	90,640
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(4,954)	0	0	0	0	(4,954)
Revaluation Increases/ (Decreases) Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(36,949)	0	0	0	0	(36,949)
Derecognition – Disposals	(2,476)	0	(4,242)	0	0	(6,718)
Derecognition – Other	0	0	(1,722)	0	0	(1,722)
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	10	0	0	0	0	10
Other Reclassifications	18,717	16,240	0	0	(40,526)	(5,569)
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2021	789,816	716,336	42,507	6,470	1,983	1,557,112
						<i>Continued Overleaf...</i>

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment						
At 1 st April 2020	(83,538)	(203,906)	(30,601)	(1,396)	0	(319,441)
Joint Committees Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Charge	(16,239)	(13,688)	(4,095)	0	0	(34,022)
Depreciation Written Out of the Revaluation Reserve	12,169	0	0	0	0	12,169
Depreciation Written Out to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Service	6,814	0	0	0	0	6,814
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	(2,789)	0	0	0	0	(2,789)
Impairment (Losses)/Reversals Recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,867	(1,527)	(1,722)	0	0	(1,382)
Derecognition – Disposals	1,105	0	4,176	0	0	5,281
Derecognition – Other	0	0	1,722	0	0	1,722
Assets Reclassified (to)/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reclassifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Movements in Cost or Valuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2021	(80,611)	(219,121)	(30,520)	(1,396)	0	(331,648)

Net Book Value:

At 31st March 2021	709,205	497,215	11,987	5,074	1,983	1,225,464
At 31st March 2020	697,963	451,333	8,262	4,850	40,526	1,202,934

6.2 Investment Properties

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	3,805	3,805
Net Gains/Losses from fair value adjustments	0	(1,210)
Other Reclassifications - City Deal Joint Committee reclassification from Other Land & Buildings	0	5,569
Balance at 31st March	3,805	8,164

The fair values for investment properties have been calculated using level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

6.3 Capital Commitments

At 31st March 2021 the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2020/21 and future years, budgeted to cost £10.4m. Similar commitments at 31st March 2020 were £16.9m.

Within this amount the significant contract values as at 31st March 2021 are:

Scheme	£'000
YGG Aberdar	3,475
Robertstown Development	4,501
Total	7,976

6.4 Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every 5 years. Valuations are carried out by the Council's appointed valuer. Valuations of land and buildings 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. Valuations of vehicles, plant and equipment are based on current prices where there is an active second-hand market or latest list prices adjusted for the condition of the asset.

The significant assumptions applied in estimating the current values are:

- Valuations include the cost of construction on a modern equivalent basis.
- The cost has been depreciated to account for the age and future economic life of the buildings.
- Valuations are subject to the prospect and viability of the continuance of the occupation and use of the property.

7.0 Financial Instruments

7.1 Categories of Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instrument are carried in the Balance Sheet:

Assets	Long-Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investments: Loans and Receivables	4,250	6,615	35,405	23,479
Debtors: Financial Assets Carried at Contract Amounts	4,939	4,919	83,479	123,020
Total	9,189	11,534	118,884	146,499

Liabilities	Long-Term		Current	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowings: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	314,278	303,324	60,776	32,176
Finance Lease Liabilities	383	382	1	1
Creditors: Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	0	0	32,151	34,346
Total	314,661	303,706	92,928	66,523

There are no expected credit loss calculations for the financial assets. The value of creditors in the table relates to invoices authorised for payment by the Council but remaining unpaid at year-end. This balance is included within the Balance Sheet heading *Short-Term Creditors*.

7.2 Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

	2019/20			2020/21		
	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total	Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets: Loans and Receivables	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Interest Expense	11,505	0	11,505	11,397	0	11,397
Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expense in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	11,505	0	11,505	11,397	0	11,397
Interest Income	0	(652)	(652)	0	(597)	(597)
Interest Income Accrued on Impaired Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income in (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	(652)	(652)	0	(597)	(597)
Net (Gain)/Loss for the Year	11,505	(652)	10,853	11,397	(597)	10,800

7.3 Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Financial liabilities, financial assets (represented by loans and receivables) and long-term debtors and creditors are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value

can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Council have been valued by discounting the contractual cashflows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for Local Authority loans.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised.
- Where a financial instrument will mature in the next 12 months, carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.
- Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	31/03/20		31/03/21	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PWLB Debt	242,393	305,445	231,925	300,462
Market Debt	85,515	138,058	85,515	139,154
Local Authority Debt	47,078	47,079	17,988	17,988
Other Debt	68	68	72	72
Finance Lease	384	384	383	383
Trade Creditors	32,151	32,151	34,346	34,346
Total	407,589	523,185	370,229	492,405

	31/03/20		31/03/21	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans and Receivables	39,655	39,650	29,780	29,780

The fair values for PWLB debt and market debt have been calculated using level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Please see note 1.9.2 in the accounting policies for the explanation of these levels.

7.4 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

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

Key Risks

- Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council.
- Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.
- Refinancing and Maturity Risk – the possibility that the Council may be required to renew a financial instrument on maturity at less favourable interest rates or terms.

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

7.5 Overall Procedures for Managing Risk

The Council's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of the financial markets and implementing restrictions to minimise these risks. The procedures for risk management are defined in the Local Government Act 2003 and the associated regulations. These require the Council to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Investment Guidance issued through the Act. This Council complies with these requirements by:

- Formally adopting the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- By adopting a Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Clauses being incorporated into Financial Procedure Rules.
- Approving annually in advance Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the following three years.
- Approving an Investment Strategy for the forthcoming year setting out criteria for both investing and selecting investment counterparties in compliance with guidance from the Welsh Government.
- Approving a Capital Strategy report which provides a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.

These are required to be reported and approved before the start of the year to which they relate. The Treasury Management Strategy outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council's financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is reported in a mid-year review to Members, in addition to a full year review and also included within quarterly performance reports.

Policies are implemented by a corporate Treasury Management team. The Council maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). The TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

The Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy are available on the Council's website.

7.6 Credit Risk

Credit Risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers.

This risk is minimised through the Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. Such criteria include credit ratings assigned by credit ratings agencies. The Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum amount and duration to be invested with a financial institution. The Council undertakes appropriate due diligence and puts in place appropriate security arrangements when lending to organisations. There are also other

criteria and controls in place regarding counterparty selection, further details of which can be found in the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

The following analysis summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk. The default rates give details of the Council's experience of its customer collection levels.

	31/03/21	Historical Experience of Default	Adjustment for Market Conditions at 31/03/21	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/21	Estimated Maximum Exposure to Default at 31/03/20
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a*c)	
	£'000	%	%	£'000	£'000
Deposits with Government Departments & Local Authorities	29,780	0	0	0	0
Trade Debtors	14,892	0.49	0.49	73	79

The 0.49% Historical Experience of Default represents debt written off in 2020/21 expressed as a percentage of invoices raised during that year. This percentage is not the basis of the Bad Debt Provision, which is calculated using various percentages designed to reflect the risk of debts of various ages not being collectable, as opposed to the far lower rate of actual write-offs for the year.

Investments with the Debt Management Office and other Government backed public bodies have the rating applicable to Government borrowing.

The Council does not generally allow credit for its trade debtors. However, £4.5m of the £14.9m balance is debt greater than 30 days old. This debt can be analysed as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Less than 3 months	1,057	1,110
3 – 6 months	392	627
6 months to 1 year	1,109	842
More than 1 year	1,331	1,937
Total	3,889	4,516

7.7 Liquidity Risk

The Council manages its liquidity position through effective cash flow management procedures.

The Council has ready access to borrowings from the money markets to cover any day-to-day cash flow need, and whilst the PWLB provides access to longer-term funds, it also acts as a lender of last resort to Councils (although it will not provide funding to a Council whose actions are unlawful). The Council is also required to produce a balanced budget

in accordance with 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.

7.8 Refinancing and Maturity Risk

The Council maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer-term risk to the Council relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer-term financial liabilities and longer-term financial assets.

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits set on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Council approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the Council's Treasury Management team manage operational risks within approved parameters.

This includes;

- monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of existing debt; and
- monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Council's day-to-day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The maturity analysis of the principal value of the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC element of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	57,492	28,491
Between 1 and 2 years	10,420	10,967
Between 2 and 5 years	31,259	31,259
Between 5 and 10 years	22,012	37,115
More than 10 years	251,918	225,848
Total	373,101	333,680

The maturity analysis of financial assets is as follows:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Maturity greater than one year	4,250	6,300
Maturity less than one year	35,405	23,480
Total	39,655	29,780

Trade Debtors are not included in the table above.

7.9 Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact upon the Council, depending how variable and fixed rates move across differing financial instrument periods.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together the Council's prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. The Council's Treasury Management team, together with the appointed Treasury Management Advisors, monitor the market and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust the Council's exposures appropriately.

If all interest rates had been 1% higher (with all other variables being constant) the financial effect would be:

	£'000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings	1
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate investments	N/A
Impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowing liabilities (no impact on CI&ES)	62,672

The approximate impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would also be as above.

8.0 Short-Term Debtors

An analysis of Short-Term Debtors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

31/03/20		31/03/21
£'000		£'000
44,691	Central Government Bodies	67,860
8,022	Other Local Authorities	18,563
10,823	NHS Bodies	11,404
510	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	1,028
19,433	Other Entities and Individuals	24,165
83,479	Total	123,020

Debtors for Local Taxation

The past due date but not impaired amount for Council Tax can be analysed by age as follows:

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
3,489	Less than 1 year	4,012
1,322	1 year to 2 years	1,773
780	2 years to 3 years	1,001
535	3 years to 4 years	631
340	4 years to 5 years	442
894	More than 5 years	1,039
7,360	Total	8,898

9.0 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Cash and Cash Equivalents are made up of the following elements:

31/03/20		31/03/21
£'000		£'000
10,181	Cash Held by the Council	14,533
(14,905)	Bank Current Accounts	(20,932)
(4,724)	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	(6,399)

Short-term cash surpluses are invested in line with the investment strategy and are represented in the Balance Sheet as "Short-Term Investments". Bank Current Accounts represent the position of the bank account as at 31st March 2021 adjusted for unrepresented cheques.

10.0 Short-Term Creditors

An analysis of Short-Term Creditors in the Balance Sheet is as follows:

31/03/20		31/03/21
£'000		£'000
(11,593)	Central Government Bodies	(18,391)
(7,542)	Other Local Authorities	(19,003)
(9,990)	NHS Bodies	(9,329)
1,015	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	(522)
(65,483)	Other Entities and Individuals	(63,901)
(93,593)	Total	(111,146)

11.0 Provisions

Provisions are amounts set aside for specific future costs, which are likely to be incurred, but the amount or timing of which cannot be determined accurately. Provisions for bad debts are shown as a deduction from debtors.

Movements in provisions during the year were:

Short-Term Provision	Land Purchases and Part 1 Claims	Insurance Claims	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April 2020	(525)	(1,224)	(1,749)
Additional provisions made in 2020/21	0	(1,116)	(1,116)
Amounts used in 2020/21	5	1,042	1,047
Unused amounts reversed in 2020/21	0	182	182
Balance at 31st March 2021	(520)	(1,116)	(1,636)

Long-Term Provision	Insurance Claims	Joint Committees	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April 2020	(2,421)	(228)	(2,649)
Additional provisions made in 2020/21	(3,134)	(99)	(3,233)
Amounts used in 2020/21	1,125	0	1,125
Unused amounts reversed in 2020/21	1,177	0	1,177
Balance at 31st March 2021	(3,253)	(327)	(3,580)

12.0 Other Long-Term Liabilities

An analysis of Other Long-Term Liabilities is given in the following table:

31/03/20		31/03/21
£'000		£'000
(657,634)	Pension Liability (IAS19)	(708,698)
(585)	Other	(589)
(658,219)	Total	(709,287)

13.0 Usable Reserves

31/03/20			31/03/21
£'000			£'000
8,709	Council Fund Balance	13.1	8,505
69,616	Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves	13.2	76,829
39,028	Other Revenue Related Reserves	13.2	73,791
2,384	Delegated Schools Reserve	13.3	12,035
1,750	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	13.4	3,954
24,934	Capital Grant Unapplied Account	13.5	32,363
136	MGCC Insurance Reserve		185
146,557	Total Usable Reserves		207,662

13.1 Council Fund Balance

Council Fund Balances are accumulated working balances and relate to general fund services. These exclude "ring-fenced" Council services such as Delegated Schools.

Movements in the Council Fund Balance during 2020/21 were:

	£'000
Council Fund Reserves as at 31st March 2020	8,709
Revenue Budget Out-turn	(204)
Council Fund Reserves as at 31st March 2021	8,505

13.2 Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the Council Fund Balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet Council Fund expenditure in 2021/22. All earmarked reserves are deemed to be revenue reserves.

Capital, Treasury and Insurance Reserves

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at	Transfers	Transfers	Balance at
		31/03/20	Out	In	31/03/21
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Developments	Resources set-aside from revenue budget, earmarked to fund the Council's approved 3-year capital programme.	59,029	(4,003)	11,339	66,365
Treasury Management Reserve	Funding for known and potential future pressures upon the Capital Financing budget.	2,465	0	0	2,465
Insurance Reserve	To provide for estimated costs of incidents that have occurred during the policy year but have not yet resulted in a claim being received.	8,122	(1,123)	1,000	7,999
Total		69,616	(5,126)	12,339	76,829

Other Revenue Related Reserves

Reserve	Purpose	Balance at 31/03/20	Transfers Out	Transfers In	Balance at 31/03/21
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2020/21 budget.	800	(800)	0	0
Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22	Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation (transitional funding) to be released to fund the 2021/22 budget.	0	0	711	711
Joint Committee Reserve	Reflects the Council's share of General and Earmarked Reserves of the Joint Committees in which it has an interest.	1,243	(574)	0	669
Revenue Grant Reserves (IFRS)	Carry forward of Revenue Grants not yet applied to spend - required accounting treatment to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.	2,600	(2,600)	4,824	4,824
Financial Management and Human Resources Risk Management	Resources set aside as cover for future liabilities relating to various risks identified and being managed.	13,287	(3,658)	22,012	31,641
Investment / Infrastructure	To fund current and future costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough	6,235	(6,054)	9,316	9,497
Prior Year Commitments	Carry forward of existing funding to finance projects for which commitments have already been made in the prior year.	8,416	(1,940)	12,160	18,636
Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation	Resources set aside as transitional (one-off) funding to support the Council's medium-term financial and service planning requirements.	3,562	(710)	767	3,619
Other Specific Reserves	Represents a number of reserves held for specific and identified purposes.	2,885	(702)	975	3,158
Invest to Save	Funding identified (pump priming) to support Invest to Save opportunities as and when they arise.	0	0	1,036	1,036
Total		39,028	(17,038)	51,801	73,791

13.3 Delegated Schools Reserve

Delegated schools are those that are managed independently. As such, these balances are committed to be spent on delegated services and are not available to the Council for general use.

The movements on the reserve are as follows:

	Balance at 31/03/20 £'000	Balance at 31/03/21 £'000
Delegated Primary Schools	2,943	7,654
Delegated Secondary Schools	(1,191)	2,546
Delegated Special Schools	317	760
Delegated All Through Schools	315	1,075
Total	2,384	12,035

13.4 Usable Capital Receipts Reserve

The Usable Capital Receipts Reserve is the proportion of capital receipts that may be used to finance capital expenditure.

The movements on the reserve are as follows:

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
3,343	Balance as at 1st April	1,750
	<u>Receipts during the year:</u>	
2,131	Sale of assets	2,716
0	Mortgage repayments	3
	<u>Application during the year:</u>	
(3,724)	Financing of capital expenditure	(515)
1,750	Balance as at 31st March	3,954

13.5 Capital Grant Unapplied Account

The Capital Grant Unapplied Account consists of Capital Grants and Contributions received and credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet applied to fund capital expenditure. It represents resources available to fund future capital expenditure. It is assumed that the conditions of grants held within this account will be met.

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
16,966	Balance at 1st April	24,934
71,194	Grants received	70,103
(63,226)	Grants utilised to fund capital expenditure	(62,674)
24,934	Balance at 31st March	32,363

14.0 Unusable Reserves

These are reserves established as a result of various regulations to ensure costs chargeable to Council Tax are appropriate. They do not represent resources available for the general use of the Council.

31/03/20			31/03/21
£'000			£'000
209,318	Revaluation Reserve	14.1	207,440
1,272	Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve		423
511,372	Capital Adjustment Account	14.2	529,843
(5,487)	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	14.3	(5,399)
(657,634)	Pensions Reserve	14.4	(708,698)
(5,666)	Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account		(5,796)
53,175	Total Unusable Reserves		17,813

14.1 Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are;

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

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

2019/20		2020/21	
		£'000	£'000
171,042	Balance at 1st April	209,318	
54,263	Upward revaluation of assets	10,717	
(9,658)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,186)	
215,647	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of Long-Term Assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		213,849
0	Adjustment between the Capital Adjustment Account and the Revaluation Reserve	(447)	
(5,722)	Difference between Current Value Depreciation and Historical Cost Depreciation	(5,725)	
(607)	Accumulated Gains on Assets sold or scrapped	(237)	
(6,329)	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		(6,409)
209,318	Balance at 31st March		207,440

14.2 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of Long-Term 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 amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

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

2019/20 £'000		2020/21	
		£'000	£'000
503,909	Balance at 1st April	511,372	
	Reversal of items relating to Capital Expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
(11,343)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of Long-Term Assets*	(28,566)	
(59,139)	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(36,900)	
0	Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	(215)	
(1,593)	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(1,675)	
(20,297)	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	(10,735)	
(3,421)	Amounts of Long-Term Assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,512)	
6,329	Adjusted items written out of the Revaluation Reserve	6,409	
(53)	Joint Committee Adjustments	0	
414,392	Net written out amount of the cost of Long-Term Assets consumed in the year		438,178
	Capital Financing Applied in the Year:		
3,724	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new Capital Expenditure	515	
52,482	Capital Grants and Contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	61,517	
10,744	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	1,863	
12,191	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the Council Fund	13,561	
17,839	Capital Expenditure charged against the Council Fund	14,209	
0	Private mortgage repayments	0	
96,980			91,665
511,372	Balance at 31st March		529,843

* Charges for depreciation and impairment of long-term assets include credits representing reversal of accumulated depreciation and impairment, and debits representing in year changes.

14.3 Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account represents the accumulated difference between the financing costs included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the accumulated financing costs required in accordance with regulations to be charged to the Council Fund Balance. As at 31st March 2021 there was a credit balance of £5.4m (credit balance of £5.5m as at 31st March 2020).

14.4 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 Council 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 Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits are due to be paid.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(608,638)	Balance at 1st April	(657,634)
(16,789)	Actuarial gains or (losses) on Pensions Assets and Liabilities	(13,481)
(72,897)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(72,755)
40,690	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	35,172
(657,634)	Balance at 31st March	(708,698)

15.0 Cash Flow Statement – Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(70,482)	Depreciation and Impairment	(65,682)
(1,593)	Amortisation	(1,675)
(3,256)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	(16,485)
18,381	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	39,521
(11)	Increase/(Decrease) in Stock	1,964
(32,207)	Movement in Pension Liability	(37,583)
(383)	Contribution to Provisions	(818)
(1,190)	Short-Term Accumulated Absence Accrual	(130)
(3,421)	Carrying amount of Long-Term Assets and Assets Held For Sale, sold or derecognised	(1,512)
(21,433)	Other non-cash items charged to the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(14,022)
(115,595)	Adjustments to Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements	(96,422)

16.0 Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments for Items Included in the Net (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services that are Investing and Financing Activities

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
2,131	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant & Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	2,716
58,951	Any other items for which the cash effects are investing or financing cash flows	64,987
61,082		67,703

17.0 Cash Flow Statement – Interest within Operating Activities

The following table details interest received, and interest paid included within 'Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities' on the Cash Flow Statement.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(652)	Interest received	(921)
11,505	Interest paid	11,397
10,853	Interest within Operating Activities	10,476

18.0 Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
125,639	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	102,931
9,072	Purchase and Redemption of Short-Term and Long-Term Investments	(9,561)
(2,131)	Proceeds from the sale of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property and Intangible Assets	(2,716)
(58,951)	Other receipts from Investing Activities	(64,987)
73,629	Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	25,667

19.0 Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
(154,250)	Cash receipts of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	(18,000)
1	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to Finance Leases	1
112,552	Repayments of Short and Long-Term Borrowing	57,419
(41,697)	Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	39,420

20.0 Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis**20.1 Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20**

Adjustments from General Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000s	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000s	Other Differences £'000s	Total Adjustments £'000s
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	29,132	14,966	107	44,205
Chief Executive	6,736	(8,492)	1,439	(317)
Education & Inclusion Services	35,041	4,595	(6,790)	32,846
Community & Children's Services	5,011	7,259	(1,257)	11,013
Authority Wide Budgets	(25,495)	(8)	(15,388)	(40,891)
Joint Committees	0	0	(234)	(234)
Net Cost of Services	50,425	18,320	(22,123)	46,622
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(59,254)	13,660	21,314	(24,280)
Difference between General Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(8,829)	31,980	(809)	22,342

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/21

Adjustments from General Fund to Arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000s	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments £'000s	Other Differences £'000s	Total Adjustments £'000s
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	24,694	3,740	947	29,381
Chief Executive	19,882	3,357	1,942	25,181
Education & Inclusion Services	17,534	6,072	(14,923)	8,683
Community & Children's Services	6,225	9,596	4,692	20,513
Authority Wide Budgets	(23,734)	5	(62,933)	(86,662)
Joint Committees	0	0	(450)	(450)
Net Cost of Services	44,601	22,770	(70,725)	(3,354)
Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	(63,708)	14,570	17,595	(31,543)
Difference between General Fund (surplus) or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(19,107)	37,340	(53,130)	(34,897)

Details of the total adjustments above are within the Movement in Reserves Statement.

20.2 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

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

	2019/20	2020/21
Expenditure	£'000	£'000
Employee Benefits Expenses	351,485	366,612
Other Services Expenses	350,543	365,952
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	92,372	77,877
Interest Payments	11,505	11,397
Precepts and Levies	33,801	35,636
Loss on the Disposal of Assets	22	0
Total Expenditure	839,728	857,474
Income		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(250,277)	(289,082)
Interest and Investment Income	(652)	(921)
Income from Council Tax and NNDR	(212,313)	(215,507)
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	0	(358)
Government Grants and Contributions	(352,355)	(386,299)
Total Income	(815,597)	(892,167)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	24,131	(34,693)

21.0 Members' Allowances

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of County and County Borough Councils and National Parks Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2002, require authorities to make public their schemes for Members' allowances and to disclose annually amounts paid to each Member under such schemes.

During the year the Council paid the following amounts in respect of basic allowances, special responsibility allowances and dependent care allowances to 75 Members (excluding employer's national insurance contributions, employer's pension contribution and other associated costs).

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Allowances	1,322	1,338
Expenses	29	21
Total	1,351	1,359

Details of all remuneration and allowances paid annually by the Council to each Councillor and Co-opted Member is published on the Council's website following the end of each financial year.

22.0 Officers' Remuneration

Statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers recommends the use of pay multipliers as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010).

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's remuneration ratio is 1:8 (1:8 in 2019/20) with the median earnings being £19,698 (£18,612 in 2019/20). This is the ratio between the Chief Executive's pay and the median earnings of the workforce within the Council, including employees of Central South Consortium and Voluntary Aided Schools, using current pay levels.

Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), local authorities must disclose in their accounts the number of employees whose remuneration in the year fell in each bracket of a scale in multiples of £5,000 commencing at £60,000 (excluding employer pension contributions). The disclosure includes redundancy payments.

During 2020/21 the average number of employees paid per month by the Council was 9,920 (9,887 2019/20), paying total remuneration of £241m (excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions) (£231m 2019/20). Within this, the following remuneration payments were made within the categories specified:

Remuneration Band	2019/20	2020/21		
	No. of Employees	No. of Employees		
	Total	At 31/03/21	Left in Year	Total
£60,000 - £64,999	77	45	2	47
£65,000 - £69,999	52	63	4	67
£70,000 - £74,999	10	30	0	30
£75,000 - £79,999	4	7	0	7
£80,000 - £84,999	4	6	0	6
£85,000 - £89,999	4	3	2	5
£90,000 - £94,999	7	2	1	3
£95,000 - £99,999	2	7	1	8
£100,000 - £104,999	1	1	0	1
£105,000 - £109,999	0	2	1	3
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	0	0	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	2	0	0	0
Total	163	166	11	177

Officers employed by Voluntary Aided Schools have been excluded.

Salary costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note, but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee salaries has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The above table excludes specific Senior Officers, disclosed in the following table.

The following table sets out the remuneration for specific Senior Officers;

- Senior Officers whose salary is £60,000 or more per annum but less than £150,000. These are identified by job title.
- Senior Officers whose salary is £150,000 or more on an annualised basis. These are identified by name.
- Employer pension contributions are included.

Post Holder Information (Post Title)	2019/20			2020/21						
	Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions	Salary	Taxable Benefits in Kind	Compensation for Loss of Employment		Total Remuneration	Employer's Pension Contributions	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions
						Redundancy	Early Access Costs			
£'000			£'000							
Chief Executive - Chris Bradshaw	151	39	190	154	1	0	0	155	33	188
Group Director, Community & Children's Services & Deputy Chief Executive to 31/12/2020	121	31	152	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Group Director, Community & Children's Services wef 01/01/2021	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	7	38
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services to 31/12/2020	90	24	114	73	0	0	0	73	16	89
Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services to 31/12/2020	121	31	152	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services & Deputy Chief Exec wef 01/01/2021	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31	7	38

Continued Overleaf...

Director of Education & Inclusion Services	90	24	114	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Director of Human Resources	98	25	123	100	0	0	0	100	22	122
Director of Finance & Digital Services (& Section 151 Officer)	98	25	123	100	0	0	0	100	22	122
Director of Legal Services	89	23	112	92	1	0	0	93	20	113
Director of Legal Services - Returning Officer	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Director of Corporate Estates	91	23	114	93	0	0	0	93	20	113
Director of Regeneration & Planning to 12/04/19	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Director of Prosperity & Development	90	24	114	94	0	0	0	94	20	114
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services wef 01/01/2021	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	23	5	28
Service Director - Democratic Services & Communications	69	18	87	71	0	0	0	71	15	86

The table above represents the Senior Leadership Team for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Disclosure of Senior Officer remuneration of Joint Committees are included in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts.

23.0 Severance Costs

This note provides details of the cost of severance to the Council in respect of employees who have left the employment of the Council during the financial year (costs do not reflect the value of the severance received by the individual as it includes pension strain). All costs incurred are in line with the Council's relevant and applicable schemes of termination and as required under relevant Pension Fund Regulations where applicable, with each decision being based upon and supported by a business case.

The number and costs (in bandings) of compulsory and other terminations are set out in the table below

Severance Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Terminations		Number of Other Terminations		Total Number of Terminations		Total Cost of Severance	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	£'000	
£	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
£0 - £20,000	5	2	173	75	178	77	1,023	336
£20,001 - £40,000	2	2	28	13	30	15	798	416
£40,001 - £60,000	2	0	11	6	13	6	660	276
£60,001 - £80,000	1	0	4	5	5	5	353	333
£80,001 - £100,000	2	0	3	4	5	4	441	326
£100,001 - £150,000	6	0	10	2	16	2	1,948	258
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	153
Total	18	4	229	106	247	110	5,223	2,098

During 2020/21, the Council saved annual payroll costs of £1,264k (£3,535k 2019/20) through Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement.

Severance Costs for Joint Committees are not included in the above note but can be found in the relevant Joint Committee Statement of Accounts. However, a percentage of Joint Committee severance costs has been consolidated into the Net Cost of Services within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

24.0 External Audit Costs

The estimated costs to the Council for financial year 2020/21 in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts for certification of grant claims, statutory inspections and other services provided by the Council's external auditors are set out in the table below:

	2019/20	2020/21
	Actual	Estimated
Fees Payable to the Auditor General for Wales	£'000	£'000
External audit services carried out by the Statutory Auditor for the year	230	230
Local Government Measure Work	94	94
Certification of Grant Claims and Returns for the year	61	55
Total	385	379

25.0 Non-Domestic Rates

The level of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) is based on a “multiplier” set nationally by the Welsh Government, multiplied by the rateable value of a particular property. This calculation will give the property a rate liability for the year. The multiplier for 2020/21 was 53.5p (52.6p for 2019/20). The total rateable value as at 31st March 2021 was £129.0m (£128.8m as at 31st March 2020).

The Council is responsible for collecting the business rates in its area and pays the proceeds into the NDR pool administered by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government redistributes total collections back to local authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population. Total NDR collected from ratepayers in respect of 2020/21 rates is £36.1m (£50.5m in 2019/20). The contribution back to the Council from the pool in the year amounted to £74.6m (£76.4m in 2019/20) and the amount payable to the pool amounts to £54.2m (£53.3m in 2019/20). As the Council acts as an agent collecting income on behalf of the Welsh Government, the income collected is not recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

26.0 Council Tax

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties. Charges are calculated by taking the amount of income required for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and the Community Councils for the year, and dividing this amount by the Council Tax base.

The Council Tax base for 2020/21 was calculated to be £77,334.38 (compared with £76,873.20 for 2019/20). This represents the anticipated yield for every £1 of Council Tax levied.

The base is calculated by placing properties in ten bands (A*-I). After allowing for discounts and exemptions, these are then converted to the equivalent number of Band D properties, using the appropriate multiplier as below:

Band	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
No. of Properties	218	39,116	21,951	14,783	8,445	6,260	3,160	1,088	180	32
Multiplier	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9

The resultant number of Band D properties is reduced by a percentage to reflect anticipated non-collection. The target collection rate for 2020/21 was 97.5%.

An analysis of the net proceeds from Council Tax is shown as follows:

Council Tax Analysis	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Council Tax Collectable	135,930	140,915
Net Proceeds from Council Tax	135,930	140,915
Less Payable:		
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	(19,796)	(21,090)
Community Councils	(2,056)	(2,140)
Total	114,078	117,685

27.0 Grant Income

The following grants, contributions and donations were credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/21:

27.1 Credited to Services

A number of grants and contributions have been recognised as income within Net Cost of Services. This income amounts to £268m in 2020/21 (in 2019/20 these grants and contributions amounted to £215m).

27.2 Capital Grants Receipts in Advance

All Capital Grants received have been recognised as income within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

28.0 Related Parties

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

28.1 Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (e.g. Council Tax bills). Transactions between the Council and Welsh Government are as follows:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Non-Ringfenced Government Grants	(293,404)	(321,312)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(62,570)	(67,128)
Credited to Services	(146,865)	(224,353)
Total	(502,839)	(612,793)

28.2 Chief Officers and Members

Members of the Council

Under the Code of Conduct incorporated in the Council's Constitution, Members are required to record in the Register of Members Interests any financial and other personal interests, together with any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage. The Register is open to inspection by the public and is available on an individual Member basis on the Council website.

Members of the Council are nominated to serve on numerous outside bodies some of which either receive funding from the Council or issue levies and precepts to be paid by the Council. When sitting on these bodies Members are expected to act independently and not to represent the views of the County Borough Council. Membership details are available from the Service Director Cabinet Office and Public Relations, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale.

During 2020/21 there were no Members identified as having a controlling interest in any company commissioned to supply works or services to the Council of any material value. However, Members have identified interests with organisations with which the Council has had financial transactions during 2020/21. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £2,294k (£1,786k in 2019/20), of which £2k was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and receipts of £248k (£260k in 2019/20), of which £34k was outstanding at year end (£23k in 2019/20).

The Council has transactions with a Construction Company that carries out work on Council owned properties. A Member of the Council declared that a relative is an Electrical and Project Manager within this company. Payments to the company amount to £3,107k with £1k outstanding at year end. No receipts were received during 2020/21. The Member did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

The Council has transactions with a Transport Company that leases a Council owned property. A Member of the Council declared that a relative is a Director within this company. Payments to the company amount to £372k with no payments outstanding at year end and receipts of £1,424k, of which £818k was outstanding. The Member did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

Chief Officers (Senior Leadership Team)

Under the Employees' Code of Conduct, Officers are required to declare potential conflicts of interest arising from employment arrangements together with gifts or hospitality and offers thereof and, under Section 117 of the 1972 Local Government Act, contractual arrangements where there is a conflict of interest. Most professional bodies also have codes of professional conduct to which members of those bodies are expected to adhere.

During 2020/21, the Council had transactions with a company that provides specialist support to people with disabilities. A member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative is one of the trustees of the company. There were no payments made to the company in 2020/21 (£6,825k in 2019/20 and no payments outstanding) and receipts of £237k (£222k in 2019/20), of which £1k was outstanding (nil in 2019/20). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

The Council has transactions with a Construction Company that carries out work on Council owned properties. A Member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council declared that a relative is a director of the company. The value of these transactions amounted to payments of £2,197k (£3,000k in 2019/20), of which £33k was outstanding at year end (nil in 2019/20), and receipts of £1k (£1k in 2019/20), of which £1k was outstanding at year end (£1k in 2019/20). The Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the services.

There were no other transactions of material value.

28.3 Precepts and Levies

Details of precepts collected on behalf of other organisations are provided in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

An analysis of precepts is given in the following table:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	19,796	21,090
Community Councils	2,056	2,140
Total	21,852	23,230

An analysis of levies is given in the following table:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	11,252	11,730
Coroner	485	464
Brecon Beacons National Park	48	48
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	164	164
Total	11,949	12,406

28.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund

The Director of Finance & Digital Services is also the responsible Finance Officer to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. The Council charged the Pension Fund an amount of £1.4m (£1.5m in 2019/20) in respect of administration and support during financial year 2020/21. The amount owed from the Council to the Pension Fund as at 31st March 2021 is nil (nil as at 31st March 2020).

28.5 Associated and Subsidiary Companies

The Council has an interest in three companies: namely; Amgen Cymru Ltd., Amgen Rhondda Ltd. and Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd. Officers of the Council are directors of Amgen Cymru Ltd and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. During 2020/21 the following related party transactions took place with these companies.

Amgen Cymru Ltd.

The Council paid Amgen Cymru £10,233k (£7,145k in 2019/20) in respect of waste management and waste disposal charges, with £1,554k (£1,400k in 2019/20) due to the company at the year-end. Amgen Cymru paid the Council £1,067k (£843k in 2019/20) in respect of goods and services, with £110k (£65k in 2019/20) due to the Council at the year-end.

Amgen Rhondda Ltd.

The Council paid Amgen Rhondda £175k (£175k in 2019/20) in respect of site management fees, with nil (nil in 2019/20) outstanding at 31st March 2021.

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd.

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd is a Joint Venture between Capita Symonds and Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils. The Council owns 27.93% of the shares of the company and holds voting rights to this value on the Board.

During 2020/21, the Council was charged £6,490k (£4,524k in 2019/20) in respect of goods, services and capital works. The balance owed to Capita

Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd at 31st March 2021 was £1,136k (£920k in 2019/20).

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Ltd paid the Council nil (nil in 2019/20) in respect of goods and services, with nil (nil in 2019/20) due to the Council at the year-end.

28.6 Joint Committees

The Council participates in the following Joint Committees.

Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee

The Glamorgan Record Office is managed and administered by the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee under powers conferred by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. The Joint Committee has 16 members in total. There are 4 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Members on the Joint Committee.

During 2020/21, the Council contributed to the Joint Committee an amount of £164k (£164k in 2019/20). This was calculated proportionately based upon population.

Llwydcoed Crematorium

Llwydcoed Crematorium is subject to the control of a Joint Committee of Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

During 2020/21, the Council charged Llwydcoed Crematorium £41k (£40k in 2019/20) in respect of central establishment charges. As at 31st March 2021 the Council held cash balances relating to the Crematorium of £1,519k (£1,002k in 2019/20).

Education School Improvement Service (ESIS)

ESIS became non-operational from 1st September 2012 and was administered by a Joint Committee comprising Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils.

Exit agreement negotiations are ongoing.

Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES)

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service provides a range of school improvement services within the local authority areas of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Council consolidates 27.29% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CSCJES into its financial statements.

During 2020/21, the Council received income of £391k from CSCJES (received income of £198k in 2019/20) in respect of advisory and training services, along

with grants of £19,856k (£18,978k in 2019/20), and charged CSCJES £112k (£114k in 2019/20) in respect of central establishment charges. The Council also paid CSEC expenditure of £1,009k (£1,034k in 2019/20). As at 31st March 2021 the Council owed cash balances of £1,984k relating to CSCJES (the Council owed cash balances to CSCJES of £1,422k as at 31st March 2020). As part of the Joint Committee consolidation process, offsetting transactions and balances are removed from the accounts to ensure individual values are not overstated. CSCJES distributes grants to participating authorities on behalf of Welsh Government.

Coychurch Crematorium

Coychurch Crematorium is owned and operated by a Joint Committee on behalf of Bridgend CBC, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

At 31st March 2021 there were no balances outstanding between the Council and Coychurch Crematorium (no balances outstanding as at 31st March 2020).

Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC)

The Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (VVC) became operational on 1st June 2015 and is administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It is comprised of the adoption services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Cardiff City and County Council. It is one of five regional Collaboratives which form part of the National Adoption Service in Wales (NAS).

During 2020/21, the Council contributed £579k to the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative (£585k in 2019/20).

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)

On 15th March 2016, the ten Council Leaders in South East Wales, the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury signed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, an agreement between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and the ten leaders to develop and manage £1.2 billion investment in the Cardiff Capital Region's infrastructure through a 20-year Investment Fund.

The Council consolidates 15.77% of the assets, liabilities and transactions of CCRCD into its financial statements.

During 2020/21, there was a revenue contribution to CCRCD of £346k (£172k in 2019/20), there was a capital contribution of £315k (nil in 2019/20).

28.7 Partnership Agreement

Biogen Tomorrow's Valley Food Waste Plant

The Biogen Food Waste Plant became fully operational on the 19th July 2015. The 3 local authorities who form the Hub (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Merthyr CBC and Newport City Council) send a combined annual contracted guaranteed minimum tonnage of 13,500 tonnes to be treated at the facility. In 2020/21 a total amount of £1,117k (£1,040k in 2019/20) associated costs have been incurred by the parties, of which RCT's associated costs in 2020/21 were £613k (£572k in 2019/20), with Welsh Government contributing £124k (£124k in 2019/20) of grant funding.

28.8 Other Related Parties

Trivallis

Trivallis is one of Wales' largest registered social landlords providing homes for thousands of families in Rhondda Cynon Taf. There is 1 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Member and 1 officer on the board of Trivallis.

During 2020/21, the Council paid Trivallis £1,614k (£1,438k in 2019/20) and received income of £1,282k (£1,540k in 2019/20). At year-end, Trivallis owed £253k to the Council (£439k in 2019/20).

In line with the Council's agreed Investment Strategy, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements being put in place, the Council entered into a commercially agreed loan arrangement with Trivallis, for an amount of £5,250k. As at 31st March 2021 £4,250k was outstanding.

29.0 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

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

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	469,183	493,487
Capital Investment:		
Property, Plant & Equipment	99,157	90,255
Intangible Assets	1,830	1,330
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	20,297	10,735
	121,284	102,320
Sources of Finance:		
Capital Receipts	(3,724)	(515)
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(63,226)	(62,674)
	(66,950)	(63,189)
Sums Set Aside from Revenue:		
Direct Revenue Contributions	(17,839)	(14,209)
Minimum Revenue Payment	(12,191)	(13,561)
	(30,030)	(27,770)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	493,487	504,848
Explanation of Movements in Year		
Increase/(Decrease) in underlying need to borrowing supported by government financial assistance)	(413)	(663)
Increase in underlying need to borrowing (unsupported by government financial assistance)	24,718	12,025
Finance Leases	(1)	(1)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	24,304	11,361

30.0 Leases

The following disclosures relate to the Council as a lessee.

30.1 Finance Leases

The Council has a number of properties arranged under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Other Land and Buildings	121	153

These assets are part of the Council's impairment review.

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired and finance costs that will be payable in future years while the liability

remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Finance Lease Liabilities:		
Current	1	1
Long-Term	384	383
Finance costs payable in future years	1,210	1,188
Minimum Lease Payments	1,595	1,572

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

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	23	23	1	1
1 to 5 years	91	90	3	3
Greater than 5 years	1,481	1,459	380	379
Total	1,595	1,572	384	383

30.2 Operating Leases

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are demonstrated in the table below. Examples of such assets utilised under operating lease arrangements are photocopiers and printers.

	31/03/20			31/03/21		
	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals	Other Land & Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equip.	Totals
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Not later than 1 year	352	443	795	526	746	1,272
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,275	837	2,112	1,991	1,528	3,519
Later than 5 years	6,861	408	7,269	6,983	304	7,287
Total	8,488	1,688	10,176	9,500	2,578	12,078

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

	31/03/20	31/03/21
	£'000	£'000
Minimum Lease Payments	1,514	1,478

30.3 Sub-Leases

The Council has sub-let buildings. Non-cancellable sub-lease payments are expected to be received until expiry of the lease agreement, as shown in the table below:

	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
Less than 1 year	94	113
1 to 5 years	176	193
Greater than 5 years	53	75
Total	323	381

31.0 Impairment Losses

During 2020/21, the Council has recognised an impairment loss of £20.7m (a loss of £17.1m in 2019/20) in relation to its Long-Term Assets. This impairment charge is included within the Long-Term Asset note 6.1, which also includes reversal of impairment from previous years.

32.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Benefit Schemes

32.1 Participation in Pension Schemes

As part of their terms and conditions Members and Officers are offered retirement benefits by the Council. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until retirement, the Council has a commitment to make these payments. The liability for these payments needs to be accounted for at the time the future entitlement is earned.

The Council participates in two pension schemes:

- Teachers - Please refer to note 33.0.
- Other Employees and Members - The Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. This is a funded defined benefit career average scheme. The Council and participants pay contributions into the fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The pension costs that are charged to the Council's accounts are defined by IAS 19 "Employee Benefits".

The CSCJES Joint Committee charges pension costs to their accounts in line with IAS 19. The Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC share of these entries is consolidated into the main accounts, and disclosed in the following notes.

32.2 Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

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

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Cost of Services:				
Current Service Cost	57,044	56,860	286	57,146
Past Service Cost	2,196	1,030	0	1,030
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:</i>				
Net Interest Expense	13,657	14,570	9	14,579
Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	72,897	72,460	295	72,755
<i>Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability Comprising:</i>				
Return on Plan Assets (Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense)	55,419	(345,000)	(1,938)	(346,938)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	(20,936)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	(33,794)	378,470	1,565	380,035
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	16,100	(19,530)	(87)	(19,617)
Net Increase in Liabilities from Disposals/Aquisitions on Liabilities - Experience	0	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
Total Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	89,686	86,400	(165)	86,235
Movement in Reserves Statement:				
Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the code	(72,897)	(72,460)	(295)	(72,755)
Actual amount charged against the Council Fund Balance for pensions in the year:				
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	40,690	35,120	52	35,172

The total remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure to the 31st March 2021 is a loss of £13.5m (£16.8m loss in 2019/20).

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the year ending 31st March 2021 is a loss of £128.3m.

32.3 Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	1,741,294	1,753,790	7,165	1,760,955
Current Service Cost	57,044	56,860	286	57,146
Interest Cost on Defined Obligation	40,833	39,910	164	40,074
Contributions by scheme participants	9,095	9,670	72	9,742
Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses				
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Demographic Assumptions	(20,936)	0	0	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Financial Assumptions	(33,794)	378,470	1,565	380,035
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities - Experience	16,100	(19,530)	(87)	(19,617)
Benefits paid	(50,877)	(48,980)	(128)	(49,108)
Past service costs	2,196	1,030	0	1,030
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31st March	1,760,955	2,171,220	9,037	2,180,257

32.4 Reconciliation of Fair Value of the Scheme Assets

	2019/20	2020/21		
		RCT	Joint Comm's	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1st April	1,132,656	1,096,570	6,751	1,103,321
Interest Income	27,176	25,340	155	25,495
Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses:				
The Return on Plan Assets, Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense	(55,419)	345,000	1,938	346,938
Employer contributions	40,690	35,120	52	35,172
Contributions by scheme participants	9,095	9,670	71	9,741
Benefits paid	(50,877)	(48,980)	(128)	(49,108)
Net Increase in Assets from Disposals/Aquisitions	0	0	0	0
Consolidation Adjustment	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31st March	1,103,321	1,462,720	8,839	1,471,559

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £365.37m (£21.18m loss in 2019/20).

32.5 Scheme History

	2016/17 Inc Joint Comm's	2017/18 Inc Joint Comm's	2018/19 Inc Joint Comm's	2019/20 Inc Joint Comm's	2020/21 Inc Joint Comm's
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Present Value of the Defined Obligation	(1,564,560)	(1,644,122)	(1,741,294)	(1,760,955)	(2,180,257)
Fair Value of Plan Assets	985,512	1,032,264	1,132,656	1,103,321	1,471,559
Surplus/(Deficit)	(579,048)	(611,858)	(608,638)	(657,634)	(708,698)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Council has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £709m has a substantial impact on the Net Worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council is not impacted upon. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good in line with actuarial assumptions.

32.6 Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

As at 31st March 2021, the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund Assets used in IAS19 calculations comprised of:

Fair Value of Scheme Assets		
	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	269,841	491,294
Overseas Equities	1,867,679	2,769,614
UK Fixed Interest Gilts	417,123	372,929
UK Corporate Bonds	383,684	550,961
Overseas Government Bonds	44,776	0
Overseas Corporate Bonds	50,846	0
Property	287,697	282,289
Cash and Net Current Assets	28,578	26,320
Total	3,350,224	4,493,407

32.7 Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Roll-forward of Assets

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to the accounting year-end allowing for:

- Investment returns, and
- Cash-flows including investment returns on those cashflows.

The asset value at the start of the accounting period is accumulated with the Fund investment return over the accounting period. Net cashflows are assumed to be paid halfway through the period and accrue half of the Fund investment return over the period.

Roll-forward of Liabilities

The valuation results from the last full valuation of the Fund (or results at the previous accounting date as appropriate) are adjusted to allow for the later calculation date (by adding interest to the liabilities) and make allowance for changes in liabilities due to:

- The accrual of new benefits and the discharge of liabilities from the payment of benefits.
- The financial and demographic assumptions adopted at the year-end.
- The impact of any known experience affecting the liabilities, such as the impact of actual pension increases on pensions in payment and deferred benefits.
- If applicable, the impact of events which result in a change in the liability such as past service costs, settlements and curtailments.

The full valuation was based on funded benefits and the principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31/03/20	31/03/21
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Assets in the Scheme (in line with the discount rate)	4.3%	4.25%
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	21.7	21.8
Women	24.0	24.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	22.7	22.8
Women	25.5	25.6
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.0%	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.25%	3.95%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.0%	2.7%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.3%	2.1%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Post-2010 Service	80%	80%
Pre-2010 Service	80%	80%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

	RCT		Joint Committes		Total	
	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption	Increase in Assumption	Decrease in Assumption
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Longevity (Increase or Decrease in 1 Year)	77,810	(75,650)	325	(316)	78,135	(75,966)
Rate of Increase in Salaries (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	6,480	(6,480)	18	(18)	6,498	(6,498)
Rate of Increase in Pensions (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	38,900	(38,900)	172	(172)	39,072	(39,072)
Rate for Discounting Scheme Liabilities (Increase or Decrease by 0.1%)	(45,390)	45,390	(190)	190	(45,580)	45,580

32.8 Contributions for the Accounting Period ending 31st March 2022

The Employer's regular contributions to the Fund for the accounting period 31st March 2022 are estimated to be £35.9m. In addition, "strain on fund" contributions may be required.

Further information can be found in the Pension Fund Annual Report, which is on the [RCT Pension Fund website](#) and also available on request from the Director of Finance & Digital Services, Oldway House, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9ST.

33.0 Retirement Benefits - Defined Contribution Schemes

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

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

In 2020/21, the Council paid £19.7m to Teachers' Pensions in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 23.68% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2019/20 were £16.5m, representing 20.68% of pensionable pay. In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years that it has awarded, together with related increases. In 2020/21 these amounted to £753k (£787k in 2019/20).

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

34.0 Contingent Liabilities

34.1 Insurance

The Council is liable for insurance claims made against it in respect of certain events. A provision is made in respect of claims received as at 31st March 2021. There is a further contingent liability in respect of events which will have occurred but which have not resulted in a claim being made as at the date of the accounts. The "statute of limitation" sets out the timescale by which a claim will have to be made in respect of such past events. An earmarked reserve has been set up to provide towards the costs of these incidents.

Due to the volume and differing circumstances of each potential claim it is impractical to provide an estimate of the possible financial effect. Similarly, it is impractical to provide an indication of uncertainties relating to the amount and timing of such liabilities.

Insurance claims are also referenced in note 4.2.

34.2 Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd.

The former authorities of Rhondda Borough Council, Cynon Valley Borough Council, Taff Ely Borough Council and Mid Glamorgan County Council are creditors of Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd. (MMI). MMI ceased to write new insurance business from 30th September 1992 and a Scheme of Arrangement was put in place in January 1994. The scheme was set up to ensure an orderly run off of claims in the event of MMI not being solvent. As creditors of MMI, the Council is legally bound by the Scheme and in November 2012, the scheme was triggered.

Future claim settlements by MMI will be made at a level of 75% with the funding of the remaining 25% being met from the former authorities' funds. Correspondence from the scheme administrator states that it is not possible to guarantee that the initial and second levy, paid in February 2014 and May 2016, will be sufficient but they are the best estimates given the current position. The scheme requires the administrator to review the Levy at least once a year. Given the uncertainty regarding how sufficient the initial clawback will be, a contingent liability exists as the Council could be subject to further clawback dependent upon the resources of MMI, the insurer.

35.0 Trust Funds

The Council acts as sole trustees for various charities. Separate accounts are maintained for these. Net assets as at 31st March 2021 are shown as follows and are not included in the Council's Balance Sheet. The 2020/21 figures are draft, subject to audit (the Audit Wales for Welsh Church Act, the Regional Internal Audit Service for the other funds).

	Description	31/03/20	31/03/21
		£'000	£'000
Education & Miscellaneous	Various funds established for educational and community benefits	262	278
Rhondda Cynon Taf Charity for the Visually Impaired	Fund established for the benefit of visually impaired citizens	59	59
Welsh Church Act Fund	Fund established under the Welsh Church Act for various charitable aims within the counties of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend	12,137	13,512

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council's [Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024](#) 'Making a Difference' sets the overall direction for the Authority over a period of 4 years describing the vision, purpose and priorities to be delivered.

1.2 The Council's agreed vision, purpose and priorities are:

- Vision – ***To be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy and prosperous.***
- Purpose - ***To provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.***
- Priorities:
 - Ensuring ***People***: are independent, healthy and successful:
 - Creating ***Places***: where people are proud to live, work and play: and
 - Enabling ***Prosperity***: creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.

1.3 Underpinning the above priorities are the cross-cutting themes of '***Live within our means***' and '***Efficient and effective Council***' – both of which focus on robust financial planning and management arrangements to ensure the Council maintains its financial stability, is financially resilient and makes the best use of scarce resources.

1.4 This Annual Governance Statement sets out for the community, service users, tax payers and other stakeholders the Council's governance arrangements together with a review of their effectiveness in managing risks of failure in delivering Corporate Plan priorities.

2. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

- 2.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.
- 2.3 The Council, in compiling the Annual Governance Statement, has adopted the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace). In doing so, the Annual Governance Statement meets the Council's legal duty as set out in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.
- 2.4 Regard has also been given to the CIPFA Bulletin 06 – 'Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21' in respect of conducting the review of the Council's governance arrangements for the 2020/21 financial year. This provides guidance on the impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic on governance in local government bodies (see paragraphs 5.4.5 and 5.4.6) and also the CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 (see paragraphs 5.11.23 to 5.11.27 and Section 7), both of which should form part of local authorities' review of governance arrangements for the period April 2020 to March 2021.
- 2.5 The Council's Annual Governance Statement aims to provide an accurate representation of the governance arrangements in place for financial year ending 31st March 2021.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The governance framework comprises the systems, processes and cultural values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.
- 3.2 For RCT governance is about ensuring that the Council does the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 3.3 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage the risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve aims and objectives, and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 3.4 The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's priorities, to

evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks materialising, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

- 3.5 The governance framework outlined below has been in place at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31st March 2021 (and up to the date of approval of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts).

4. **THE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Council has a range of governance arrangements in place, in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*, many of which are set out within its [Constitution](#). Appendix A provides examples of the key systems, processes and documents that were in place within the Council during 2020/21.

- 4.2 The *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* supports the principle for local authorities to develop and maintain an up-to-date local code of governance. The Council has developed a Local Code of Corporate Governance, setting out an overview of the Council's governance framework, and was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [29th April 2019](#).

5. **REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

- 5.1 The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, an assessment of its governance framework including the system of internal control.

- 5.2 The exercise has entailed reviewing the activities in place around the Council's main governance arrangements, discussing governance arrangements 'virtually' with senior officers across services and taking account of the findings from a range of existing reports. The Review of Effectiveness has also given key regard to the on-going impact of Storm Dennis and the start of the coronavirus pandemic, and is set out at sub-section 5.4.

- 5.3 The findings and proposals for improvement have been reviewed and challenged by the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Audit Committee, and have been set out in line with the *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)*.

5.4 **STORM DENNIS AND COVID-19**

- 5.4.1 The Council's [2019/20 Annual Governance Statement](#) set out the specific governance and decision-making arrangements put in place by the Council up

to and including June 2020, in response to Storm Dennis and Covid-19. Sections 5.4.2 to 5.4.6 review the arrangements from this point.

Storm Dennis

5.4.2 As part of the Council's on-going work with communities affected by this unprecedented event, a range of support continued during 2020/21, for example, Community Flood Recovery Grants for eligible residents and businesses, with actions taken being in line with published delegated decisions made in February and March 2020. These were as follows:

- 17th February 2020 and 21st February 2020 – [Storm Dennis - Allocation of Resources from General Fund Balances](#) and [Further Allocation of Resources from General Fund Balances](#) respectively.
- 18th February 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Financial Support for Residents and Businesses](#).
- 25th February 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Grant Funding Support for Property Renovation and Free School Meals](#).
- 4th March 2020 - [Storm Dennis - Support to Businesses - Non-Domestic Rate Relief](#).

5.4.3 In parallel, the Council progressed emergency response works and reclaimed eligible expenditure via the Welsh Government funded Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme amounting to £1.697M (relating to 2019/20 and 2020/21) and, in addition, accessed further Welsh Government funding during 2020/21 as part of an on-going programme of infrastructure repair. The extent of damage to the Council's infrastructure necessitates a long-term programme of work and, as part of this, discussions are on-going with Welsh Government in terms of future funding arrangements.

5.4.4 On the 18th December 2020, the Council's Cabinet received a report setting out a [Review of the Council's Response to Storm Dennis](#) together with recommendations for improvement and arrangements for progress updates on the implementation of recommendations to be included within the Council's quarterly Performance Report to Cabinet and thereafter to be scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These arrangements will ensure the continuation of an open approach in reporting updates on the work being progressed by the Council to enhance its response to extreme weather events.

Covid-19

5.4.5 The Covid-19 pandemic has been the central feature in planning and delivery arrangements throughout 2020/21, with services quickly adapting and implementing changes to ensure the continued provision of essential frontline services.

5.4.6 Following the UK being put into lockdown on the 23rd March 2020, easing of restrictions in June and July, a two week 'firebreak' from 23rd October until 9th November followed by a further lockdown from 19th December, the Council has operated and taken decisions in accordance with its Constitution. Key work and steps taken by the Council during this period were:

Decision Making and Democratic Engagement

- Further to the temporary suspension of all formal meetings of the Council when the country moved into lockdown in March 2020, the Council put in place arrangements, in line with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, to enable the phased reintroduction of fully remote meetings to take place. This included Cabinet meetings from May 2020, Scrutiny Committee meetings from June 2020 (on a phased basis and starting with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and full Council and Audit Committee meetings from July 2020.
- Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Work Programmes were agreed and published, providing both transparency on the work to be undertaken and enabling Committees to plan their work.
- Covid-19 position statements were reported regularly to full Council ensuring that all elected Members were provided within on-going and timely updates.

Service Planning and Corporate Plan priorities

- All services produced Service Recovery Plans that set out key priorities and actions to manage and support recovery from the Pandemic, these being reported to Cabinet on [28th July 2020](#).
- Full Council agreed Corporate Plan action plans at the [21st October 2020](#) meeting for its priorities of People, Places and Prosperity, these being informed by Service Recovery Plans to ensure focus was afforded to recovery work from the pandemic. During the year, Corporate Plan progress updates were reported to Cabinet and scrutinised by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis, enabling elected Members to scrutinise the extent of progress and hold services to account.

Financial support to businesses and individuals

- Part of the Welsh Government's response to the impact of the pandemic has been the provision of additional financial support to the economy via a series of Business Grants and extended business rate relief. The packages of financial support have been administered by all local authorities in Wales on behalf of Welsh Government and, for RCT, this has required staff to focus on administering, managing and paying a large volume of grants in short timescales to ensure financial support reached eligible businesses on a timely basis. The range of grant support has included Business and Charity Grants Phase 1, NDR Lockdown / Firebreak Grant and Business Restrictions Fund.
- In total over £72Million has been paid out to a wide range of businesses during 2020/21, with each grant having different criteria to target those businesses in most need and also different award processes and amounts payable. To ensure public money is safeguarded, this required a coordinated effort across the Council and the application of robust internal control arrangements.
- A range of other individual grant payments were also administered by the Council on behalf of Welsh Government including Social Care Workforce Payments of £500, Self-Isolation Payments for those on low incomes, Statutory Sick Pay top-ups for social care workers and Free school meal support to families with eligible learners.
- Each area of financial support administered by the Council has required consideration of process, including enabling submission of on-line applications, cashflow management and accounting requirements. In parallel, a number of Internal Audit assignments undertaken during 2020/21 were focussed on financial transactions relating to Covid-19 and provided Management with assurance on the robustness of processes and internal controls in place (see also paragraphs 5.12.5 to 5.12.8 - Internal Audit).

2020/21 Financial Position and Medium-Term Financial Planning

- **2020/21 Financial Position - Revenue Budget**
 - Underpinning the priority focus on maintaining essential frontline services was robust financial management arrangements, with close working between Service Managers and Senior Finance Officers to control, forecast and report overall revenue budget expenditure levels through to March 2021. These arrangements also effectively managed the additional expenditure and income losses incurred across the Council's Revenue Budget as a direct result of Covid-19,

forecasted to be in excess of £50M for 2020/21, and have been reclaimed on a monthly basis via the Welsh Government's Covid Hardship Fund claims process. Appropriate use was also made of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in order to mitigate losses. Where additional expenditure and additional income losses have materialised that are not deemed eligible to reclaim via the Hardship Fund, these have been included within the in-year reported financial position of relevant services.

- The year-end Revenue Budget outturn position for the Council was a £0.204Million overspend against a net budget of £508.747Million.

- **2020/21 Financial Position - Capital Programme**

- The immediate impact of the pandemic resulted in temporary delays to a number of capital schemes as a result of the need to agree and implement revised and safe working arrangements with contractors and suppliers. This partnership approach enabled most capital projects to recommence from quarters 1 and 2 of the year, with capital programme investment for 2020/21 amounting to £102Million.
- The Council also recognised its key role in supporting businesses and the local economy through the continued safe delivery of key infrastructure and construction projects and reported an update to Cabinet on [25th June 2020](#). During the year, detailed progress updates on the Council's Capital Programme projects were reported as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Reports.

- **Medium-Term Financial Planning**

- The Council's latest [Medium-Term Financial Plan](#) was reported to Cabinet, Council and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during autumn 2020. The Plan is based on, amongst other things, the assumption that additional expenditure and income losses as a direct result of Covid-19 will continue to be funded by Welsh Government.
- The Council is in the process of updating its Medium-Term Financial Plan for reporting in 2021; whilst the medium to longer term consequences of the pandemic are not fully known, the update process will refresh assumptions around key areas such as Welsh Government settlement levels, service cost pressures and demand, council tax collection and income, as well as the on-going priority focus required for businesses, town centres, those most in need and recognising the on-going work with partners to protect public health as recovery from the pandemic continues.

- The Council has for a number of years delivered ambitious efficiency saving targets without adversely impacting frontline service provision. The Council's current Medium-Term Financial Plan sets out, at a high level, the framework to balancing the budget over the medium term and the requirement to 'lock in' the transformation and service delivery changes which have been made across service areas during the pandemic.

5.5 PROGRESS MADE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT REPORTED IN THE 2019/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 5.5.1 The 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement identified 4 proposals for improvement. An update on progress was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [1st February 2021](#) indicating that the proposals for improvement were either complete or were on-target to be completed in line with the agreed delivery dates. The Audit Committee **RESOLVED**: *'To acknowledge the information provided'*.
- 5.5.2 A year-end position statement of progress is set out in Appendix B. In summary, out of the 4 proposals for improvement, all have been implemented.

5.6 BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY, DEMONSTRATING STRONG COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL VALUES AND RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW

Behaving with integrity

Elected Members¹

- 5.6.1 The Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes were examined to determine whether the virtual / remote proceedings were conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct. This identified that all Minutes showed that declarations of interest were sought and declarations were made by elected Councillors, where appropriate.

The Standards Committee

- 5.6.2 A Standards Committee was in place during the year to promote, maintain and oversee high standards of conduct by elected Members, with the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee included within the Council's Constitution.

¹ Elected Members – also referred to as elected Councillors

- 5.6.3 During 2020/21 the Standards Committee had a work-plan in place and met on 2 occasions. A draft Annual Report for 2020/21 was presented to the Standards Committee on [19th March 2021](#).

Council employees

- 5.6.4 All officers who started employment within the Council were provided with a local induction in line with social distancing requirements and Individual Performance Review discussions continued 'virtually' with officers. The overall arrangements were managed by the Council's Human Resources Service.

Arrangements in place to tackle potential misappropriation

- 5.6.5 In the event that an officer decides to operate outside of the intended terms and conditions of employment, arrangements were in place for officers to "blow the whistle" through the Council's [Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure](#). In addition, there were arrangements in place to tackle potential [fraud, bribery and corruption](#).
- 5.6.6 The Audit Committee has overall responsibility for overseeing the governance arrangements in place in respect of whistleblowing and tackling potential fraud, bribery and corruption. Updates received by Audit Committee during the year in respect of these arrangements were:

- **Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption**

- An update was reported to Audit Committee on 2nd November 2020, setting out the progress made to date against the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption work programme for 2020/21. The report concluded that ongoing progress is being made against the Council's Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption work programme to ensure that the Council continues to operate within an effective anti-fraud culture across the organisation, with resilient preventive measures capable of identifying and addressing new threats. Audit Committee **RESOLVED** - To review the work undertaken in 2020/21 and provide direction and guidance where necessary within the Terms of Reference of the Committee.
- It is noted that the 2020/21 Annual Report for Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption is due to be presented to Audit Committee in July 2021.

- **Whistle-Blowing**

- At the 20th July 2020 Audit Committee meeting, Members agreed for a review of the Whistle-Blowing Policy to be undertaken and the outcome reported to Audit Committee during 2020/21. The review

was completed and was presented to Audit Committee for consideration and approval on [26th April 2021](#).

- The Whistle-Blowing Annual Report for 2020/21 was also reported to the same meeting. The conclusion of the Director of Human Resources, as set out in the 2020/21 Annual Report, is that '*the Council's Whistle-Blowing arrangements are appropriate*'. It is also noted that the revised Policy and Procedure will be published on the Council's website, awareness raising undertaken across Council Services and its content will be kept under on-going review and where further updates are proposed, these will be reported to Audit Committee for consideration/approval.

- 5.6.7 Gifts and Hospitality Policy - the Council has a Gifts and Hospitality Policy and arrangements were in place, via registers, to record gifts and hospitality in line with the Policy.

Comments, Compliments and Complaints – Social Services

- 5.6.8 A report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on [17th November 2020](#) setting out an overview of the Council's statutory Social Services complaints procedure for the period April 2019 to March 2020. The report provided a summary of all complaints and compliments received, and concluded by identifying lessons to be learnt and changes to relevant procedures / protocols.

- 5.6.9 The Report noted that a total of 113 complaints were received across both Adult and Children's Services during the year which was slightly higher than the previous year, with the increase in the main being complaints relating to Children's Services. While Children's Services received more complaints than the previous year, it also received more compliments; however, overall the report set out that for both Adult and Children's Services fewer compliments were recorded than in the previous year.

Comments, Compliments and Complaints - Non-social services

- 5.6.10 An Annual Report covering 2019/20 was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on [18th January 2021](#) that set out areas for improvement and also for progress reports regarding the Council's corporate Customer Feedback Scheme to be presented to the Committee on a bi-annual basis to provide further visibility on this area and enable monitoring of areas for improvement. It is noted that from 2021/22 onwards, reports will be considered by the Audit and Governance Audit Committee in line with its new responsibilities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to ethical values

Elected Members

- 5.6.11 Further to the Local Government Elections in May 2017, all elected Members received induction training on the Member's Code of Conduct that supports the principle of ethical values. Code of Conduct training is mandatory and is continually available to all Elected Members. Training is provided to all newly elected Members on a one-to-one basis following bi-elections and Members are reminded through their Personal Development Reviews that they are able to contact the Council's Monitoring Officer directly with any queries relating to the Code of Conduct.

The Council's supply chains

- 5.6.12 The Council plays a significant role in the utilisation of national framework contracts as well as local contractual arrangements, and is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law, applies high ethical values, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council's Contract Procedure Rules provides the framework to achieve this and the 'Procurement Policy – Social Responsibility' aligns with the three key initiatives issued by Welsh Government, namely Community Benefits; Code of Practice Ethical Employment in Supply Chains; and Opening Doors: the Charter for SME Friendly Procurement.
- 5.6.13 The Council applied the guidance and advice set out in UK Government Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Notices issued during the year (for example, 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19) to support suppliers and in doing so, suppliers were required to operate on an 'open book' basis.

Respecting the rule of law

- 5.6.14 The Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service) led the Council's officers and chaired the Senior Leadership Team (that also comprised the statutory roles of Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer together with other key positions).
- 5.6.15 With specific regard to the Chief Finance Officer position within the Council during 2020/21, the role complied with the principles outlined in the CIPFA document '[The Role of Chief Finance Officer](#)' because the Chief Finance Officer:
- Was a key member of the Leadership Team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the organisation's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest;
 - Was actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term

implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and alignment with the organisation's financial strategy; and

- *Led the promotion and delivery by the whole organisation of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.*

To deliver these responsibilities the Chief Financial Officer:

- *Led and directed a finance function that was resourced to be fit for purpose; and*
- *Is professionally qualified and suitably experienced.*

5.7 ENSURING OPENNESS AND COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Openness

A commitment to openness

General Data Protection Regulation

5.7.1 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018. During 2020/21 the Council demonstrated accountability and transparency when handling and processing personal and sensitive information that it holds in respect of individuals by:

- Having in place a Data Protection Policy, Data Protection web-page and a designated Data Protection Officer;
- Formally recording the lawful basis upon which data / information is processed within suites of documents called Data Protection Registers; and
- Having in place 'Privacy Notices' that are available on the Council's website setting out how it intends to use information and how it will deliver its services and statutory responsibilities.

5.7.2 It is considered that the publication of this information supports the Council in complying with the GDPR and demonstrates openness and transparency when dealing with its customers.

Freedom of Information

5.7.3 The Council operated a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 publication scheme in accordance with legislative requirements. During 2020/21 the

Council received 870 FOI/Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests. Response statistics and any complaints investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) concerning FOI/EIR requests are reported through the Information Management Board's quarterly meeting highlight reports and allows the Board to maintain an overview of the Council's compliance with the relevant legislation.

5.7.4 During 2020/21 the Council received 8 complaints which had been referred to it by the ICO:

- 2 of the complaints related to requests not being responded to within the statutory 20 working day period. Both requests were subsequently responded to.
- 1 complaint related to a request where the requester believed not all information was being disclosed as part of a response but following the Council's explanation of how information is recorded the case was closed.
- 2 of the complaints were investigated and both requests were subsequently responded to.
- 3 of the complaints are being investigated and cases are still ongoing.

5.7.5 The Council's website provided information on the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) and a [Publication Scheme](#) was in place to advise citizens how to request public information the Council holds.

Openness – Forward work programmes

5.7.6 The Council had in place a forward plan of Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate:

- In accordance with the Council Constitution, the Calendar of Committee meetings was presented to the Council Annual General Meeting in September 2020, which provided details of the schedule of Committee meetings for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year. The calendar was also published on the [Council website](#);
- Cabinet published its work programme on [24th September 2020](#) for the 2020/21 Municipal Year with updates provided on a 3 monthly basis (i.e. to the Cabinet meetings on 18th December 2020 and 25th March 2021). The Cabinet Work programme was also published on the [Council website](#); and
- Scrutiny work programmes were considered and agreed by respective Scrutiny Committees on a periodic basis throughout the Municipal Year to allow for an element of flexibility and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention. The

agreed work programmes were available on a stand-alone [Scrutiny Work Programme](#) page on the Council's website, in line with a proposal for improvement previously made by the Wales Audit Office (now Audit Wales).

5.7.7 Committee Work Programmes are an important tool for Members to assist them in viewing items that are coming forward to Committees and for other Committees to utilise to prevent duplication of work and assist with pre-scrutiny. Work Programmes also assist members of the public to engage in the democratic process of the Council. It is noted that work programmes are placing more emphasis on key service or policy matters, based upon a revised criteria which includes alignment to the Council's priorities and those matters of interest to the public, and they allow for more in depth reviews and referrals from other Committees including Council and Audit Committee. As part of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 a duty is now placed on Local Authorities to ensure scrutiny committees are given sufficient notice of important decisions before they are made, so they may scrutinise the executive more effectively. The continuation of a robust Cabinet Work Programme will therefore be essential in accommodating this duty placed on the Authority.

Decision making and scrutiny of decisions made

5.7.8 Cabinet is a key decision-making body within the Council. From a review of reports presented to virtual Cabinet meetings during 2020/21:

- All reports were in the required format;
- A total of 88 reports were presented, 80 of which were made publicly available and 8 were excluded from the press / public on the grounds that the items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, for example, commercially sensitive information;
- 2 updates were presented verbally by officers due to the uniqueness of the year;
- For all decisions made by the Cabinet, 'Decision Notices' were published on the Council's website and did not become effective (i.e. implementable) until the expiry of the required 'call-in' period (unless deemed to be urgent decisions and therefore not subject to call in); and
- During 2020/21 the Council received one Call In of a Key Officer Delegated Decision: **SALE OF PART OF THE FORMER LADY WINDSOR COLLIERY SITE, YNYSYBWL:**

- The Call-In was considered at a special Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on the [12th August 2020](#). In addition to the three signatories to the call-in and members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Vice-Chair of Ynysybwl Community Council made representations at the meeting and a written representation was submitted by the Chair of the Regeneration Partnership; and
- Following consideration of the issues set out within the call-in form and in accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny procedure rules, it was determined that the matter be referred back to the decision maker, the Director of Corporate Estates, for further consideration based on the grounds of the call-in.

5.7.9 Record of Urgent Decisions of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Delegated Officer Decisions were published on the Council's website. For the 2020/21 financial year, 51 decisions were published and in line with the Council's Constitution, these were reported to full Council for information purposes. Due to the temporary postponement of Council meetings at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Council decisions were taken forward via Delegated decisions until the Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020 permitted the commencement of Committee meetings; this therefore necessitated a higher number of delegated decisions compared to the same period in previous years.

Engagement with residents / stakeholders

- 5.7.10 The Council regularly engages with residents and stakeholders and a consultation exercise was undertaken in respect of the 'Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 'Making a Difference' – this Plan was agreed by Council on 4th March 2020 and sets out the Council's priorities for the next 4 years.
- 5.7.11 Engagement arrangements are supported through a dedicated [Consultation page](#) on the Council's website and a wider commitment by the Council to engagement via the [Public Services Board](#).
- 5.7.12 The Council has an on-going programme of engagement with residents and communities, to find out what matters to them. During the year this engagement has continued using Zoom to hold public meetings and the development of a telephone call back option so as not to exclude those who are not or do not wish to engage online. Throughout the pandemic there was a greater need to communicate clear advice and keep residents informed about Covid-19 in RCT, this being delivered through a dedicated web page and also through social media channels to make information available to residents, businesses and other stakeholders in communities.

- 5.7.13 The Council has developed more ways for residents to get involved and ensure that consultations are accessible, through Let's Talk RCT. The first two projects, Let's Talk Climate Change and Let's Talk Electric Charging Vehicles, were pilots for the site and will help shape future Let's Talk projects.
- 5.7.14 Putting in place online and virtual ways for people to provide views and opinions will continue to develop, albeit, the Council recognises that this does not replace the valuable local information captured through face-to-face engagement with residents. It is noted that these conversations with individuals and representative groups will resume as soon as it is safe to do so to obtain the views and opinions on decisions that will affect them.

5.8 **DEFINING OUTCOMES IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

- 5.8.1 For the 2020/21 reporting year, to address the unprecedented circumstances in which the Council was working, the Council's performance management arrangements were amended to focus on recovery from the pandemic whilst retaining the ambitions set out in the [Corporate Plan 2020-24 'Making a Difference'](#).
- 5.8.2 The Council undertook a backward-looking assessment of Corporate Plan performance (2019/20) and compiled priority action plans for its 3 Corporate Plan priorities (People, Places and Prosperity) covering the 2020/21 financial year. This information was set out in a 'Corporate Performance Report 2020' that was endorsed by Cabinet on [13 October 2020](#) and reported to and approved by Council [21 October 2020](#); in doing so, the Council met its statutory reporting requirements in this regard.
- 5.8.3 During 2020/21, in line with the Council's Constitution, progress in the delivery of the Priority Plans was reported every quarter as part of Performance Reporting arrangements i.e. presented to Cabinet for review/approval, followed by Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for further review/scrutiny. These reports were available to residents and stakeholders through the Council's [website](#).
- 5.8.4 To meet the current statutory reporting requirements in line with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Council intends to publish an assessment of its performance for the 2020/21 financial year no later than the statutory reporting deadline of 31st October and also publish 2021/22 action plans for its Corporate Plan Priorities of People, Places and Prosperity.

Medium Term Financial Plan

- 5.8.5 The Council's latest Medium-Term Financial Plan (2020/21 to 2023/24) was reported to and agreed by Cabinet on [13th October 2020](#) and subsequently

reported to full Council on the 21st October 2020 and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 16th November 2020.

5.8.6 The Medium-Term Financial Plan is set in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, recognising that the course of the pandemic and its effect on the Council's finances will be subject to change. Key information around the allocation of resources includes:

- 2020/21 Revenue Budget (£508.747M) - 85% of the revenue budget was allocated to Corporate Plan priorities and the remaining 15% allocated to Authority Wide Costs, Other Services To The Public, Regulatory Public Services and Core Support; and
- 2020/21 to 2023/24 Capital Programme (£131.772M) – 98% of capital resources allocated to Corporate Plan priorities. The remaining 2% was allocated to Regulatory Public Services, Authority Wide Costs and Core ICT Systems Support.

Additional Investment

5.8.7 As part of the Council setting its Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 (reported to full Council on [10th March 2021](#)), an assessment of existing earmarked reserves enabled £5.484M to be released for additional investment in Corporate Plan priority areas (alongside the reallocation of £1.137M of core capital funding and additional Welsh Government funding of £2.779M, amounting to a total investment of £9.4M).

5.8.8 Based on the Council's Medium-Term Financial Planning arrangements and processes for identifying funding to support additional investment, there is clarity on the Council's ambitions and medium term outlook; a demonstrable commitment to prioritise resources to Corporate Plan areas; and opportunities available for elected Members and stakeholders to scrutinise the Council's work in these areas.

5.9 DETERMINING THE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO OPTIMISE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED OUTCOMES

Determining and planning interventions

5.9.1 The Council's decision-making arrangements during 2020/21 were based on written reports in an agreed format, having regard to financial, legal and consultation matters, and alignment with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (this includes, for example, Council and Cabinet reports). It is noted that an update was reported to Cabinet on [25th March 2021](#) setting out the Socio Economic Duty (Equality Act 2010) requirements coming into force on 31st March 2021 and the need to ensure that the duty is incorporated into Council

decisions to reduce the inequalities of outcomes from social economic disadvantage.

5.9.2 Of the approaches or interventions used by the Council during the year, overall, these are making a positive contribution to the delivery of outcomes in line with Corporate Plan priorities. Examples of key interventions are set out below.

Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team

5.9.3 The Cabinet and SLT jointly planned the work programme of items to be reported during the year and required timescales, with this information informing the pace of progress and outcomes being delivered. This has included:

- PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful.

Meeting the needs of residents requiring support via the extra care housing scheme in Porth; supporting the roll out of asymptomatic lateral flow testing to frontline care staff and the Covid-19 vaccination programme; and reinstating Community Resilience Centres following the introduction of local and national restrictions to support communities.

- PLACES – Where people are proud to live, work and play.

Continuation of the Highways Improvement Programme, managing the safe delivery of the home to school transport provision within Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidelines, planting 300 trees in various parks and open spaces and continued improvement works across Council parks and play areas.

- PROSPERITY – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.

New Council grant offers for businesses in light of Covid-19 and flood prevention, for example, the refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund has supported businesses with grant awards totalling £165k and 4 business in Pontypridd town centre have benefited from Flood Resilience Grants. Key town centre schemes are under development which will help improve pedestrian access and social distancing, and longer-term developments to promote RCT as a tourism destination when restrictions allow, including a review of the accommodation sector. Construction of new attractions at Zip World and Dare Valley County Park are ongoing and a significant National Lottery fund grant awarded in December 2020 will allow further improvements at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

Scrutiny Committees

- 5.9.4 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, scrutiny committees were temporarily suspended to enable the Council to focus its efforts on protecting residents and continue the delivery of key frontline services. An incremental approach for the re-commencement of the Council's scrutiny function was applied, with the Overview and Scrutiny initially taking forward the scrutiny role on behalf of all Committees. This was to ensure that scrutiny were still playing its vital role in the decision making process and governance arrangements of the Council, and also ensure the Council could retain its focus on managing service delivery during the pandemic. Members supported this way of working for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, to take a council-wide approach and all Members were invited to engage in these key matters as well as to undertake urgent business that ordinarily would have been under review by the four themed scrutiny committees. This arrangement was recognised by both the Council's Senior Leadership Team and the Cabinet.
- 5.9.5 Beyond the Annual General Meeting (which was postponed until September 2020 due to the pandemic) all four thematic Scrutiny Committees resumed their activity, via agreed work programmes, that also allowed space for the identification of emerging issues. The Scrutiny Committees have all undertaken focussed work, alongside traditional scrutiny reports, during an unprecedented period.
- 5.9.6 Scrutiny committees also received regular individual service responses to Covid-19, particularly in respect of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, with five updates from the Director of Education & Inclusion (from an educational perspective) and Director of Children's Services outlining the support in place for vulnerable children and families across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 5.9.7 During the 2020/21 Municipal Year, pre-scrutiny of 6 key decisions of the Cabinet have been undertaken in areas such as the Modernisation of Residential Care for Older People, the Council's Annual Equalities Report 2020/21 and pre-scrutiny of the proposed extension and variation to RCT's Dog Control (Public Spaces Protection Order). This ensured that the Council's scrutiny function has continued to impact / inform Cabinet decisions before they are made.
- 5.9.8 In addition to scrutiny work programme items, referrals have been made to scrutiny committees i.e. from Full Council through a Notice of Motion regarding Kinship Care and from the Governance & Audit Committee in respect of unauthorised absence at statutory school ages and Post 16 attendance levels. Following review of both issues, the respective scrutiny committees will form its view and provide feedback.
- 5.9.9 Whilst working under virtual arrangements, scrutiny has undertaken a total of 41 meetings and covered a broad range of work throughout the year and considered important and strategic issues with a number of outcomes and

recommendations as evidenced in the [Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21](#).

Performance Reports

5.9.10 Performance Reports provided Executive Summary style quarterly updates on financial performance (Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management); progress against Corporate Plan priorities (including investment priorities); staffing information for sickness absence and turnover; and strategic risks, and provided electronic links to more detailed information. During the year additional information was also included within quarterly Performance Reports in respect of Covid-19 and its impacts from a financial, performance and strategic risk perspective.

5.9.11 With specific regard to financial performance, Corporate Plan priority and strategic risk updates, exceptions were highlighted, explained and the corrective action to be taken included within reports. There was evidence of scrutiny challenge around financial and performance results to understand exceptions and seek assurance that corrective actions are planned / being taken.

Optimising achievement of intended outcomes

5.9.12 On [28th September 2017](#) Cabinet agreed a way forward to deliver Corporate Plan priorities in a climate of funding reductions by investing in Rhondda Cynon Taf's future and by improving and delivering essential services in a different way. This involved the creation of 5 work-streams to invest in to improve essential services: Digitalisation, Commercialisation, Early Intervention and Prevention, Independence and Efficient and Effective Organisation.

5.9.13 During 2020/21 the Council's approach within the five work streams was focused on keeping residents and staff safe and significant progress made in relation to Digitalisation as more Council services were made available online. As part of this programme of work, all office-based staff and elected Members were provided with means by which they could work from home during the pandemic, with these arrangements continuing in place. The Council also set out its approach to commercialisation in a Capital Strategy Report to Council in [March 2021](#).

5.9.14 The on-going relevance of the above 5 work-streams were tested as part of the Council's [2021/22 Budget Consultation](#) and the feedback of respondents is set out below.

Workstream	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't Know (%)
Digitalisation	80.3	10.3	9.4
Commercialisation	70.6	15.4	14
Early Intervention and Prevention	89.6	6.3	4.1
Independence	82	10	8
Efficient and Effective Organisation	88	6.6	5.4

5.10 DEVELOPING THE ENTITY'S CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP AND THE INDIVIDUALS WITHIN IT

Developing the entity's capacity

5.10.1 The Council's performance management arrangements were refocused on recovery and contingency planning during 2020/21, this being within the priorities of the Corporate Plan; as a result, Service and Corporate Self Evaluations were not undertaken for 2020/21. The most recent Service Self Evaluations used to inform 'normal' service planning and the Corporate Assessment which considers the performance of the Council's corporate body remain those reported to Cabinet on [19th March 2019](#) and to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on [2nd April 2019](#). It is noted that self-evaluation arrangements will re-start in 2021/22 and will take account of the Council's new responsibilities as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

5.10.2 The arrangements in place during 2020/21 continued to evidence that the Council is able to re-prioritise its capacity within a very challenging financial climate and in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and remain focussed on Corporate Plan priority areas. This is evidenced by:

- Strong and focussed leadership from the Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team, in re-setting priorities and resources to ensure continued service delivery during the pandemic and also ensuring open and transparent decision making in line with the Council's Constitution;
- The delivery of significant capital programme investment during 2020/21 (£102Million), the majority of which was invested in Corporate Plan priority areas - this being progressed in collaboration with partners and Welsh Government, who have provided additional funding to support many of the projects;
- Accelerating service transformation in many areas, linked to the need to quickly provide alternative means of service delivery as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. This has included digitisation of more processes, an increase in the availability of on-line services for residents and businesses, optimising the use of Council accommodation alongside on-going work to assess future accommodation requirements and significantly reducing the need for business travel;
- Additional services provided by the Council's Occupational Health Service, to support staff health and well-being, and the Human

Resources Service working with service managers to effectively manage staff attendance; and

- The continued recruitment, development and management of staff together with graduate and apprenticeship programmes to create excellent job and training opportunities across a range of key service areas.

Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals

5.10.3 Part 3(i) of the Council's Constitution, 'Responsibilities for Functions', sets out the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet and designated employees of SLT (Section 3A) and is kept under on-going review.

Developing the capabilities of elected Members

5.10.4 During 2020/21, there has been continued focus on supporting the capabilities of elected Members. This has included:

- Members Personal Development Reviews undertaken the results of which will help form the basis of a training programme for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. In addition, the Council Business Unit have facilitated a number of informal sessions for Members to come together 'virtually' to share experiences with the aim of supporting well-being during the Covid-19 restrictions and at the same time have also been provided with updates in relation to scam calls and good practice guides for social media accounts.
- An update to Cabinet on [25th March 2021](#) summarising the various elements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (noting that an overview of the Bill was reported to full Council on 15th January 2020). It was also noted that an overview of the new Act, specifically in relation to Governance and Audit, was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on [26th April 2021](#).
- Members working with the Council Business Unit and ICT Services to ensure they were equipped with the correct devices and received / were offered virtual training to enable them to conduct their roles in supporting constituents and fulfilling committee responsibilities remotely / virtually (the latter being delivered via Zoom). It was noted that:
 - At the [Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee](#) on the 15th March 2021, Members received a PowerPoint presentation from the Head of ICT in respect of 'Improving, Delivering & Supporting

Services over last 12 months' which detailed the work undertaken with Members in this regard and also included reference to "E-Democracy - Committees & Members enabled for virtual meetings - 171 Zoom Committee Meetings (as at January 29th 2021)."

- There has been improved Member attendance at meetings, through the virtual meeting approach, and holding training sessions directly before full Council meetings have resumed, for example, the Council's Winter Maintenance Plan in November 2020 and Gypsy and Traveller Awareness training in January 2021. It is noted that this approach is to be built upon and an update was reported to the [Democratic Services Committee](#) on 1st March 2021.
- In parallel with the above (and in line with requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021), the Council has invested in infrastructure to enable hybrid meeting arrangements and to ensure the webcasting of meetings, supported in part by the Welsh Government Digital Democracy Fund. It is noted that this work is currently on-going in terms of installing the infra-structure and other key aspects of the project will continue in 2021/22 in respect of training requirements and consideration of any proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.
- Between December 2020 and January 2021 an on-line training needs analysis questionnaire was completed by Audit Committee Members, the result of which informed a Learning and Development Plan that was reported to the [22nd March 2021 Audit Committee meeting](#).
- Specific projects:
 - A Members Portal continues to be developed and a demonstration was provided to the October 2020 Democratic Services Committee. It was noted that the Portal is recognised as a form of good practice through the Members Charter and will be an area on the Council's website for Members to access which will allow them to submit questions / Notices of Motion to Council; submit scrutiny Call Ins; submit Research requests; and be a source of useful contact details for officers / external organisations. It was also noted that development of the Portal is on-going and will also include consideration of making e-learning modules available via this platform; and
 - It is noted that the roll-out of Modern.Gov², this being positively received by Members.
- The Council's arrangements for supporting and providing development opportunities for Members has been recognised through retaining the

² Modern-gov - is an app for automatically downloading, viewing, and annotating meeting papers

Members Charter over the past decade. It is noted that to ensure the Council's continued commitment to Member development, preparations are being made for the Council's Charter to be reviewed.

Member Survey

- 5.10.5 In accordance with s6(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011 Member views have been sought on their preference for start times of meetings by means of a survey which was conducted in advance of the Council Annual General Meeting in September 2020. The results of the survey were reported to the Democratic Services Committee held on the 1st October 2020 and demonstrated that 97% of Members are happy with the level of support provided to them through the Council Business Unit, with Members indicating they had been well equipped to deal with the new ways of working through a support package of training as the virtual meetings were rolled out on an incremental basis. It is noted that further engagement will be undertaken with Members in due course.

Developing the capabilities of employees

- 5.10.6 The Council has a Workforce Plan 2017-22, which was approved by Cabinet on [15th February 2018](#). The plan has set priorities that align to the Council's Corporate Plan in terms of developing a flexible and agile workforce that shares organisational knowledge; recruiting and retaining the best talent to create a diverse workforce; leadership and management development; enabling a high performing, engaged and committed workforce; and supporting health and wellbeing to maximise attendance. The Head of Organisational Development provided Audit Committee with a workforce planning update at the 22nd March 2021 on the basis of workforce planning being a strategic risk within the Council's Strategic Risk Register.
- 5.10.7 During 2020/21 staff development has been supported virtually through induction sessions, Leadership and Middle Management Development Programmes, Manager Briefings, 'Joint Cabinet and Senior Officer meetings' and a range of operational training such as health and safety, information management and dignity at work. This was supported by a Training Compendium that brought together all training available within the Council.

5.11 **MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Managing risk

- 5.11.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy was updated, reported to and endorsed by the Council's Audit Committee on [17th December 2018](#), and

sets out the overall purpose and framework for risk management within the organisation. The framework sets out two levels of risk:

- Strategic Risks – those that the Council faces when delivering its Corporate Plan Priorities; and
- Operational Risks – those associated with the delivery of service objectives and included within Service Delivery Plans.

Strategic Risks

5.11.2 The Council's strategic risks are set out in a Strategic Risk Register and updates were reported publicly to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during the year as part of performance reporting arrangements - the latest published strategic risk register update can be viewed by clicking [here](#) (noting that the 2020/21 year-end Strategic Risk Register will be reported to Cabinet in July 2021).

5.11.3 From reviewing the Strategic Risk Register for 2020/21, it was noted that:

- Updated Strategic Risk position statements were included on the register on a quarterly basis that set out in particular the implications of Covid-19 and the work being taken / planned to mitigate the impact as much as possible;
- A new Strategic Risk was incorporated into the Register at the start of the year in respect of Covid-19, this reflecting its strategic importance to the Council; and
- Risk scores were reviewed on an on-going, with one risk score revised during the year.

Operational Risks

5.11.4 Operational Risks are monitored by Service Delivery Plan owners as part of the operational management of services.

5.11.5 In addition to the above, to assist Management in applying consistent risk management arrangements, a Risk Management Toolkit is in place.

Proposal for Improvement (Risk Management)

5.11.6 The Council's Risk Management Strategy was last reviewed and approved by Audit Committee in December 2018. The Strategy should be reviewed and where required proposed updates reported to Audit Committee for consideration. In addition, as part of the review, regard should be given to the findings and recommendations included within the 2020/21 Internal Audit report 'Risk Management'.

Audit Committee

5.11.7 The membership and planned meeting frequency of the Council's Audit Committee during 2020/21 was in line with the Council's Constitution and legal requirements. The Committee agreed its workplan at the [5th October 2020](#) meeting and all meetings during the year were held virtually. From a review of the 2020/21 workplan, all items were delivered with the exception of the Committee being provided with an overview of a core financial system of the Council, as part of the on-going learning and development of the Committee. It was noted that where core financial system audit assignments were finalised during the year, these were reported to Audit Committee as required; the reasons for the learning and development update not being actioned was due to the need to re-prioritise resources to support Covid-19 recovery work.

5.11.8 Arrangements were introduced during 2020/21 to improve Audit Committee's understanding and visibility of the Council's Strategic Risks, via a programme of updates to the Committee by individual Strategic Risk lead officers. It is noted that further updates will be reported in 2021/22. This approach supports Audit Committee's responsibilities as set out in the CIPFA Publication '*Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 Edition*' in relation to risk management:

- Having assurance over the governance of risk, including leadership, integration of risk management into wider governance arrangements and the top level ownership and accountability for risks;
- Keeping up to date with the risk profile and the effectiveness of risk management actions; and
- Monitoring the effectiveness of risk management arrangements and supporting the development and embedding of good practice in risk management.

5.11.9 The 2019/20 Audit Committee Annual Report set out three areas for improvement, namely undertaking a skills assessment of Audit Committee members, agreeing a learning and development plan and piloting an approach to evaluate the impact of the Committee's work. It is noted that the skills assessment and learning and development areas have been implemented and work is on-going in respect of evaluating the impact of the Committee's work.

Proposal for Improvement

5.11.10 As part of compiling the 2021/22 Governance and Audit Committee work programme, finalised internal audit assignments for core financial systems should be supplemented by a more detailed overview of the area prior to the assignment being presented to Committee. This is to aid Members understanding of the main internal control requirements for key financial systems.

Managing performance

5.11.11 This area has been set out in Sections 5.8 and 5.9.

Scrutiny

5.11.12 This area has been set out in Section 5.9.

Internal control

5.11.13 Internal Control arrangements are covered within paragraphs 5.12.6 and 5.12.7.

5.11.14 With specific regard to the Council's Procedure Rules (Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules), it is noted that whilst an overview of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules was presented to the March 2021 Audit Committee, no overview of the Financial Procedure Rules was presented. In addition, both documents should be reviewed and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

Proposal for Improvement

5.11.15 As part of the learning and development of Audit Committee, an overview of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules should be built into the 2021/22 Work Programme to support Members understanding of these requirements.

5.11.16 A review of the content of the Contract and Financial Procedure Rules should be undertaken and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

Managing data

5.11.17 An Information Management Plan is in place that sets out the framework, including legal requirements, for information management within the Council.

5.11.18 A review of the arrangements in place during 2020/21 identified they were in line with the agreed governance structure. More specifically (and in addition to the information set out at paragraph 5.7.1 – GDPR):

- Whilst working from home, the Council continued the arrangements in place for technical and cyber assurance:
 - Secured its annual accreditation to the Public Service Network (PSN) in 2020/21 i.e. The 'PSN' is the Council's connection to the wider public sector network (Council to Council, Council to Government e.g. Department for Work and Pensions) to enable the Council to communicate and share data securely across all public bodies; and
 - Participated in an all Wales Cyber Stocktake involving all Wales local authorities and the Audit Wales study on Cyber resilience, using their findings to further inform the Council's own work on cyber resilience.

5.11.19 With regard to the management of data, the Council has focused upon local, regional and national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, effectively enabling new services such Track, Trace Protect' (TTP), Community Resilience Hubs, Mass Testing & Vaccinations and supporting the Council's workforce. More specifically:

- An All Wales Data Protection Officer (DPO) Forum was in operation from May 2020, to which the Council actively participated. The All Wales DPO Forum is a National Forum, led by Public Health Wales and attended by Local Government Data Protection Officers to support Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in dealing with the COVID-19 response; and
- The Council led the National 'Track, Trace Protect' (TTP) Finish Group and was attended by other Local Government Data Protection Officers, Public Health Wales and other Health Board partners. The purpose of the group was to map the flow of data relating to the TTP project, which in turn supported the establishment of the National Sharing Agreement for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To aid the local response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council's Information Management & ICT teams worked to support the wider organisation and its workforce in enabling users to work from home safely and securely and ensuring continuity of service provision.

5.11.20 It was noted that alongside the above activity, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) investigated 7 self-referrals in respect of the Council during 2020/21. In all cases, the ICO determined that no further regulatory action was required and were satisfied with the Council's investigation of the breaches and the remedial measures identified.

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)

5.11.21 It has been noted that 4 referrals³ were considered through the Council's Complaints and Concerns Procedure, the outcomes from which were that no further action was deemed necessary.

Strong public financial management

5.11.22 The Council has publicly demonstrated its commitment to strong and responsible financial planning and management, and has supported this through the continued delivery of sound financial performance during 2020/21. This is based on:

- A key cross-cutting principle within the Council's Corporate Plan is '*Living within our means*', in effect setting out the importance of sound financial planning and management within the organisation;
- The Council has a suite of protocols supporting financial planning and management that have been complied with, for example, 'Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules' and the 'Financial Procedure Rules';
- The Council set a Revenue Budget in 2020/21 after taking account of a £1.321 Million budget gap and a 2-stage budget consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders (including the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee), with savings being delivered from areas that did not affect frontline services. As part of the [2020/21 Revenue Budget Strategy](#), the Council continued to take a responsible approach to Council Tax increases, having regard to residents feedback as part of the revenue budget consultation process, and set a 2.85% Council Tax increase (excluding Community Council precepts and excluding the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales Precept, both of which are outside of the Council's control) which was the lowest increase across Wales;

³ Referrals – referrals are where members of the public complain to the Ombudsman without exhausting the local authority's complaints procedure first. The Ombudsman therefore refers these back to the local authority to be considered in line with their complaints procedure

- Financial performance results were publicly reported every three months during the year and scrutinised by elected Councillors (with the quarter 4 (year-end) report scheduled to be publicly reported in July 2021);
- The Council kept its finances under on-going review throughout 2020/21 and was able to continue its strategy of releasing resources from earmark reserves (as referred to in 5.8.7) to support additional one-off investment in Corporate Plan priorities;
- The Council did not certify its draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts in accordance with the statutory timeframe of 31st May 2021; however, in line with the regulations, a notice has been published on the Council's website setting out the reasons for non-compliance i.e. *'Due to the ongoing requirement to address the impact of COVID-19, the authority has continued to divert resources to support key frontline services, reprioritised work accordingly and revised its timescale for preparing the statement of accounts for financial year 2020/21. The statement of accounts will therefore be prepared and the Responsible Financial Officer will sign and certify the statement of accounts by the 30 June 2021'*.
- Audit Wales presented its latest 'Annual Audit Summary' for 2020 to full Council on [10th March 2021](#) - key information reported by audit Wales in relation to the audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was:
 - the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 26 November 2020, four days ahead of the statutory deadline;
 - the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements prepared by the Council and with our knowledge of the Council;
 - the quality of the draft statements presented for audit on 14 July 2020 was generally good;
 - a number of changes were made to the Council's financial statements arising from our audit work, which were reported to Full Council in our Audit of Financial Statements Report in November 2020; and
 - in addition to the Auditor General's responsibilities for auditing the Council's financial statements, he also has responsibility for the certification of a number of grant claims and returns. Our work to date has not identified any significant issues
- The Annual Audit Summary for 2020 also made reference to other reports issued to RCT during 2020, including the report ['Financial](#)

[Sustainability Assessment - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#) – overall conclusions were:

- The Council is well placed to manage its financial sustainability over the short and medium-term;
 - The Council focusses on both short-term annual budgeting and medium term financial planning, which are clearly linked to supporting the achievement of corporate priorities and objectives;
 - The Council has a good track record of delivering services within agreed budgets;
 - The Council has made significant savings in recent years and planned savings have largely been achieved;
 - The Council has a reasonable level of useable reserves;
 - The Council collects a high proportion of council tax income; and
 - The Council takes a prudent approach to borrowing.
- Audit Wales also reported its 'Audit of Accounts Report Addendum' to Audit Committee on [1st February 2021](#) and related to the external audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts. The Audit Wales report set out 2 recommendations that have been agreed by RCT and have been implemented by 1st April 2021.
 - The Council have well embedded Medium-Term Financial Planning arrangements (see also 5.8.5) and is in the process of updating its MTFP to cover the period 2021/22 to 2024/25.

Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice

5.11.23 The CIPFA Financial Management Code (the Code) was launched in November 2019 and is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability.

5.11.24 The Code sets the standards of financial management for local authorities and is based on a series of principles supported by specific standards and statements of practice which are considered necessary to provide the strong foundation to:

- Financially manage the short, medium- and long-term finances of a local authority;
- Manage financial resilience to meet foreseen demands on services; and
- Financially manage unexpected shocks in their financial circumstances.

5.11.25 Each local authority must demonstrate that the requirements of the Code are being satisfied, with compliance being a collective responsibility of elected members, the Chief Finance Officer and their professional colleagues in the leadership team. However, the Code is not expected to be considered in isolation and accompanying tools will form part of the collective suite of evidence to demonstrate sound decision making and a holistic view is taken. In addition, whilst the Code is designed to be flexible to the nature, needs and circumstances of individual authorities, it is up to each authority to determine the extent to which it complies with the Code and to identify what action it may wish to take to better meet the standards that the Code sets out.

5.11.26 Full compliance is expected for the 2021-22 financial year (i.e. from April 2021) with the 2020-21 financial year acting as a shadow year. In its Guidance Bulletin 06 (*Application of the Good Governance Framework 2020/21*), CIPFA has stated that the Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21 should include the overall conclusion of an assessment of the organisation's compliance with the principles of the Code and where there are outstanding matters or areas for improvement, these should be included in the action plan.

Proposal for Improvement

5.11.27 The Council has undertaken an assessment of its current arrangements against the Standards set out in the Code. The assessment process has demonstrated compliance with all of the standards, albeit, areas for improvement have been identified to further reinforce existing arrangements and are included in Section 7.

5.12 **IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY**

Implementing good practice in transparency and reporting

5.12.1 The Council has implemented an open and consistent approach to reporting its business, as set out in earlier sections of this Annual Governance Statement, with the aim of helping to ensure information is understandable to stakeholders and that they have the opportunity to challenge the Council's

performance, plans and decisions, for example, as part of reporting the Council's Statement of Accounts and quarterly Performance Reports.

Cabinet Attendance at Scrutiny

- 5.12.2 Cabinet Members have attended their relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) to support the delivery of Covid-19 reports in respect of responses and recovery, and the Council recognises the key role of engagement between the Executive and Scrutiny Committees in the development of forward work programmes and to discuss the identification of any matters within the Cabinet forward work programme which may warrant further review. This has been evidenced via Cabinet / Scrutiny engagement sessions and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chair meetings to coordinate the work of scrutiny committees.
- 5.12.3 In order to increase the prominence / awareness of the Annual Governance Statement, arrangements have been put in place whereby a designated '[Governance](#)' section has been developed on the Council's website. As part of the suite of information on this web-age it is noted that the Local Code of Corporate Governance Section was published in 2019 and has not been reviewed since this time.

Proposal for Improvement

- 5.12.4 The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed and where proposed updates are deemed necessary, an updated document reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.

Assurance and effective accountability

Internal Audit

- 5.12.5 The Council's Cabinet approved for the Internal Audit Service to be transferred to a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service (hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council), with effect from 1st April 2019. A review of information presented by the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service to Audit Committee during the year provides assurance that the Service continued to play a key part in enabling the Committee to fulfil its Terms of Reference.
- 5.12.6 An Internal Audit Charter was in place for the 2020/21 financial year that was approved by Audit Committee on [5th October 2020](#) and sets out the Service's position within the organisation, for example, its authority to access records, personnel and physical properties relevant to the performance engagements.

5.12.7 The Head of Internal Audit has produced a Head of Internal Audit Report for 2020/21. Subject to Audit Committee consideration at its meeting in July 2021, the Head of Internal Audit Report states:

- *from the work undertaken during the financial year 2020/21 and taking into account other sources of assurance, the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2020/21 is: "Effective with a small number of areas identified for improvement".*
- *based on the work completed by the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service for the financial year no significant cross-cutting control issues have been identified that would impact on the Council's overall control environment. The weaknesses that have been identified are service specific.*

5.12.8 In addition, the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report 2020/21 confirmed overall conformance to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Covid-19 changed how audit work was carried out in 2020/21 and all staff have worked from home for the year. Audits have been conducted remotely using various digital solutions, holding remote meetings, sharing of screens and sending of data and evidence electronically. Whilst there was a steep learning curve both for audit staff and auditees all have adjusted well to the new ways of working.

5.12.9 Although the pandemic did have an impact on the delivery of the internal audit plan for 2020/2021 the level of Internal Audit coverage was still sufficient for the Head of Audit to be able to give an opinion. In respect of audit coverage; Internal Audit provided assurance on the processes put in place across Council services as a result of emerging risks during the year and many of the planned reviews for 2020/21 included a Covid related element in the audit scope and objectives. Audits have taken longer than usual, in particular where services have been under more pressure, or obtaining evidence has been more time consuming. Some planned reviews were not undertaken during the year, some due to requests from services that were under intense pressure. These will be considered in the 2021/22 plan.

5.13 OTHER KEY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Amgen Cymru Ltd

5.13.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC holds 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Cymru Ltd., who in turn hold 100% of the voting rights of Amgen Rhondda. The Council also holds 100% of the allotted preference shares in Amgen Rhondda Ltd. The principal activities of Amgen Cymru is to provide waste

management services and waste disposal facilities. Amgen Rhondda is responsible for the stewardship of the Nant y Gwyddon landfill site.

5.13.2 The directors of the companies are responsible for ensuring there are sound governance arrangements including a robust system of internal control.

5.13.3 The Council removed the “arm’s length” status of the companies during 2009/10, therefore many of the aspects of the Council’s governance arrangements such as policies, processes and controls apply to the companies.

5.13.4 During 2020/21 there have been no significant governance issues that have been identified by the Amgen Company directors, internal auditors or external auditors.

Pension Fund

5.13.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is the Administering Authority for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund. Whilst the governance arrangements detailed in this statement apply equally to the Council’s responsibilities to the Pension Fund there are further specific requirements for Pension Funds which are detailed in a number of key documents:

- Governance Statement of Compliance which indicates the Fund’s position against the Government’s best practice standards;
- Governance Policy Statement which provides an overview of the management structure, decision making and employer engagement;
- Communication Policy Statement which details the communication and information services to participating employers and scheme members;
- Pension Fund Administration Strategy which seeks to improve efficiency in the delivery of agreed standards of quality and to ensure compliance with statutory requirements;
- Investment Strategy Statement which details how Fund investments are managed, including the Fund’s policy on how social, environmental and corporate governance considerations are taken into account; and
- Funding Strategy Statement which provides a summary of how we will fund our pension liabilities.
- Pension Fund Risk Register, which identifies, prioritises and monitors risks associated with the Fund, against suitable mitigation controls.

5.13.6 All of these documents can be found at the following link: www.rctpensions.org.uk

5.13.7 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced a number of changes to public service pension schemes, including some significant changes for the governance of such schemes. In accordance with the Act, the Council established a Local Pension Board to assist Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in its role of Administering Authority (‘Scheme Manager’) in:

- Securing compliance with the Principal Regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
 - Securing compliance with the requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
 - Ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS by the Scheme Manager.
- 5.13.8 The Pension Board is made up of two employer representatives and two member representatives.
- 5.13.9 In 2016/17 the Council established a formal Pension Fund Committee (subject to the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972) to oversee its responsibilities with regard to the administration of the RCT Pension Fund. The Pension Fund Committee consists of 5 elected members and is politically balanced.
- 5.13.10 The Committee is responsible for the strategic management of the RCT Pension Fund with all operational matters continuing to be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer (as the Section 151 Officer or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) who are supported by an Investment and Administration Advisory Panel with appropriate officer, independent advisor and professional support.
- 5.13.11 The Pension Fund Committee met 4 times during the 2020/21 financial year.
- 5.13.12 In 2017, a Joint Governance Committee (JGC) was established in accordance with an inter-authority agreement, responsible for oversight of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) investment pooling collaboration of the eight LGPS funds in Wales. The eight Welsh Pension Fund Committee Chairs or their nominated deputy (elected member) attend the JGC and are supported by an officer working group. In January 2018, the WPP appointed an 'Operator' to establish and run a collective investment vehicle for the sole use of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds in Wales.

A summary of the pooling objectives of the WPP are:

- Generate consistent net of fee excess returns;
- Diversify manager risk;
- Reduce average manager fees;
- Achieve tax efficiency by reclaiming withholding tax on dividends (for non-UK equity sub-funds);
- Meet the Government deadlines by establishing one sub fund submission to the FCA; and
- Equitably share the costs of transitioning into sub-funds.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Based on the assessment undertaken, it is considered that the Council's governance arrangements provided the basis to effectively manage service delivery, Corporate Plan priority areas and resources during an unprecedented period as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This overall conclusion, set in the context of the pandemic, is supported by:

- The timely introduction of revised decision making and democratic engagement arrangements, in line with new coronavirus regulations and the Council's Constitution, and an on-going programme of support to elected Members to enable the continued effective discharge of their responsibilities;
- Robust service planning and prioritisation of resources in parallel with the transformation of service delivery in many areas to ensure the continued provision of essential frontline services;
- An open approach to engaging with stakeholders, partners and the Council's scrutiny function in the planning and delivery of services, this primarily being delivered remotely / virtually during the year;
- Regular reporting and publishing of financial, operational performance and governance related information, and a range of service specific information such as Covid-19 recovery arrangements, customer feedback and Committee forward work programmes, to enable stakeholders to hold the Council to account in the delivery of services / Corporate Plan priorities and use of resources;
- Robust financial management and internal control arrangements underpinning the Council's business, ensuring the appropriate use of public funds;
- An unqualified audit opinion from the Council's external auditor on the Council's latest approved Statement of Accounts (2019/20) and assurance from the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2020/21;
- A medium-term approach to financial planning, within a challenging public sector financial climate;
- On-going awareness raising within the Council to promote probity and a zero-tolerance culture in respect of fraud, bribery and corruption, and also reporting on the Council's performance in these areas; and
- The Council having a track record of implementing Annual Governance Statement recommendations in previous years.

- 6.2 Notwithstanding this overall position, the assessment has identified areas where improvements are deemed necessary to further reinforce the effectiveness of the Council's current arrangements. These are set out in Section 7.

7. 7. PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

7.1 Further to completing the assessment of the Council's governance arrangements, Table 2 summarises the proposals for improvement.

Table 2 – Proposals for Improvement

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	5.11.7	The Council's Risk Management Strategy was last reviewed and approved by Audit Committee in December 2018.	The Strategy should be reviewed and where required proposed updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration. In addition, as part of the review, regard should be given to the findings and recommendations included within the 2020/21 Internal Audit report 'Risk Management'.	December 2021	Head of Procurement Delivery
	5.11.10	Where core financial system internal audit reports are presented to Audit Committee, no separate overview of the required internal controls is provided to aid Members understanding of the area (as originally intended as part of the 2020/21 work programme)	As part of compiling the 2021/22 Governance and Audit Committee work programme, finalised internal audit assignments for core financial systems should be supplemented by a more detailed overview of the area prior to the assignment being presented to Committee. This is to aid Members understanding of the main internal control requirements for key financial systems.	From October 2021	Coordinated by the Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	5.11.15	<p>Although an overview of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules was presented to the Audit Committee in 2020/21, no overview of the Financial Procedure Rules was presented.</p>	<p>As part of the learning and development of Governance and Audit Committee Members, an overview of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules should be built into the 2021/22 Work Programme to support Members understanding of these requirements.</p>	November 2021	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services
		<p>In addition, it was noted that a review of the information contained within both documents was not reviewed and reported to Audit Committee during 2020/21.</p>	<p>A review of the content of the Contract and Financial Procedure Rule documents should be undertaken and updates reported to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval (where deemed required).</p>	December 2021	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services and Head of Procurement Delivery

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	5.11.27	<p><u>Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard C - Governance and Financial Management Style ○ No Council wide review of officer schemes of delegation has been undertaken during the past financial year ○ Currently, progress updates in relation to Audit Wales recommendations are reported to Audit Committee annually. 	<p>Officer Schemes of Delegation should be reviewed and where required updated, approved by the Designated Officers and re-issued to post-holders.</p> <p>Updates on the progress being made by the Council to implement Audit Wales recommendations should be timetabled within the Governance and Audit Committee work programme for 2021/22 and provide a mid-year and year-end update of progress.</p>	<p>January 2022</p> <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Coordinated by the Director of Legal Services</p> <p>Director of Finance and Digital Services</p>

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer(s)
MANAGING RISKS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL AND STRONG PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	5.11.27	<p><u>Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard G - The authority understands its prospects for financial sustainability in the longer term and has reported this clearly to members ○ The Council's forward-looking planning period covers 3 / 4 years as part of its Medium-Term Financial Plan. 	As part of the Council's on-going forward planning arrangements, information on the longer-term outlook (5 years+) should be considered and relevant updates reported as appropriate.	March 2022	Director of Finance and Digital Services
IMPLEMENTING GOOD PRACTICES IN TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING, AND AUDIT TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY	5.12.4	As part of the suite of information on the Council's Governance web-age, it is noted that the Local Code of Corporate Governance was published in 2019 and has not been reviewed since this time.	The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance should be reviewed and where proposed updates are deemed necessary, an updated document reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee for consideration / approval.	February 2022	Head of Procurement Delivery

7.2 The Council's SLT has accepted the proposals for improvement and is committed to their implementation during 2021/22. The SLT has also confirmed that an update on progress will be reported to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

Leader: _____

Chief Executive: _____

APPENDIX A

Examples of the key elements of the Council's governance arrangements

Good Governance Principles	Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Councillor and Officer Codes of Conduct - setting out the standards of behaviour to be followed based on the principles of integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity. • Rules of Procedure - covering Council, Open Government, Access to Information, Budget and Policy Framework, Executive, Overview and Scrutiny, Officer Employment and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules. The rules set out arrangements to be followed by elected Councillors and Officers when conducting the Council's business with the aim of publicly demonstrating accountability and openness. • Standards Committee - the role of which includes, amongst other things, promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by elected Councillors. • Whistleblowing Policy - promoting the highest possible standards of service and setting out how workers can bring information about a wrongdoing to the attention of the Council. • Anti-fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy. • Gifts and hospitality Policy. • Comments, Compliments and Complaints - setting out how the Council handles and responds to feedback (complaints, compliments and comments). • Officer Guide.
Ensuring Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Publication Scheme that aims to advise citizens how to request public information the Authority holds. • Clear and open Corporate & Service Specific Privacy Notices. • Forward plans for Committee meetings together with the matters to be considered, where appropriate.
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process. • Corporate Plan. • Programme of elected Councillor and Officer training and development. • Workforce Plan 2017-22. • Schemes of Delegation.

Good Governance Principles	Examples of key systems, processes and documents in place within the Council
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management Framework. • Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plans. • Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register up dates). • Risk Management Strategy. • Annual Revenue Budget Strategy and three year Capital Programme. • Medium Term Financial Plan. • Scrutiny Committees.
Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate and Service Self-Evaluation process. • Risk Management Strategy. • Service Delivery Planning. • Quarterly Performance Report (including Risk Register up dates). • Corporate Performance Report (i.e. year-end annual report). • Audit Committee and a Regional Internal Audit function. • Information Management Plan (including General Data Protection Regulation). • Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and Contract and Financial Procedure Rules. • Medium Term Financial Plan.
Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting protocols and calendars (including forward looking work programmes, for example, for Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees). • Statement of Accounts. • Annual Governance Statement. • Production of Annual Reports on key areas of business e.g. Corporate Parenting, Annual Equality Report, Scrutiny Annual Report, Standards Committee Annual Report, Audit Committee Annual Report. • Internal Audit external assessment (every 5 years) and Internal Audit Charter. • Pension Fund Committee.

APPENDIX B

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT 2019/20 – POSITION STATEMENT

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer
Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law	<u>Whistle-Blowing</u> Although the Council's Whistle-blowing policy is kept under on-going review at an operational level, the Policy was last reported to Audit Committee for consideration in October 2016.	The Council's Whistle-Blowing Policy should be subject to a full review, taking into account intelligence gathered since the last update, and reported to Audit Committee for review, challenge and sign-off.	Director of Human Resources Status – Completed – reported to 26 th April 2021 Audit Committee
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	<u>Audit Committee</u> Risk Management – strengthen Committee's visibility of the Council's risk profile and provide Audit Committee Members with the appropriate support to further development their skills in this area. Learning and Development – although individual elected Member training and development arrangements are in place, no skills assessment has been undertaken for Audit Committee members (informed by the CIPFA publication 'Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities & Police 2018 Edition')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Risk Register updates to be incorporated into the Audit Committee work programme. • Complete a skills assessment for members of Audit Committee the results from which will inform a refreshed programme of learning and development for the Committee (and should then be incorporated into an action plan for Audit Committee to support its on-going development and link to the Audit Wales project 'Rhondda Cynon Taf Audit Committee - Support and Development'). 	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed - from 1 st February 2021 Audit Committee Service Director – Democratic Services and Communications and Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed - updates to 1 st February 2021 and 22 nd March 2021 Audit Committee meetings

Core Principle / Area	Issue Identified	Recommendation	Responsible Officer
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	<u>Operational Risk Management</u> Although operational risk management is undertaken at a service level (via local Service Delivery Planning and monitoring arrangements) assurance is required to determine whether the arrangements are operating as intended.	Undertake a review of operational risk arrangements.	Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services Status – Completed (year-end 2020/21)

The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf 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.

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 2020-21.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as at 31 March 2021 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 2020-21.

Basis for 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 Council 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 2020-21;
- 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 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 set out on page 20, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, 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 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, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council'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.
- Obtaining an understanding of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough 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, the Audit Committee 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 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council'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

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Adrian Crompton
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Glossary of Terms

Accrual

An accrual is a sum shown in the accounts representing income or expenditure relating to the accounting period, which had not actually been received or paid as at the date of the Balance Sheet.

Actuary

An actuary is an individual or organisation that calculates insurance premiums and liabilities and pension obligations.

Agent

An Agent is where the Council is acting as an intermediary.

Amortisation

Charges to revenue for the estimated reduction in the value of an intangible asset.

Audit

An audit is an independent examination of activities.

Budget

A budget (or estimate) is a plan of income and spending, based upon which Council Tax is set. Actual expenditure is subsequently monitored against this plan.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is spending on long-term assets. These are assets that will be used for several years in the provision of services and are items such as buildings, equipment and vehicles.

Capital Receipt

Capital receipts are proceeds from the sale of long-term assets such as land or buildings.

CCRC – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

The Cardiff Capital Region within the City Deal is comprised of 10 local authorities; Blaenau Gwent; Bridgend; Caerphilly; Cardiff; Merthyr Tydfil; Monmouthshire; Newport; Rhondda Cynon Taf; Torfaen; and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

CIPFA is responsible for issuing financial guidance to public bodies.

Creditor

A creditor is an organisation/individual owed money by the Council at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

Current Assets

These are short-term assets that are available for the Council to use in the following accounting period.

Current Liabilities

These are short-term liabilities that are due for payment by the Council in the following accounting period.

Debtor

A debtor is an organisation/individual who owes the Council money at the end of the financial year for goods/services received.

Debt Management Office (DMO)

The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. Its responsibilities include debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to Local Authorities and managing certain public sector funds.

Defined Benefit Scheme

A defined benefit pension scheme is one that bases retirement benefits upon Career Average Re-Valued Earnings.

Defined Contribution Scheme

A defined contribution scheme is a type of retirement plan in which the amount of the employer's annual contribution is specified. Benefits are based on the amounts credited to these accounts (through employer contributions and, if applicable, employee contributions) plus any investment earnings. Only employer contributions to the account are guaranteed, not the future benefits.

Delegated Schools

A delegated school is one managed independently by its Governing Body. The funds of these schools are held outside of the Council Fund balances.

Depreciated Historic Cost (DHC)

Depreciated Historic Cost is obtained by recording the purchase price of an asset and reducing the value over its useful economic life.

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)

DRC is an estimation of the market value for existing use plus current gross replacement costs less allowances for deterioration.

Depreciation

Depreciation is the estimated loss in value of tangible long-term assets that are presented in the Balance Sheet.

Earmarked Reserves

These are reserves set aside for a specific purpose.

Fair Value Hierarchy

Level 1 – Assets and liabilities at level 1 are those where fair values are derived from unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Assets and liabilities at level 2 are those where quoted market prices are not available.

Level 3 – Assets and liabilities at level 3 are those with valuations derived from unobservable inputs, for example, assumptions about rent growth; discount rates, etc.

Financial Year

This is the accounting period. For local authorities it starts on 1st April and finishes on 31st March of the following year.

Impairment

Impairment occurs when the value of a long-term asset falls below the value it is currently held at in the Balance Sheet and Asset Register.

International Accounting Standard (IAS)

Financial Regulations to be followed as set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

International Financial Reporting Standards are produced by the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board) with the aim of ensuring consistency within the countries adopting the standards.

Inventories

Inventories are raw materials purchased for day-to-day use. The value of these items that have not been used at the end of the financial year are shown as current assets in the Balance Sheet.

Leasing

This is a method of financing expenditure by paying the owner to use property or equipment for a number of years.

Lessee

User or renter of the leased asset or property. In case of capital leases, the lessee is also the 'debtor' to the lessor.

Lessor

Owner or the title holder of the leased asset or property. The lessor is also the lender and secured party in case of capital leases and operating leases.

Liability

A liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Long-Term Asset

These are assets that are used in the provision of services (usually for more than one year).

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

MRP is a charge against revenue resources representing a repayment of debt. It is a method of paying for Capital Expenditure which was funded by borrowing.

Modern Equivalent Valuation (MEV)

Modern Equivalent Valuation is a method of valuation that calculates the cost of constructing modern equivalent buildings and structures, depreciating them to account for the age and future economic life.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

The NDR, or Business Rate, is the charge to occupiers of business premises. NDR is set by central government and is a percentage of rateable values. The percentage is the same throughout Wales. The total collected is split between individual authorities in proportion to their adult populations.

Net Realisable Value

The selling price of an asset, reduced by the relevant (direct) cost of selling it.

Non-Recurring Fair Values

These relate to assets that are measured at fair value due to particular circumstances. The assets which meet the criteria for assets held for sale are valued at the lower of non-recurring value less cost to sell, and its carrying value.

Operating Leases

These are leases where risks of ownership of the asset remain with the owner.

Post Balance Sheet Events

Post Balance Sheet items are those that arise after the Balance Sheet date. These are items that did not exist at the time the Balance Sheet was prepared but should be disclosed if they are relevant to the understanding of the accounts.

Precepts

This is the amount paid to a non-rating body (for example a community council).

Principal

An entity is acting as a Principal when it has control of the goods and services it is providing.

Prior Year Adjustment

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of material errors.

Projected Unit Method

An actuarial method of calculating the liabilities of a pension scheme which allows for projected future increases in pensionable pay up to retirement or date of leaving service.

Provision

A provision is an obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of past events where a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation, but the amount or timing of which cannot yet be determined accurately.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

This is a Government agency that provides loans to local authorities for periods between 1 and 50 years.

Recurring Fair Value

These relate to assets that are measured at the end of each accounting period, within the rolling programme of valuations.

Related Party

A related party exists where there is control or influence by one party over another.

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Red Book

RICS is a professional body enforcing the highest standards in valuations. The “Red Book” contains mandatory rules and best practice guidance on these valuations.

Strain on Funds

When an employee retires early and is immediately paid a pension, without actuarial reduction, the lost contribution income and interest cost arising from the associated earlier increased cash flow is referred to as pension strain cost. The pension strain cost is determined by actuarial calculation.

Sub Lease

A sub-lease is a lease between a tenant who already holds a lease to a commercial space or property and someone (the sub-lessee) who wants to use part or all of the tenant's space. The tenant is deemed to be a sub-lessor.

Trust Fund

Trust funds hold money on behalf of an individual or organisation. Trustees administer the funds for the owners.

Valuation Technical & Performance Standards 3 (VPS3)

This standard refers to valuation reports and specifies additional mandatory requirements designed to enhance client understanding and use of these valuation reports.

Valuation Practice Guidance Applications 10 (VPGA 10)

This guidance provides additional commentary on matters that may give rise to material valuation uncertainty in accordance with VPS 3 above. For example, market disruption.

Voluntary Aided School

Voluntary aided schools are mainly religious or faith schools, although anyone can apply for a place. The governing body employs the staff and sets admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charitable foundation, often a religious organisation, and the governing body contributes to building and maintenance costs.

Voluntary Controlled School

Voluntary controlled schools are similar to voluntary aided schools, but are run by the local authority. The local authority employs the school's staff and sets the admissions criteria. School land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often a religious organisation, which also appoints some of the members of the governing body.

Welsh Government (WG)

The Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales. The Welsh Government consists of the First Minister, Welsh Ministers, the Counsel General and Deputy Ministers. They are supported by Civil Servants who work across devolved areas of public life such as health, education and the environment.